

1. The Philosophy

For some time now I haven't been able to conceive of working on a new album without having some idea of how I can get the songs to go beyond their intrinsic meaning and what they evoke in themselves. Today it's difficult to establish new repertoires of songs and everything seems to lead toward working on reappraising and redesigning something which has worked before. Therefore making something which a few years ago was, somewhat respectfully, called a concept album seems to me to be the only way to justify how much of your life you put into an album, how long a period of concentration is involved and how much energy it requires. And, at the same time, in fact, it's the only way to allow a record to aspire to really achieving something. At least in terms of being discussed and what it may come to represent to the person who is kind enough to take the trouble to listen to it. As the years go by, the idea that for an artist

"time should be spent on making something timeless"

seems more and more true to me. Because today, more than ever, you can't take it for granted that people will actually listen. Perhaps one day they will.

2. The Concept

One morning, coming out of my house I saw a huge billboard image which covered the whole front of the building opposite of a politician aligning himself to 'the family'. So I thought about this, for an example, the family. A microcosm of post-modern society, connected to the *macro* on which it depends in a totally different way to how it did in the past. Everything has changed. So much so that what doesn't change therefore becomes something to reflect on. For instance, have we always loved in this way? Have we always killed in this way? Lies, both public and private ones, have they always existed? Have courtiers/those close to power always stolen? Yes, of course they have.

So I wondered what is it that actually stops western civilization from degenerating into a kind of *Wild West*, even more obviously than the way the media shows us every day? *The Ten Commandments* is what I thought.

These are the pillars on which the whole of civilisation, which is the world as we know it, hangs, so history has taught us. Every culture has Them, even if they are called something different, take a different form or have different precepts. The Ten Commandments.

However, over the centuries they may have been ignored by those who, more than anyone, should have put them into practice and preached them. The Ten Commandments have been the glue which has held civil society together in the western world, taking on a legal, where not a moral meaning, something which goes beyond dogma, beyond religious laws, away from their original meaning and origin in one particular religion. It's universally accepted that it's wrong to kill, that you should respect your father, and your mother, that you shouldn't steal.. and the idea that there may be exceptions to the rules is universally accepted, known and even, on occasion, *tolerated*, often for those in Power, whatever form that may be in. But, despite this, the world today doesn't even closely resemble that of 50 years ago, and despite all the evidence.. it's still not universally accepted that today, for example, there are many different ways to kill. Perhaps in a less physical sense, perhaps in a crueler way, but nevertheless in ways that are just

as effective. The soul and the living spirit of entire generations continue to be attacked, plundered and filled with indifference. Beyond the sacrosanct respect for our parents, it's time to think about what it really means to have respect for our children. And to teach this from elementary school, for example. It's not a moral issue, having the awareness that stealing the future, whether it's done in a more or less legal way, is as serious as illegally stealing material things. And so it goes on. It's actually the exponential growth in the means of communication and the infinite possibilities that this has brought, which has meant that, in just a few years, the planet has become smaller than it's ever been before and never so much as today understanding the power of the founding principles of the Commandments makes me feel the real, living need for a re-reading, a new contemporary tradition – today we would say an '*upgrade*'- of all the values that have led us to where we are today. A new beginning, which more than just being a necessary change of direction, may actually reveal to us a more sustainable way to proceed.

Ten is simply an album of *light* music.. and perhaps more than just what I believe in, it has helped me to understand what it is that I don't believe in.. but also where my fears come from, in terms of my children's future, and of that which I feel is lacking in the world and the times which I have the luck to live and work in.

One last thing. I don't want to preach or try to claim I know it all. I don't have any answers to give, just stories to tell. How is it possible then to wish for such an idealistic and non-religious re-reading of that which was what held the histories of entire generations in such widely differing stages of human society and periods of history together? The only answer I can give, and it's something which has given me courage along the way, is that although I can be quite proud of my agnosticism, I know that this absolutely does not mean to say that *I don't have faith...*

3. What Kind Is It?

Stylistically, the record follows on from the theme begun in *Musica per Ballare* and it shares the fusion of influences, colors, temperatures even and different genres which may be far removed from each other. This leads quite rightly to the question of what label to put on this project, 'what genre is it?'. So often this is an important question for those who have to promote an artist, choosing the answer from all the possibilities available to me is never easy.

My experience of the last few years in Europe has reinforced in me the idea that mixing my culture and roots – which are very Italian – with Tango, Jazz, South American and eastern European music and even more different types of music, that comes from around the world and has spoken to my soul in some way, and that this has formed a language which anyone can understand, going beyond the language which I sing in.

Apart from this, all music that has deep roots, from the sacred to the cerebral and the *metropolitan*, to the more passionate and the timeless, today has a strong tradition and is easily recognizable. So, it is a language which is able to make both the artist and the listener feel a little bit at home, whether they are in Berlin, New York, Tokyo or even in a small town somewhere.

And if I really have to give a name and a put a label on what comes out of all this, recognizing that in the term 'singer-songwriter' (and in all its different linguistic variations, *Cantautore*, *Chansonnier*, *Liedmacher*) the importance and the respect that is owed to those who have until now shown a us the way in our culture, there's still not one word which really covers it. Perhaps it should be *Metropolitan World Music* or *Urban World Music*.. But anyway, without doubt the ingredient, the particular spice which gives it flavor, the yeast which makes the dough rise just right, lies in my singing in and being.. Italian.

I'd like to share a real pearl of a comment which came from a sound technician at a show in Bavaria on this point. When I asked him if he knew what type of music I played, he replied very matter-of-fact, "Oh.. You're Italian, You play *Love Songs*". And you know what? It's true.

4. The Songs

"10"

01. Credo

*Non Nominare Il Nome Di Dio Invano / Do not take the Lord's name in vain
It doesn't matter what name we give Him. Have faith, always*

02. La Cultura

*Non Uccidere / Thou shalt not kill
Don't hurt anyone, don't allow yourself to be indifferent and don't forget*

03. Partir

*Non Desiderare La Roba D'Altri / Do not covet other people's things
Share and have desires. Your history is hidden in everyone else's*

04. La Fidanzata

*Non Dire Falsa Testimonianza / Do not not bear false witness
Don't let lies change your life*

05. Sirena

*Non Desiderare La Donna D'Altri / Do not covet another man's wife
Recognize love. It's often right by your side*

06. Maria

*Onora Il Padre E La Madre / Honour your father and your mother
Honour you children, making the world you found a better place*

07. L'innocenza di Giuda

*Ricordati Di Onorare Le Feste / Remember the holy days
Remember to honour every moment of your life*

08. Il Maestro

*Non Avrai Altro Dio All'Infuori Di Me / Thou shalt have no other gods before me
The different roads that lead to Him, show that the divine is not the truth.
Perhaps the opposite*

09. Ultima Cena

*Non Commettere Atti impuri / Do not commit impure acts
Love, by its very definition, is never impure. Or it's not love*

10. Revolucìon

*Non Rubare / Thou shalt not steal
Don't allow your dreams be taken away from you*