



*"I greatly appreciated Murmur Mori's efforts in researching and gathering sources on a topic of historical and literary interest, yet little explored musically. Recorded performances are few, and curiously, they are often performed by classically trained instrumental and vocal groups, yet it should be clear that the origins of jongleurs singing are popular.*

*The jongleurs as a historical figure is undoubtedly a person of low social standing. A man, or sometimes a woman, who carried out an itinerant activity during which he performed before an audience of peasants, small-time artisans, and idle merchants. Harshly condemned by the ecclesiastical authorities and branded as immoral, their profession afforded a meager existence, although it could sometimes be appreciated by minor nobility, who*

*offered the opportunity to perform in their courts and repaid their performances with cast-off clothing, used footwear, and even meals whose abundance was unusual in the jester's normal diet.*

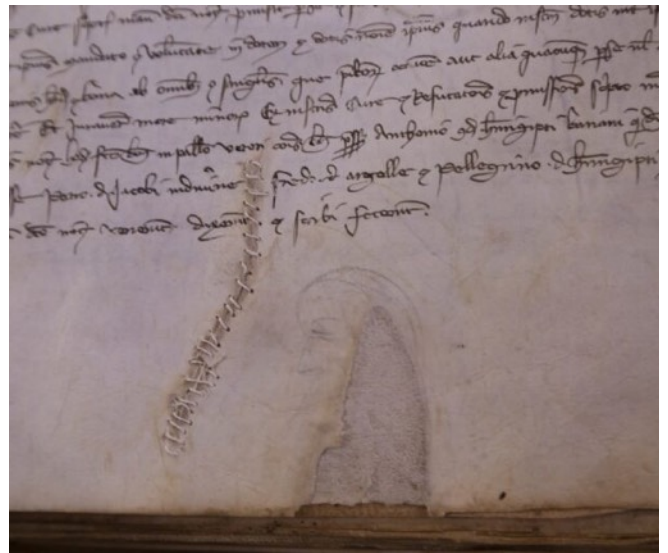
*This long preamble is to say that the performance of their songs requires a more plebeian refreshment; their voices require a challenging adaptation to the vocal techniques of their original singers. Of course, we don't have recordings of their authentic voices, but we can at least study those of those who still continue a similar activity today: the few surviving storytellers (or at least their recordings) can be fruitful subjects of study. Murmur Mori not only restores voice to these songs, but performs them with the vitality this repertoire demands."*

*Tito Saffioti*

This program is the result of research conducted by Mirko Volpe and Silvia Kuro on early Italian lyric poetry, a work that led them to study the Italian vernacular repertoire directly from manuscripts from the 12th, 13th, and 14th centuries. Collaborating with the **Alma Mater Studiorum of Bologna** (MemoBo project), they have given new life to several interesting Bolognese Memorials. This institution was founded in Bologna on April 26, 1265, by the will of two pleasure-loving friars, Catalano de' Malavolti and Loderingo degli Andalò, whom Dante places among the hypocrites in his *Inferno*. The Memorials Office has produced 322 registers of notarial deeds in which the notaries have transcribed several colorful vernacular rhymes in a jester-like and popular style. At the **Biblioteca Ambrosiana in Milan**, Mirko and Silvia studied manuscript E 15 sup. containing an important translation into the Piedmontese vernacular of the famous dawn by the troubadour Giraut de Borneill, presented by Murmur Mori for the first time through a perfect contrafactum of the text over the troubadour's melody. A similar work was done with the oenology of Gherardo Patecchio, preserved in the AD.XVI.20 manuscript and studied by Mirko and Silvia at the **Biblioteca Nazionale Braidense**.

Testimonies such as the *Canzoniere Vaticano Latino 3793* demonstrate how jester poetry spread throughout Italy, mutating into various schools such as Tuscan and Sicilian. The nascent flower of the vernacular grew rapidly, and the success of this artistic movement was initially condemned by the church, which regarded it with suspicion, until, thanks to figures such as St. Francis, its linguistic and performative potential was recognized: thus the lauda was born.

The concert program **"Poetesses, Poets and jongleurs of Italy"** attracted the interest of the Italian Embassies in Bratislava and Cologne, who presented it as the opening event of the prestigious **"Week of the Italian Language in the World,"** established by the **Accademia della Crusca** and sponsored by the President of the Italian Republic.



## **Concert program:**

**Danza Mantovana** - Lyrics: anon. mantovano, ms. Franc. Nouv. Acq. 7516, *13th century* / Music: Mirko Volpe

**Voria e non voria darvi piacere** - Lyrics: anon. bolognese, Palat. II.20 E.6.5.3, *1507* / Music: Silvia Kuro, Mirko Volpe

**Bella domna tant vos ai pregada** - Lyrics: Raimbaut de Vaqueiras e la donna, *13th century* - BnF Ms. 854, fol. 156r  
Music: Mirko Volpe

**Seguramente vegna ala nostra dança / Ella mia dona çoglosa** - Lyrics: Libri Memorialium, Mem. 67 Nicola Johanini Manelli, *1287* / Music: Mirko Volpe

**For de la bella cayba** - Lyrics: Archivio di Stato di Bologna, Memoriali Bolognesi 110, f401r, f404v, *1305*

**Salterello 2,3** - British Library, Ms. 29987, folio 63v-64r - *14th century*

**Pur bii del vin, comadre** - Lyrics: Libri Memorialium, Mem. 47 Anthonius Guidonis de Argele, *1282* / Music: Mirko Volpe, Silvia Kuro

**Mamma, lo temp'è venuto** - Lyrics: Anthonius Guidonis de Argele, *1282*, Memoriale bolognese 47 c. 1v.  
Music: Traditional from Emilia Romagna, arr. Mirko Volpe, Silvia Kuro

**Enoio** - Lyrics: Gherardo Patecchio, *XIII secolo* - Biblioteca Nazionale Braidense, AD.XVI.20, fol. 80v / Music: Monge de Montaudon (...1143-1210...) - "Mot menueya so auzes dire" BnF, Ms. français 22543, fol. 40r

**A la stagion che'l mondo foglia e fiora** - Lyrics: Compiuta Donzella, Ms. Vat. Lat. 3793, *13th century* / Music: Mirko Volpe

**Tutto lo mondo si mantien per fiore** - Lyrics: Bonagiunta Orbicciani, Laurenziano Rediano 9, *13th century* / Music: Mirko Volpe

**Tapina ahimé, ch'amava uno sparvero** - Lyrics: Anon., Ms. Vat. Lat. 3793, *13th century* / Music: Silvia Kuro, Mirko Volpe

**Aiuta De', vera lus et garçat** - Lyrics: Anon. *13th century*, Biblioteca Ambrosiana, Ms. E 15 sup. / Music: Giraut de Borneill, Ms. BnF Français 22543, fol. 8v

**Suspirava una pulcela** - Lyrics: BnF, Na 7516, f. 145v, *13th century* - Music: Silvia Kuro

**Gjamai non mi conforto** - Lyrics: Rinaldo d'Aquino, *13th century*, Ms. Vat. Lat. 3793, fol. 8v / Music: Mirko Volpe

**De la crudel morte de Cristo** - Lyrics / Music: Laudario di Cortona, *13th century*

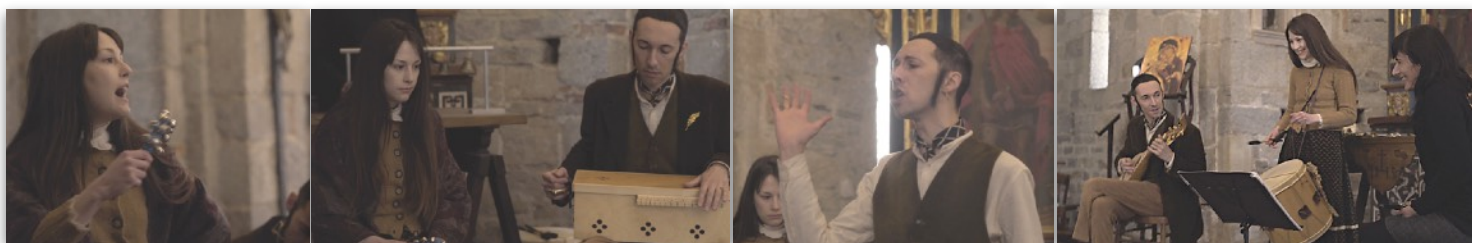
## **Musicisti e Strumenti Musicali:**

Mirko Virginio Volpe: Voice, Gittern, Symphonia, Frame Drum, Rattles

Silvia Kuro: Voice, Portative Organ, Nakers, Tambourine, Rattles

Alessandra Lazzarini: Transverse Flutes, Choir

Matteo Brusa: Cittern, Riqq, Darbouka, Triangle, Bells, Choir



## Biografia:

"CONTIGIT IOCLATOREM EX LANGOBARDORUM GENTE AD KAROLUM VENIRE, ET CANTIUNCULAM A SE COMPOSITAM DE EADEM RE ROTANDO IN CONSPECTU SUORUM CANTARE"

*It happened that a Langobard jongleur came to Charlemagne and sang a little song composed by himself about this matter within view of his own people*

*Chronicon Novaliciense, book III V.10 – 11th century*



What would probably scandalize the jongleurs, if they lived today, would not be seeing their lyrics performed, but witnessing a show without Love.

Inspired by the popular Muse, since 2015 Mirko Virginio Volpe and Silvia Kuro have been investigating jongleurs poetry and music from the 9th to the 13th century, working directly on the original sources, bringing back to life lyrics and melodies of Italy and Europe, reconstructing the secular music of the Middle Ages.

In 2022 the French version of the musical program "Poetesse, Poeti e Giullari d'Italia" was presented at the prestigious "Festes Baroques" festival.

In the same year "Dançando La Fressca Rosa" was published: a mini-album resulting from the research of Mirko and Silvia on the Memoriali Bolognesi of the 13th century, carried out with the Alma Mater

Studiorum of Bologna, MemoBo project; in 2022 they release the single "Aiuta De', vera lus et garçat", a musical reconstruction of a troubadour Alba translated into a Piedmontese vernacular in the 13th century.

In 2023 they released the album "Canzoneta, va!" concerning the connection between Provençal and Italian poetry in the 12th and 13th centuries, in the same year they were contacted by the Italian Cultural Institute of Bratislava for two concerts included in the cultural events of the "Week of the Italian Language in the World", a success also replicated at the IIC in Cologne. "Canzoneta, va!" was presented on the radio programs Primo Movimento (RAI radio 3), En Pistes! (Radio France) and Quilisma (RSI). Murmur Mori won the 2023 Medieval Italy award, ranking first in the "entertainment" category.

In 2024 after a serie of concerts in Europe, ended in France at Noirlac Abbey, the program "Canzoneta, va!" has been recorded live at Cantar di Pietre Festival by the Radio Télévision Suisse and RSI. In the same year Forum Musicum Festival (Narodowe Forum Muzyki) commissioned Murmur Mori a program focused on the theme of the crusades. After the success of the event held at the Town Hall of Wrocław, the repertoire was recorded for the album "Make love, not crusades".

In addition to the ongoing and intense concert activity, in 2025 Murmur Mori performed live on RAI Radio 3 at the program "Piazza Verdi," presenting an Italo-Provençal troubadour repertoire from the 12th and 13th centuries. The ensemble has also held online and in-person courses, on the theory and performance practice of medieval music, both in Italy and abroad. The musical instruments used are reproductions based on depictions from European medieval sources.

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