

## **Presentation:**

Suonabanda started in Modena in 1983 encouraged by previous research experiences on oral tradition in the provinces of Modena, Reggio Emilia and Bologna. The group's mission was to stimulate interest in a jolliness culture, perceived as socialization and popular expression, in situations where protagonist is traditional dancing.

Suonabanda mostly focuses towards Emilian area folk traditional dance music known as "staccati" (detached), which is danced since before "liscio" music and also used during popular feasts.

Following previous researchers work Suonabanda conducted a new survey in Modena, Reggio Emilia and Bologna Provinces. The research, thanks to the performances and indications learnt from old musicians and dancers, led to discovering a considerable amount of ancient dances and associated music. All this heritage was revived by Suonabanda in form of shows, animation, and courses.

Revitalized tunes are different traditional dances. Normally they are performed by a group of couples who forming precise figures. For each dance name (giga, manfrina, frulana, etc..) there is a specific combination of basic steps: "spasso" (walking), "tonda" ( going round), "braccia" (arms), "balletto" (ballet), all steps and movements are then enriched by dancers personal inventiveness and creativity.

The group collection includes also traditional dance music from different European origin (France, Sweden, Ireland, Scotland...) to enable a broad participation of the public in situations of parties and festivals.

Suonabanda has always sought out old traditional musicians and dancers direct contact, trying to give its contribution to the continuation of still living traditional realities.

In this framework, the Suonabanda usual participation to the traditional event "Maggio delle ragazze" (May of girls) in Riolunato village (MO) led to a CD production and to a concert theme proposal "La bella è entrata in ballo" (Belle came into dance).

## **Productions:**

- "Musica tradizionale da ballo dell'area emiliana" (Emilian area traditional dance tunes) self-production tape/CD 1984;
- "Balli staccati della tradizione emiliana" (Detached traditional Emilian dances) CD RoMiliA 2003;
- "La bella è entrata in ballo - Tradizioni musicali a Riolunato" (Belle came into dance - Musical traditions in Riolunato) CD FolkClub Ethnosuoni 2009;
- "Di qua e di là dal Secchia" (This side and the other side of Secchia river) research book history including: 7 dances descriptions, 18 music sheets and a CD with music performed by Suonabanda self-production 2015.

## **Participations:**

- "Canti e balli della tradizione popolare italiana" (Italian traditional folk songs and dances) CD (live) Idyllium 2006;
- "Le musiche e i canti dei burattini dell'Ocarina Bianca" (White Ocarina puppets music and songs) CD Nostradamus Villa 2007;
- "Con la guazza sul violino - Tradizioni musicali nella Provincia di Modena" (With dew on the violin - Musical traditions in Modena Province) Book with 2 CDs by Fabio Bonvicini - Squilibri Editore 2009;

## **Group members:**

Pierpaolo Bergamini: fiddle; Maurizio Berselli: diatonic accordions; Maurizio Loschi: acoustic guitar; Claudio Vezzali: fiddle and mandolins