

GUEST PERFORMER



Michela Musolino introduces American audiences to the vibrant songs of Sicily. Her credits include performances at such New York City landmarks as the Rainbow Room, Rockefeller Center, and Saint Mark's Church in the Bowery, and as a soloist in poet Paolo Valesio's *The Square of Massacred Prayers*. On stage, Michela blends authentic vocals

that seem to float from the Sicilian hillsides with spoken word that presents the multicultural background that is true Sicilian music. She is a performer who specializes in Musica Popolare di Sicilia. Musolino was born in Paterson, New Jersey, but her gathering and researching of Sicilian Roots Music has taken her throughout Italy. Her debut CD, *Songs of Trinacria*, is played on radio stations throughout Europe and America, on such broadcasts as the BBC's Paul Sherratt's *Global Jukebox*, *Musica Popolare di Radio Cooperativa*, and Massimo Ferro's *Radio Voce Spazio*. The CD features several songs and a duet with the world famous Sicilian percussionist, Alfio Antico. Among her distinctions is a nomination for the prestigious BBC Radio III Award at the World Music Expo in 2003. A track from *Songs of Trinacria*, "Matri Ch'Aviti Figli," was featured on NPR's *All Songs Considered Open Mic*. Michela has recently returned from Sicily where she participated in the 4th Edition of l'Evento in Memoria di Pino Veneziano at Selinunte. There she sang as a special guest of the Sicilian/World music group, Mondo. She also sang with La Nuova Banda Musicale di Maestro Asaro di Paceco. Back home in New York, she continues her work and performances with the great avant-garde musicians, Marco Cappelli & Kato Hideki, and noted jazz guitarist, Michele Ramo. Michela has also contributed to the sound track of the documentary film *Un Ricordo Bellissimo* by directors Anthony Fragola and Jason McMerty, which chronicles the life of noted Sicilian anti-mafia activist, Felicia Bartolotta Impastato.



Aldo Tambellini was born in Syracuse, New York, in 1930, but spent his childhood and his teens in Lucca (Tuscany). In 1946, Aldo returned to the United States and earned a BFA in painting from the University of Syracuse and a MFA at the University of Notre Dame. In 1959, Aldo moved to New York City's Lower East Side, where he founded the underground "counter-culture" group, "Group Center," which organized alternative ways and non-traditional presentation of the artists' work to the public. He pioneered in the video art movement in the late 1960's with the acclaimed "Black Film Series" and "Electromedia Performances". He founded the Gate Theatre, the only daily public theatre in New York showing avant-garde independent filmmakers, and co-founded with Otto Piene, the Black Gate, a second live multi-media (Electromedia) theatre. From 1976 to 1984, Aldo was a Fellow at the Center for Advanced Visual Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. There he conducted workshops and organized a series of international interactive Media Communication Projects. Since 1984, he has concentrated on poetry and performing his poetry with music and video projection. In 2005, Aldo produced a digital film, *Listen*, which incorporates his anti-war and political poetry. This film won first place in the "Short Experimental Film by an Independent Filmmaker" category at the New England Film Festival (2005) and at the Syracuse International Film Festival (2006). In 2007, Aldo was awarded the "Lifetime Achievement Award" at the 2007 Syracuse International Film Festival. The same year, he received the Keys to the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts in recognition of his cultural contribution to that city.



Vladimir Zakharov was born in 1939 in Kazan, Tatarstan, USSR. He graduated from Novosibirsk University in 1963, where he organized an underground poetry club that still functions as a literary body. He has never been published in the USSR, but is the author of two samizdat books of poetry and a member of PEN club and the Russia's Writers Union. At present, he is a professor of mathematics at Arizona University and a member of the Russian Academy of Science.

