



## Press Release

### **ACOUSTIC GUITAR MEETING - 18<sup>th</sup> edition 27-28-29-30-31 MAY 2015 SARZANA (SP)**

***An exciting line up of acoustic guitar players and guitar builders will be present at the 18<sup>th</sup> edition of the Acoustic Guitar Meeting at the Firmafede Fortress and in the historical centre of Sarzana from 27th to 31st May 2015.***

The 18th edition of the **Acoustic Guitar Meeting**, organized and created by the Cultural Association Armadillo Club, in close collaboration with the local council administration and the Ligurian Region, will take place in Sarzana (La Spezia) from **27th May to 31st May 2015**.

Considered one of the most important international events dedicated to the acoustic guitar, the Acoustic Guitar Meeting proposes every year a rich and articulated program of events including **concerts with the very best international acoustic guitarists, trade show of lutherie, import, vintage, accessories, educational courses in lutherie and guitar didactics, contest for emerging guitarists, City of Sarzana-Region Liguria "Strings & Voices for Dialogue & Civil Rights" Award**, seminars, workshops, and many other initiatives concerning the acoustic guitar.

The meeting will be held inside the **Fortress Firmafede of Sarzana** and around the historical centre of the city, this offers the large number of visitors from all over Italy and abroad (over ten thousand present in past editions) the chance to live in full the atmosphere and beauty of the city.

## **PROGRAM**

### **EVENING CONCERTS ON CENTRE STAGE INSIDE THE FIRMAFEDE FORTRESS:**

#### **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 9pm (free entrance)**

**"ACOUSTIC ALL STARS"** from the local area

*concert with musicians selected from schools and music centres within the Province of La Spezia.*

*special guest* **PIETRO NOBILE**

#### **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 7pm**

**"New Sounds of Acoustic Music"** Mogar-Ibanez Award 2015 - in memory of Stefano Rosso

*A young guitarists contest, in both instrumental and song-writing with the guitar. 10 guitarists from all over Italy will perform before a panel of musicians, journalists and specialists in the field.*

#### **9pm**

TIM SPARKS (Usa)

ALEX DE GRASSI (Usa)

**GIOVANNA MARINI** (Ita) with Francesca Breschi

**EUGENIO FINARDI QUARTET** "Parole & Musica" with Paolo Gambino, Giovanni Maggiore, Federica Goldberg (Ita)

#### **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 9pm**

MARK JOHNSON & EMORY LESTER (Usa)

RUSS BARENBERG (Usa)

**CRISTINA DONA' ACOUSTIC DUO** (Ita)

DJAMBOLULU' SWING TRIO & ITALIAN MANOUCHE ALL STARS with Maurizio Geri, Jacopo Martini, Matteo Anelli, Augusto Creni, Tolga During, Dario Napoli, Miraldo Vidal

### **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May 9pm**

WATERMELON SLIM (Usa)

TAMATRIO (Ita) with Mauro Palmas, Nando Citarella, Pietro Cernuto

ALEX DE GRASSI (Usa)

**LUCA BARBAROSSA & RON** (Ita) with Mario Amici, Giovanna Famulari

### **Sunday 31<sup>th</sup> May 11am - 7pm (free entrance)**

PIETRO POSANI (Ita) Winner of "New Sounds of Acoustic Music 2014", fingerstyle

DAVIDE SGORLON (Ita)

**"LADIES & GUITARS"** with CAMILLA CONTI (Ita) Winner of "New Sounds of Acoustic Music 2014", song-writer,

MILENA PIAZZOLI (Ita), JACKIE PERKINS (Usa), GIULIA MILLANTA (Ita-Usa)

SCOTT FORE (Usa)

LA ZATTERA DELLA MEDUSA (Ita)

MASSIMO VARINI (Ita)

UKUS IN FABULA & UKUKELE ALL STARS with Paul Moore (Uk), Ukulollo (Ita)

### **CITY OF SARZANA - REGION LIGURIA**

**"STRINGS & VOICES for DIALOGUE & CIVIL RIGHTS" Award - 7<sup>th</sup> EDITION**

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May**

This event aims to celebrate the contribution brought by acoustic guitar music and popular song in the advancement of social conscience, civil rights, the declaration of universal values and dialogue among the sundry cultures of contemporary history (*1st edition awarded in memory of Woody Guthrie, 2nd edition awarded to Jackson Browne, 3rd edition awarded in memory of Victor Jara and Violeta Parra, 4th edition awarded to Francesco Guccini, 5th edition awarded in memory of Miriam Makeba, 6th edition awarded to Sir Bob Geldof*).

The 7th edition 2015, will be awarded to **GIOVANNA MARINI**, Italian singer-songwriter and ethnomusicologist, recognized for her human and artistic depth, universally recognized in music and social issues, and her extraordinary engagement in social commitments. Her career is the testimony of an extraordinary artistic and human path.

The Award will be presented on the main stage of the Firmafede Fortress by Alessio Cavarra, Mayor of the City of Sarzana, and a councillor of the Region of Liguria during the evening concert of Thursday May 28.

The Award is an artwork of the Ligurian sculptor Luigi Mainolfi.

*Martin Guitars-EkoMusicGroup partner of the event*

### **EDUCATIONAL COURSES IN LUTHERIE, GUITAR DIDACTICS**

Wednesday 27 – Thursday 28 – Friday 29 May

The first three days of the event will be dedicated to those who wish to learn or improve the techniques of guitar construction and the various techniques for musical performance. Classes will be held inside the Firmafede Fortress and will be held by master luthiers and international guitarists: for Lutherie will be present **Linda Manzer** (Canada) renowned for her archtop, flat-top and harp acoustic guitars, she has built guitars for Pat Metheny, Bruce Cockburn and Tony McManus. **Dick Boak** (USA) Director of Artist Relations for the CF Martin Guitar Company who is behind the conception of more than one hundred and forty signature guitar collaborations with the top musical talents of our time. Dick Boak is now is director of museum, archives and special projects.

For Guitar didactics

**Alex De Grassi, Tim Sparks** and **Pietro Nobile**, coordinated by Giuseppe Tropeano, Italian performer, and teacher at Scuolacustica of Sarzana.

### **EXHIBITION OF LUTHERIE, IMPORT, VINTAGE, EDITORIAL AND ACCESSORIES FOR THE ACOUSTIC GUITAR**

Friday 29 – Saturday 30 - Sunday 31 May, 11am - 7pm (free admission)

Approximately 130 exhibitors are expected, from European countries and worldwide, for the exhibition of lutherie, import, vintage, editorial and accessories for the acoustic guitar. The trade show will be in and around the rooms and halls of the Firmafede Fortress and will be characterized by the presence of the best luthiers, guitar makers, companies and international brands. Conferences and seminars will be held throughout the trade show complete with excellent guests from various fields of the acoustic guitar. The **Ukulele village** will be present dedicated to the Hawaiian instrument, with exhibitors, concerts, seminars, lessons and events. The English musician and co-ordinator of "Ukuleles for Peace" **Paul Moore** will be present, with the Italian Ukulele musician **Lorenzo Vignando "Ukulollo"** and the trio "**Ukus in Fabula**".

*Bar/restaurant facilities at the "Heineken Meeting Point" – Heineken beer, sponsor for the event.*

## **WORKSHOP, CONFERENCES, CONCERTS AND EVENTS IN AND AROUND THE FIRMAFEDE FORTRESS AND THE HISTORICAL CENTER OF SARZANA**

Friday 29 - Saturday 30 - Sunday 31 May - 11am - 7pm (free admission)

Various events will take place in and around the Firmafede Fortress including concerts, demo, jam sessions and conferences.

Conferences will be held inside the tower area of the Firmafede Fortress. **Richard Hoover (Santa Cruz Guitars), Bill Collings (Collings Guitars), Andy Powers (Taylor Guitars), David Ausdhal (Lowden Guitars), Dick Boak (Martin Guitars), Scott Fore (Bourgeois Guitars), Heart Sound (acoustic guitar amplification), Leo Petrucci (master luthier of antique instruments)** and other excellent guests from various fields of the acoustic guitar and musical instruments in general will present workshops and discussions on the most advanced techniques of contemporary construction.

Concerts and live performances will be held throughout the tradeshow on the Fossato stage at the entrance into the Fortress Firmafede, to welcome visitors to the event.

- Friday 29th May: **ITALIAN BLUEGRASS MEETING** 3rd edition of this event. A meeting for Bluegrass musicians from Italy and overseas, who will hold concerts, workshops and jam sessions during the day. Co-ordinated by the banjo player Danilo Cartia.

- Saturday 30th May: **NEIL YOUNG CELEBRATION DAY** all day performance and jam sessions to celebrate the 70th birthday of the great Canadian singer-songwriter, organized by CSN&Y Italian fanzine, Francesco Lucarelli and Stefano Frollano

- Sunday 31st May: **"BOB BROZMAN MEMORIAL BLUES PLACE"**, dedicated to the memory of Bob Brozman. Performance of the orchestra **"Un castello 100 chitarre"**, 100 guitarists in concert at the entrance of the Firmafede Fortress!

All day concerts will be held at the Tower Stage.

Guitarists will perform in the streets and squares of the historical centre of Sarzana to encourage the public and local retail companies to get involved (shop windows will display guitars and gadgets), making them an active part of the meeting together with tourists and visitors who visit the city for the occasion.

Amplification for the centre stage by **FBT Elettronica**, other stages around the fortress by **Acus-sound**. Accessories by **Shure** by **Prase and Bespeco**.

### **Sunday 31st May**

Concerts and performances of the best international guitarists on the main stage will continue all day including a line up dedicated to **"Ladies & Guitars"**.

### **Acoustic Guitar Meeting figures:**

5 days of events, concerts, educational courses, workshops, conferences, jam sessions

More than 50 international musicians in concert for the 18th edition

130 exhibitors including over 25 international.

More than 10.000 visitors in 2014

Nearly 650 artists in concert in the previous seventeen editions

More than 35 teachers between master luthiers and international guitarists teaching at our educational courses in Lutherie and Guitar Didactics.

Over 90.000 copies of the "Acoustic Guitar Meeting" catalogue printed and distributed

### **Entrance**

Friday 29th, Saturday 30th, Sunday 31st May 11am to 7pm – free entrance

Wednesday 27th 9pm free entrance

Concerts: Thurs.28-Fri.29-Sat.30 at 9pm € 20 - Tickets available on [www.happyticket.it](http://www.happyticket.it)

or at the ticket office at the Acoustic Guitar Meeting

All three evenings subscription, reduced price, € 55 (Thurs –Fri–Sat) for info contact: Armadillo Club

## **PARTNER AND SPONSOR**

Città di Sarzana – Regione Liguria - Ministero dei Beni Culturali, Soprintendenza per i Beni Architettonici e Paesaggistici della Liguria - Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca, Direzione per la Liguria, USP La Spezia – **convenzioni con** Università di Pisa, Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia, Corso di laurea in Cinema Musica Teatro e Fondazione Campus Studi del Mediterraneo, Università del Turismo, Lucca  
Heineken Italia spa - Arinox gruppo Arvedi

Eko Music Group – Martin Guitars – Fishman Pickups - Mogar Music distr. Ibanez Guitars - Taylor Guitars – Lowden Guitars – Collings Guitars – Santa Cruz Guitar Company – Bourgeois Guitars - Martinez Guitars - Gold Music distr. Breedlove, Tanglewood, Alvarez, Cole Clark Guitars, Kala Ukuleles – Aramini, distr. Larrivée, Lakewood, Sigma Guitars - Yamaha Guitars – Domus Musica distr. Dogal Strings, Shadow - National Reso-phonic Guitars - Deering Banjo Company – John Pearse Strings – B-Band Transducers

**Sound & accessories by** FBT Elettronica - Acus-sound - Shure by Prase - Bespeco,  
"Cremona Mondomusica" - "Mondomusica New York" - Fingerpicking.net – Accademia di Chitarra "LIZARD" – A.D.G.P.A. of Italy - Januaforum, Associazione di Promozione Sociale Internazionale

**Riviste:** "DismamusicaMagazine", "Chitarra Acustica", "Guitar Club", "Chitarre", "Strumenti Musicali", "Big Box", "Suonare News", "Seicorde", "Buscadero", "Il Blues", "Pagine Musica", "Il Manifesto"

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