

PAOLA TAGLIAFERRO - "Fabulae" and other delicate stories

By Andrea Pintelli

It is nice to know that there are people who still have the taste and strength not to be trivial, who spread humanity and a sense of good, who have the will (by choice) to elevate themselves through research in the many possible dimensions. One of these is Paola Tagliaferro. Singer, musician, dancer, painter, in short, a complete but never tame, deep and determined artist.

Active since the late seventies, she gained experience that led her to create works full of meanings and crossroads of apparently distant worlds. I want to remember the excellent "Chrysalis" of 2009 and "Millions of Moons" of 2012, to get to the last, intense, "Fabulae" of 2018.

Being superfluous to make a review of it now, two years after the release (with dozens of various writings on the net), I preferred to reach it to get a particular interview that will please her admirers, but also to the newbies, as we wanted to trace her career, like the aspects of her interiority, to speak yes of "Fabulae" because remarkable, rich and delicate, as of his professional and friendship relationship with Greg and Regina Lake and with Bernardo Lanzetti.

Here she is, in all her soul splendor.

Where did your passion for the music world start? Tell us about your beginnings.

I was nine when I realized that every time I sang I flew to another dimension. I studied music and dance, but my main instrument remains my voice.

I started with pop music, then fusion and experimental.

In adulthood I studied singing Dhrupad at the Vicenza conservatory and so I started looking for a "primordial sound" from which everything is born.

Reading the words of your songs shows that you are a person in absolute contact with your invisible side. What does it tell you about the other side?

For years through reading, studies and life experiences, I have been conducting my spiritual research to evolve in awareness and perceive what is not evident. The other part is immense, we must go beyond the limits of the mind imposed by memory, we must not forget to listen to the voice of the she-wolf that is in all of us.

You are a versatile, very profound artist. Tell us about your life philosophy applied to everyday life.

My music and lyrics are linked to my life philosophy. Like many I have suffered from painful events, disappointments and deep solitude, but through these experiences I have learned to "dig inside myself", without ever giving up, to learn, to create, to feel satisfied with my days.

"A path in the woods - a path in the woods", subtitle of your latest album "Fabulae": a journey in your soul in the constant search for unexplored beaches?

In "Fabulae" allegories, symbols and sounds merge. Before or after we all cross "the dark forest", we are not satisfied with our life choices, we feel an emptiness, we are unhappy and we walk the path in search of our Self, these are periods that last about

seven years. Before finding the home of the soul, we must grow, learn and often shed many tears. In "Fabulae" I told my own and friends' experiences through fairytale metaphors, ancient oriental philosophies and sounds of modern and ancient acoustic instruments. There is also some precious electronic sound.

Eastern arts and religions are part of you. This is also denoted by the sounds re-proposed in your compositions. How much could their slowness and wisdom save us, at the expense of the neurosis and the galloping superficiality that distinguish the western world?

I think the experience of isolation caused by the Coronavirus pandemic is putting us back in touch with very important things that with in the consumer system had forgotten, taken for granted and have given secondary importance. To feel good we have to live following the rhythm of our breathing, joy is in balance. This does not mean having no passions, we are human, not just spirit. To make our dreams come true, we have to work hard and if the answers do not come when we wait for them, it means that it is not the time and that we have to learn other things while waiting. The important thing is to never stop studying, learning, until the last day of our life. I believe that the experience of life is a "school camp" to evolve in awareness until we detach ourselves from the material. To do this, a life is certainly not enough, but I think that our Spirit can live many lives and in different dimensions to complete its path of growth. Everything stems from the One who is love and to be comfortable we have to live in the high and harmonious frequencies. Many ancient philosophies narrate that the world was born of primordial sound. This is my research. The vital breath is spirit, it is the frequency of love.

"" The skin of the soul "and" The Bluebeard's room "are painful songs, such as lyrics and I also imagine to be interpreted, but a great way to deal with negativity given the hope that in the end it outweighs the dark. Did you pass that way too?

Of course, I also went through the experiences narrated in these two fairytale metaphors.

"The skin of the soul" tells of relationships that for different reasons lead you to realize only a part of what you have come to do in this incarnation, hiding your soul from yourself or from others. Then suddenly the malaise takes possession of your days and you get sick, or you feel a great unhappiness, until the day when the child in you takes you by the hand and brings you back in search of the "Skin of the Soul ", The journey can take years, but the result will be wonderful for yourself and for those who love you. "The Bluebeard's room" describes the persecutor who promises you every wealth and the realization of the most beautiful dreams, but asks only one thing, "not to enter the secret room", the "room of the soul or of awareness". So first he promises, then he threatens you by preventing you from realizing yourself consciously. "You are not height, you are not capable, you can no longer, it is too late". Only when we understand that the walls raised by Bluebeard or by the Harpies are the limits of our mind, only then could we realize our dreams and turn negative people away from their lives.

Who is "your" White Goddess?

The "White Goddess" was the name of the great Mother in Celtic culture. The great Mother from whom everything originated is within each of us. We just have to listen to her voice, the voice of instinct, the voice of the "mothers of our mothers," the voice of

the she-wolf. To find and maintain this contact, many techniques can be used, I practice yoga meditation daily, in this song I talk about this through the Celtic sounds.

You are capable of playing various instruments, some uncommon, as well as singing and writing. Who would you like your messages to reach, your poems in music?

My main instrument is the voice, as mentioned before, but I like to research the various sounds with different instruments. I had the gift of finding on my way wonderful musicians, with great talent and beautiful people who come from important different professional experiences; Thus was born "The Company of the ES", a group open to those who love to search in sound for the answers that lead to universal harmony. Guitar and sound engineer - Pier Gonella, Viola - Giulia Ermirio, Piano - Andrea Zanzottera, Percussions - U.T. Gandhi and the "star distributors" Enten Hitti (duo) with lute and bells, oboe and xilophone. They are all musicians who follow their individual paths or with other formations, but when we find ourselves in the "Company of the Es" it is magic.

This music, my lyrics can only go to Anime predisposed to receive them.

What did your friendship with Greg Lake represent for you and what lessons did he give you? It also continues through his wife Regina, I imagine.

The meeting with Greg Lake was and is very important. He wrote important pages in the history of music. His personality was impressive, for the great talent and strength of his presence. He taught me and teaches me a lot every day. Greg encouraged me with many emails to believe in myself and make my music. I still feel his presence next to me, he does not give anything, but for me it is a continuous stimulus to improve and not to give up. Of course, friendship with his wife Regina Lake is also very important. She is a wonderful, loyal person with great determination and is a perfectionist who takes care of the detail of everything to which she dedicates her attention. We met when I organized together with the Municipality of Zoagli and the International Poetry Festival of Genoa the "honorary citizenship" to Greg Lake, in 2017, post mortem. The important honor was awarded by the Municipality of Zoagli in memory of a concert by Greg Lake, organized by me in 2012 and obviously in memory of his genius, who knew how to donate a lot to the world. Regina Lake and I then created an event in which she is Patron, or "Art in Progress Event in memory of Greg Lake". He loved many art forms, his story reveals how much he was always looking for new and beautiful music, his lyrics were deep and inspired. In previous editions of this memorial, always organized with the Municipality of Zoagli and the International Poetry Festival, we had as guests Bernardo Lanzetti, Juri Camisasca and Ethan Emerson (young grandson of Keith Emerson), Elinor Emerson and Aaron Emerson and writers such as Nobel prize for literature Gao Xingjiang, José Pulido, the poet Claudio Pozzani, Amnerys Bonvicini, the director Francesco Paladino, Barbara Garassino and, in the extraordinary edition organized by the Municipality of Palmanova and Didy Pasini Ciriani, the writer Fabio Rossi. Important contribution of my collaborator Lydia Soltazzi Romanelli curator of the exhibition presented with Ligurian artists, very good. This year I was organizing the third edition, but then the Coronavirus blocked everything; we don't know when it will be possible to do concerts, but we will return soon.

Last year I had the honor of interviewing Bernardo Lanzetti, at the end of the live concert of the Acqua Fragile in Casalmaggiore (CR). Gorgeous person and a true professional. Tell us about your meeting and the realization of the last track of the album he wrote, "To Absent Friends".

I have a beautiful friendship with Bernardo Lanzetti and his wife Amnerys Bonvicini. Bernardo has an important voice and great professionalism. I asked him if he had a piece to give me to be included as a guest in "Fabulae" and he suggested "To Absent Friends" in which we sing as duo; it was a stimulating experience. The piece is very beautiful and Bernardo's voice is histrionic, a real talent.

In the near future, although we are living in an era poor in light, what will your work plans be?

I'm working on two projects, but for "superstition" I prefer not to anticipate anything. I think this is a time of great change, this pandemic that has slowed down humanity's life is teaching us a lot. Loneliness allows us to listen to the voice of the Great Mother and to find the Skin of the Soul, Bluebeard no longer has to frighten us, we must remain in the high frequencies and give strength to the light only so we could rebuild a new world, a better world .