



MUNICIPALE BALCANICA

WORLD MUSIC

BIOGRAPHY

In their first album, *Fòua* (2005), the band initiates a lively and deep synthesis of well-known gypsy, Klezmer and Yiddish sounds of Eastern Europe with warmer, radical aspects of their homeland: the Mediterranean Puglia of Southern Italy. The 11-piece group's early influences came from the Balkanic tradition; their first gigs featured world-known songs such 'Hava Nagila', 'Ale Brider' and 'Odessa Bulgarish'.

However, very soon their approach to these traditional tunes became much more original and peculiar, with each musician contributing something different. For example, the wind section learned to play in the old Brass Band of the little town they live in. That's why their musical expression is so powerful and lively in the East-European songs, really exploding with passion during solo passages of the new arrangements. The rhythm section has increased its strength supporting this overwhelming way to play ancient melodies. If you listen to MB it is not hard to believe the drum, guitar, and bass players maintain a certain rock-attitude belonging to their former experiences in rock bands. The result is integrated and surprising, and it gives new expressions and meanings to the songs.

These varying influences may seem diverse and potentially conflicting, but they compliment each other perfectly to create Municipale's unique style of world fusion. In *Fòua* every single instrument is given the freedom to play at its best without the anxiety of being locked into a predictable, stereotyped formula. The jazz, rock and experimental influences are involved in many charming, exotic melodies but also frenzied, mad, atonal tunes.

In the last four years Municipale Balcanica have played over 300 gigs, growing into a consistent feature on the international festival circuit. During summer 2006 the band embarked on an extensive European tour, performing at some major festivals across the continent. These included the foremost German Folk Festival in Rudolstadt, the Jazz à Luz and Jazzèbre festivals in France and the Smolijan Jazz Festival in Bulgaria. The warmth, energy and dynamism of these shows brought a real state of euphoria to the sophisticated European jazz audiences.

MB's live performance is a frenetic fusion involving Eastern and Mediterranean rhythms and original compositions, which never fails to get the audience moving. It's also a full cultural experience, an insight to the knowledge of our roots and the different cultures we are continuously melting with in a rich, amazing amalgamation. Concerts are experiences that every kind of audience can enjoy: ordinary spectators surely will not get bored and expert connoisseurs can appreciate the sensitive, skilled development of the original compositions.

2007 has represented a breakthrough year for this diverse ensemble, with the track "Hava Nagila" being selected by renowned DJ Russell Jones for his compilation *Gypsy Beats and Balkan Bangers Vol. 2*, due to be released on Atlantic Jaxx in July, and receiving airplay on BBC Radio One. Further appearances around Europe have cemented Municipale's position as one of the leading world-fusion groups to emerge in recent years.

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DISCOGRAPHY



Anno: 2004
"Contra-dizione"
SELF PRODUCTION
N. copies CD: 1000 (sold out)



Anno: 2005
"Foua"
SELF PRODUCTION
Label: Ethnoworld music(IT)
Distribution: Venus
Digital Distribution: Digital Rights Agency of San Francisco (US) and BeatPick(UK)
N. copies CD: 4000 (sold out)



Anno: 2006
"JazZèbre"
Label: Festival Jazzèbre(FR)
Song included: Godi s gypsy



Anno 2007
"Gypsy Beat and Balkan Bangers vol.2"
Compiled By DJ Russ Jones & Felix B
Label: Atlantic Jaxx(UK)
Songs included: Hava Nagila and Hava Nagila Beam Up Remix



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LINE UP

Armando Giusti *aka Lillo*: alto sax
Michele de Lucia *aka Delux*: clarinet
Nico Marziale *aka Prez*: percussion
Raffaele Piccolomini *aka Tattà*: tenor sax
Giorgio Rutigliano *aka Jojoku*: electric bass
Paolo Scagliola *aka Paolo*: trumpet.
Luigi Sgaramella *aka Miccetta*: drums.
Raffaele Tedeschi *aka Raffawow*: electric guitar

Special guest:

Francesco Moneti : violin(Modena City Ramblers)
Michel Godard: tuba
Carlo Actis Dato: sax baritone, bass clarinet
Roberto Ottaviano: alto sax
Admir Skurtaj: accordion
Vito Mitoli: trumpet

Altri Musicisti:

Alessandro Paparella: mandolino
Carlo Porfido: violin
Giuseppe Volpe: accordion
Giacomo Angarano: trombone

Progetti Speciali:

Municipale Balcanica meets Kocani Orkestar(Crammed)
Municipale Balcanica meets Michel Godard e Carlo Actis Dado

2007 CONCERTS

January

06 IT Terlizzi, 07 IT Trani

March

10 DE Bremen - Jazzahead 2007, 22 IT Terlizzi

April

14 NL Amsterdam - Oriental Mambo

May

01 IT 1 Maggio

June

02 DE Herne - Festival Extraschicht, 03 IT Bari - Festa dei Popoli, 23 IT Zollino, 24 IT Casale Monferrato(AL) - Festival Folkermesse 2007, 28 IT Rovereto - Rafanass Festival 2007

July

05 IT Terlizzi, 09 IT Pomigliano d'Arco(Na), 13 IT Offida - Festival Altrisuoni 2007 , 27 IT Andria - Castel Del Monte, 28 IT Andria - Festival Suoni Dal Mediterraneo

August

03 IT Villa Castelli(Br), 04 IT Arezzo, 10 IT Ancona, 15 IT Modena



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September

01 IT Rimini, 08 IT Exilles(To) - Folkclub, 15 IT Molfetta(Ba) - Aritmia Mediterranea

November

08 IT Ferrara, 09 IT Bologna - Rock Circus Music Hall - Arena Parco Nord, 10 IT Firenze - Pinocchio Jazz,
11 IT Noci(Ba) - Bacco delle giostre, 14 IT Bari - Politecnico, 29 IT Terlizzi(Ba)

December

15 IT Bucine(Ar), 16 IT Imola

INTERNATIONAL APPEARANCES

- 2004 Talos Jazz Festival - Ruvo di Puglia, Italy
- 2005 Etnival - Milano, Italy
- 2005 Suoni in Cava - Apricena, Italy
- 2005 Sommer Festival Der Kulturen, Stuttgart - Germany
- 2005 Le gipfel du jazz - Freiburg, Germany
- 2006 TFF Rudolstadt - Rudolstadt, Germany
- 2006 Jazz a Luz - Luz Saint Saveur, France
- 2006 July Jazz - Smolyan, Bulgaria
- 2006 Notti di Stelle - Bari, Italy
- 2006 Musiques de nuit - Bordeaux, France
- 2006 Jazzebre - Perpignan, France
- 2006 Klezmer Musica Festival - Ancona, Italy *with Kocani Orchestar*
- 2007 Jazz Haed - Bremen, Germany
- 2007 Podium Mozayek - Amsterdam, Holland
- 2007 Extraschicht - Herne, Germany
- 2007 Festival Folkermesse 2007 - Casale Monferrato, Italy
- 2007 Rafanass Festival 2007 - Rovereto, Italy
- 2007 Altrisuoni Festival - Affida, Italy
- 2007 Festival Suoni Dal Mediterraneo - Andria, Italy
- 2007 Folkclub 2007 - Torino, Italy

REVIEWS only english reviews(italian reviews can be found in Ita infopack)

"If you have read my other reviews of klezmer and brass cd's, you might have noticed that it's not easy to record a cd in this style that gets above the average. This Municipale Balcanica band from Italy is one of the few that goes much further than the standard middle of the road brass music. The band was formed in 2003 and they describe themselves as a band that collects the sounds from the east, the music of happiness and sorrow and melt them with the harmonies of their homeland. This Foua (Macedonian for thanks) is, and again I quote, a fairytale and a cry. And somehow that is exactly what it is. The cd is fascinating and sounds like a magical story told in music and words. It is a mixture of hardcore brass music with both emotional and happy twists. I love Dio E zingaro which starts with a women telling a story which ends in a chaotic mixture of brass and screaming. From the first song Arclecchino the band surprises me with weird twists, brilliant arrangements and most of all, energetic and beating brass music. It has female vocals in Bulgarian style, down to earth male vocals, swinging French melodies and intense Hebrew songs. Hebrew song? Yes, this band did have the courage to record Hava nagila in such a way that it gets high above all the thousands of other versions I heard during the past 35 years. Foua is a



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must have cd for all these people who are into brass and like chaotic, inventive and powerful music. Highly recommended!" (05/2007 FolkWorld)

"With a strong Balkanic sound, the Italian band Municipale Balcanica is made up of 10 talented musicians (along with frequent guests) who each bring their own unique experiences and traditions to their music. Their high-energy performances are legendary and the band tours extensively. "Foua" is the title track from their album and it will give you an idea of the joy and beautiful music created from a combination of passion and tradition." (BeatPick - UK)

"They are particularly at home in Romania and in the bordering regions of the former Republic of Yugoslavia. With the films of the director Emir Kusturica, brass bands like the Kocani Orkestar or Fanfare Ciociarlia became fashionable and trendy. And the members of Municipale Balcanica race through their musical scores at a similarity neck-breaking and breath-taking pace as the musicians in these bands. However Municipale Balcanica comes from the other side of the Adriatic or, to be more exact, from Puglia in southern Italy. Following some very successful performances at home, orchestra came to Germany for the first time to Stuttgart in summer of 2005 and further performances followed. And everywhere they go, their audiences are filled with pure delight and sheer exuberance, and perhaps for the very reason of wood and brass instrumentalists are capable of arousing so infinitely much more pleasure and enthusiasm than is usually the case here in Germany with its very traditional brass music. German audiences are never presented with such furious fireworks of weird rhythms and mixed harmonies as there - in the Balkans or, well, in Italy too." (10/03/2007 - Jazz Ahead - Germany)

"Municipale Balcanica are an off-the-wall Southern Italian Klezmer band. If you like klezmer then you are sure to like them. Hava Nagila is a traditional Jewish wedding song and you might just have heard it before...."(CCHITS)

"They mix Balkan, klezmer, and Italian styles and come up with a fairly distinctive sound (at least, I've never heard anything quite like it). Their first album, Fòua, has a nice recording of Hava Nagila."(Teruah-JewishMusic Usa)

"Hot rhythms from the Balkans mixed in...Italy with Gypsy, Mediterranean and Klezmer themes in the most surprising and fresh way by a band of 14 energetic musicians lead by "Il Maestro" Livio Minafra. Goran Bregovic fans will like it! (Jazz World Quest - Usa)

Italian band Municipale Balcanica draws its inspiration from Eastern European Gypsy and Klezmer music. Their sound is unconventional, zany at times. The group combines clarinet and brass with a powerful rhythm section and electric instruments. (World Music central - Usa)

"..Municipale Balcanica, which published recommendable CD on the Italian label with Fòua a straight Ethnoworld." (jazzthetik.de - Agosto2005)



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ONLINE CONTENT

DOCUMENTS

www.municipalebalcanica.it/sito/booking/MB-BandInfoPackIT.doc
www.municipalebalcanica.it/sito/booking/MB-BandInfoPackENG.doc

VIDEO

Promotional:

DVD ENG-ITA www.municipalebalcanica.it/video/dvdMunicipaleBalcanicaVideoDocuments.rar
LIVE ENG www.municipalebalcanica.it/video/MB-Live-ENG.AVI
PRES ENG www.municipalebalcanica.it/video/MB-Pres-ENG.AVI
THEATRE ENG www.municipalebalcanica.it/video/MB-Theatre-ENG.AVI

LIVE ITA www.municipalebalcanica.it/video/MB-Live-ITA.AVI
PRESS ITA www.municipalebalcanica.it/video/MB-Pres-ITA.AVI
THEATRE ITA www.municipalebalcanica.it/video/MB-Theatre-ITA.AVI

YouTube:

www.youtube.com/profile?user=PrezMB

www.youtube.com/watch?v=LRQqVz-x4lg
www.youtube.com/watch?v=udiY2sMUQQA

TV RAI3 with Kocani Orkestar:

www.municipalebalcanica.it/video/Rai3-Levante-MB-KOCANI.mpg
www.municipalebalcanica.it/video/Rai3-Levante-MB-KOCANI.zip

AUDIO

ENTIRE CD

WMA version: www.municipalebalcanica.it/mpe/MunicipaleBalcanica.zip
ARLECCHINO VIDEOCLIP: www.t-prod.it/modules.php?name=Downloads&d_op=getit&lid=14

RADIO EDIT

- Fòua
http://www.municipalebalcanica.it/mpe/FOUA/MUNICIPALE_BALCANICA-foua-radio-edit.mp3
- Hava Nagila
http://www.municipalebalcanica.it/mpe/FOUA/MUNICIPALE_BALCANICA-hava-nagila-radio-edit.mp3
- Carovana
http://www.municipalebalcanica.it/mpe/FOUA/MUNICIPALE_BALCANICA-carovana-radio-edit.mp3
- Alì Bienvenù
http://www.municipalebalcanica.it/mpe/FOUA/MUNICIPALE_BALCANICA-ali-radio-edit.mp3

DISTRIBUTION

Venus (cd audio/Italia) and Digital Rights Agency di S. Francisco USA (digitale/world).

RETAILERS

iTunes, Napster, Emusic, Beatpick



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