

On immediate release, *Crescendo* is the debut studio album by the virtuoso and cutting edge Duo Bottasso, featuring Elena Ledda and Mauro Palmas

CRESCENDO

DUO BOTTASSO

(Visage Music/ distributed by Materiali Sonori)



Crescendo is a straightforward and evocative title chosen by two young though already popular artists who represent the most innovative generation of the Italian folk and traditional music. Piedmont born Simone (diatonic accordion) and Nicolò Bottasso (fiddle) are confident and conscious musicians, who deeply master the grammar of traditional styles. What's more, they don't stand still, for them tradition is not to be placed untouched in a museum. Simone and Nicolò Bottasso play contemporary folk music, whose geographical boundaries sometimes become blurred.

As a two-folded title, *Crescendo* symbolizes both the music dynamics of the disc (from the whispering bellow breath on the incipit of "Rose of Raby" or the balm-crickets heard on "Magiccada" to the orchestral richness of the title-track) and a vigorous musical growing and development. It reflects the story of two brother musicians firmly rooted in the dance music of the Occitan area in Italy, aiming at adventuring in the paths of new compositions and improvisation, with a combination of extraordinary instrumental technique, experimentation and incisiveness, versatility and inventiveness, though the joy of playing is present and clearly to everyone.

The pair of fiddle and diatonic accordion interact with electronics, percussions, keyboards, string and wind instruments of a chamber orchestra. It's music sounding new, original and urgent, enabling people to dance or to listen to it.

Multi-instrumentalists Simone and Nicolò draw on a wide range of musical expressions (jazz, funk, classical and world music: from Ireland to Brazil, from France to Scandinavia). The result is 9 tracks, nearly 50 minutes of powerful and refined music, though totally immediate, rich in colours and nuances, tasty and fully creative.

A lineup of excellent guest musicians contribute, including the authoritative Sardinian vocalist Elena Ledda and his countryman, mandola maestro Mauro Palmas, the percussion of the Brazilian Gilson Silveira, the English horn of Christian Thoma, director of the TradAlp Orchestra.

Simone and Nicolò Bottasso have already played in a large number of folk and traditional music festivals, among them: "Printemps des Arts" (Montecarlo), "Festival Sentieri Acustici" (Pistoia, Italy), "Etétrad Festival" (Aosta, Italy), "Festival International de Luthieres Maitres et sonneurs "(Saint Chartier), "Boombal Festival"(Belgium), "Sidmouth folk Week" and "Towersey Village Festival" (Greta Britain). As teachers and directors they also participate in the orchestral project Folkestra & Folkoro.

The future is looking particularly bright for this extremely talented duo embodying the forward-looking directions of the Italian traditional music.