



PRESS RELEASE NR. 04

(Translated with DeepL.com)

Avegno, March 28, 2024

## OFFICIAL PRESENTATION OF THE 2024 EDITION - Year 22

### **"Magical vibes!" Magical vibes for a hot musical summer in Vallemaggia.**

"Magical vibes" is the slogan coined for the XXII. Edition of the "Vallemaggia Magic Blues." The organizers are convinced that once again this summer there will be magical vibes in the valley, thanks to a program that manages to combine names of proven great artists, well known to fans, with up-and-coming groups and musicians, who will be able to confirm the good things written with performances of great quality. In the wake of a well-established tradition, almost all of the groups are making their first appearance in Vallemaggia.

The review will begin on Friday, July 12. As usual, it is Brontallo's turn to christen the festival. **Andy Egert** is a regular presence on the Swiss blues scene and has always been a guarantee of refined Blues in the electric style of Freddie King, Eric Clapton, Alvin Lee, Peter Green and Johnny Winter, but also acoustic a la Robert Johnson. He mixes it all with his very personal and deep feeling for the devil's music. Active for more than 30 years, his constant live presence in Switzerland has made the former street musician well-known on the international scene. With more than 100 concerts a year, he is Switzerland's busiest blues musician. His annual tours with legendary Chicago bassist Bob Stroger (performed at the "Vallemaggia Magic Blues" in Avegno in 2011), as well as with two former Canned Heat frontmen Robert Lucas (RIP) and Dallas Hodge, have also become a cult! Stylistically eclectic, the Andy Egert Blues Band moves with equal confidence and dexterity in powerful Chicago blues, Blues-rock, Power Boogie, as well as acoustic Blues and Funk Blues. He was awarded the coveted "Swiss Blues Award" in 2010. Andy Egert (guitar, vocals, harmonica) along with Marc Ray Oxendine (bass) and Toshio Yakkatokuo (drums) will present a set not to be missed!

**Ben Poole** is a British blues-rock guitarist, singer and songwriter. His musical style is original and can be described as an energetic blend of blues, rock and soul. Poole has been praised by Jeff Beck and Gary Moore! Back in 2010 Guitar World Magazine called him a guitarist to watch out for. The following year Poole was nominated in three categories for the British Blues Award. In 2012 Poole was voted "Best Newcomer of 2012" by Blues matters magazine! His first album Let's go upstairs! was self-produced that same year. Several albums followed, including Live at the Royal Albert Hall (2014), and in 2021 he released another live album, Acoustic Duo Live, in acoustic format





and in collaboration with Dutch bluesman Guy Smeets. An evening that will not leave attendees indifferent.



The following week in Moghegno includes an evening with the Siere Blues Festival brand on Wednesday, July 17. Opening is a performance by **David Minster**, a Valaisan singer and guitarist with an unusual background. His low, cavernous voice is reminiscent of Johnny Hallyday's when he sings in French, although he admits to being rather influenced by American artists. The son of gypsies, originally from central Valais, he lived in Texas and grew up with Rock from an early age. Grandson of Vince Taylor, cult figure of French rock'n'roll and brother-in-law of Calvin Russell. He will be accompanied by a solid band with a classy lead guitarist.

*"We love to blend the raw Soul of the 70s with contemporary Blues-rock and Americana! We want to share our passion and stories with the world. In 2022 we won the European Blues Challenge and got to do several tours in Europe. We will continue to build our dream. Thank you for coming on board and I hope to see you soon at one of our shows!"* This is how **Harlem Lake** presents themselves. Enthusiastic,

exciting and energetic they know how to convince with their own songs and also with Blues classics. The debut album *A Fools Paradise Vol.1* shows the band's great potential, with Americana, Southern Rock, Soul and Blues dominating throughout. Influences of Joe Bonamassa, Dire Straits, Little Feat and BB King unmistakably blend into their music. The sound of lead guitar meets the ever-popular sound of the Hammond B3 organ, which band leader Dave Warmerdam virtuosic evokes from his instrument. They sound familiar, as if from the 1960s and 1970s. Of value is the recent live album *Volition* live.

As is customary, the "Vallemaggia Magic Blues" hosts each edition the winner of the previous year's Swiss Blues Challenge. On Thursday, July 18, it will be the turn of **Dan Mudd feat. bearbeat**, a versatile artist who will delight the audience with his rough voice and precise guitar technique. After his beginnings as a street musician, his likability, talent and skill have propelled him onto important stages in Switzerland. His musical spectrum ranges from Blues to Soul, Rock to Funk. In doing so, he moves deftly between sound experiments and traditional finger style. He has also played for US superstar Tina Turner at the Four Seasons in Florence and has also worked with well-known blues artists such as Ana Popovic and Popa Chubby. Accompanying him is Dominik Liechti, aka **bearbeat**, with more than 15 years of experience as a live musician. Next up is **The Crowsroads**, an Italian folk-rock-blues duo formed by brothers Matteo (guitar and vocals) and Andrea Corvaglia (harmonica and vocals). Their sound starts with a guitar, a harmonica and two voices and moves in unexpected directions: the harmonica, from a simple solo instrument, becomes a true "orchestra" that produces countless rhythms and sound carpets; the guitar, working in synergy, holds up the song from the foundations and adjusts the dynamics; the vocal harmonies do the rest. An engaging and cohesive live show that knows how to reconcile grit and delicacy, fun and listening, with music imbued with a European and Mediterranean sensibility.



Closing the evening are **The Cinelli Brothers**, a project born out of a shared passion for the Chicago and Texas blues of the 1960s and 1970s, when brothers Marco (guitarist and vocalist) and Alessandro (drummer) decided to form an explosive band presenting an original repertoire in the Chess, Stax and Motown styles. In 2020 and for the next three years, the band was nominated for the UK Blues Awards as "Blues Band Of the Year." In September 2022 the band won the UK Blues Challenge, and in January 2023 they took 2nd place at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis. The Cinelli Brothers represent a new generation of musicians who share a love of Blues, Soul, R&B and the true authentic sounds that have made the Blues a cornerstone of music history.

The week in Cevio will open on Wednesday, July 24, with **Gennaro Porcelli**, Edoardo Bennato's guitarist considered by the 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 and Popa Chubby), Louisiana Red, Kenny Neal, Rudy Rotta, the Hot Tuna, Eric Sardinias, Corey Harris and Robben Ford.

"No one in the blues compares to young Florida guitarist Selwyn Birchwood. With the quality of his material combined with a vibrant stage persona, there's no need to borrow tunes from the greats who came before him. Lean but mean and tough ... lyrically and musically intense." Although award-winning Florida musician **Selwyn Birchwood** (born 1985) is firmly rooted in tradition (influenced by Jimi Hendrix and Buddy Guy), the young guitarist, lap steel player, songwriter and singer charts a course for the future of the blues with his visionary and original music. His band deploys a very personal sound and style. He calls it "Electric Swamp Funkin' Blues," a heady mix of deep blues, psychedelic-tinged rock, butt-shaking funk and sweet southern soul, played and sung with the fervor of a preacher. With his warm and magnetic personality live Birchwood is a force of nature. His ability to win over any audience is demonstrated night after night on stages halfway around the world. They have performed at the Chicago Blues Festival, the Waterfront Blues Festival in Portland, the Mississippi Valley Blues Festival, the Tampa Bay Blues Festival, and the North Atlantic Blues Festival. Internationally, at the Montreux Jazz Festival, as well as giving concerts throughout Europe. Finally coming to the "Vallemaggia Magic Blues".



Thursday, July 25 Rock night to remember! Cevio will host the sixth edition of the "Magic ROCK Night" with a true legend of world rock, "The Voice of Rock," **Glenn Hughes** formerly of Deep Purple, will arrive in Vallemaggia, with his new tour, **Glenn Hughes - Performs classical Deep Purple Live** and it will be an opportunity to listen again and celebrate Burn the legendary Deep Purple album released just 50 years ago! Glenn Hughes, best known for playing bass and singing in Deep Purple's Trapeze and Formations III and IV, as well as briefly being the frontman of Black Sabbath, is known to fans as "The Voice of Rock" for his soulful, wide-ranging voice. In 2016 Hughes was inducted into the "Rock and Roll Hall of Fame" as a member of Deep Purple. After a brief period of absence for health reasons Hughes returned to greatness in the early 2000s with a long series of proposals and collaborations, including those with John Frusciante (Red Hot Chili Peppers). He later founded the supergroup Black Country Communion (Joe Bonamassa, Jason Bonham and Derek Sherinian) and in recent years was a member of The Dead

Daisies. Leaving The Dead Daisies from 2023 brings "Glenn Hughes - Performs classical Deep Purple live" project around the world. Legendary evening not to be missed!!!

Opening the evening is the most successful Swiss rock band of the late 1980s and early 1990s, **China**. A band founded in 1985, they quickly achieved star status in Europe and Japan. Not many at the time could compete with their live shows, charisma, and reputation as one of Europe's best live acts. After several line-up changes and disbandments in 2021 four members of the first line-up decided to return and perform the songs that everyone missed and the Swiss Rock people loved. Singer Hardy Hartmeier will not only share the stage with longtime guitarist Claudio Matteo, but both will be in good company bringing along their old bandmates Freddy Scherer and Marc Lynn of Gotthard to play such unforgettable hits as In The Middle Of The Night, Sign In The Sky and Shout It Out. Rockers of the "Vallemaggia Magic Blues" China is back!



The week in Avegno will open (watch out!) on Tuesday, July 30, with the return after several years to "Vallemaggia Magic Blues" of **Joe Colombo**, a guitarist who grew up in Locarno but has settled in Krakow for years. For the occasion he will dust off the "legendary" trio from the golden years of his Ticino and Italian period. Joe Colombo debuted at the beginning of the new millennium with an explosive instrumental album "Natural Born Slider." He immediately established himself as





one of the best and most original slide blues guitarists, thanks to his unique and personal style. Joe also spent an extended period between 2004 and 2013 in the United States touring with American singer and harmonica player Terry Evans (Ry Cooder, Eric Clapton). Over the years Joe Colombo has continued to work on his own music with the release of numerous independent productions. In 2017 he revived the instrumental power-trio formula with StratoSlider, an important album that



marked a stylistic, artistic, and personal turning point. In spring 2022 he released his first solo album, *New Horizons*, seven original guitar-only tracks recorded in two days completely live, without overdubs or loops.

An extremely live, authentic album: a rich and powerful sound where blues roots and slide guitar once again dominate. Next up is **Luca Giordano**, guitarist, band leader, singer, and composer, considered one of the greatest talents on the European Blues scene. After a sojourn in Chicago, where he collected numerous experiences alongside established performers such as Sharon Lewis, Willie "Big Eye" Smith, Les Getrex and collaborated with Eric "Guitar" Davis and Troublemakers, upon his return to Europe with the Luca Giordano Band he gained reputation as one of the best European bands chosen by American artists for their international tours. These include such artists as Sugar Ray Rayford, John Primer, Billy Branch, Bob Stroger, Nora Jean Bruso, Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne, Willie "Big Eye" Smith

and Sax Gordon, to name a few. In recent years Luca has become an integral part of the Band of Blues prophet **Mighty Mo Rodgers**, with whom he recorded the album *Griot Blues*, a collaborative project with African griot musician Baba Sissoko. Mighty Mo' Rodgers himself will be part of the project that Luca Giordano will offer to the aficionados of "Vallemaggia Magic Blues."

On Wednesday, July 31, it will be the turn of **Bluesick** from Bad Ragaz with their solid Blues and Blues Rock. In the line-up of vocals, guitar, Hammond, bass and drums, the friendly and enthusiastic band from the St. Gallen Oberland can convincingly interpret songs by famous Blues icons from different eras and styles: from B.B. King to Jimmy Hendrix, Gary Moore to Joe Bonamassa, John Mayer to Henrik Freischlader. Legendary concerts at local clubs and smaller festivals quickly made the charismatic band famous on the Rhine Valley music scene. With concerts at the Vully Blues Festival and the Bluesrock Festival in Widnau, the band has earned a reputation as a high-quality live act, earning praise and positive reviews everywhere. The unmistakable, unique and energetic Bluesick style also convinced at the Swiss Blues Challenge in 2022 at the Volkshaus in Basel, where the band earned a place in the finals.



Next, welcome return "Vallemaggia Magic Blues" for the best Anglo-Saxon Rock Blues band. Appearing like a comet star in the Anglo-Saxon Blues-Rock sky, **King King** won the award for best band at the British Blues Awards and for best record back in 2012 with their first album *Take my hand* (five stars for Maverick Magazine). Already since their first tour (2009) King Kings have built up a large fan following among Blues and Rock fans. The final consecration came in 2011 with a resounding performance at the highly renowned Peer Blues Festival in Belgium. The echo of this performance immediately spread throughout Europe. Since then it has been one success after another, and many will remember the splendid performances in Bignasco, when they overshadowed the Spin Doctors, and in Maggia. The driving force behind the group is always Alan Nimmo, an outstanding guitarist and singer assisted by his brother Steve and Jonny Dyke, Zander Greenshields and Andrew Scott. The King Kings will again capture the spirit of the valley, providing an unforgettable evening for fans of "Vallemaggia Magic Blues".

The first night in Maggia on Wednesday, Aug. 7, features first-class Boogie-Woogie with excursions into Blues, Gospel, Swing and Latin. Pianist **Elias Bernet**'s group transports its audience on a varied, highly entertaining, often maddeningly frenetic journey. Bernhard Egger's drums pulsate, Markus Fritzsche's bass clicks and Elias' virtuoso fingers dance lightly on the piano keys. His characteristic playing is not mere accompaniment, but is demanding, sibilant, sensitive. To date, highlights of Elias' musical career include performances at the Lucerne Blues Festival, on the Blues Boat at the Montreux





Jazz Festival, and as a guest musician in the United States. For his musical activities, he was awarded the Culture Prize of Canton St. Gallen. We are all ready to dance in Maggia.

Indi stage to Michael John **"Duke" Robillard** (Woonsocket, Rhode Island, Oct. 4, 1948), an American guitarist and singer whose breadth of styles is mind-boggling: from swing, standards and ballads to Chicago blues and rockabilly. Whether it is a song, a style, an idiom or an image, Duke Robillard will render it with skill and power. In his now long career he played with pianist Al Copley, founded the Roomful of Blues, which became the prototypical jump blues band and a New England legend. In 1981 he created the Duke Robillard Band, later (1990) became a member of the Fabulous Thunderbirds replacing Jimmie Vaughan. Robillard also simultaneously pursued a solo career in other genres, such as jazz and blues. For a brief period in 2013, he was also Bob Dylan's guitarist. Duke's resume is decorated with Grammy nominations, Handy Awards and Blues Music Awards, and other accolades. Says Guitar magazine of him, *"Robillard's ability to play across the blues spectrum is legendary. Few musicians can move stylistically from Texas to Kansas City to Chicago's West Side, but Robillard makes it look easy."* A concert not to be missed.



The second evening, Thursday, Aug. 8, opens with **Daide Delcò's The Hits**, an ad hoc project for the "Vallemaggia Magic Blues" by Bellinzona-born Davide Delcò (born in 1995) with the intention of offering Ticino audiences big international hits known to most, with personal and researched arrangements. Behind each proposed song there is study, commitment and research. It is a journey through the music of the 70s/80s in which energy, involvement and joy of playing

are the ultimate goals towards the listener. Together with the funambulist guitarist from our home a handful of excellent musicians with a great deal of experience behind them. There are several Rory Gallagher "tribute-bands" keeping alive the music of this extraordinary Irish guitarist, rightly considered one of the best guitarists of all time (if not the "best ever," Jimi Hendrix's word!). After some 20 albums of great quality Rory Gallagher left us forever on June 14, 1995, but his music lives on!



Closing out the Vallemaggia festival is the **Band of Friends**, which boasts in its ranks bassist Gerry McAvoy, who continuously shared the stage with Gallagher from 1971 (after Rory's first band, the Taste, disbanded) to 1991. After leaving The Nine Below Zero in 2011, McAvoy decided to go back on the road to remember his great friend and hired drummer Ted McKenna (with Gallagher from 1977 to 1981) and later Bredan O'Neill (with Gallagher from 1981 to 1991). Today the Band of Friends is a quartet with two excellent guitarists, Paul Rose and Jim Kirkpatrick (one of Britain's best slide players), who lend

even more punch to their performances. For this their third appearance at the "Vallemaggia Magic Blues," after 2012 and 2015, the band will also present songs of their own composition, taken from their albums, among which the last two released in 2022 (one live and one studio) stand out. Glowing finale; evening not to be missed!

In short, a tantalizing program and we leave the audience spoiled for choice, although it would be worth not missing a single evening! As of now, and we highly recommend it, you can buy tickets in advance from our partners ticketing.ch and ticketcorner.ch. As in previous years, it will also be possible to buy the "Backstage Special" package that includes admission to the concert, aperitif and dinner (excluding drinks) in the exclusive Backstage area. Places are limited and advance purchase on ticket office.ch is mandatory.

Please note that the "Vallemaggia Magic Blues" is promoted by the Association Magic Blues with the support of the Organizzazione turistica Lago Maggiore e Valli, the Canton with Swisslos, the Valley's municipalities and numerous sponsors, who have believed and continue to believe in "The smallest big blues festival in Switzerland", main sponsor Heineken, co-main sponsor Raiffeisen, joined by Hans and Vivian Borter, Polygon, Delea Vini & Distillati, Rapelli SA, Henniez, Azienda Forestale di Cevio, Carrozzeria Paradiso Avegno, Fart, Securitas, Azienda Forestale di Avegno,





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**Program 2024 “Magic vibes!”**

BRONTALLO, Friday, July 12, 2024, *Opening Night*  
 Andy Egert Blues Band - **Ben Poole**

MOGHEGNO, Wednesday, July 17, 2024  
 David Minster - **Harlem Lake**

MOGHEGNO, Thursday, July 18, 2024, *6° European Blues Night*  
 Dan Mudd feat. Bearbeat - The Crowsroad - **The Cinelli Brothers**

CEVIO, Wednesday, July 24, 2024  
 Gennaro Porcelli - **Selwyn Birchwood**

CEVIO, Thursday, July 25, 2024, *Magic ROCK Night*  
 China - **Glenn Hughes - Performs classical Deep Purple Live**

AVEGNO, Tuesday, July 30, 2024  
 Joe Colombo Trio - **Luca Giordano feat. Mighty Mo Rodgers**

AVEGNO, Wednesday, July 31, 2024  
 Bluesick - **King King**

MAGGIA, Mercoledì, August 7, 2024  
 Elias Bernet Band - **Duke Robillard Band**

MAGGIA, Thursday, August 8, 2024  
 Davide Delcò's The Hits - **Band of Friends**

Sostengono il Vallemaggia Magic Blues  
**Sostieni chi ci sostiene!!!**

VALLEMAGGIA  
**MAGIC  
 BLUES**  
*Magic  
 Vibes!*  
**2024**  
 12<sup>th</sup> JULY - 8<sup>th</sup> AUGUST

It's magic since 2002


