

A SUITCASE FULL of NOTES

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a brown blazer and matching trousers over a white top, is sitting on a concrete pier. She is looking out towards the sea. In the background, there is a coastal town with a prominent church tower and several buildings. The sea is blue with gentle waves. The sky is clear and bright. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

A multilingual journey through songs, stories and musical traditions

20+ LANGUAGES · SINCE 2009

Ph. Serena Bobbo

AT A GLANCE

Since 2009 - an ever-evolving musical journey

20+

LANGUAGES

**Live across -
ITALY · SLOVENIA ·
GERMANY**

**Selected festivals -
KAVČ · TACT Festival
Sabir Festival
Rose, libri, musica, vino**



THE PROJECT

Born in Trieste, a port and border city where Central European, Balkan and Mediterranean cultures have long met and been divided by shifting frontiers, A Suitcase Full of Notes grew from a landscape of movement, overlapping identities and memory.

Its founder, Chiara Gelmini, comes from a family history shaped by movement too: distant Romani roots survived mainly through oral memory, together with the story of her great-grandfather Giusto, a gifted violinist killed with his wife during the bombing of Trieste in 1944. Much of that history disappeared with them, but the music did not.

Founded in 2009, A Suitcase Full of Notes is a multilingual project spanning more than twenty languages. Songs are performed in their original languages and placed in dialogue with stories, cultures and other musical worlds: an old Venetian song may meet 1980s Turkish pop-rock, Balkan sounds, ritual dances or contemporary songwriting.

The project explores what happens to music when it travels — across languages, borders, generations and traditions.

It does not collect songs from around the world: it places them in conversation.

Tradition is not something fixed in the past, but something people carry, remember, transform, sing and dance. Songs, like people, travel: they carry memories, change through encounter and can create a shared space without erasing their differences.

The repertoire also gives particular attention to women singers and songwriters from around the world.



The core ensemble

At its heart, a trio: voice, guitar and accordion.



Chiara Gelmini

VOICE · CONCEPT · ARTISTIC DIRECTION

Founder, lead vocalist and artistic director of the project, Chiara is an interdisciplinary artist working across music, performance, theatre and visual arts. She is also a member of the vocal trio Les Babettes, with whom she has performed internationally.



Tiziano Bole

ACOUSTIC GUITAR

Guitarist and producer with a classical background and an eclectic musical identity. His twenty-year career spans rock, samba, klezmer, hip hop and electronic music, with performances and collaborations across Europe and South America.



Stefano Bembi

ACCORDION

Pianist, organist and accordionist, trained at the Conservatory of Trieste. He performs in Italy and internationally with a variety of chamber and contemporary music ensembles.

AN EXPANDING MUSICAL SUITCASE - From an intimate trio to a festival ensemble

02 / 02

The project is conceived as a flexible musical format. The core trio can be expanded according to the venue, programme and artistic context, creating anything from an intimate acoustic concert to a large-scale festival ensemble.

CORE TRIO

Voice · Acoustic guitar · Accordion

EXPANDED ENSEMBLE

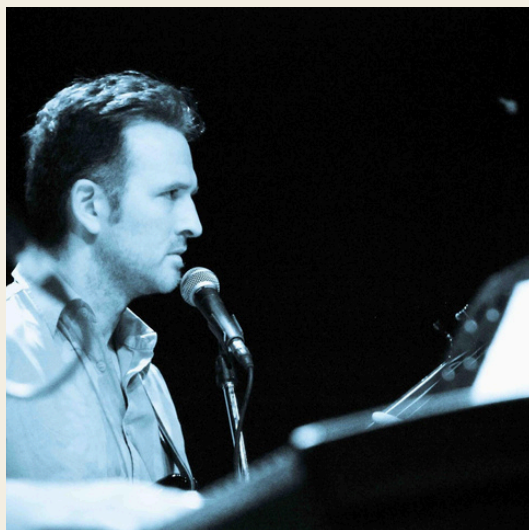
Bass / double bass · Drums · Percussion · Violin ·
Clarinet · Saxophones · Brass

SPECIAL PROJECTS & GUESTS

Traditional instruments · Soloists · Guest singers ·
Local musicians

Collaborations with local and guest musicians can become part of each edition, allowing the repertoire and arrangements to respond to the place where the concert is presented.

Selected ensemble musicians:



Francesco Cainero

BASS / DOUBLE BASS

Studied with Giovanni Toffoloni and Cuban son with Yassero Morejon. Has collaborated with Mike Sponza, Ian Siegal, Francesca Michielin, Alessandra Amoroso and Jovanotti.



Andrea Paoletti

DRUMS · PERCUSSION

Drummer and percussionist from Trieste, trained at Scuola di Musica 55 and the Tartini Conservatory. Has collaborated with Les Babettes and productions at the Landestheater Niederbayern in Germany.



Tomaž Nedoh

SPECIAL GUEST · SOPRANO SAX

Saxophonist and composer, graduate of the Music Academy of Ljubljana. Lives and works in the Karst, a border landscape that shapes his musical research between jazz and territory.

PARTICIPATION • LEARNING • COLLABORATION

CONCERT PARTICIPATION

Audiences can be invited into the music through collective singing and simple social folk dances, including Balfolk.

WORKSHOPS & EDUCATIONAL FORMATS

Multilingual singing, choir sessions and musical journeys for children, families and adults, exploring themes such as migration, identity and collective memory.

LOCAL ENCOUNTERS

The project is opened: local musicians, singers and traditional instruments, creating site-specific collaborations and new musical encounters.



A SUITCASE FULL OF NOTES

LIVE FORMATS

CORE TRIO

Voice • acoustic guitar • accordion

EXPANDED ENSEMBLE

4–8+ musicians

LARGE / SPECIAL PROJECT

Extended instrumentation, traditional instruments and guest artists

CONCERT LENGTH

Approx. 60–90 minutes, adaptable to festival formats

LANGUAGE

Songs are performed in their original languages. Spoken introductions can be presented in English or Italian and adapted to the audience.

TECHNICAL

Technical rider and stage plan available according to ensemble configuration.

BOOKING & CONTACT

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Tiziano Bole

Musical & Technical Contact

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VIDEO & SOCIAL

VIDEO PRESENTATION

<https://youtu.be/tsRPoZ3UcXY>

LIVE PERFORMANCE

[Passou por mim e sorriu \(live\)](#)

INSTAGRAM

[asuitcasefullofnotes](#)