

LONG BIO MARCO CALLIARI

MARCO CALLIARI was born in Quebec, but always remained remarkably close to his Italian roots.

Growing up in his *famiglia*, his musical universe consisted mainly of Italian operas. Around age 14, he started listening to a quite different sound, wilder, louder ... heavy metal! Soon after, he founds, with friends, one of the most interesting metal bands in Quebec: Anonymus. In 2006, after fifteen years and five albums with Anonymus, Marco wrapped up this important musical adventure to dedicate himself entirely to his solo career, which began in 2003.

His first album as a singer-songwriter, called *Che La Vita*, is primarily festive—his style is a combination of what could be called “world music”; a touch of gypsy jazz, and a hint of poetry. The Italian lyrics and the music are entirely composed by Marco. *Che La Vita* sold more than 25,000 copies to a mostly French-speaking audience.

After this first major release, Marco records his second solo album, *Mia Dolce Vita*, in which he performs traditional Italian songs featuring his very personal touch, including *L’Italiano*, *Bella Ciao* and *L’Americano*. The album was released in November 2006, and since then, more than 40,000 copies were sold in Quebec. In 2010, renowned Quebec DJ MC Mario launched a remix of *Americano* from *Mia Dolce Vita*. A hit in the summer of 2010 on the radio, in clubs, and generating a lot of interest internationally (in Great Britain and Germany). So far, the video of the remix has been viewed over 1.5 million times on YouTube.

Going back and forth between Europe and North America (Italy, France, Switzerland, Belgium, the United States, and all across Canada) every year, Marco Calliari finds inspiration for his third album. In February 2009, he locked himself up in the cabin of a former lighthouse keeper in Cap-D’Espoir in Gaspésie to devote himself to writing and composing his album, *Al Faro Est*, which was released in 2010.

Marco Calliari has been nominated for each of his first three albums at the ADISQ Gala (in 2005, 2008 and 2011) in the category “Album of the Year—World Music.” Marco was also nominated in 2012 in the category “Quebec Artist of the Year—Other Languages Interpretation.”

Over the summer of 2008, Marco had the honour of hosting the opening night gala of the *FrancoFolies de Montreal*, bringing together numerous artists on stage, and broadcast live on *TV5 Monde*. That same year, alongside some of Quebec's greatest artists, he was invited to take part in a unique show, in the presence of many dignitaries and before nearly a million viewers: Quebec City's 400th anniversary celebrations.

Summer 2011 also promises to be colourful. Marco participates in several important festivals, including the renowned Montreal International Jazz Festival and the popular Festival d'été de Quebec, where his wild performances brought more than 70,000 dancing fans to their feet.

Also in 2011, in New York City, he presents his show and makes a splash with talent buyers gathered for the APAP (Association of Performing Arts Presenters)—one of the largest events of its kind in the world. As a result of this highly acclaimed performance, he had the opportunity of performing in Madison (World Music Festival), Milwaukee (Global Union) and Chicago (World Music Festival). He also takes to the stage at the Winnipeg and Regina Folk Festivals where, once again, spectators, organizers and presenters fall under the spell of his energy.

In 2012, in the United States, he performs in New York City (New York), Troy (New York) and Johnson (Vermont). In Western Canada, he takes the stage in Calgary, Oxbow and Jousard, where Marco's festive magic is at work. This adventure continues in 2013 in Fallon, Nevada, Lafayette, Louisiana and Hinton, Alberta.

In September 2013, Marco releases a new album: *Mi Ricordo*. "*Mi ricordo*" means "*I remember*" in Italian. Marco remembers being a son of Italian immigrants and that he carries within him this Quebec-Italian cultural duality. He embodies both cultures with contagious enthusiasm. Always in the festive spirit that makes his mark, Marco Calliari has taken on, for this album, some of Quebec's most beautiful songs, which he sings ... in Italian! *Ayoye* by *Offenbach*, *Julie* by *Les Colocs*, *Lindberg* by *Robert Charlebois* as well as songs by *Paul Piché*, *La Bolduc*, *Richard Desjardins*, and *Diane Dufresne*. For the rendition of *Lindberg*, Louise Forestier joined Marco to create a Franco-Italian version of this timeless success. While listening to the album, listeners enjoy recognizing the melody of great Quebec hits that have marked them, sung in Italian: it is a surprising exercise! The show *Mi Ricordo*, directed by Michel Faubert, is still a great success after more than 200 shows around the world.

In 2016, Marco dives into a project that will allow his audience to discover him in a whole new light. While we know the artist for his capacity to get everyone up and dancing, this time, he manages to move his audience very softly. The *One Night* project is a show consisting mainly of ballads that showcase Marco's authenticity and intensity. In March 2016, he surrounded himself with seven talented musicians who took the stage with him at Club Dix30 in Brossard. He seized the opportunity to record a CD/DVD that he will release the following fall. This live album is full of emotions, with great Italian classics, hits from his previous albums and new songs in French, heralding a new French-speaking project...

On January 28, 2019, Marco Calliari celebrated his 30-year career in music by launching a new album consisting of 14 songs and offers a mix of tracks where Italian world music and heavy metal meet discreetly but skillfully.

Calliari Bang! Bang! is a rich artistic collaboration featuring the talent of some fifty musicians, including, of course, the band Anonymus, followed by I Matti Delle Giuncaie (Italy), Peppe Voltarelli (Italy), Radio Lausberg (Italy), and the one and only Michel Fauberg (Quebec), with his bicultural tale "*Il Diavolo da Ovide Soucy*". A rich and surprising mix in which we can hear the creative process and influences of the singer from the last thirty years.

His 30-year career will also be celebrated with the launch of a musical biography at Long & McQuade on November 7, 2019. Written by Andrea Gozzi and published by the Italian publishing house "Ouverture Edizioni", *Calliari Bang! Bang!* (the book) covers the artist's 30-year career. Several great names of the music industry are at the heart of these tales, including Serge Fiori, Yves Lambert, Michel Faubert, Mononc'Serge, the group Anthrax and Pantera.

Throughout the coloured pages, this musical biography, filled with archival photos recounting episodes of his life and career, the author also offers the reader a chance to relive some key moments of Marco Calliari's career with a QR Code to scan. By adding an interactive and technological component to the book, the author allows the reader to be, at one moment reading and at the other listening to the music.

Not only active on stage, he is also involved in his community, Marco is a spokesperson for numerous events and organizations such as Montreal's Italian Week, the MusiQualité contest, civic sponsorship and is one of Montreal's ambassadors for the 10th anniversary of Artistic Diversity. He also took part in

the *Téléradiothon de la Ressource Du Bas Saint-Laurent–Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine* as a performer and host in 2015–2016.

Furthermore, from 2017 to 2019, Marco hosted a daily radio show in French, English, and Italian on CFMB 1280 am, Montreal's Italian radio station, with a reach across Quebec.