



TarantaCeltica is a ground-breaking collaboration between the traditional musics of Southern Italy and Ireland, uniting the hypnotic rhythmic energy of Tarantella and the uplifting boldness of the Irish Tradition to create an ecstatic high energy hybrid of passion and joy. Created by master percussionists Andrea Piccioni and Dave Boyd, **TarantaCeltica** brings together a world-class ensemble that deliver a unique concert experience entwining and unwinding these two vibrant cultures, while bringing a thrilling contemporary insight into deep and ancient music.

TarantaCeltica's Irish premiere tour in April 2023 was met with boisterous standing ovations at the Ballydehob Jazz Festival, as well as full venues in Clonmel and Cork. On a subsequent tour to the Southern Italian province of Calabria in August 2023, the ensemble was lauded by critics and public alike for their sold out performances at the Festival d'Autunno (Montauro), Festival del Mediterraneo (Fuscaldò) and Tarantella Power (Monasterace).

Building on the phenomenal success of the concerts in 2023, **TarantaCeltica** is exploring future touring possibilities for 2024 and 2025.



Management: David Teevan ten42productions@gmail.com

www.tarantaceltica.com

PRESS

'A performance that conveyed an engaging lyricism in the variety of the pieces chosen by the master percussionists Andrea Piccioni and Dave Boyd, who coordinated a very well-balanced group, within which the notable individuality of the violinist Courtney Cullen stood out, in a fascinating journey in the national premiere, which combined reels, polkas and tarantellas up to the artistic peak, represented by an effective hybridisation of a traditional Albanian dance with Irish styles.'
(from the original Italian)

Vittorio Pio **La Nuovo Calabria**

'... the show was a spectacular success, with a well-balanced mixture of cross cultural mash ups and what we'd call here the pure drop, whether that be a set of reels on the Irish pipes or a song in the Calabrese dialect, it felt authentic and exciting. If I had stars to award, this debut would be an unquestionable 5'

Seán Laffey **Irish Music Magazine**

'The result is a mix of energy and mysticism in the call of ancestral sounds... A concentration of strength, intensity and joyful impetus...' (from the original Italian)

Sabrina Amoroso **Gazzetta del Sud 25th August 2023**

'The music that results from this fusion is engaging and electrifying to the point where much of the audience danced the night away, but there's more: the referencing and rhythmic chases [...] give rise to gratifying and unpredictable sounds that keep the listener from becoming habituated while keeping him or her always electrified.' (from the original Italian)

Rosanna Paravati **Il Quotidiano del Sud 25th August 2023**

LINKS

Festival D'Autunno

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Hj3bJ0RVTI>

RTICalabria

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uil3Pn-OzAY>





WHAT WE OFFER

TarantaCeltica is a seven-piece ensemble that tours with a sound engineer and tour manager. Their 90 minute set can be performed in two halves in a concert hall setting or straight through within a festival environment. Repertoire ranges from specially composed and arranged ensemble material to traditional songs and tunes played in duo and trio as well as virtuoso solo highlights.

With a global outlook, the band is rooted in vibrant, social, and accessible tradition - in addition to their incendiary main stage concert hall and festival performances their music is at home in a mountain village piazza, a downtown music venue, or a theatre.

The musicians are also seasoned collaborators across many different cultures and traditions and always curious to develop new musical relationships and experiences.

WORKSHOPS AND EDUCATION

The **TarantaCeltica** musicians are skilled teachers and facilitators and can offer a wide range of experiences from beginners taster sessions to lecture demonstrations and professional level multi-day masterclasses.

These include: Irish Fiddle, Irish Flute, Whistle, Banjo, Classical Guitar, Lira Calabrese, Calabrian overtone flute, and Chitarra Battente.

Members of the band can facilitate percussion workshops at a world class level. These can focus on bodhrán, tamburello and frame drums, but also cover rhythm concepts from Middle Eastern and South Indian traditions which are useful for melody players in any genre.

Uniquely, our musicians can share authentic music, song and dance from the Calabrian Tarantella tradition as it is still practised in peoples homes and villages.

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ABOUT

Dave Boyd and Andrea Piccioni first met in 2011 when Dave attended the Frame Drums Italia festival to investigate the historical connections between the Irish bodhrán and the frame drums of the Mediterranean.

It was instantly clear to both musicians that there was an obvious synergy with the bodhrán and tamburello - both instruments using the same technique in turning the wrist and ornamenting with triplets and rolls. A musical relationship became a warm friendship and the two musicians have shared stages at percussion festivals throughout Europe.

Their shared belief that there were deep resonances between Irish traditional music and the traditional music of Southern Italy - particularly Tarantella as its played in Calabria - led to the decision to bring together a group of like minded musicians from each tradition and see if a collaboration would be successful. A serendipitous meeting led to the involvement and support of David Teevan at Ten42 Productions bringing momentum and management experience to the process.

Finding the musicians for the project was crucial and the search took some months. It was important to find the right people as much as the right players, because most of the development work was residential with the band living together and sharing cooking and cleaning chores. Working in multiple languages, with arrangements being created by listening and playing, rather than being written was challenging - but the musicians rose to the task with energy, curiosity, humour and a genuine sense that they were creating something novel and unique.



MUSICIANS

Andrea Piccioni (tamburello, gnacchere, jawharp)

Andrea is a acknowledged master of Italian tamburello and frame drums. He has toured world-wide, performing in prestigious venues, and collaborating with distinguished international musicians, including Bobby McFerrin, Reinhard May, Paul McCandless, Dónal Lunny, Caitriona O'Leary, Les Hauts et Les Bas, Francesco Turrisi, Gianluigi Trovesi, Luciano Biondini and Wu Man. He was awarded the title of Master Musician by the Aga Khan Music Program for his work with them on international educational projects and tours with musical greats from around the world. He is professor of Percussion/Frame Drums at the P. I. Tchaikovsky Conservatory of Nocera Terinese



Dave Boyd (bodhrán, voice)



Dave's eclectic career has embraced performance, recording and composing for theatre, dance, film, and television. His love of the bodhrán and curiosity around cultural interrelation led to him explore many other frame drum traditions and has resulted in his unique approach which combines these influences and electronics. He is a passionate cross-cultural collaborator developing numerous pioneering projects that weave together disciplines, traditions and technologies. He regularly composes for major international theatre and dance companies and his music can also be heard in a growing number of films and TV series. Performance highlights with bands and as a solo artist include Vancouver Island Festival, Porto Celtic Festival, Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Harrison Festival of the Arts, and Tamburi Mundi.

Courtney Cullen (fiddle flute and whistles)

Courtney is a fiddle and flute player from County Wicklow. Although classically trained, with a diploma in music performance from the Royal Irish Academy of Music, her passion lies in Irish traditional music. She has a number of all Ireland Fleadh Ceol titles to her name and has toured extensively throughout Europe and the US with trad groups and Irish dance productions, sharing stages such luminaries as Paul Brady, Damien Dempsey, Mary Black, Elenor McEvoy, Kíla, Charlie McGettigan, John Sheahan and Paddy Moloney. Courtney had recently ventured into the world of theatre, featuring on violin in Conor McPherson's *The Weir* in the Abbey Theatre and in Damien Dempsey's *Tales from Holywell*.



Marcello De Carolis (chitarra battente, guitar)



Marcello graduated with full marks and honours in classical guitar at the G. da Venosa Conservatory in Potenza. His studies continue with masters Angelo Gilardino, Luca Fabrizio, Leo Brower and others. He founded the duo "Cordinazioni" with Maestro Luca Fabrizio, recording an album of the same name published by Italysona. His first solo album "The Eclectic Beating - Contemporary Music for Chitarra Battente" was released in February 2021 on the Da Vinci Classics label with novel arrangements for the instrument. His duo collaboration with Francesco Loccisano has toured extensively in Europe with their album "Venti" also published by Italysona. Their new instruction book "La chitarra battente - basic method" is published by fingerpicking.net.

Mico Corapi (voice, guitar, lira, zampupetta)



Mico grew up in a household with strong roots in the traditional culture of Catanzaro and Reggio Calabria. His uncle, a guitarist and singer, and his grandfather, who played Chitarra Battente and organetto, were particularly influential in passing the tradition to him. He has spent many years deepening his knowledge of the rhythmic, vocal, and musical traditions of the region stretching from Aspromonte to the Calabrian Serre, in addition to broadening his studies to include flamenco. He also has the role of 'mastru i ballu' (dance master) in Calabrian Tarantella. His work is highlighted in the 2012 documentary Salerno: Reggio Calabria - Tutta la storia davanti, and he performs regularly in festivals throughout the Mediterranean with Banda Corapi and others.

Brian Morrissey (banjo, mandolin, bodhrán, and whistles)

Brian, a native of Nenagh, County Tipperary, is an eminent traditional Irish multi-instrumentalist. He has performed and/or recorded with some of the most influential names in Irish music, including Donal Lunny, the late Micheál Ó Súilleabháin, Mel Mercier, Niall, Cillian & Caoimhin Vallely, John Spillane, Luka Bloom, Kevin Crawford and Cathal Hayden and has worked with Grammy award winning artists such as Béla Fleck and Alison Brown. Brian is the founder and director of Cork City's Lee Sessions traditional music series, and is the creator and producer of the critically acclaimed production Pulses of Tradition. He has lectured in Irish traditional music and community music at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at the University of Limerick and also at University College Cork. He has toured extensively in Europe, Asia, North America and South America, playing in some of the most prestigious venues in the world, including the Royal Albert Hall in London, The Royal Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and the National Concert Hall in Dublin



Lottie Cullen (Uilleann pipes, concertina & whistle)



Lottie is a renowned Irish multi-instrumentalist from County Wicklow in the east coast of Ireland. She has both a classical and traditional music upbringing, completing all ABRSM grades and a performance diploma in classical violin and piano. Lottie is best recognised for her talents in the performance of Irish music on the uilleann pipes, whistles and concertina. She has won seven All-Ireland Irish music titles and toured extensively in Europe, USA, Canada, Africa, India and Asia. Lottie was a featured performer and recorded on Riverdance's new production- "Heartbeat of Home", working alongside golden globe nominated composer Brian Byrne. She has performed/recorded with a multitude of globally renowned artists and bands including Sting, Afro Celt Sound System, Jiggy, Kila, Donal Lunny, Paul Brady, Mary Black, Paddy Moloney, Sharon Corr and Damien Leith to name a few. Lottie is also a composer and founding member of pop/irish fusion band Perfect Friction.

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