

# Camilla Barbarito



Ph: CRISTINA CRIPPI  
CORT. MUSICAMORFOSI

Camilla Barbarito is a singer and performer born in Milan in 1978.

Her education followed a path ranging from experimental theatre to singing, thanks to some early tours in sub-Saharan Africa where she could get in touch with non-European cultures.

She works with several music ensembles and carries on her own original research on Mediterranean folk music inspired by Balkan sounds, Portuguese fado, Greek rebetika music, Argentinian tango and Romany music.

Alongside music, she has taken part in many experimental and improvisation-based plays and concerts both as actress and vocal performer.

Among others, she has worked with Vladimir Denissenkov, Ivana Monti, Jovica Jovic, Paolo Rossi, Roberta Torre, AGON, Teatro delle Moire, Duccio Bellugi of Theatre du Soleil, Nema Problema Orkestar and Musicamorfosi, as well as various other leading figures of Milan music scene. She is often a guest on the Rai Radio Tre programme Piazza Verdi.

She has created the character of Nina Madù, a singer who, along with her band Le Reliquie Commestibili (The Edible Relics), is more and more appreciated on the independent scene.

Together with Fabio Marconi, she is artistic director of the music festival La Cura di Dioniso at Van-Ghè Ambulatorio d'Arte.

Her latest exciting collaborations include those with Ernesto Tomasini (play 'Beato chi ci crede', premiered at Danae Festival 2017) and Arianna Scommegna (workshop co-direction at Granara Festival).

She studied opera singing and jazz singing at Scuole Civiche in Milan and then pursued her own research into folk and ethnic singing.

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She debuted in singing as a chorus singer for the Russian accordion virtuoso Vladimir Denissenkov.

In 2009 she met Master Jovica Jovic ('La meravigliosa vita di Jovica Jovic' by Moni Ovadia and Marco Rovelli, Ediz. Feltrinelli) and began to deeply immerse in the Balkan music through a great many concerts in Italy and Switzerland with the Muzikanti di Balval.

This intense relationship with Eastern European

melodies reached its peak in the collaboration with Nema Problema Orkestar, a very popular ensemble she has been working with as a soloist first occasionally and since 2016 on a regular basis. She was a guest star in the upcoming record by Rapsodija Trio, a group founded by Maurizio Dehò, a violinist and close collaborator of Moni Ovadia.

In 2008 she staged the concert-show "I Santi del popolo" for the Comunità Montana della Val Varaita along with the vocal group Trobairitz d'Oc.

Since 2008, she has widened her repertoire to include Argentinian tango thanks to her encounter with the Argentinian bandoneonist Hugo Francia, and has been collaborating with the Modern Ensemble of Turin (an orchestra made of 14-16 players) on various modern music repertoires.

She has been working as full-time singer and performer for many years, being a vibrant presence in Milan artistic scene and crossing her path with many artists such as: Ulisse Garnerone, poly-instrumentalist and researcher of period instruments; Fabio Marconi, her life and music partner, as well as guitarist and arranger; the trumpet player Raffaele Kohler; Baba Djarrà and Seydou Daò, Griot burkinabè (those who hand down culture through music and tales within the traditional society); Nabil Hamai, Algerian-Turin violinist; Cassandra Casbah, the intellectual drag queen created by Gianluca Decol; the accordionist Giulia Bertasi; the accordionist Guido Baldoni, who she worked with on a project on Modugno; Njamy Sitson, Cameroonian singer living in Germany (Festival Mama Africa Meeting); the classic guitarist Massimiliano Alloisio; the Congolese poly-instrumentalist Donat Munzila; the drummer Alberto Pederneschi; the bass player Ivo Barbieri; the singer Bianca 'la Llorona' Giovannini, voice of folk music of the Lazio region (in a duo with Bianca, she partnered Ivana Monti in a 2014 play); the theatre company Nina's Drag Queen, and many others.



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In 2013 she was featured on the soundtrack of the videogame 'Dream Chamber'.

In 2013 she toured the United States as singer/actress at the Italian Film Festival in San Diego, the World Life Cafè in Philadelphia, the Saint Joseph University – Seton Hall University in New Jersey.

She sings as a soloist in the Orchestra Dunia in Musica produced by Teatro Nohma in Milan.

In 2015 she collaborated with AGON as a vocal performer on the project Cosmo by the pianist and composer Esther Flueckiger, together with Pietro Pirelli (who played Pinuccio Sciola's Sound Stones), Massimo Marchi and Luca Mengoni.

She is often a guest on the Rai Radio Tre programme

Piazza Verdi, with live performances taken from various projects. She performed the tune for Radio Popolare's subscription campaign Abbonaggio 'All you need is love'.

She sang on the album 'Trebisonda' by Aksak Project and won the Participants' Award at Premio Parodi 2017.

Since 2017 she has been working with Associazione Musicamorfofi and, thanks to Saul Beretta's artistic direction, she has taken part in several projects such as Suoni Mobili, Notturmi del Roseto, Scheggia Acustica and Indian Nights at LAC in Lugano.

She trained in contemporary theatre at the school of Teatro del Sole in Milan and attended many theatre and dance workshops, among which Dani Kouyatè (story-

telling), Mas Soegeng (masks), Leon Ingulsrud (physical training), Maria Consagra (actor's movement), Max Cuccaro (contemporary dance), Yoshi Oida (theatre), Oshro Adibi (moving), Ryuzo Fukuara (butoh), Felice Picco (neutre mask, expressive mask).

In 2002 she took part in the play 'Natel Onze ne répond plus' directed by Henrique Koeng, produced in Zurich and performed in Yverdon-les-Bains for the Swiss Expo. In 2003 she was involved in the Felliniana in Venice for a demonstration on the use of expressive mask.

In 2004 she founded the company 'I vicini di Peppino' together with Chiara Vallini, supported by the Turin Teatro Stabile and winner of the national selection for the 12th Biennale of European and Mediterranean Young Artists as well as the Godot Biennale of the Absurd Award.

Thanks to the support of Turin GAI, she acted in plays performed at the Festival Theatre de Réalité in Bamako, Mali, the Festival Atelier Nomade at Cotonou, Benin and CCF in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, and the Theatre Festival in Essaouira, Morocco.

She directed the play 'Giuditta', 1st prize at Scenario Infanzia 2008, and the play 'Pino', finalist at Premio Scenario 2009.

She participated as actress-singer in the play 'Il sogno di Henry Dunant' produced by the Italian Red Cross.

She worked with director Beppe Rosso on the plays '800 volte venturo' and 'Fantasmi d'acciaio'.

In 2010 she created the character of Nina Madù, leader of 'le Reliquie Commestibili' ('The Edible Relics'), a highly appreciated band still active in the Milan underground scene, which recorded two albums, Hirundo and Octopussa, and performed at, among others, Danae Festival, Gender Bender Festival, Cassero LGBT Center, Da vicino nessuno è normale Festival.

In 2014 she collaborated as musician and performer

with Teatro delle Moire on the play 'Songs for Edgar', performed also at CRT and Teatro Franco Parenti in Milan.

In 2014 she partnered Paolo Rossi in Roberta Torre's play 'Il colore è una variabile dell'infinito', the story of Pier Luigi Torre, the inventor of Lambretta, produced by CRT in Milan.

In 2014 she composed and played songs inspired by texts written by Alessandro Mendini, for the award ceremony of the Premio Cauda Pavonis organized by the International Association of Color Consultant/Designers, to the accompaniment of the contrabassist Davide Tedesco.

In 2014 (and again in 2017) she performed together with Fabio Marconi at the Nazim Hikmet Kultur Merkezi in Istanbul.

In 2015 she took part in the installation Alma Mater devised by Yuval Avital in collaboration with Michelangelo Pistoletto.

In 2016, at Teatro Elfo Puccini in Milan, she performed the 'Ballroom Siren' as part of Balerhaus, a show-performance by Teatro della Contraddizione.

Since 2016, along with Fabio Marconi, she has been artistic director of the music festival 'La cura di Dioniso', a project by Associazione Van-Ghè Ambulatorio d'Arte, supported by Fondazione Cariplo.

In 2017 she composed the music for the play 'Istantanea on Bowie' by the dancer Maria Carpaneto. She co-led a workshop dedicated to Magnificat by Alda Merini at Granara Festival along with the much-awarded actress Arianna Scommegna and the musician Giulia Bertasi.

She wrote and performed the play 'Beato chi ci crede' together with the internationally renowned actor and vocal performer Ernesto Tomasini, and the participation of Fabio Marconi as on-stage musician (the play debuted at Danae Festival).