

**LABILIA**

MUSIC PRODUCTION

«BLUES FROM THE BOOTLAND»

**THREE GENERATIONS, THREE STYLES AND THREE GUITARS IN ONE SHOT!**

FEDERICO VALENTI

MAURIZIO PUGNO

DANY FRANCHI



# ITALIAN BLUES GUITAR NIGHT

1982  
Cagliari

1966  
Gubbio

1990  
Genova

# «Blues from The Bootland»



A night dedicated to «blues guitar-ism» does not necessarily have to be understood as an endless «jam sessions»!

**Sweet Music** in collaboration with **Labilia**, makes this thought of **Maurizio Pugno** happen! (thought expressed during a gruelling culinary marathon on the shores of Trasimeno lake, Umbria)

The whole concept is about comparing three different generations, three ways of seeing the blues but above all, three recognizable styles: thus a real musical project was born, «**Blues from the Bootland**», contained within an «**Italian Blues Guitar Night**».

Entrusted to the «veteran» **Maurizio Pugno**, this production highlights what we can consider as «Italian Blues» expressed not only by the sum of guitar strings and amps but by a real artistic direction not only made of wild strumming (yes, you'll get that!), but mostly of great songs.

So, in 2020, we'll see the collaboration between the «old» **Pugno**, born in 1966 and two of the greatest talents in circulation today: the young **Federico Valenti** and the very young **Dany Franchi** (respectively class 1982 and 1990).

Within this path, it is decided to root these three «experiences» of «European Blues-men» in everyday life, geographically and humanly speaking.

Starting from the Italian hinterland, Umbria where **Pugno** lives, to seek more open horizons: the music of this production goes in search of the sea; in Sardinia, in Cagliari where he finds **Federico Valenti** and in Liguria, in Genoa, land of **Dany Franchi**.

So we have three musical backgrounds, the geography of their lands and style, across the contemporary, contaminated by everything that has formed them but with the utmost respect and study for «the whys» and «the hows», thus creating the «whole».

Although the electric guitar remains the main star of this production, the wonderful voice of **Dany Franchi** himself and the warm and biting vocalicity of the young «**Raffo**» **Barbi** (already in the «collective» **Labilia** and in the **Pugno Blues Band**) will lead a transversal repertoire, supported by the three styles and three ways to see the «six strings».

**Franz Piombino** is the other senior of the band (Turin, class 1968) and has been part of **Pugno's** musical history for many years now. Returned to Italy after having lived as a professional musician for about twenty years in London, he has collaborated with many international artists (**Josh Smith, Ariel Posen, Jeff McErlain, Paolo Bonfanti, Linda Valori, Stephen Dale Petit**, etc.). Now he is the eclectic bass player of the **Pugno Blues Band** as well as of other **Labilia** productions of which he is one of the pillars.

Next to the seniors, it was then asked the help of other young musicians coming from different musical experiences, active in the world of the blues

and Soul for several years and all within the «Collective» **Labilia**: on the keyboards the talented multi-instrumentalist, composer, singer (with 3 productions in his name) **Lorenzo Cannelli** (or **Alessandro Fiorucci**, also in **Pugno Blues Band**) and **Riccardo «Rocca» Fiorucci** (or **Federico «Kico» Corazzi**) on drums.

**Three** musicians, **three** generations, **three** musical styles, **three** artistic paths with their three guitars meet at the «crossroads» which has become a...«roundabout»!

**MAURIZIO PUGNO** guitars  
**DANY FRANCHI** guitars and lead vocal  
**FEDERICO VALENTI** guitars  
**RAFFO BARBI** lead vocal  
**LORENZO CANNELLI / ALESSANDRO FIORUCCI** keyboards  
**FRANZ PIOMBINO** electric bass  
**RICCARDO FIORUCCI / FEDERICO CORAZZI** drums

# ITALIAN BLUES GUITAR NIGHT



**Show**

**Info**

In a venue of any size, in a theater, for a festival, for concerts and/or street and outdoor events, for private events and wherever you want to promote the blues guitar.

Possibility to associate Masterclasses, Speech and Educational concerts.

The «Italian Blues Guitar Night» is a project of great emotional and sound impact, where Blues, R&B and in part Soul are rooted in the unique sound of the three musicians.

Maurizio Pugno, the «elder» of this «guitar gang» is metaphorically taking a small step back, leaving these two young Italian talents to come forward: it must be said that despite the young age Federico and Dany are already fully recognized and recognizable within the large international «Blues family».

Three different musical worlds but all with a deep stylistic and historical knowledge of the Blues and what revolves around it, the very Blues to whom they dedicated their lives.

The performance sees the three protagonists on stage simultaneously, in a show built «ad hoc» for this production!

## Technical requirements

» <b>Minimum stage size:</b>	6X3 meters
» <b>Audio service:</b>	PA system adequate for the location, Sound engineer, 5/6 monitors speakers, 4 lines D.I.
» <b>Lighting service:</b>	According to availability
» <b>On site backline:</b>	Drums, digital piano. at least 2 microphones (for lead vocals) with stands, 3 guitar amps* and 1 bass amps
» <b>Other specific needs:</b>	Possibility of one dressing room with bathroom
» <b>Note:</b>	It is possible to bring own backline or part of it. *Preferably: Fender Deluxe Reverb '65 (reissue) or Fender Supereverb

## The young: Federico Valenti



**Federico Valenti**, born in 1982, is a Sardinian professional guitarist currently graduating in «jazz music» at the Cagliari Music Conservatory.

**Federico** has performed in many blues-oriented bands but for the past few years his main project has been «**Bad Blues Quartet**» (Sweet Music Production), a Sardinian band with which in 2017 he wrote, arranged and recorded the guitars for the homonymous album.

He has performed on numerous prestigious Italian stages and festivals; above all the «**Pistoia Blues Festival**» (2016) and opening for artists such as **Sarah Jane Morris**, **Andy J. Forest** etc.

As a professional musician he doesn't shy away from different styles; for several years, in fact, he plays and collaborates live and in studio with the Sardinian «world music» artist, singer and actress, **Ambra Pintore**. For the artist he also recorded acoustic, electric, bouzouki and dobro guitars in the album «**Lands of Return**» (produced by **S'Ard Music** and released on the **Egea** label, 2017).

In 2018 he joined the «large band» (nine elements), directed by Maestro **Massimo Satta**: a tribute to singer songwriter **Lucio Battisti**. The show sees on stage, together with the band, **Giulio Rapetti** himself, aka **Mogol**, author of the most famous songs by Battisti, as well as many other Italian hits.

**Dany Franchi** (Genoa 1990), despite his very young age is currently considered one of the most interesting talents of the international Blues scene.

He already has three albums to his name.

The first «**Free Feeling**» features exceptional guests from the Italian Blues scene, including **Paolo Bonfanti**, **Francesco Piu** and **Guitar Ray**.

His second work «**I Believe**» (2014), was entirely recorded in the United States and produced by **Sean Carney**, Ohio Blues guitarist who won the **IBC** in 2017.

In January 2016 he is chosen to participate in the **International Blues Challenge** in Memphis, where he reaches in the semi-final: there, he meets **Don Ritter** of the «**category5Amps**» who invites him to perform at the «**Dallas International Guitar Festival**» in Texas, one of the largest guitar festivals in the world.

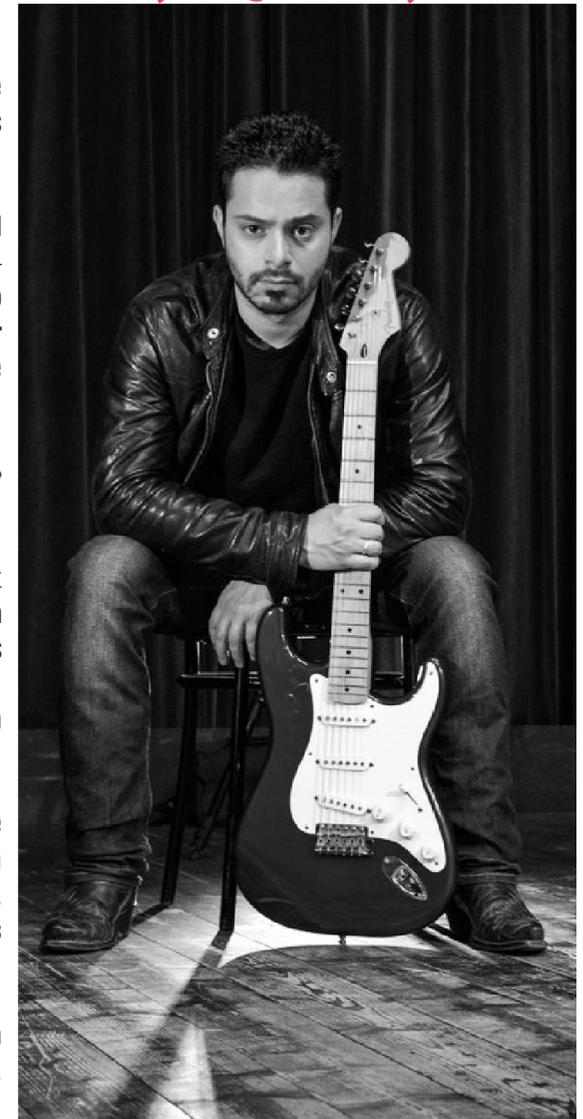
There, he shares the stage with some sacred «guitar monsters» including **Robben Ford**, **Eric Gales** and **Sonny Landreth**.

In February 2017, **Dany** flies to Austin to record his third effort «**Problem Child**» album directed and produced by **Anson Funderburgh**, one of the most famous and personal guitarists for what concerns the blues from the 80s to today. The record was released in May 2018 and reached fourth place in the famous American **Billboard Blues Chart**.

From the release of the album onwards, long tours around the world follows, especially in the US, leading **Dany** to perform in the most prestigious American Blues festivals and to be invited, as a guest, by artists such as **Kim Wilson**, **The Fabulous Thunderbirds**, **Anson Funderburgh** and **Ronnie Earl**.

«Dany is one of my favorite young Blues artist. He has an exciting fresh approach to the music while keeping it honest". **Anson Funderburgh**

## The younger: Dany Franchi



## The «young» old man: Maurizio Pugno



**Maurizio Pugno**, born in 1966, is an Umbrian musician who is considered by many to be one of the most unique Italian blues guitarists.

In business since the early 80s, he is an elegant, «physical» but lyrically incisive artist. It is known as one of the best «masters» for what concerns the dissemination, composition and arrangement of everything that revolves around the «blues & beyond».

**Pugno** is a great connoisseur of musical styles and this leads him, always, in search of authentic and strong melodic lines, often anchored to his European way of being, but without ever losing sight of the personal background that roots in the African American Black Music.

For more than ten years with the **Rico Blues Combo** and, even further back in time, with the **Wolves Blues Band**, **Pugno**, has today become a point of reference for many of the best international musicians.

The three CDs recorded as a soloist, «**That's What I Found Out**» (2007), «**Kill The Coffee**» (2010) and the CD/DVD «**Made In Italy - Live At Gubbio Opera House**» (2010), produced in the USA by **Jerry Hall** for the record label **Pacific Blues Records**, have been co-written and produced together with the two former **Roomful Of Blues**, **SUGAR RAY NORCIA** and **MARK DuFRESNE**, obtaining important reviews and awards all over the world.

The collaboration with **MZ DEE**, a singer from San Francisco and considered as one of the most authentic and intense voices in the current Soul/Blues scene, begins in 2011 and takes the shape of the CDs «**Letters From The Bootland**», released in 2012 and «**The Next Episode**» (of 2013); both a mix of Blues, Soul and R&B where **Maurizio Pugno** writes and arranges most of the songs.

From 2014 to 2018 he collaborates with one of the greatest Italian singers, **Linda Valori** until signing for **Labilia**, a company for which he also covers the role of *art director* of the «Musical Productions» section.

«Pugno displays a surprising ability for achieving a genuine and honest guitar sound...note for note he can match anybody».

### Mike Turk

To date, as a musician, in addition to the **Italian Blues Guitar Night**, he is permanently in the **Labilia** productions: **PBB (Pugno Blues Band)**, **Pugno/Fondacci «Blues Mirror»**, **Gionni Grasso Band «Blues D'Autore»**, **Dagmar Segbers Organ Trio** and **B.A.R. (Blues Against Racism)**.

Main Discography:

**Wolves Blues Band** «Mixaudio» (1989 Vinyl/Quadrivium Records)

**Wolves Blues Band** «Last Nite» (1992 Vinyl/Quadrivium-Egea Records)

**Rico Blues Combo** «White Whiskey» (1997/Black & White Records)

**Giovanni Bartolini** «My Time» (1998/Pagina 3 Records)

**Rico Blues Combo** «Sleepy Town» (1999/Pagina 3 Records)

**Maurizio Pugno & Mike Turk** «Just A Lullabye» (2001/Pagina 3 Records)

**Rico Blues Combo** «Live At Murphy's» (2002/Pagina 3 Records)

**Rico Blues Combo & Friends** «House Of Blue Rags» 2005/Paper Moon distr.)

**Various Artists** «Blues Revues: **Rico Blues Combo & Matt Leddy**» (2009/Trasimeno Blues)

**Maurizio Pugno & the Rockwools** «Surfing with The Frog» (2006/Pagina 3 Records)

**Maurizio Pugno** feat. **Sugar Ray Norcia** «That's What I Found Out» (2007/Pacific Blues Records)

**Various Artists** «Umbria Blues Connection» (2009/Trasimeno Blues)

**Maurizio Pugno** feat. **Mark DuFresne & Sugar Ray Norcia** «Kill The Coffee» (2010/Pacific Blues Records)

**Maurizio Pugno** feat. **Mark DuFresne & Sugar Ray Norcia** «Made In Italy - Live at Gubbio Opera House» (2011/Pacific Blues Records)

**Mz Dee & Maurizio Pugno Large Band** «Letters From The Bootland» (2012/OT Records)

**Mz Dee & Maurizio Pugno Large Band** «The Next Episode» (2013/OT Records)

**Rico Blues Combo** «20» (2016/rbc Records)

Main collaborations:

**Tad Robinson, Mike Turk, Ian Paice, Sugar Ray Norcia, Mark DuFresne, Mz Dee, Kellie Rucker, Alberto Marsico, Dave Specter, Fabrizio Poggi, Limido Bros., Gio Rossi, Mitch Woods, Marco Pandolfi, Rico Blues Combo, Enrico Crivellaro, Wolves Blues Band, Duke Robillard, Charlie Baty, Norton Buffalo, Linda Valori, Hiram Bullock, Francesco Piu, Paolo Bonfanti, Rudy Rotta, Mark Hummel, Lynwood Slim, Mario Insenga, Umberto Porcaro, Sara Zaccarelli, Fabio Treves, Dana Gillespie, Luca Giordano, Alex Gariazzo, Sherman Robertson, Crystal White, Matt Leddy, Mauro Ferrarese, Cesareo, Riccardo Onori, Mike Sponza, Maurizio Glielmo, Tolo Marton, Junior Robinson, Reuben James Richards, Matt Leddy, Tino Gonzales, Andy Martin and Egidio «Juke» Ingala.**

«Opening Act» for:

**B.B. King, Mavis Staples, John Hammond, Lazy Lester, Popa Chubby, Dr. John, Pat Metheny, Solomon Burke, Status Quo, Tower Of Power, Robert Cray, Jon Cleary, Dirty Dozen Brass Band, Walter Trout, James Cotton, Kenny Neal, Gianna Nannini, Stevie Ray Vaughan, James Cotton, Johnny Winter, Eric Burton, The Fabolous Thunderbirds, Ana Popovic, Candy Dulfer, Andy J. Forest, Walter Trout** and many others.

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the other artists of the Italian Blues Guitar Night:

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**RAFFO BARBI**  
lead vocal



**FRANZ PIOMBINO**  
electric bass



**LORENZO CANNELLI**  
piano and organ

or



**ALESSANDRO FIORUCCI**  
piano, organ and synth



**RICCARDO FIORUCCI**  
drums and percussion

or



**FEDERICO CORAZZI**  
drums



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