

Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino (CGS) - Barzakh Festival 2023



Discover new global sounds as powerful tradition-bearers and genre-shattering musicians converge over two evenings that blend cultures, styles, and genres. [Barzakh Festival](#) draws inspiration from the idea to create a meeting place of musical streams that crosses diverse cultures. Global-minded musicians reflecting varied influences and identities bring the contemporary and the traditional together in a boundary-shattering lineup filled with musical revelations.

Get to know... [CANZONIERE GRECANICO SALENTINO](#)

Italy's fascinating dichotomy of tradition and modernity come together in the music of CGS: the seven-piece band and dancer are the leading exponents in a new wave of young performers re-inventing Southern Italy's [pizzica](#) musical and dance traditions for today's global audience. [Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino](#) is regarded as Italy's leading and longest-standing traditional music ensemble, hailing from Salento, the heel of the Italian boot, in Puglia. They have revitalized both the rousing and the introspective sides of Southern Italian song and dance.

WHAT IS TARANTA?

Most of the songs played by Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino are music for dance: the traditional dance of Salento, called pizzica or, nowadays, taranta. This dance is linked to a local cultural phenomenon called [tarantism](#); sometimes it is danced between a woman and a man as a form of courtship. This kind of music is passionate, obsessive, and conducive to trance, owing to the fact that its main rhythmical actor is a local type of frame drum, the [tamburello](#), which resounds like a never-stopping beating heart.



Artist Inspiration

Tarantism is without a doubt the most studied of Salentine cultural phenomenon and a big influence on CGS's art form. The cultural phenomenon is popularly believed to result from the bite of a kind of spider called taranta. The spider's bite would put its victims (tarantati) in a state of heightened excitability and restlessness which could only be overcome by engaging in frenzied dancing.

CREATE YOUR OWN MUSIC FOR DANCE

Drawing inspiration from this seven-piece band performing traditional music from Southern Italy, research some contemporary or early works in the category of traditional music in your local culture. Try to see how the traditional is blended with contemporary forms of music, and how the traditional is reinvented in order to speak for audiences today. Write down your findings and share it with a friend!



Learn More



FURTHER VIEWING

- [Nu te fermare - Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino \(Official Video\)](#) →
- [Balla Nina - Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino - Official Music Video](#) →
- [Pizzica Indivolata \(Live @ Sziget 2018\) - CGS Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino](#) →
- [CGS Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino - Live at Roskilde 2022](#) →
- [Live is Life - Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino \(15 giugno 2020\)](#) →



FURTHER READINGS

- [Tarantism by Jean Fogo Russel](#) →
- [World of Art: Tarantism](#) →
- [Dancing with spiders: tarantellas and tarantism](#) →
- [Ritual, Rapture and Remorse: A Study of Tarantism and Pizzica in Salento](#) →
- [An Historical and Sociopsychiatric Appraisal of Tarantism and its Importance in the Tradition of Psychotherapy of Mental Disorders](#) →