

STRINGS 24 BIOGRAPHY



Strings 24 are a new project created by Frank Caruso, Stefano "Sebo" Xotta and Gianluca Ferro. These three axemen coming from different musical experiences decided to mix their styles into a new band dedicated to guitar, with the aim to raise its musical expression and compositional potential. The bands name comes from the three guitarist's use of 8 string guitars ($3 \times 8 = 24$).

The three musicians have a pedigree of being in the music business for many years. 24 Strings, their new project immediately gathered broad attention from Italian record labels, magazines, radio and TV networks along with attention of Lion Music. Their self titled debut album is unashamedly full of virtuoso rock guitar across 12 identifiable tracks and will appeal to fans of Vai and Satriani as well as those into newer guitar virtuosos such as Rusty Cooley and Marco Sfogli.

The three guitarists of Strings 24 have identifiable styles. Sebo is a typical rock player, very pentatonic oriented with a passionate vibrato coming from the Gary Moore, Zakk Wylde, Marty Friedman school of thought. Frank is a perfect blend of Ritchie Blackmore and Yngwie Malmsteen, very precise with solos and really powerful with riffs! Gian's style is best defined as "liquid", because his arpeggios and licks are really like water coming out from a bottle. Very prog metal influenced, Gian's composition style is really complicated, but in a very musical way. These three variations on rock guitar are important in bringing a different style and touch to the songs, creating the unique Strings24 style.

The trio began writing songs for the album at the end of 2007 before selecting the material to feature on the album in the summer of 2008. Each of the three guitarists have home studios, so they started composing and sharing the projects, adding new parts in the different studios and putting them together. All the drum parts were initially done drum software, before the real drums of Roberto Gualdi (Glenn Hughes) were tracked at Damage Inc. Studio in Ventimiglia. IT. Roberto's drum work added a lot of dynamics and musical ideas, giving the album a new punch. Finally the album was mixed at Fran Caruso's Phantom Studio, and the mastering was shared with Luca Pilla, a very talented Italian sound engineer.

INDIVIDIAL BIOGRAPHY'S

FRANK CARUSO



Frank started playing guitar and piano at 8, and began immediately studying classical music. At the age of 12 he published the first recording, a single track with a melodic rock band called "MACID". At 17 Frank created the band FIREHOUSE, a band made with some friends at school. They recorded two albums and one of them, "Labyrinth", was distributed in Europe. In 1992, he ended SACRED MUSIC studies, then he built his own recording studio where he began to create soundtracks for television, working for the greatest Italian networks. In 1994 he started a collaboration with Mediaset group for whom he recorded many TV spots and soundtracks. Tired of producing music for other artists and to play as a session-man, in '96 Frank decided to focus on a new project and in '97, from the ashes of FIREHOUSE, the ARACHNES were born.

In 1998 ARACHNES released "THE GODDESS TEMPLE" for Lucretia Records, the band captured the attention of international critic and ARACHNES entered into the international metal scene, appearing in some compilations with STRATOVARIOUS and ANGRA.

In 2000 the first collaboration with the label Underground Symphony and ARACHNES published "METAMORPHOSIS" which signalled a definitive change of style that became more Prog-Power-Symphonic.

In the 2001/2003 ARACHNES signed a contract with Scarlet Records and in the next three years they started to work very hard and they released:

- 2001 PARALLEL WORLDS, published and distributed in all Europe and South America.
- 2002 APOCALYPSE, that opened the Japanese market. Arachnes subscribed an agreement for 2 albums with the major label AVALON MARQUEE.
- 2003 PRIMARY FEAR which confirmed the presence of the band in the European and Japanese market.

In the mean time Frank produced music for television; in 2005 ARACHNES finished to record "IN PRAISE OF SCIENCE", but unfortunately, not for their fault, the album was published in 2006.

In 2006, after months of dealing with Italian and foreign labels, Frank decided to repeat the collaboration with Underground Symphony, already experimented in 2000, this time for the production of his first solo album "Kaleidoscope. This release made for complete artistic purposes saw Frank deliver his music using the new avenues of internet promotion.

In January 2007 Frank started to work on a new project called DARKLIGHT with a female voice.

In November 2007 he started a new collaboration with the big magazine COMPUTER MUSIC & PROJECT STUDIO.

STEFANO "SEBO" XOTTA



Sebo started playing guitar at the age of 14. He spent his early years playing in different school bands. At the age of 18 he started studying at CPM in Milan and had the opportunity to appear in some important TV shows on big TV networks (Canale 5, Italia 1, Rete4), and tour across Italy as a guest with the Steve Rogers Band and the female singer Gloria Nuti in 1989.

In the early '90s he started teaching guitar while he was performing in various bands like UTEZ (still one of his present bands), Scomunica (2 albums) and many others. In 1994 he began working as a clinician for Ibanez guitars, and then in 1996 he joined the Italian Ibanez distributor, Mogar Music, looking after clinics and artist relations. Thanks to this opportunity, Sebo started dealing with the musical instruments industry and dealers, giving his inputs as an artist and a performer.

In the meantime his musical activity was growing with tons of live gigs and he also started working on TV jingles and sit-com soundtracks with Flavio Premoli (PFM). He then recorded guitar tracks on the record "Dracula" of PFM, from the original soundtrack for the musical Dracula. In 2000 he created the Four Tiles, a cover band with Cesareo (Elio e le Storie Tese), Roberto Gualdi (PFM, Lucio Dalla, Glen Hughes and many others), and Guido Block.

During the last years he performed in a lot of clinics and music trade shows, playing with artists like Andy Timmons, Marty Friedman, Matt Smith, Doug Doppler and many others. He performed at Guitar Day Show event in Milan for the last three years and in 2008 he performed at this event with Strings 24. He also formed a power rock trio with Roberto Gualdi and Alberto Bollati, which perform

in many trade shows and give seminars in Italian music schools. They also recorded videos for a new Drum Method widely distributed by Mussida Publishing in all of the biggest music and book stores in Italy.

In 2007 he recorded a couple of promotional videos for Ibanez, using a cow pattern VBT 700 guitar, that are frequently and constantly watched on the web. Sebo has a truly rock and loud approach on stage and his cow pattern typical look has become pretty famous and makes him pretty recognisable.

GIANLUCA FERRO



Gianluca Ferro started his musical path playing Beatles' songs in the clubs of his town. In 1997, at 19, he joined the progressive-metal band Arkhè. This experience marked deeply his musical growth and his future artistic choices. He recorded with Arkhè their debut album which was followed by an intense live activity.

Between 1998 and 2000 he took part in the recording of many works in the metal genre; in 1999 he played on the album "Chaospower" with

the band Fiurach; in 2000 he was called to play during "Gods of Metal Y2K" with the band Khali. Here Gianluca played side by side with bands such as Iron Maiden, Slayer, Slipknot, Sentenced, Dark

Tranquillity, Edguy and Testament.

In 2001 he joined Time Machine with whom he recorded the albums "Evil" and "Revivescence". With Time Machine he performed at "Gods of Metal 2002", playing with Slayer, Rammstein, Halford, Manowar, Symphony X, Running Wilde and My Dying Bride. He collaborated with the band Doomsword, playing two solos in their debut album (1998); then he entered the line-up of the band and recorded two albums "Resound the horn" (2000) and "Let the battle commence" (2002).

During the summer of 2003 Gianluca performed with Doomsword in famous European live festivals, "Headbanger" in Hamburg, "Keep it true" in Wurzburg, "Skeleton Bash" in Innsbruck and in Athens in March 2003.

This co-operation placed side by side to his activity as a guitar teacher for the Music Academy in Villa Pomini (Castellanza) and by carrying out clinics with Alberto Bollati (Wine Spirits). The stand out collaboration with Andr  Matos (Angra, Shaman) during some live shows in Italy in 2002 (Gods of Metal 2002); Kiko Loureiro and Rafael Bittencourt (Angra); Scott McGill (Michael Manring, Vic Stevens) are important steps that marked his professional career.

In 2005 Lucretia Records released "Involution", Gianluca's debut solo album worldwide distributed by Century Media group. In 2007 Gianluca recorded a track for the English label Liquid Note on the compilation "Alchemist 2", with internationally known guitar players such as Brett Garsed, Bumblefoot, Richard Hallebeek, Wiliam Stravato, Doug Doppler and many others. In the meantime Galileo Records and Nightmare records released "Heart of Sun", the debut CD of the prog metal band.

At the moment Gianluca performs with his band K2 in many clubs in Switzerland and North Italy; besides, he is devoting to the writing of his second solo project.

OFFICIAL WEBSITES

www.strings24.com

www.myspace.com/strings24