



Ticino without clichés

The duo 'Belli in zona' pays honour to the Italian part of Switzerland by reviving its folk music and interpreting original compositions, inspired by their home canton. To move away from the stereotypical perceptions of Ticino, i.e. the land of gaiety and sunshine, Merlot being served in 'boccalini' (drinking jugs) and dancing clogs, the two musicians strived to create a series of modern musical pictures, while still respecting the traditions. The repertoire contains characteristic pieces with different instruments which give their music a mixture of novel sounds. Elevated contemporary music, band like and chamber music as well as opera, jazz, pop and blues flow into their themes and influence one another. Because of this, the musical pieces can be performed anywhere – such as theaters, jazz clubs, concert halls as well as churches and squares. It's about the conception of the canton Ticino, seen through the eyes of two sons who emigrated to different speech areas, but who still preserve a bond with their homeland. 'Belli in zona' scenarise unique pictures with their beautiful compositions.



1. 0033 (tenor sax / bass clarinet) G. Muto

The first phone call to Ticino after Giò's move to France: initial impressions of his new hometown in a whirl of words.

2. Belli in zona (soprano sax / bass clarinet) G. Muto

Impressions of Bellinzona (the capital of Ticino): reminiscing the famous homonymous march of Gianbattista Mantegazzi.

3. Maggiolone (bass clarinet, voice, kazoo / didgeridoo) G. Muto and M. Santilli

This piece is based on the folk song 'La maggiolata'. On a warm May day, a plump May beetle flies off and asks itself: "Why am I so chunky? I'd rather be a butterfly!" Jealousy, sadness, anger and rationalism supersede one another in this 'aerial' monologue.

'Vortex' Suite, G. Muto *Vortex of rampant negative and of controllable positive emotions.*

4. Vortex (clarinet / alto sax)

In a future world, human beings are bound to resemble robots: efficient, reliable and cold hearted. Society pushes us to follow the natural flux of evolution, a speedy life. The medical progress will allow a better management of stress. You therefore might burst without even knowing it.

5. Au claire de la lune... (clarinet / baritone sax)

Year 2005: the moon and the stars cover the night sky (...) bare-footed people are dancing on the shore (...) Year 2184: swirling spotlights illuminate the night (...) next to the reservoirs, the robots move rhythmically.

6. Black (baritone sax / bass clarinet)

The presence of evil, insidious and hypnotic, seduces men into a diabolic dance.

7. Atlantis (tenor sax / bass clarinet)

A 'Weltanschauung' in balance with nature, while still meeting man's needs.

8. Sacra terra del Ticino (voice, guitar / alto sax) G. Mantegazzi / G. Calgari, arr. M. Santilli

Theme of the homonymous 'Festspiel'. There is no need to envy jazz standards. This is a melody that has an international flavour.

9. Alfonsina y el mar (clarinet / tenor sax) A. Ramirez / F. Luna, arr. M. Santilli

A song dedicated to Alfonsina Storni, Argentinian poet with Ticinian roots. We'd like to remember her 'dressed in the sea'..

10. Tunnel (voice, clarinet / baritone sax) G. Muto

Green or red compartement: choose your life-style and when you enter the tunnel, think how you could come out enriched. Song dedicated to friends and students who took the Sunday train from Bellinzona to the other side of St. Gotthard.

11. Qualcuno volò sul nido (soprano sax / clarinet) M. Santilli and G. Muto

This piece is inspired by the folksong 'Il cucù' (the cuckoo). It's a portrait of a cuckoo, who's confused and sick of his everyday life. When the swing rhythm starts pulsating, the cuckoo finally feels free to emigrate far away...

12. O'ra valmaggina (voice / baritone sax) traditional, arr. M. Santilli

Song from Maggia Valley, sung in the local dialect. In Maggia, life is hard and full of sacrifices for a young woman. The dance to the sound of a bagpipe brings a little optimism to the peasants.

13. Strada alticcia (baritone, tenor, alto, soprano sax / bass clarinet, clarinet) M. Santilli

A blend of Santilli's band marches: 'Airolo' and 'San Gottardo'. We walk along the 'Strada alta' from Biasca to Airolo carrying six instruments and feel the road getting steeper and steeper. Or is this impression caused by Giormico's schnapps, that has been lent to us? Consequence is: our music ascends as well.

14. Lettera dall'America (tenor sax / bass cl) M. Santilli

Piece with two different moods: the melancholy of the Ticinian emigrant and his subsequent integration in the 'New World'.

15. Scurdàss (voice, guitar / alto sax, Nica's egg) M. Santilli

A song in Novazzano dialect, thinking of Paulin and the Bellinati, irrefutably from Novazzano too.

„Santilli e Muto sono anfibi. Polistrumentisti, passano con tecnica sopraffina dagli „effetti“ della musica del secondo, 900 alla musica popolare senza subire scadimenti tecnici e di gusto. Bravissimi.“

Gianluigi Trovesi, Nembro, ottobre 2006

„Die Musik der 'Belli in zona' (die Schönen der Gegend) ist wirklich im positiven Sinne schräg. Diese virtuosen Musiker haben eine lebendige Phantasie. Ihre Arrangements und Kompositionen sind originell. Es ist unglaublich, wie sie mit den wenigen Instrumenten immer wieder wechselnde Bilder, Geschichten und Atmosphären hinzaubern.“

Dimitri Clown, Verscio, August 2006

„Amidst the constant barrage of sound, information, images, etc., in our 21st Century, it is unbelievably refreshing to come across something different, a "ray of light" through the murk. This CD by Giordano Muto and Marco Santilli is one of the most beautiful examples of pure music I've heard in a long time - uncategorizable in the best sense! Listening to them, I hear melodies, mysteries, great improvisation, astounding interplay, and a soundtrack to a Fellini film that he forgot to make! In short, I loved it, and I can't wait for the follow-up (I hope they ask me to join them for a tune or two)! Enjoy!“

Ken Peplowski, NYC, September 2006

Marco Santilli

Spycherweg 9, CH-8155 Niederhasli

www.marcosantilli.com

info@marcosantilli.com

cell: +41 (0) 78 634 18 06