



Sacromud



**RICCARDO FIORUCCI**

**FRANZ PIOMBINO**

**RAFFO BARBI**

**MAURIZIO PUGNO**

**ALEX FIORUCCI**

## THE OVERGROUND BLUES: ABOVE THE UNDERGROUND, UNDER THE MAINSTREAM!

### A NEW MUSICAL «CROSSROAD» BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS, MISSISSIPPI, GUBBIO AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

«Maybe, to continue the journey, instead of selling our soul to the devil like **Robert Johnson**, we must accept the hell, and - as **Italo Calvino** says - become such a part of it that you can no longer see it. The second is risky and demands constant vigilance and apprehension: seek and lean to recognize who and what, in the midst of hell, are not hell, then make them endure, give them space».

This is how **Maurizio Pugno**, leader and founder of the **Sacromud** collective, comments the end of «**Gubbio to Memphis**», the documentary made between Italy and the South of the Mississippi.

The **SACROMUD** overground music feels that, in the new popular culture, there is still that old wandering spirit in search of lay prayers; therefore it tries to play the sound of their footsteps, the rhythm of new exodus, to give voice

to the sensuality of human weaknesses and to the blackening of the trees, with its off-scale blues, in this new Carousel.

It's not just a band that catch into **Maurizio Pugno's** blues, continuing in some way the trajectory traced with over 40 years of activity around the world, but it is a real factory of suggestions and sounds spread on what we are today, the **Sacred Mud** of the contemporary.

The **Sacromud Live Show** follows this vision and is built as a single musical suite within which the narration itself moves as well as soul, roots music, blues, rock, pop, funk, and R&B but blended together with the sounds of contemporary contradictions. The **OVERGROUND SUITE** is the answer that **Sacromud** tries to give to those who allow



themselves, sometimes even unwittingly, to be seduced by the tradition that feeds the sound of contemporary sacred mud, that tradition, which belongs to everyone, even to those who do not know the rhetoric that distinguishes its profile.

The **overground blues** proves to be the sum, of the values useful to his people and that people must continually renew itself, if it does not want to perish.

But it is also a stroll around **Bluesland**, the land where everyone has generated the music of the last 150 years:

«the blues was for me the salt with which I seasoned my musical journey - says **Pugno** himself - not only as a musician but above all as an enthusiast. **Sacromud** is what I call an

emotional "slingshot" rather than a musical group that has transformed my path into an experimental synthesis at times difficult, with which to deal but from which to draw ideas: means but a burning desire to break objects to give soul to the matter. **Raffo** has translated all the contradictions of turning on oneself through, as I often repeat, his sacred mud but each one of us is dirtying the music that is written with his personal history.

A summary of the society I would like: different languages that enrich a synthesis that seeks another».

The need to represent human weaknesses has transformed **Maurizio Pugno** since his debut in 1982, into a musician who plays the **blues**, the music that comes closest to the stories of everyday life and, within this journey «against the flow», he decides to root his experience within his new daily life, geographically, musically and humanly..

The «bourgeois tribality» of Raffaele «Raffo» Barbi, scoops up with both hands in the puddle of our daily and contradictory battles, fitting perfectly with the new vision that Pugno is trying to give to his music, rooted in the blues but mirrored in the 21st century!

Pugno's so-called guitar lyricism fits perfectly with Raffo Barbi's warm and biting vocalism. «What intrigued me first of all, was his deep emotionality - says Pugno - hidden by that serious, dark, and silent way of acting. The first time he sang Leon Russell's Help Me Thru 'The Day I heard in Raffo salt, mud and respect; the salt of passion, the mud of life and respect for listening».

Franz Piombino (bass) is the other senior member of the band. Born in Turin Italy in 1968, he has been part of Pugno's musical history for many years now. Back in homeland after having lived as a professional musician for about twenty years in London, he played with many artists of the blues/soul scene now he is the eclectic bass player of Sacromud as well as of other Labilia productions of which he's one of the supporting pillars.

To the two seniors members, Pugno has given the support of two other musicians coming from different musical backgrounds and who have step by step appeared in the world of Blues and Soul: Alex Fiorucci on organ, piano and synthesizers and Riccardo Fiorucci on drums.

«Resized», (released on 2021), is a readjustment of the dress (like a good tailor would do) to their own sizes: eight re-adapted covers, and three originals composed and recorded for this album.



«Resized» is the raft that finally ferried the band towards SACROMUD and «Sacromud», the album out in 2022 completely composed by Maurizio Pugno and Raffo Barbi, is totally immersed in this suggestion.

After the two studio albums and having been awarded as «Best Italian

Album 2023» and «Best Italian Rock Band of 2023» within the event called «Rock Targato Italia» organized by Radio ADMR with the collaboration of the specialized magazines Mescalina and Buscadero, Sacromud win the final of the Italian Blues Challenge and fly to Mississippi and Memphis, to represent Italy at the INTERNATIONAL BLUES CHALLENGE 2024.

A kind of «revolution»: a band so musically contaminated and «anthropologically» transversal, represented Italy in the land of Mississippi, the home of Blues, Soul and R&B.



The band, with a video crew in tow, extended its stay in Mississippi in an attempt to generate a documentary within a new vision regarding finding a common thread between «what we are and what we have loved».

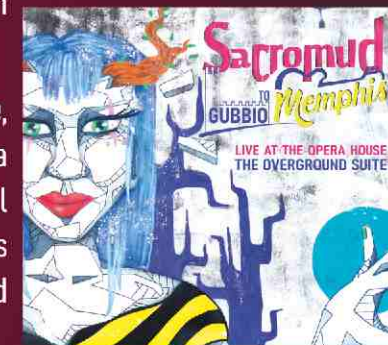


In addition to the documentary, the operation generated the publication of two albums, both children of this production that we can define as «the trilogy of a journey».

The first, released on December 30, 2024, is the double Live album called «Gubbio to Memphis - Live At Opera House; The Overground Suite».

The second, «The SUN Experience» is the result of the recording session, completely analog, at the legendary SUN RECORDS studio in Memphis.

These are Sacromud as they have never been before, stripped down but enriched by the Cape Horns, a horn section arranged by Pugno; a sound that will project them from Sam Philips Avenue a few blocks away, to East McLemore Avenue, towards STAX and «Soulville»!



Five musicians, five ways of seeing and hearing music all projected to achieve a performance designed as a real musical suite of over one and a half hours!

You catch your breath at the beginning and slowly exhale everything!

## Live Show Info

In a room of any size,  
in a theater, at a Festival,  
concerts and outdoor events,  
for private events and wherever  
you want to promote  
the blues of human stories.

Possibility to associate to the events  
Masterclass, speech and Educational concerts.

The SACROMUD Pugno Collective is a project  
of great emotional and sound impact where  
the blues, funk, r&b, Rock and roots music  
are generally rooted in the contemporary,  
strong however of the very deep  
knowledge of the past to which Pugno has  
dedicated his whole life.

Five musicians, five ways of seeing  
and hearing music all projected to  
achieve a performance designed as a real  
musical suite of over one and a half hours!

### Live Line-up

**RAFFO BARBI** vocals

**MAURIZIO PUGNO** guitar, production and arrangemets

**ALEX FIORUCCI** keyboards and synth.

**FRANZ PIOMBINO** bass

**RICCARDO FIORUCCI** drums

Sacromud is a **Labilia srl** production



### Technical requirements

Minimum stage size: 6x3 meters

Audio service: PA system adequate for the location; sound Engineer, 4/5 monitor speakers; 3 D.I. lines

Lighting service: According to availability

On site backline: Drums, digital piano, 2 vocal mic.+ stands, guitar and bass amplifiers

Other specific needs: Possibility of one dressing room with bathroom

Note: It's possible to bring own backline or part of it;  
the singer uses a TC HeliconVocalLive;  
the drummer uses two snare drums and two hi-hats  
(normally he brings the second hi-hat and snare with himself )

N.B. During the negotiation phase, we always provide Rider/Stage Plane  
detailed and set in, ased on the venue and the availability of the organization

**Maurizio Pugno**, born in 1966, is an Umbrian musician, composer, arranger, producer who is considered by many to be one of the most personal Italian blues guitarists.

Active since the early 1980s, he is an elegant, «physical» but lyrically incisive artist.

He is known as one of the best «masters» for what concerns the dissemination, composition and arrangement of everything that revolves around the «blues and surroundings» and has 20 albums to his credit.

**Pugno** is a fine connoisseur of musical styles and this always leads him to the search for authentic melodic lines often anchored to his European way of being; all this, without ever losing sight of the personal background that is on the air in African American Black Music.

He has captained for more than ten years with the **Rico Blues Combo** and, even further back in time, with the **Wolves Blues Band**, **Pugno**, has now become a reference point for many international musicians.

His artistic activity has seen him write, arrange, produce and support some of the best contemporary blues artists such as **Mz. Dee**, **Sugar Ray Norcia**, **Mark DuFresne**, **Linda Valori**, **Alberto Marsico**, **Lynwood Slim**, **Tad Robinson**, **Francesco Piu**, **Marco Pandolfi**, **Mark Hummel**, **Dana Gillespie**, **Dany Franchi**, **Dave Specter**, **Fabrizio Poggi**, **Mighty Mo Rogers**, **Luca Giordano**, **Mike Turk**, **Sax Gordon**, **Kellie Rucker**, **Benito Madonia**, **Crystal White** and many others.

Now, still running on this journey «against the traffic», he decides to root his musical experience within this new production deriving from what is the **Pugno Collective** and therefore **Sacromud**.

The three CDs recorded as a soloist, «**That's What I Found Out**» (2007), «**Kill The Coffee**» (2010) and "**Made In Italy / Live At Gubbio Opera House**" (2011), produced in the USA by **Jerry Hall** for the record label **Pacific Blues Records**, were co-written and produced together with the two ex **Roomful Of Blues**, **Sugar Ray Norcia** and **Mark Dufresne** obtaining important reviews and awards all over the world.

The collaboration with **MZ DEE**, a singer from San Francisco and considered as one of the most authentic and intense voices of the current Soul/Blues scene, begins in 2011 and materializes with «**Letters From The Bootland**», released in 2012 and «**The Next Episode**» (2013); both a mix of Blues, Soul and R&B where **Maurizio Pugno** writes and arranges most of the songs.

From 2014 to 2018 he collaborated with one of the greatest Italian singers, **Linda Valori** until his signing up with **Labilia**, a company for which he also holds the role of art director of the «Musical Productions» section.

### **Maurizio Pugno**

arranger, producer, creator,  
trainer and composer.

#### **He plays**

guitars, dobro, baritone, steel guitar,  
flute, synthesizers, piano,  
moog, mellotron,  
percussion, electronic,  
drum programming, bass  
and homemade instruments





**Raffaele «Raffo» Barbi,**

born in 1984, is a singer and songwriter profoundly marked by the strong and introverted suggestion that music in its entirety has deposited on his being an artist and human being.

Gifted with a warm and biting voice, he was inspired by the great titans of black music (Bobby Bland, Donny Hathaway, Johnny Adams, Isaak Hayes, B.B. King, Muddy Waters, Otis Redding, Sam Cooke, Otis Rush etc.) and at the same time by musicians transversely positioned in the great circus of Roots, R&B, Rock and pop music such as Leon Russell, Eric Clapton, Tom Waits, Derek Trucks, Gregory Porter, Fantastic Negrito, Ry Cooder, Bob Dylan and ofcourse the Beatles.

The vision of how Black music can intercept the daily life of his Blues is perfectly perceptible from the rituals with which he built the live show together with **Sacromud**.

**Raffo Barbi**

vocals (lead & backing)  
and songwriter

**Raffo** as a bluesy soul, suffered, at times impetuous, which he hides behind a meditative approach and an elegant «dress».

Implanted in the contemporary he is at the service of music with a respectful approach and total dedication, an approach that is grafted into the various areas with authenticity and honesty!

His musical experiences (before finding the key to writing and translating into music and into words what had been writhing for some time within his being), were the children of unplugged paths with acoustic formations that in any case revolved around his vocality.

Meeting **Maurizio Pugno** did the rest, combining lands and suggestions generationally distant but spiritually speaking through the same sound.

Human and artistic sharing is in fact the founding value from which **Raffo** draws nourishment for his path.

**Sacromud** is also the son of his **Sacred Mud!**

**Francesco «Franz» Piombino**, born in Turin in 1968, began his career as a bass player in the mid-80s, drawing his first inspiration from the rock that characterized the '75/'85 decade.

At the beginning of the 90s, he moved to London, the undisputed capital of European music and there he continued his profession for another 22 years, learning styles, languages and mentalities that led him to deeply enrich his bass language.

Franz is basically a «groover», as he likes to define himself, that is a bassist who conceives the bass as a backbone and rhythmic support to music, preferring the effectiveness of the essential, drawing inspiration from bassists such as Nathan East, Leland Sklar, James Jamerson, Paul McCartney and Pino Palladino to name a few.

Franz was also born as a guitarist and perhaps it is this harmonic vision, even of his life, that makes him so empathetic with the music he plays.

His musical activity is also centred on composition, musically close to Pop and funk and his first solo album is in the works!

Among the many collaborations in Italy and abroad we can mention **Josh Smith**, **Ariel Posen**, **Stephen Dale Petit**, **Jeff McErlain**, **Paolo Bonfanti**, **Edoardo De Angelis**, **Melissa Bell** (Soul2Soul), **Jaye Williamson** (Brand New Heavies, Style Council), **Maurizio Pugno**, **Linda Valori**, **Antonio Forcione**, **Tony Moore** (Cutting Crew), **Enzo Zirilli** (Gloria Gaynor, Randy Brecker, Dado Moroni, Enrico Pieranunzi, Rossana Casale, Steve Grossman, James Moody), **Nick Van Gelder** (Jamiroquai), **Benito Madonia**, **Joe Galullo** and many others.

He is now the bassist of **SACROMUD** as well as of other **Labilia** productions of which he is one of the supporting pillars.

**Franz Piombino**

Electric Bass  
and Fretless bass





### Alessandro «Alex» Fiorucci

The first time that **Maurizio Pugno** met Alex musically, was in 2016 when both were part of a production that involved them as musicians. From the very first rehearsals, **Pugno** had the perception that **Alex** was one of the best «note painters» he had ever met!

And it is for this reason that when it was a question of building a new path, **Pugno**, having made the sketch in black and white, commissioned **Alex Fiorucci** to colour everything... until it became **Sacromud!**

**Alex**, born in 1983, is one of those essential and extremely precious keyboard players for the construction of what **Pugno** calls «**sound identity**», and his story, often in the «second line» but always decisive, is the sincere testimony!

Graduated in piano at the «**Percento Musica**» Academy in Rome, for many years he has been working in the professional environment both as an arranger and as a session man in numerous Rock, Progressive, Funk and Blues productions (**Joe Gallullo**, **Linda Valori**, **Operapop**, **Wabeesabee** etc.).

His activity as a teacher of modern piano and keyboards makes him a point of reference for many young people who are starting out in music!

**Alex Fiorucci**  
piano, organ  
and synthesizers



### **Riccardo «Rocca» Fiorucci**

Riccardo Fiorucci, known as «Rocca» for his proverbial stability on the almost granite grooves, is the drummer who was in the air from the beginning in what was later transformed into Sacromud production.

A drumming that hovered over Pugno's head but which, as it hit the ground, made the whole project take off!

Riccardo, born in 1989, is the musician who SOLVES and never complicates things, both as an instrumentalist and as a human being. If the groove has an interpretative uncertainty, «Rocca» arrives and, as Pugno says, «spits out its rhythmic sentence that becomes law!».

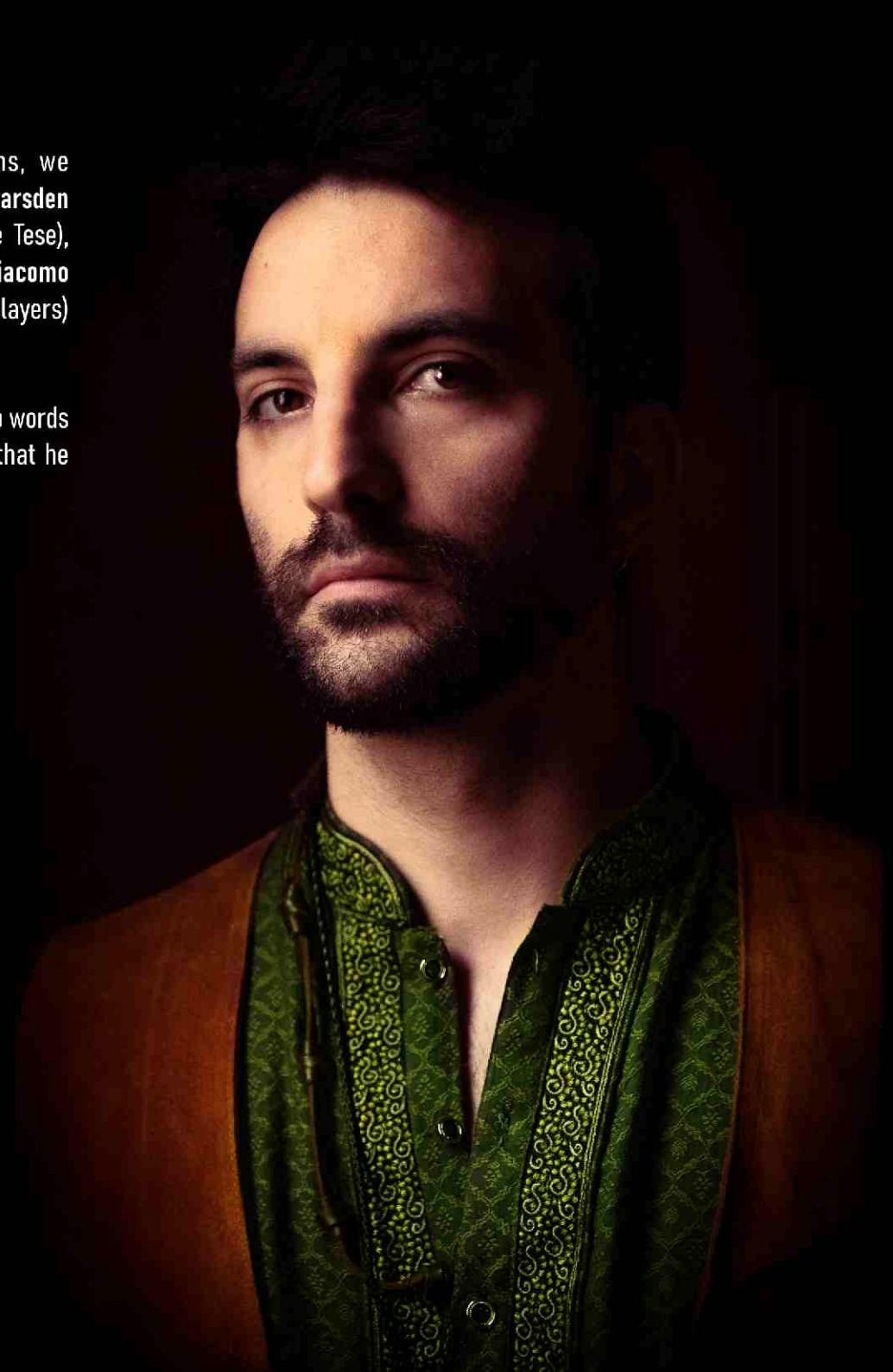
Growing up with the Rock of the '70s and Funk, he is one of those drummers who manages to accompany others by the hand to the rhythmical solution thanks to the love that binds him above all to the music he makes even before the instrument he plays.

He approaches drums as a child, at the age of 5 and growing up, he develops a personal style that brings him, if he wants, «analogically to electronics» in some way, even through a set up he himself created and customized.

Among the countless collaborations, we remember Phil X (Bon Jovi), Bernie Marsden (Whitesnake), Cesareo (Elio e le Storie Tese), Alessandro Del Vecchio (Producer) Giacomo Castellano and David Pieralisi (session players) just to name a few.

Musicality and Groove, these are the two words on which he bases his playing, words that he transforms into a creed!

**Riccardo Fiorucci**  
drums and  
percussion



# Sacromud



Foto di Isabella Sannipoli (Aedi Studio)

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