



INTRODUCES

CANZONIERE GRECANICO SALENTINO

Best Italian World Music Band - MEI 2010
Babel Med Music selection 2011

The original brain child of the writer Rina Durante, Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino is the foremost and longest standing traditional music band from Salento, in Puglia, coming together some 35 years ago, in 1975.

In 2007 the lead passed from the original founder of the band, Daniele Durante, to his son Mauro (already a highly regarded frame drums player and violinist who has played with numerous artists, such as **Ludovico Einaudi**, **Piers Faccini**, **Ballake Sissoko**, **Ibrahim Maalouf**, **Stewart Copeland** and **La Notte della Taranta**).

At the age of 26, **Mauro Durante** is the musical assistant of Ludovico Einaudi, Maestro Concertatore of La Notte della Taranta, and works with him in the creation and artistic production of that spectacular performance. Canzoniere open the *Concertone* of La Notte della Taranta in Melpignano, performing live in front of over 100.000 people.

With a range from the energetic pizzica pizzica, to the tenderness of songs of love and longing; from the festa like exuberance of a local band to an ironic glance towards modernity, Canzoniere provide an intense and atmospheric spectacle.

With **16 albums** and numerous performances in Europe, the Middle East, Canada and the USA, Canzoniere have always evoked an enthusiastic response from audiences and sensitively admiring reviews from the music press.

Discography

Recordings: 1977 (FONIT CETRA) *canti di terra d'Otranto e della Grecia Salentina* 1980 *concerto 1* 1983 *come farò a diventare un mito* 1985 *concerto 2* 1988 *Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino* 1991 *concerto 3* 1994 *sutt'acqua e sutta ientu navegamu and mamminieddhu zucaratu*, 1997 *ni pizzecau lu core*, 1998 *ballati tutti quanti ballati forte* (Felmay), 2000 *canti e pizzichi d'amore* and *carataranta* 2001 *pizzica pizzica* 2002 *alla riva del mare* and *serenata*, 2010 *focu d'amore* (Ponderosa music and art)

PRESS REVIEWS

Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino Best Italian World Music Band

Appeared on: 24/11/2010. In: Nuovo Quotidiano di Puglia. Written by: Osvaldo Piliego.

Despite the sound of the word, Salento is not silent at all. It has a bright voice which spreads around loud and clear, winning its place in the international music panorama. Like a marvellous tree, its sound, deeply rooted in the local traditions, boasts a lusty crown of modern branches and projects itself into the future with continuous unexpected stems.

In such a buzzing music scene, Mauro Durante and his group Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino have been awarded the "Premio italiano Musica popolare indipendente" as best world music band. Their latest album "Focu d'amore" reviews some major phases in the group's repertoire, starting from its inception in 1975 when Daniele and Rina Durante founded the band. An exploratory tour of new music spaces, made possible by the presence of highly talented musicians embracing styles ranging from jazz to classical music, this record opens new paths in the area of folk and world music. [...]

Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino Live at Babel Med Music

Appeared on: 05/04/2011. In: Mondomix.com Written by: Benjamin Minimum

In the night between the 26 and the 27 of March by saying hi to the spring we lose a hour according to the western timetable. However, during the last night of the Babel Med Music festival 2011, this effort was largely compensated by the emotional intensity of the Italian group Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino [...]

In the crowd, you can see the first reactions provoked by the uneasiness of the pizzica. Smiles come out, feet lift up from the ground, heart, bodies and soul mix with each other like in a turbine. [...]

The six young virtuous musicians and a naughty dancer with carmine veils on the stage dominate our emotions. It's like a perturbation bringing us until remote periods.

Anyway this music is lacking success and glamour style to become a proper international phenomenon. There are not so many musicians as Mauro Durante and his partners to conjugate a savage essence with a music with no imperfections.

Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino was found in 1975 by Daniele and Rina Durante, it is directed by his son since 2007, who can also play quite well the tambourine, the violin and even singing. Mauro's friends can also play several instruments, first of all the little drum or also guitars like Luca Tarantino does, wind instruments by Giulio Bianco, accordion by Massimiliano Morabito, head voice by Maria Mazotta, a husky voice for Giancarlo Paglialonga and transcendental and sensual dance by Silvia Perrone.

Everyone preserves a well-defined space where timber and colors harmonize the tasty contrasts. This ensemble shows to be able and inspired by respecting a large sound spectrum, with an unchangeable groove and thin shades.

Pizzica despite its wild rhythm, it makes room to the soft melody typical of love songs sometimes. They revise the classic repertory or create new pieces by using the Griko Salentino. This language that finds its roots into the ancient Greek is a memory of an antique affiliation of the region to the Hellenic imperialism. This linguistic particularity, nearly disappeared in other countries, does not prevent the group from reaching a perfect resonance with such époque Traditional instruments live with technological innovation, it is like if the Roots soul give their hands to a meticulous modernity.

In conclusion, we can say that even without losing its sensuality and provoking a state of constant uneasiness, Pizzica might result attractive and involving for the rest of the world such as it did with the Babel Med Music 2011 audience.

120 thousand people sing along with Canzonere Grecanico Salentino

Appeared on 31.08.2010. In: Corriere della Sera. Written by: Felice Blasi

MELPIGNANO – Saturday night at Melpignano, during the closing concert of La Notte della Taranta, the public made its voice heard clearer than ever. [...]

It was one of the most touching moments since the beginning of La Notte della Taranta – 13 concerts in all, from 13 to 28 August, touring around the Grecia salentina region – and it clearly showed that this event has acquired a national significance that goes well beyond that of a music event. The band Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino was closing the first part of the concert with a song titled "La quistione meridionale", a track with ironical lyrics on the problems that followed Italian unification: to paesants, migrants and outlaws the Italian unification brought only grief, mourning and death; but for a "professor" who studied it and became member of Parliament,

gaining money from both legal and illegal sources, Italian unification turned out to be a real business. The song ended with Mauro Durante's violin satirically playing the refrain of the Italian national anthem, and the public singing along. But when the notes ended, the public went on singing the anthem. «Initially – says Mauro Durante – I thought the public did not understand the irony behind this particular track. But then, when we were silently standing on the stage, to my surprise I became ever more certain of something I have long believed: in folk music, the musicians and the public are equally important. The music of “La Quistione meridionale” was written in 1981 by my father Daniele on a poem by Rina Durante and it was considered a socially engaged song piece with an artist marking. Today, a track of this type is considered by the public as folk music. I wonder why in Greece and Spain sirtaki and flamenco, respectively, are played on the radio as national music, while Italians call national music a type of pop music which has no links to the history of our Country».[...]

Canzoniere in the Italian Playlist of David Byrne

Radio David Byrne – March 2010

In his “radio programme”, this famous musician plays selected traditional Italian tracks (by Modugno, Conte, Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino) along with a few modern pieces (by Debora Petrina, Carmen Consoli, Marco Parente)

Focu d'amore Best Album of the Year 2010

Appeared in July 2010. In: Giudizio Universale. Written by: Dario De Marco.

Salento and pizzica have currently lost much of their original flavor to become simply part of fashion. But the *Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino* was born 35 year ago, well before this fashion began and has been leading band in the revival of Apulian music traditions. Yet, they know how to keep up-to-date, thanks to talented young musicians and a broad music repertoire which includes: old pizzicas played without any commercial overtone in order to bring their hypnotic rhythm to the fore; lullabies and serenades in *griko* (a local dialect originating in Modern Greek) transformed into jazz ballads; playful brass band pieces; and socially engaged songs (such as their piece *La quistione meridionale*). Viscerale.

Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino to open La Notte della Taranta

Appeared on 28/08/2010. In: La Repubblica. Written by. Antonella Gaeta

«This is a big International meeting of great artists– declares Turkish DJ Mercan Dede – but the real stars of the festival are the local musicians, who pass on to us their traditions». He is absolutely right: the *Notte della Taranta Orchestra*, with its 30 musicians and Ludovico Einaudi's assistant, Mauro Durante, are the core of this event. [...]

The concert, in the memory of local violinist Luigi Stifani who died ten years ago, will be opened by Uccio Aloisi and *Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino* (and will be broadcast live on Telenorba, Telerama and Puglia Channel).

Salvatore Esposito – Blogfoolk

Through the years, this band has acquired a primary role on the Italian folk music scene and has undoubtedly been a major example for all those who study folk songs. The greatest merit of this music band is their methodological approach based on research into local culture; and it is not by chance that many of the most famous traditional pieces, which are constantly (re-)interpreted by all local groups and performed at *La Notte Della Taranta*, were discovered by Rina Durante. At the same time, revendication of the cultural autonomy and artistic relevance of Salentine music has been the starting point for the current music scene in Southern Italy. [...] In keeping with popular tradition, *Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino* was passed on from father to son, thus keeping alive the heart and soul of the group. [...] Receiving such a legacy was not an easy task for Mauro Durante, but he has achieved the difficult goal of creating a modern album that fully respects tradition and which will most certainly be a milestone for years to come. This marks a new birth for Salentine music. This new album, if considered within the wider framework of previous production, highlights the evolution and innovation processes which traditional Salentine folk songs have gone through; and this is the right key for interpreting Mauro Durante's work: a modern product, refined and harmonious, but still respectful of traditional music forms and rhythms. [...] On top of that, this record is made even richer by the powerful voice of Maria Mazzotta, accomplished Salentine singer who seems to have found her perfect place in this project. [...] *Focu D'Amore* is the record that best represents the state of the art of Salentine music revival and will be a prominent landmark for future generations of musicians.

Viviana Leo – Musicaround

[...] This record is a highly coherent and refined interpretation of the traditional language and structure of folk music. Going against a fashion that imposes contamination at all costs, it is characterized by technical elegance and expressiveness developed within well defined boundaries by musician with a clear personality and broad music heritage.

Line-up

Mauro Durante violin, frame drums, voice

Emanuele Licci guitar, battente guitar, bass, bozouki

Maria Mazzotta voice, tamburello, percussion

Giancarlo Paglialunga voice, tamburello, percussion

Massimiliano Morabito diatonic accordion

Giulio Bianco bagpipes, flutes, harmonica

Silvia Perrone dance

Guglielmo Dimidri sound engineer

Repertoire

Most of the songs played by the Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino are music for dance: the traditional dance of Salento, called *pizzica* or, nowadays, *taranta*. This dance is linked to a local cultural phenomenon called *tarantism*; sometimes it is danced between woman and man, as a form of courtship.

This kind of music is passionate, obsessive and conducive to trance, owing to the fact that its main rhythmical actor is a local type of frame drum, the *tamburello*, which resounds like a never-stopping beating heart. The power of this music is at its highest during live shows, when the audience moves and dances to the rhythm.

In their shows Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino also include traditional love songs (ballads with beautiful melodies and lyrics, typical of folk poetry, which used to be sung under the window of the beloved one), lullabies, work songs (significant testimonies of the bad conditions of the working classes), and jokes, as well as new compositions, in an attempt to create a continuum between tradition and modernity.

Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino live concerts are a life explosion: full of energy, passion, rhythm and mystery, they bring the audience from the past into modernity, and back.

watch the video:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hI87gWM_9Ns

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kLf1vr2xCE&feature=related>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63_DQnsxEok

www.myspace.com/canzonieregrecanicosalentino

http://www.sonicbids.com/epk/epk.aspx?epk_id=255428

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