

## **Mauro Pagani in New York. Come and Shake it Up to the Rhythm of Taranta**

M. M. (May 21, 2009)



Mauro Pagani will perform "La notte della Taranta" on May 31 at 4pm at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center of Staten Island. Come and dance at this free event organized by the Consulate General of Italy in occasion of the festivities honoring Italian National Day. Also, don't miss the presentation of his new book "Foto di Gruppo con Chitarrista" at the Italian Cultural Institute on May 29. i-Italy will have a video-interview with Mauro Pagani. Stay tuned!

Are you ready to dance some Taranta? Are you ready to hear tambourines beating to the rhythm of southern Italian music? If so, Mauro Pagani is coming to New York just for you. His concert "La notte della Taranta" has been organized by the Consulate General of Italy in occasion of the festivities honoring Italian National Day and will take place at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center of Staten Island



on May 31 at 4pm.

The Taranta Pizzicata, as many of you might now, is an ancient dance of the Salento region. The pizzica is the music that marked the ancient healing ritual against the bite of a tarantula, the dangerous poisonous spider. According to tradition, in order to drive out the demon thought to have taken possession of the victim, usually a woman, tambourines should be beaten incessantly. The dizzily rhythmic sound of the tambourine combined with a frenzied hypnotic dance healed the victim of the poison. Other types of pizzica tarantata are the courtship dance between a man and a woman and the "dance of the swords" also called pizzica a scherma.

La notte della Taranta is a Festival that takes place every summer in Melpignano, in the Salento region, and is the greatest musical festival dedicated to the Salentine pizzica, combined with other

music

genres, from world music to rock, from jazz to symphonic music. Maestro Concertatore Mauro Pagani was the Festival's director for the 2007 and 2008 editions. During his concert, organized in collaboration with the Region of Apulia, the Italian Culture Institute, the [Fitzgerald Foundation of Florence](#) [2], The [United Pugliese Federation](#) [3] and the [Snug Harbor Cultural Center](#) [4], he will combine traditional Salentine rhythms with those of the whole Mediterranean area.



Besides being one of the major interpreters of this traditional dance, Mauro Pagani is also a renowned Italian musician and singer. Born in Chiari, Lombardy, in 1946, Pagani is a multi-instrumentalist artist. He debuted in the music world in 1970 as a violinist and co-founded the progressive rock band [Premiata Forneria Marconi](#) [5] which he left in 1977 to start a solo career.

An "experimenter" of sounds related to blues, roots and Mediterranean music, he has duetted with other famous artists of the Italian musical panorama, including Roberto Vecchioni, Gianna Nannini, Luciano Ligabue, Ornella Vanoni, and especially Fabrizio De Andrè, arguably the best Italian troubador ever. He also composed the soundtrack for two movies by the Italian director Gabriele Salvatores, *Puerto Escondido* (1992) and *Nirvana* (1995).

Mauro Pagani and Fabrizio De Andrè collaborated for the longest time, particularly during the last years of the latter's life. They wrote together *Creuza de mà* (1984) and *Le nuvole* (1990), the first being voted in 1989 by Italian music critics the best Italian record of the past fifty years. The record



also became an international success when David Byrne, former leader of Talking Heads and quintessential New York City artist, included it in the list of the ten best albums of the Eighties. Apart from being a record of stunning beauty, *Crueza de ma* is also considered a landmark of "world music", as it encompasses virtually all major Mediterranean musical influences

(Southern Italy, Balkans, North Africa, Greece, Turkey, Middle East, etc). In 2004 Pagani also released a new version of this historic album, titled *Crueza de ma 2004*, featuring musicians from Israel and Tunisia.

The artist's visit to New York will also be the occasion to present his book *Foto di Gruppo con Chitarrista - Group Picture with Guitarist* - (Rizzoli 2009). On May 29 (6 pm) Pagani will hold a conference at the Italian Cultural Institute of New York and discuss it with writers and journalists Alberto Flores d'Arcais and Christian Rocca.

Additional info:



**CONCERT**  
**La Notte Della Taranta**

A New York Concert Premiere

Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden

1000 Richmond Terrace

Staten Island, NY 10301

Sunday, May 31, 2009 4pm - 5:30pm

Free Admission

Special fundraising wine & cheese from 3pm - 4pm

\$10 per person in the Music Hall lobby prior to the concert

For directions or more information:

[www.snug-harbor.org](http://www.snug-harbor.org) [4]

[info@snug-harbor.org](mailto:info@snug-harbor.org) [6]

or 718 48-2500

**BOOK PRESENTATION**

**FOTO DI GRUPPO CON CHITARRISTA**

(Rizzoli 2009)

with

Mauro Pagani

Alberto Flores D'Arcais

Christian Rocca

Friday May 29, 2009 - 6 pm

Italian Cultural Institute - 686 Park Avenue, NYC

R.S.V.P. : 212-879-4242 ext.381

**Related Links:** <http://www.lanottedellataranta.it> [7]  
<http://www.officinemecchaniche.biz/mauropagani> [8]



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### Links

- [1] <http://www.iitaly.org/files/pagani1242879087.jpg>
- [2] <http://Fitzgerald%20Foundation%20of%20Florence>
- [3] <http://www.unitedpugliesifederation.org/>
- [4] <http://www.snug-harbor.org>
- [5] <http://www.pfmpfm.it>
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