

Town Hall
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Art present

GLOBAL

RHYTHMS

2025

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The Next Generation of Global Music



Town Hall Seattle and SAMA: Music + Art present

**CANZONIERE GRECANICO SALENTINO:
Scattered Rhymes and Tarantula Dances**

May 20, 7:30pm in The Great Hall

Curated by Jon Kertzer



CANZONIERE GRECANICO SALENTINO

Mauro Durante: *violin, frame drum, vocals*

Massimiliano Morabito: *diatonic accordion*

Giancarlo Paglialunga: *frame drums, vocals*

Giulo Bianco: *recorder, clarinet, bagpipes,
harmonica, bass*

Emanuele Licci: *bouzouki, guitar, vocals*

Alessia Tondo: *vocals, frame drums*

Silvia Perrone: *dance*

Tentative Program

RONDA (G. Bianco)

TARANTA (M. Durante, L. Einaudi)

RIROLLALLA (traditional, arr. by
Durante, Licci, Morabito)

IENTU (M. Durante, M. Leonhart,
A. Tondo)

ORFEO (M. Durante)

STORNELLO ALLA MEMORIA

(elaboration on a traditional theme by
G. Bianco, M. Durante, A. Tondo)

DUMENICA MATINA (traditional, arr. by
M. Durante)

AIORA (M. Durante, A. Tondo)

PIZZICA INDIAVOLATA (trad. arr. by CGS)

BELLA CI DORMI (trad., arr. by M. Durante)

A MMERA A LECCE (trad., arr. by Durante,
E. Licci, G. Bianco)

QUANNU TE VISCIU (M. Durante, J. Mardin)

BEDDHU STANOTTE

(elaboration by M. Durante)

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Pre-show Food Vendor



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Pre-show Speaker



Kate Causbie is an enthusiast of the "popolare" music and dances of Southern Italy. She has sought out these traditions from Puglia, the homeland of her grandmother's family,

since 2018. In 2022, she traveled through Puglia to learn as much as she could about these traditions; since then, she has dreamed of crafting opportunities for people who are deeply curious about Southern Italian dance and culture.

About Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino

In southern Italy, the music that accompanies the trance-like dance ritual of tarantism nearly vanished before becoming the most prominent symbol of a regional resurgence.

Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino (CGS), a seven-member ensemble from the Salento peninsula of Apulia — “the heel of the boot” of Italy — led this revival, bringing historic sounds into the present with respect paid to the past.

Salento’s distinctive music is the pizzica tarantata, which accompanies the dance (pizzica) associated with tarantism, the belief in ritual possession arising from the bite of a local spider. Those who believed they were afflicted by the spider’s bite would exorcise the poison through trance-like dancing accompanied by hired musicians, whose songs were propelled by the heartbeat-like rhythms of the tamburrieddhu frame drum. As CGS bandleader Mauro Durante says, the songs in this tradition “have a power, a magic, that you can feel even today. They are connected to really important things. They are connected to contact — something we are losing today.”

Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino was formed in 1975 by Rina Durante, along with the guitarist and singer Daniele Durante. They led the group for three decades, revitalizing interest throughout Italy. Today’s CGS carries on this legacy with the dedication of a new but deeply rooted generation. Current bandleader **Mauro Durante**, who plays frame drums and violin, is the son of Daniele Durante and fellow CGS founding member Rossella Pinto. The younger Durante joined the group at age 14 and inherited his father’s mantle in 2007. Under Mauro’s leadership, CGS is bringing aspects of Salentine music to a global audience.

CGS is anchored by a trio of outstanding vocalists: **Alessia Tondo**, **Giancarlo Paglialunga** on tamburrieddhu, and **Emanuele Licci**, a guitar and bouzouki player. Powering the band’s sound are **Giulio Bianco** on a brace of instruments, and pizzica scholar

Massimiliano Morabito, hailed as “the best traditional diatonic accordionist in Puglia.” In keeping with the tradition of tarantism, the seventh member of the band is not a musician at all, but the dancer **Silvia Perrone**.

CGS has over 20 albums, the most recent being *Il Mito* (2023). By combining music and dance that engage centuries of history with lyrics that often address modern challenges, CGS continues the Salentine tradition of using pizzica tarantata to draw the community together.

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COMING UP AT TOWN HALL



Dave Eggers and Andrew Sean Greer

June 15

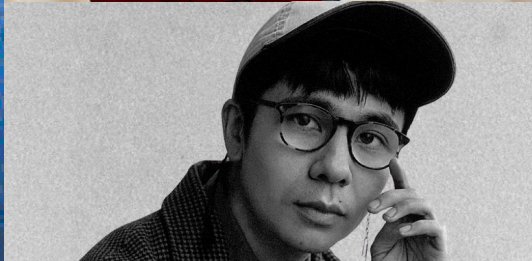
Authors and real-life friends Dave Eggers and Andrew Sean Greer discuss their novels, which both explore art, love, and relationships.



Findings Night with Ollella

June 18

Artist-in-Residence Ellie Barber and the Ollella band perform a mix of old and new songs written during her residency.



Ocean Vuong with Putsata Reang

July 23

Award-winning author Ocean Vuong explores complex connections and unexpected friendship in the paperback release of his latest novel.

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