



MONICA PINTO * “Canthara”

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On the web: www.monicapinto.it www.facebook.com/monicapinto.136

“Canthara” is the debut album by Monica Pinto, an artist who has a twenty-year career in Italy and abroad, as well as the former founder and lead singer of Spaccanapoli. A highly evocative work which joins from the title, two terms “singing” and “hara”, a symbol of two complementary places of the “being”. A minimal “chanson electronic”, for the total of twelve songs whose contents often refer to Eastern philosophies and through which the Neapolitan singer reinvents herself in this project in the Italian language. Among the guests of the Album is Fausto Mesolella (Avion Travel).



Although starting from a melodic approach, songwriter Monica Pinto moves within the piece with a minimalistic sound texture, in which the acoustic and electronic sounds combine into an evocative manner. Existential reflections and critical observations of reality, sometimes provocative, through the twelve songs that speak of revolution, power, sex and death. All crucial issues in our social order, explored through the perspective of the soul, along an inner journey of awareness and understanding. The result is an “electronic chanson”, an album rich of symbols starting from its title: Canthara, produced by Max Carola and which includes among its guests “Fausto Mesolella” - “Avion Travel” (who signs the music of the latest song “For the revolution”), where it combines the two terms “singing and hara”, which represent two complementary places of the “being” and that together they seem to create the harmony as a whole. Singing pervades everything and propels us to the top, while the “hara” is the center of being, the vital essence. Keeping in touch with your “hara” means to be entered within ourselves and rooted to our original soil. The conjugation of these two elements join the inner world with the outer one and allow us be present in them, to contribute to their renewal and their evolution.

“After my 25-year artistic career, during which i was happy to interpret mostly Neapolitan music, which i had brought worldwide, today I decided to reinvent myself in this project, completely in Italian language, where i had to confront a complete new language musically as well as a different vocal style” - tells Monica Pinto.

“The word “Canthara” is a very strong and evocative word, where all the concepts revolved around the word which i had wanted to give space to, musically. The intent of it was carried out to its extremes, resulting with two album inserts: Chantara I and Chantara II.

It is an electronic elaboration of the Ancient Japanese therapy sound “WUN” (the opening sound resonates throughout the body, generating energy which is then rooted into the ground) and the bija mantra “HAM RAM” (the combination of these yogic sounds corresponds respectively to the “fifth chakra” -the throat and the “third chakra”,- the solar plexus and suggest a harmonic connection between the ascending and the descending energy of the “being”). The fusion between the “artificial-electronic” and “natural” element of sound, further affirms the concept of the complementary opposites, where they are not in opposition, but harmoniously in a reciprocal function.

It is from such feeling that urged me to create this album, synthesising within it and in its content, as well as the musical ideas and choice of collaborators in, all my past and present life as a singer and researcher of answers.

BIOGRAPHY

Monica Pinto, is a singer and songwriter. In 1988, she was the soloist of the polyphonic choir “Vox et Anima” directed by Maestro PierFrancesco Borrelli, who played a sacred and profane repertoire, a cappella or with an orchestra accompaniment.

In '93 she founded with her two sisters Floriana and Daniela Pinto the “Pinto Harmonium Trio”, with whom took over the important Italian theaters, tracing the history of the Neapolitan musical culture from 200 to 950 - from villanellas in polyphonic key to modules of tarantella (seventeenth century); from the classic songwriting reworked polyphonically to the “Sceneggiata”; from the “Cafe Chantant” until the modern compositions of the '50s. In 1996 she became the soloist of the band “E Zezi”, with whom she created “Zezi Vivi”, an album published by “Il Manifesto” (a very important Italian newspaper), performing in numerous European festivals of world music. In 1999 she founded the band “Spaccanapoli” with which creates “Aneme Perze” (lost Souls) (2000), album published by “Real World Records” (Virgin) by Peter Gabriel and “Janus” (2009), published by “Felmay Records”, both as a worldwide distribution. With Spaccanapoli she has performed in several world music festivals in Europe (France, Spain, Germany, Greece, Belgium, Hungary, Austria, Switzerland, Finland, Czech Rep., Croatia and Portugal) and in the world (USA, Canada, Japan, Ile de Reunion, Mexico, Malaysia, New Caledonia). In Italy, among many other events, the group performed at the opening of the “Manu Chao” concert (2001) and “Peter Gabriel” concert (2002 and 2004). Monica, always with Spaccanapoli, participates in the movie “Passione” - a musical adventure directed by John Turturro, released in 2010. Since 2011 she has performed at the live musical concert of “Passione” based on the homonym movie where the participants were :Peppe Barra, James Senese, Raiz, Pietra Montecorvino and many others famous Italian artists. From 2008 to 2010 she cooperated with the Neapolitan singer Carlo Faiello. Since 2010 she collaborated also with the “The Bazzarra Association” of Gigi Di Luca, with which she has taken part of the show “Il mio cuore e nel sud” (My heart is in the south), performed, among others locations, in Valparaiso (Chile) for the Forum of Cultures 2010. In 2013, she was as a singer & actress and creator of the show: “Il sogno di una cosa”(The dream of a thing)-



a theatrical song about "Luigi Tenco", for the debut at the XXXIV edition of the "Theater festival Benevento Entertainment". Since 2014- she was the female voice and composer of the reading-concert "La musica del mare" (Music of the sea), with musician "Roberto Soldati" and the actor "Luca Di Tommaso".
For the past few years, Monica has been dedicated to teaching modern singing, with a personal approach combining the basic study of vocal technique with the exploration of the "inner singing", through relaxation and meditation techniques; acquired during her decades of study experience and experimentation in the holistic matters.

SONGS

Viaggio incompiuto (Incomplete journey)

An extraordinary and extreme encounter experienced between bliss and despair, has been made forever incomplete by fears, doubts and a final, sudden interruption. It is an autobiographical song, born as an instrument to overcome the sorrow and confusion related to this intense experience.

L'ideal-mente (Ideally)

Are we able to keep believing in our ideals, and yet stay tuned into others? We are what we believe in, we identify ourselves with our ideals which we tirelessly defend and never question. However, we might risk to lead ourselves to shut down and create a huge distance between us, refusing to understand the others different reasons, eventually surrendering ourselves to egoism, conflict and hostility.

Nuovamente essente (Being again)

Imagine to meet your Death, transfigured in the image of a woman that you calmly entrust: a sublime, welcoming woman who set you free from the superfluity of existence. A deep and intense encounter, like an intercourse, that engenders the beginning of a new *existing*.

Anime Minori (Minor Souls)

An aberrant disparity splits the world into two parts: one part establishes the rules and profits of most of the resources of our planet, while the other part is impoverished, obliged to live in an unbalanced economic world system. If we consider a precise political will, that keeps things exactly the way they are, no casual solidarity would ever be able to change them.

Canthara I

This is an electronic reworked version inspired by the sound *WUN*, an ancient, therapeutic Japanese sound, which is emitted in the low vocal register, and develops high frequencies. Opening and expanding, the *WUN* resounds in the whole body, activating its energy and rooting the body to the earth.

Schermo della felicità (Happiness screen)

This song represents a harsh and yet ironic critique to one of the most influent media: Television. Obfuscating critical awareness and manipulating reality, television provides a powerful instrument of homogenization of culture and social control.

Aria

The melodic "excursion" of this song, carefully mentioning Gregorian chants, accompanies the praising lyrics to the element of *air*, to the nurturing breath, engender of a primordial dialog between the inner and the external universe.

Il bacio sulla bocca (The kiss on the mouth)

Loosely based on *The Grand Inquisitor*, from F.M. Dostoyevsky's novel *The Brothers Karamazov*, this obstinate rhythmic song, contrasts power with freedom, within the eternal fight between people and the power. People, who choose submission in the name of an illusory certainty, and on the other hand the powerful men, who "generously" promise wealth and protection, making themselves confident about the right to supremacy.

Apri le gambe (Open your legs)

This strongly titled tune, apparently in contrast with the placid musical mood of the song, aims to represent a hymn to the feminine potential, to the essence of the sacred feminism, that may manifest itself through a more aware lived sexuality. It is finally freed from a worldwide cultural load that still chains women to a secondary social role.

Canthara II

This is an electronic reworked version inspired by the *HAM RAM Bija Mantra*. These yogic sounds correspond to the fifth and the third chakra (respectively the throat and the solar plexus chakra). The sequence of this personal composition suggests a harmonic connection between the ascendant and the descendant energy of the *being*, and between a raise on high and an earthly rootedness.

Tutto va bene (Everything is al right)



The temporal sequence of events that fly away over time, is a continuous manifestation of life and death. However, every transition accomplishes the balance between joy of life and sorrow of death, creating harmony.

Per la rivoluzione (For Revolution)

Only little, virtuous gestures, made everyday and collected over time through a communal, aware action, can determine the big change; the good revolution everyman wishes for the sake of the world and of mankind.

Written by Monica Pinto and Fausto Mesolella (Avion Travel).

LINKS:

Soundcloud: <https://soundcloud.com/user-183788797/sets/monica-pinto-canthara/s-49mD9>

Viaggio incompiuto: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jxO-q_9O3KA

Apri le gambe: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vpZwqaw0-Jo>

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