



# Enzo Avitabile

## ENZO AVITABILE & BOTTARI

Enzo Avitabile is a constant traveller around the world of music as well as an ambassador of the amazing stage of Naples. He is constantly pursuing his musical quest, which takes him to the confines of Central Africa, the United States, Palestine and back to Naples in order to discover new unaffected musical ground.

After years of collaborations with Artists in the league of Pino Daniele, Edoardo Bennato, Giorgia, James Brown, Richie Havens, Africa Bambataa, Tina Turner and Randy Crawford, Enzo, instead of making a revival and a Best Of, decided to start a new adventure, a brand new musical project in the land of World Music in 2001.

Accompanied by his multi-drums ensemble, Enzo Avitabile is intensively connected with the old tradition of rural Campania (region of south Italy) where the primitive, energetic and obsessive rhythms of casks pace in a trance. The lyrics, having strong characteristics of a Blues, are sung in the dialect of Naples and depict the lives and sufferings of people in war and anger with a very ironic touch. This hypnotic style with its spectacular delivery is thousands of years old.

In the medieval haciendas and homesteads of southern Italy, farmers used to beat barrels to exorcise evil spirits from their barns and cellars. As so often happens, this very practical exercise turned into a ritual and eventually into a distinct musical culture with entire villages turning out to chase spirits away from their fields, lead by a beat master or *capopattuglia*.

Think of a Mediterranean equivalent to the Drummers of Burundi, with a little of The Ghostbusters mixed in. This ancient tradition has been kept alive in one particular southern Italian village called Portico, with young disciples learning the rhythms from the old *Bottari* or barrel beaters.

Because of Portico Enzo Avitabile turned for a trip back to his roots.

He worked with the Bottari of Portico for three long years, incorporating their primal barrel rhythms into a hi-energy mix which included jazz, blues, the voices of the Brotherhood of the SS Crucifix and an ancient southern Italian vocal styles called *canto a fronna*.

Word of this intriguing project soon got out and artists like KHALED, AMINA, HUGH MASSEKELA and MANU DIBANGO all begged Enzo to be allowed to contribute.

The result of a long time of hard work and international inspirations was released in 2004: His latest record **SAVE THE WORLD** (salvamm'o munno) was as expected a great success and brought him even more appreciation than before, an increase, which seemed not to be possible in consideration of his occupational development.

Enzo toured Europe between 2005 and 2007 and played numerous big festivals, e.g. Roskilde, Sziget and Stimmen, Colours of Ostrava and many more. His new album "Festa Farina E Forza" will be released in 2008 replacing the three times BBC World Music Award nominated album "Save The World". Certainly one of the most unexpected and entrancing global music adventures for 2008.

**Further special guests on salvamm'o munno:**

SIMON SHASHEEN from Palestine

BAKHIT MIZ MAR BRASS BAND from Egypt

BABA SISSOKO from Mali

MORY KANTE from Guinea

**WOMAD 2004 – review:**

"...I heard a rumour of some Italian barrel beaters in the Siam tent, which sounded intriguing - they were called Enzo Avitabile & Bottari and boy were they good. The "Bottari" created a thunderous beat on various sized wooden barrels with singer Enzo Avitabile and other musicians together creating a unique and entrancing sound." (Musician Phil Bull)

"...captivating and exhilarating music I have ever heard..."

"The mystical and powerful drumming with Enzo's unique style is head blowing!"

„Absolutely orgasmic!“

"Fantastic band - irresistible energy - probably the best performance at this year's womad..."

"What an incredible, infectious, booming sound of celebration... by far the best act I saw at Womad this year!"