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## OFFICIAL PRESENTATION OF 2023 EDITION

***"...and the Magic goes on!" featuring great modern blues performers, pieces of rock history, legends of hard sounds, and lots of new music all to discover!***

"...and the Magic goes on!". Having archived its first two decades with the "big" Avegno festival, Vallemaggia Magic Blues turns over a new leaf and, having shed its festival clothes, returns to its more comfortable clothes, those that suit the target audience of the event and the spirit of "maestro" Hannes "The producer" Anrig. Just as importantly: the Producing Team has spared no effort to put together a tantalizing program, practically consisting of new faces, with the exception of a few friends of the Festival who have been absent from the Magic Blues stage for several years. After the presentations of the "Magic Rock Night" with Phil Campbell and The Bastard Sons, Tommy Castro and Matt Schofield, two Blues Bigs for the first time at Vallemaggia Magic Blues and the memorable evening for our festival on Thursday, July 27, 2023 with the arrival in the valley of the legendary Colosseum, today we are proud to present you with the complete program of the 21st edition that we are sure will live up to the fame of our festival.

The festival will begin on Friday, July 7. From the mountaintops above Brontallo will echo the notes of the Seattle left-hander's unmistakable guitar. In fact, both **Leburn Maddox** and **Joe Valeriano** (who will open the evening) are devoted admirers of Jimi Hendrix (and by extension Stevie Ray Vaughan). They will not present pedissequa covers, but original songs and "Hendrixian" re-presentations, not always the same as the original. One of the welcome returns mentioned just above is Joe Valeriano himself, a longtime friend of the Magic Blues. Apulian by birth, having long since moved to Lombardy, Joe Valeriano is one of the best-known figures on the Italian blues scene, in which he has been active for more than 30 years. In the past, for a good ten years, he was the guitarist for the well-known British singer Kim Brown (first in the Renegades, then in Kim and the Cadillacs). With his voice and unfailing Stratocaster guitar he is considered one of the best interpreters of Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughan. The Live CD, dedicated precisely to his two masters, is a testament to this. A shy character, he enjoys solid







acclaim from audiences attending his concerts. There are also numerous expressions of esteem and affection for him from specialized critics.

Next up is guitarist and singer **LeBurn Maddox**, class of 1956, a native of Philadelphia and active on the blues and rock scene for more than 45 years now. As early as the mid-1970s he was considered a "genius" on the six-string. LeBurn has shared the stage with some of the biggest stars such as John Lee Hooker, Albert Collins, Jeff Healey, James Brown and Little Richard. His music is a skillful and engaging mix of Heavy Blues, Funk, Soul, Reggae and Rock, music for the soul of men and the heart of women! Given the premise, this will be an evening not to be missed.

The following week in Giumaglio includes on Wednesday, July 12, the opening performance by Edoardo Bennato's guitarist **Gennaro Porcelli**, considered by public and critics to be one of the Blues talents "made in Italy," with a musical repertoire that ranges from Chicago style to New Orleans style, from Austin style to Memphis style, almost as if to retrace precisely Highway 61, the well-known American highway along which the different styles of the Blues have developed. Notable collaborations include Jon Paris (legendary bassist for Johnny Winter) and Steve Holley (drummer for Paul McCartney's Wings), Alex Britti, Louisiana Red, Rudy Rotta, the Hot Tuna, Corey Harris and Robben Ford. Also noteworthy is his recent live performance with the great Texas guitarist Buddy Whittington, historic member of John Mayall's Bluesbreakers. In 2015 he represented Italy at the European Blues challenge.



Then it will be the turn of **Peter Karp Band**, a star, with muscular slide guitar solos and expressive, soulful vocals. Acknowledgements aside, he is a storyteller, an insightful songwriter, and a fascinating performer. Always multifaceted, Karp moves between different instruments, handling slide guitar, acoustic guitar, harmonica and piano. The Peter Karp Band continues to carve a unique niche for itself with a sound born in the swamps of New Jersey and the trailer parks of South Alabama. He emulates the power and soul of Springsteen, Jerry Lee Lewis and Otis Redding, putting on one of the most entertaining shows ever. As a songwriter, Karp first saw national attention thanks to guitarist Mick Taylor, ex-Rolling Stones, who recorded and toured with him. For the occasion he will be accompanied by **Mark Johnson** (Delta Moon). After spending the past year playing tirelessly at venues and festivals with growing fans in Europe and the United States, he finally lands at Magic Blues as well. An event not to be missed.

The second night in Giumaglio will feature European blues with the **5th European Blues Night**. For the past 5 years our festival has been giving space to European blues by inviting each year the winning band of the last Swiss Blues Challenge and two other bands that participated in the finals of the European Blues Challenge as national winners. We will have on stage the Italians **Betta Blues Society**, who in January 2018 in Memphis, earned, a first for an Italian artist, access to the finals of the International Blues Challenge organized by the Blues Foundation. Their genre incorporates elements of the early twentieth-century American blues, folk and gospel traditions. Guests such as Tommaso Novi (Gatti Mezzi) and Bob Luti (Playin' For Change) have played on the album. Over the years the Betta Blues Society have played all over Italy, sharing the stage with artists such as Lynyrd Skynyrd, Fabio Treves, Carmen Consoli, Edoardo Bennato and Brunori SAS.



Next up are the latest winners of the Swiss Blues Challenge 2022, the Basel-based **6up Blues Band** active since 2001; with overwhelming live performances in Switzerland and abroad, they offer a composite blues with many currents, favoring an electric sound. The charismatic leader Dani Pattis has managed to keep the lineup alive, which, with the entry of bassist Holger Göller, the ideal pendant to reproduce blues rock in full force on every stage trodden, and with the mighty drums of his brother Hanjo Göller, has created the overwhelming groove on which Dani Pattis can unleash to make his songs alive and constantly new. We are delighted to welcome them to the valley and curious to see them in action.

Grand finale with Germany's **Muddy What?**, three young musicians from Munich and Nuremberg who give the traditional blues style a modern, refreshing and unmistakable twist, catapulting the blues to new horizons. Delta sounds, funky rhythms, filigree ballads and then more pressing blues: the trio shows itself multifaceted and with a dynamic sense of lightness. Winners of the German Blues Challenge in 2021, Fabian Spang, Ina Spang and Michi Lang are tireless and euphoric. They will come loaded to the Magic Blues, after several years of enlivening countless clubs large and small and thrilling fans. We have no doubt that they will be able to do the same in the valley, ready to set Giumaglio's little square on fire as well.







The third week will see Vallemaggia Magic Blues on the Avegno square for two evenings that also promise to be very interesting. On Wednesday, July 19, we will have two bands already scheduled for the 2020 edition later canceled due to Covid-19. Initially **Patrik Jansson**, guitarist, singer, drummer and composer, born in the small town of Gävle, a town in the center of Sweden. The current band formed in 2007. Critics describe Jansson's music as a mix of Stevie Ray Vaughan, Johnny Winter, Buddy Guy, Freddie King, and Joe Bonamassa! His latest work "So Far to Go" highlights a very groovy sound with dark, heavy, funk veins and with an increasingly personal and mature songwriting. In the last year his fame has also grown in the rest of Europe, especially in Italy.

Together with **Kyla Brox** that will follow, he is a candidate to be one of the surprise bands of this XXI edition. Blues and Soul are inextricably intertwined in the award-winning Kyla Brox, whose raw talent has seen her described by critics as "the best female blues singer of her generation." Winner in 2018 of the British Blues Challenge and in 2019 of the European Blues Challenge daughter of blues icon Victor Brox, the Manchester-based singer has acquired a personality of her own, honing her sophisticated sound with a voice that can be persuasive yet gritty. The 2019 album Pain & glory amply demonstrates this, with a Soul Blues sound spiced with Funk. Kyla Brox is on her way to being one of the most iconic singers in Blues and Soul. Live she is supported by a very cohesive band, with husband Danny Blomeley on bass and the capable Paul Farr on guitar (with a very fluent sound) and Mark Warburton on drums. A long-awaited and welcome return to Ticino where audiences have been able to follow her artistic growth closely.

Avegno's second night will open with **The Blues Mystery**, a Swiss band that celebrates the blues of the Deep South with a touch of rock'n'roll, a little funk and sexy soul in the mix. On stage their music and style really come to life. They take up the whole stage and really "rock". They have played mainly at festivals and clubs in Switzerland, Germany and France and have participated several times in the finals of the Swiss Blues Challenge. They arrive for the first time at the Vallemaggia Magic Blues. The premises for a top-notch concert are all there. Welcome the "Mystery Blues" to the Magic Valley.

Then it will be the turn of the electrifying one-woman blues band, the wild **Ghalia Volt**, who, after busking on the streets of her native Brussels and establishing herself as a rocker, left about six years ago for the United States to follow her musical dream. She dove into the South, recording in the hills of Mississippi, where she shared her songs with a cast of esteemed local musicians. Mississippi Blend is an album as fiery as a Delta moonbeam, a traditional approach with modern influences. He sings like a storm, playing a soulful dobro and slide guitar. On the CD we find the drums of Cody Dickinson of the famed North Mississippi Allstars, alternating with Cedric Burnside, with his Hill County-flavored touch. Watermelon Slim's mouth harmonica also duets with Ghalia. The final challenge is the album. It will be one heck of a concert. "I can't wait," says the singer, "to share this new album live with you in the Magic Valley."

As in recent pre-pandemic editions, for the week of late July the Vallemaggia Magic Blues will be in Cevio for a great three days of blues and rock. First night, Wednesday, July 26, will be dedicated to hard sounds with the fifth edition of Magic Rock Night. On stage, opening, a supergroup from our home, the Ticino-based **Golden Vulture**: led by Yari Copt, with Yannick Rinvi (Those Furious Flames) and Andrea Zinzi (Make Plain) on guitars, Eveline Lucchini (Anamor) on bass, Sebastian Rigo (Eleonor) on drums and backing vocals and Enea Adami on keyboards and backing vocals. A group of friends, with a thousand other personal projects, who just want to make good music, have fun and go out and play with the utmost care, passion and quality. Their music is a mix of Roots rock, Soul and Heavy Blues, but the band does not want to be labeled, but to be free to create, also focusing on lyrics from personal experience. The visual concept, in black, white and gold,







depicts the bearded vulture, the quintessential bird of prey in the Swiss Alps. The idea is to promote their music by transferring sonic and visual imagery from the American desert to the majestic mountains of our Alps. Welcome below the Basodino to the Golden Vultures.

Then space for a true rock legend **Phil Campbell and The Bastard Sons**, a hard, old-school rock band led by Motörhead guitarist Phil Campbell, who formed his own band after the death of Motörhead frontman Lemmy in 2015. Along with former Attack! Neil Starr, the group includes Campbell's three sons: guitarist Todd, bassist Tyla and drummer Dane. While remaining in an old-school heavy rock vein, the new band's material is more stylistically diverse than Motörhead's, mainly due to Phil's children.

The evening ends with an up-and-coming Swiss band: the Lausanne-based **Gut's**. Their live show, accompanied by the pure sound of their guitars, brings the audience to a frenzy. They play almost exclusively original songs with a few covers (including a Chuck Berry song). Since August 2017, the band has won audiences at small festivals, and the encouragement of fans motivated them to participate in the "Music City Tour" competition in Geneva. Discovered by the Producing Team of Magic Blues in Sierre, they are coming to Ticino for the first time. A band to absolutely listen to and an evening already to put on the agenda right away.

Thursday, July 27, 2023 will be a memorable night for our festival. The legendary **Colosseum** are coming to the valley. A dream come true. We are looking at one of the best bands in the entire history of rock, forerunners of fusion and prog rock, with their mix of Rock, Blues, Jazz and avant-garde. If you feel like checking out the lineups and various lineups in which past and future members have played, you will understand that going to see one of their concerts is like going to the library to study the history of blues rock. This is a band that has always performed to the fullest live, with long songs, peppered with spectacular solos by the various members, all of whom are outstanding masters of their instrument.



Although they have suffered several defections due to the disappearance of such musicians as saxophonist Dick Heckstall-Smith, charismatic leader Jon Hiseman, an incredible drummer, and Barbara Thompson, as well as the renunciation for health reasons of keyboardist Dave Greenslade, the replacements have shown in the last two years that they are equal to the aforementioned sacred monsters, and the band still includes the legendary singer Chris Farlowe (incredible voice despite being 82 years old!), the brilliant guitarist Clem Clempson and the very solid bassist Mick Clarke. Now the new ones include Malcolm Mortimore on drums, enfant prodige in the days of Gentle Giant, (then with Tina Turner and Van Morrison), Nick Steed on keyboards, formerly with Van Morrison and author for Toto and Snarky Puppy, and finally Kim Nishikawa, formerly with Michael Bubl  . This is enough to understand what awaits us in Cevio. It could also be the last chance to admire them in Ticino, to hear the notes of Valentyne Suite or Lost Angeles echoing in the valley, and then needless to say, marking the date in red in the diary is the least any lover of good music can do! Sa v  dum a Cevi!

Opening the evening will be "our" **Marco Zappa Blues Friends**, who finally lands at Vallemaggia Magic Blues. Among the icons of Ticino music at the Magic Blues only he was missing. In 1964 he founded the Teenagers, a beat group that, with the Nightbirds, re-proposed the Beatles-Rolling Stones duo in Ticino as well. He is the Swiss musician who with the greatest continuity has worked in the field of song in the Italian language. He has done so starting from youthful beat experiences, crossing over into rock, electronic experimentation, world music and Lombard/Swiss-Italian folk music. Marco Zappa's activity is approaching 60 years and he has produced, with a truly tireless constancy, more than 20 studio albums and more than 10 live albums, anthologies and soundtracks; as well as a concert activity throughout Europe, often extending to other continents. Now he takes up another challenge and will appear on the Magic Blues stage for a strictly Blues program, accompanied by three of the best musicians around in our latitudes; this last piece of news alone should convene the audience of great occasions in Cevio.

Last night in Cevio, Friday, July 28, 2023 with **Flo Bauer** and **Matt Schofield**. A young singer-songwriter, Flo Bauer is one of the representatives of modern, innovative and accessible Blues tinged with numerous influences, taking care to preserve the soul and intensity of this music. He is known in Switzerland thanks to his recent collaboration with a big name in the Blues: Philipp Fankhauser. At Vallemaggia Magic Blues comes with the French **Circle of Mud** who belong to the new generation of the Blues and bring the essence of this musical style into the light of the 21st century. Inspired by the great blues masters, they draw an attractive arc between





the origins of this music and modern sounds and arrangements.

For several years the Magic Blues has had its eye on **Matt Schofield**, class of 1977, considered by many to be one of the best and most innovative blues guitarists around. Many trade magazines consider him the best guitarist England has provided in many decades, listing him among the ten best ever, along with such legends as Eric Clapton and Peter Green! After more than 30 years of performing and a 20-year solo career, Schofield's impact as one of the most influential and distinctive guitarists of his generation is unquestionable! He calls his music Matt Schofield music, a melting pot in which Blues, Rock, Jazz, Funk and even cultured music are blended. He has shared the stage with, among others, Robben Ford (from whom Schofield's sound is inspired) and Buddy Guy. Confirming this are the numerous industry and critical awards and accolades he has received: three-time British Blues Guitarist of the Year, British Blues Album of the Year and the first guitarist inducted into the British Blues Awards Hall of Fame. Schofield is poised to enchant the Magic Valley with his music in one of this year's top concerts. The pandemic has thankfully only delayed his performance, scheduled as early as 2020. Save the date for this great musician.

The last week of the 21st edition will bring us to the beautiful square of Maggia, the scene of great concerts in the past: Keb' Mo' (2016), Wishbone Ash (2017), Albert Lee (2018), Philipp Fankhauser (2019) and Nine Below Zero (2022) just to name the latest editions. The first evening, Wednesday, Aug. 2, begins with **Lilly Martin**, a band that plays, no frills, but with solid craftsmanship and strong accents, and before them moves the charismatic and easy-going blues singer. Lilly Martin has one of the most soulful blues voices in Switzerland and is the winner of the 2020 Swiss Blues Award. A native New Yorker, she grew up in Greenwich Village with soul music, gospel, and the blues. She relives her old love of these styles with an exceptionally solid band in the studio but especially on stage. A first for Vallemaggia Magic Blues, happy to welcome her to the valley.



Then it will be another world-class blues soul star taking the stage: **Tommy Castro and The Painkillers**. Absolute blues energy and soul power, passionate vocals and pure inventiveness in his stellar guitar solos. Joe Bonamassa says of him, "Tommy has always been the best of the blues guitarists. He always puts on a great show." He has been enchanted by Albert King, Buddy Guy, Junior Wells, Elvin Bishop, Taj Mahal, Mike Bloomfield and other blues artists of the Golden Age. Throughout his long and ever-evolving career, he has always remained true to himself as he explored, grew and created new music. Ranging from horn-fueled R&B to simmering blues and fiery, stripped-down rock 'n' roll, each release is solidly built on Castro's unshakable musical foundation: a dynamic mix of guitar-fueled, 1960s-influenced blues, Memphis-soaked blue-eyed soul and Latin-tinged funk. He has won six career Blues Music Awards, including the coveted B.B. King Entertainer of The Year Award. Castro's relentless road-dog approach-concert after concert, night after night-has earned him loyal fans wherever he has performed. We are especially happy to finally bring him to the valley. Another gem to put in the Magic Blues showcase. One of the "top" events of the festival.

Vallemaggia Magic Blues 2023 will close on Thursday, August 3, with the welcome return of "our very own" **Marco Marchi and his Mojo Workers**, for the occasion an acoustic blues quintet made up of experienced musicians who have managed to carve a niche for themselves in the European blues scene, performing a repertoire of Blues, Ragtime, Early Jazz and Boogie from the 1920s to the 1950s. The band's sound is conceived in a wholly personal style. Winner in 2011 of the Swiss Blues Challenge and the prestigious Swiss Blues Award last year, Marco Marchi and The Mojo Workers are a breath of fresh air in the Blues world. Their approach to the Blues is innovative, exciting and unique, managing to carve a niche for themselves in the European blues scene. Today they are considered a certainty for the blues scene, with a long streak of concerts behind them, including numerous performances at international festivals. For the occasion the Mojo Workers become five, with the addition of the very talented Danilo Moccia on trombone. It will be a big party and an opportunity to worthily celebrate the Swiss Blues Award.



It is the turn of Danish guitarist and singer **Thorbjørn Risager & The Black Tornado** to close the 2023 edition of Vallemaggia Magic Blues. Thorbjørn moves between Blues, R&B, Rock, Jazz and Soul and was named Danish Blues Musician of the Year in 2005. The octet has been in existence since 2014. Among his influences he cites Ray Charles and B.B. King. Since then the band has made a name for itself playing all over the world, and often at the entrance of the venues where they perform there is a "sold out" sign. The







success is due to the consistency, originality of the music, strong friendship among the members, but most of all to Thorbjørn's voice, which has already triggered critics to make all sorts of comparisons with great musicians of the past. Another premiere at Magic Blues, which we are sure we will remember for a long time. But we will long remember the entire 2023 edition, which on paper promises fire and flames and will be to be counted, we are more than convinced, among the best ever. Appointment, then, for July 7 in Brontallo, and a word of advice, we'd better get a General pass to experience the magic of the entire festival.

## Sponsor e partner

Please note that the "Vallemaggia Magic Blues" is promoted by the eponymous Associazione with the support of the Organizzazione turistica Lago Maggiore e Valli, of Cantone Ticino with Swisslos, of the Valley Municipalities and the many sponsors, who have believed and continue to believe in "The smallest big blues festival in Switzerland"; Main sponsor Heineken, co-main sponsor Raiffeisen Bank, joined by Hans e Viviane Borter, Polygon, Delea Vini & Distillati, Rapelli SA, Henniez, Azienda Forestale di Cevio, Matthias Tüngler, Elektroplan AG, Azienda Forestale di Avegno, Caffé Carlito, Securitas, HolAp, Pro Brontallo, Clear Channel e L-Sound. Also supporting the event are Fondazione Cultura nel Locarnese, Policentro, Società Elettrica Sopracenerina, Responsiva, Vedova Trasporti, Bibite Romero, Ticino Gourmet Tour, Macelleria Valmaggese, Tipografia Bonetti, Freidesign e Ticketcorner. The media partners are. laRegion, Radio Ticino, RSI, TicinoBy Night and Day e TicioOnline.

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**Sostieni chi ci sostiene!!!**

**VALLEMAGGIA**

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**and the MAGIC goes on!**

**2023**

**7th JULY - 3rd AUGUST**


