

**Maurizio Geri** - Guitarist, singer, composer. His first experiences, tied to the recovery of the traditional repertoire of the mountains of Pistoia, will lead him to meet in the early eighties the singer and researcher **Caterina Bueno**, with whom he performs with for about 15 years.

Among his colleagues is guitarist Alberto Balia (Ritmia, Argia).

Thanks to him Maurizio gets back deep into guitar and dives into Django's music and the alsatian gypsy tradition;

Crucial is his encounter with fellow citizen organist **Riccardo Tesi**, who brings to life the quartet BANDITALIANA. With this band he records five albums and another four relative to original tuscan and emilian tradition, the rightful closure of a project where anthropologic rigor is balanced by composition and arrangement.

In '95 the "Maurizio Geri Swingtet" is born, pioneer band for gypsy jazz in Italy. From the beginning an original repertoire, with few concessions toward standards and with a regard towards composers such as Gorni Kramer o Alessandro Morelli.

The stylistic research refines itself along with the repertoire, in a creative process that includes old and new and offers a coherent and personal musical universe.

The originality of the project distinguishes it from the countless Django imitators, it never chases solely a technical display, and the artistic value is what will lead to the international acclaim, among the many, the invitation to the festival "Django Reinhardt" in Samois sur Seine in 2000. Creation, interpretation and adaptation are the components of this constantly evolving mosaic, elements that have always characterised its path and that ultimately culminate in the creation of text of both the Banditaliana repertoire and that of the Swingtet.

*With his Swingtet he renders homage to the style of grandmaster Django Reinhardt, blending the typical Manouche technique with Swing and Italian cantautori tradition. The result is a unique sound that over the years has made the band Italy's number one of Swing Manouche.*

*The Swingtet is Maurizio's core activity around the heritage of Django Reinhardt. He has studied and played with Manouche artists, but without ever renouncing to his own roots. This means that he has learned Django's lesson not only for the guitar and*

*the repertoire, but above all in the dialogue between originality and belonging that had made of the master the great idol of generations of European, non academic musicians.*

*So far Maurizio Geri has released five critically acclaimed albumss. His musical approach is passionate and free, strict but open for innovation. Django's heritage is presented in the disguise of Jazz, dance music and und improvisation, very European but at the same time full of respect for the Italian singer-songwriter tradition and Maurizio's first musical love, the folk tunes of his native Tuscany.*

The Swingtet is formed by: **Michele Marini** (clarinet), **Nicola Vernuccio** (double-bass), **Luca Giovacchini** (guitar), **Giacomo Tosti** (accordion), but in the past the following musicians have played in it: **Leonardo Boni** (guitar), **Klaus Lessmann** (clarinet) **Chris Brashear** (violin), **Enzo Biordi** (accordion), **Daniele Mencarelli** (double-bass), **Ruben Chaviano Fabian** (violin), **Paolo Ghetti** (double-bass), **Emanuele Parrini** (violin), **Claudia Tellini** (voice).

Maurizio collaborated with many musicians from the world, jazz e pop italian scene, and has bene invited to the most prestigious festivals in Europe, Canada, Argentina, Australia and Japan, as well as national and international radio programs, theatre productions and film scores.

As a guitarist, he embodies the fusion of mediterranean ethnic music with the phrasing and improvisation of gypsy swing.