

DALMATIA AND METAL MUSIC?

Last year, working on my double CD celebrating 50 years of my life "with and for" early music, dedicated to my dear Dalmatia, it came to me for the first time the "silly" idea to try to combine Dalmatian traditional, folk, music (especially dances for *lirica*, *lijerica*) with the musical idiom of the so-called "metal", which I gladly listen to every now and then and even started to play myself recently.

What is it that inspired or prompted me to this idea and its realization then (2018/19) and once again (and I'm afraid it won't be the last time ...) this year?

For me (as for the most tourists...), Dalmatia is first and foremost the sea and the sunshine, a gentle mistral, *klapa* songs, nice and kind people, mediterranean atmosphere, dances with *lijerica* and mandolins, fish, chard with potatoes, olives, olive oil and good wine...

But Dalmatia is also a hard rock (not music...), a dangerous north (bora), a south wind, an eternal struggle for survival in beautiful nature where the arable land is a rarity, a centuries-old battle with the sword (*schiaivona** and others) a holster and a rifle against various invaders and occupiers people always, sooner or later, managed to win and expel from their native and beloved homeland.

For me, Dalmatia is like *yin* and *yang*, a small world of huge contrasts, so I was missing something like that in music and decided to add exactly that, contrasting, component. At the same time, I was inspired by parts of the Dalmatian folk music tradition, which in themselves are in certain contrast to those more "urban", "civilized" already mentioned beautiful *klapa* songs and mandolin dances. I am thinking here of the *ojkanje* singing (which reminds me of the howling of wolves in the karst of Dalmatian Zagora), of heroic songs sung to *gusle* (fiddle with one or two strings) accompaniment, of the trenchant singing of the Our Lady's Lament (Easter procession on island of Hvar) and of the playing of various bagpipes, *diple* (or *mišnjice*)...

For me, out of this music spring those ancient Illyrian, Dalmatian elements that nobody - first Roman and then Christian imperialists, Turks, Venetians until the latest failed "conquerors" managed to erase. In addition, about ten years ago, listening to bands such as Metallica, Sepultura, Pantera and many others, I noticed one of the typical metal rhythms called *gallopp* which immediately reminded me of our dance *kolo* or Dalmatian *poskočica*...

What signifies metal in music for me? A return to our ancient European (and beyond) roots, in which there is absolutely everything; from Neanderthals through Celts, Illyrians, magic, darkness and light, war and peace, defeats and victories and everything else that makes up the identity of one region, one (small or big) nation - all the way to the continent ...

*SCHIAVONA AND DALMATIA:

Schiaivona is the name associated with a fascinating and distinct line of swords that originated and were produced in Venice from the last quarter of the 16th century to the last decade of the 18th century. They were carried by Istrian, Dalmatian and Albanian soldiers often known as the *Schiavoni*. These battle-hardened and highly valued men were employed as bodyguards to the Doges of Venice and essentially comprised the "marines", naval infantry, of the Venetian Republic's army.