

BE TRANSPORTED WITH I VIAGGIATORI



The CD **Suitcase Serenata** transports you to forgotten fishing villages, moonlit olive groves, and a hard life under a hot sun where women sang melancholy songs of lost love, displacement and revolution and fought hardship with a fierce sense of humour.

I VIAGGIATORI's debut album

Suitcase Serenata is a poignant and earthy homage to Italy and the thousands of people who have immigrated to our shores. Part travelogue, part lament, part protest you will be captivated by this intoxicating album peppered with traditional and original roots music unearthed and inspired by Italy and the Italo-Australian diaspora.

Suitcase Serenata is a window into another time and another place, with the sounds of folk, celtic, gypsy, blues and Italian world music woven expertly together by this impressive quartet.

There's the vocals of Aria award winner Kavisha Mazzella, well known in the Melbourne world music scene for her original songs which slide smoothly from heartbreaking passion to dreamy high notes. Her rich sound is reminiscent of Portuguese Fado queen Mariza, fused with the social commentary of Luka Bloom. The clarinet - sometimes haunting, sometimes joyful - is played expertly by multi-instrumentalist Mark Holder-Keeping; whilst the tremble of the bouzouki is enough to make you melt under the expert musicianship of Irine Vela from another lauded aria-winning group -The Habibis. David De Santi, one of the most well known names on the folk scene in Australia - as accordion player, band leader, folk historian and artistic festival director - is bound to get your feet tapping to his authentic yet fresh interpretations of Italy's world-famous tarantellas and waltzes.

REVIEWS

World



I VIAGGIATORI

Suitcase Serenata

Black Market Music BMM347.2

★★★★☆

I Viaggiatori (The Voyagers) is a bit of an Aussie world/folk supergroup. Formed in 2006 by veteran Italian/Australian singer-songwriter Kavisha Mazzella to provide a score for the silent film documentary *Dall' Italia All' Australia*, the quartet also features Greek bouzouki/mandolin player Irine Vela (Habibis); accordion virtuoso David De Santi (Wongawilli/Zumpa); and clarinet/saxophonist Mark Holder-Keeping (Cantolibre/Zumpa). With a charming combination of Italian standards, original songs by Mazzella and a touching version of 'Waltzing Matilda', this all-acoustic album chronicles the hopes and memories of our Italian community. An authentic, joyous and well-performed musical travelogue. **SJ**

Since forming in 2006 I VIAGGIATORI (The Voyagers) have always had the ability to take listeners on a vivid and sensory journey. I VIAGGIATORI was formed by Kavisha Mazzella to perform live with silent documentary film 'Dall' Italia All' Australia' for the 2006 National Folk Festival in Canberra. The film chronicles the voyage of the passenger steam-ship Regina d'Italia (Queen of Italy) at the turn of the century. Melbourne journalist and author Tony De Bolfo stumbled on Dall' Italia All' Australia's existence through his research for his book entitled In Search of Kings (Harper Collins Publisher). Since that time the band has performed the music to the film at festivals and cinemas around Australia.

From the rugged coast of Napoli, to the rice fields of the Po river valley, to the misty mornings of Fremantle, there's no need to board a plane – although you may well be inspired to - with I VIAGGIATORI's charming debut - Suitcase Serenata.

Appearances over past 2 years

- **2010 Port Fairy Folk Festival**
- **2009 &2010 Brunswick Music Festival**
- **2010 The National Folk Festival Canberra**
- **2009 Adelaide Greek Festival**
- **2009 Sydney Greek Festival**
- **2009 Season of film and music in Fremantle**
- **2009 Illawarra Folk Festival**
- **2010 Suitcase Serenata Tour – Sydney, Wollongong, Canberra, Ulladulla**
- **2010 Brisbane Italian Week**

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