**THE LYDIAN SOUND ORCHESTRA**

The Lydian Sound Orchestra was formed in 1989 by Riccardo Brazzale (born in Thiene, VI – 1960), renowned in the field of jazz as a musician (arranger, composer, conductor, pianist), scholar, teacher and promoter.

The L.S.O. is an atypical medium-band with six wind instruments and rhythm section (inspired, for example, by Miles Tuba Band, Monk Town Hall Orchestra and Mingus Black Saint Band). The band’s prime focus is on re-working of tradition with a contemporary approach, and on a compositional technique the main goal of which is to highlight *live* spirit as well as *work-in-progress* between performers.

The L.S.O. repertoire has often been broadcast by Italian, European and American radio stations and has also been widely acclaimed by Italian and international journalists and critics. It includes re-workings and tributes to traditional jazz, original music and Italian composers. Since many years L.S.O. is collecting positive critics in Italy and abroad such as: *"top-flight Italian jazz orchestra" (*Steven Loewy, *All music Guide), "rich, flamboyant, precious, combination of sounds” (*Aldo Gianolio, *Musica Jazz), "freedom and structure" (*Jerry D’Souza, *Allaboutjazz), “melting different influences and turn them into a personal language”* (Sergio Pasquandrea, *Jazzit)*, *"controlled anarchy" (*Tim Stenhouse, *Jazz Wise),* “*natural respect, child-like enthusiasm, a reasonable deal of boldness*” (Stefano Merighi, Musica jazz), “*éminentement recomandable”* (Domi Truffandier (*Jazz Hot)*, *"humor and musicality…music interesting, refreshing and exciting (*Don Albert, *Financial Mail), "here there is really something new*" (Stefano Zenni, Il Giornale della Musica).

The L.S.O. performed in many jazz and classical contemporary music festivals, as well as in theatre events and cultural meetings, both in Italy and in Europe, recording for *Rai Radio Tre* (national broadcast) and producing many independent records. Most notably are the first “Melodious Thunk” (1993), the unpublished Ellington’s suite “Timon of Athens” (1995), the fundamental tribute titled “Monk at Town Hall & More” (2002, with liner notes by Ira Gitler), to conclude with recordings for AlmaRecords: “Back to Da Capo” (2006), "Live in Appleby" (2008, recorded in England during their tour in 2007), "The Lydian Trip" (2009), “Ruby, Nellie & Nica” and “Reflections” (2012), almost personal lectures of jazz history. In 2014 L.S.O. performed Mingus’ masterpiece “The Black Saint and The Sinner Lady” at Mart in Rovereto (Museum of Contemporary Art), an opera-ballet in cooperation with Compagnia Abbondanza/Bertoni. L.S.O. is working on new projects at the present moment, both live and recorded, such as George Russel’s tribute titled “Music for Lovely Souls (Beloved by Nature), together with the one titled "We Resist: Sounds, Rhythms & Freedom” focused on civil engagement.

In the last few years the line-up featured Robert Bonisolo, Mattia Cigalini, Rossano Emili (reeds), Gianluca Carollo, Fulvio Sigurtà, Roberto Rossi and Glauco Benedetti (brass), Paolo Birro (piano), Marc Abrams (bass) and Mauro Beggio (drums). Many young musicians as well as outstanding Italian and international musicians played together with Riccardo Brazzale and his L.S.O. during the years: Enrico Rava, Palle Danielsson, Claudio Fasoli, Gianluigi Trovesi, Ralph Towner, Kenny Wheeler, Franco D’Andrea, Manfred Schoff, Pietro Tonolo, Paul Motian, Terrell Stafford, Charles Mc Pherson, Julian Arguelles, Dave Liebman, Don Moye and Mingus Dynasty, Paolo Fresu, Dave Murray, only to name but a few. In the last years, according to “Top Jazz”, the chart published by the historical magazine *Musica Jazz*, L.S.O. has been named one of the most outstanding groups on the Italian jazz scene;  Top Jazz also named Riccardo Brazzale as “arranger and composer of the year” in 2008.

In addition to his work with the LSO, Brazzale has also collaborated with other artists and orchestras (for example, he performs as guest director for the Milano Civica Big Band), but he is not only a musician: he is also an essayist and translator for daily newspapers and jazz magazines. With Franco Fayenz, he wrote an important book about "Lennie Tristano", published by Nuovi Equilibri (2006); he has supervised the Italian edition of Geoff Dyer’s collection of tales “But Beautiful”, published in Italy under the title *Natura morta con custodia di sax* (Instar libri) and John Fordham’s encyclopedic ”Jazz“ (Idea Libri Rusconi). He is also the author of an original American diary titled “*Xè pi isy draivare 'l caro”*, an Anglo-venetian expression for ”It’s easier to drive a car“ (Agorà, 3rd edition 2012).

Riccardo Brazzale is artistic director for Veneto’s Music Institute ”Città di Thiene“ (where he teaches jazz composition), he’s teaching history of jazz at the Conservatorium of Music in Vicenza and in Castelfranco Veneto. He is also the artistic manager of musical projects (in particular Vicenza Olympic Theater’s productions) as well as supervisor for editorial activity at Culture Department for Vicenza Municipality. Co-founder of the I-Jazz Association and the record label *Almar, h*e’s also the founder and artistic director of the ”New Conversations – Vicenza Jazz“ Festival, born in 1996 (XXI edition on next 2016).