

mardi gras



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Biography

Liina Rätsep: vocals

Fabrizio Fontanelli: acoustic guitar

Alessandro Matilli: piano & keyboards

Carlo Di Tore Tosti: bass

Valerio Giovanardi: drums

Fabrizio Del Marchesato: electric guitar

There will be music since there are stories to tell...

Rome based Mardi Gras is a rock act with a difference. Named after Creedence Clearwater Revival's last studio album, the band's musical journey is made of protest songs, poetry, prayers set to music, and a whole lot more. 2018 marks a new start for the band with a new line up and a brand new voice. Their latest single "One Guitar" (benefit single to raise funds and help the Light of Day Foundation for Parkinson's disease) has just been released in December 2018, their second single "Tried" has just been released in July 2018, "Shoes", a groovy soul oriented track is the first single released with the new line up in spring 2018. Mardi Gras has released three albums so far: Drops Made (2006, Goodfellas), Among the Streams (2011) and last, Playground (2015), a record where ballads, rock, funk and acoustic pieces of music are the playground for the band with all their influences. Mundy, one of the greatest Irish songwriters, is guesting on the band's latest album that was mastered by Simon Gibson at Abbey Road Studios in London. As regular visitors in Ireland, the band has forged long-standing connections with some of the best Irish musicians, playing as the support act for The Frames and Glen Hansard and sharing the stage with artists such as Mundy, Siobhan O' Brien, TKO, Micah P Hinson, Noah and the Whale, Billy Bragg or Jack Savoretti (not to mention the best Italian independent acts) to name a few. Liam O'Maonlai from the Hothouse Flowers features on their album "Among the streams" where a W.B.Yeats's poem is put into music. Two of Mardi Gras' songs, "The wait" and "Scarecrow in the snow" were listed on Neil Young's website "Songs of the Times" where protest songs from all over the world are chosen and listed by Neil Young in person. The band has also enjoyed great success attracting attention internationally on European and US based radio stations and becoming one of the most popular Italian acts with a constantly growing fanbase. Their singles "Feel Alright" and "Your Constellation" charted in Italy and their instrumental piece "Alys" is a soundtrack for the eponymous Italian Sci-Fi short film. In 2013 Mardi Gras had the privilege to play at the Sziget Festival in Budapest - one of the largest music festivals in Europe.

January 2020: "From zero to one" song produced by Stuart Epps (music producer of Elton John, Led Zeppelin, Oasis, Robbie Williams, Zak Starkey, George Harrison, Bill Wyman, Chris Rea). Written by Alessandro Matilli and Liina Rätsep. Performed by Liina Rätsep (vocals), Fabrizio Fontanelli (acoustic guitar), Alessandro Matilli (piano & keyboards), Carlo Di Tore Tosti (bass), Valerio Giovanardi (drums) and Fabrizio Del Marchesato (electric guitar). Special guests: Steve Bisgrove, Ervin Sokk and Mario Cordova (actor and Italian dubber of Bruce Willis, Richard Gere, Willem Dafoe, Harvey Keitel and many more).

Aprile 2019: "Gingerman" song written by Mark Geary and taken from his first album "33 1/3 Grand Street" (2002), based on a novel "Gingerman" by Irish writer J.P.Donleavy. Produced, arranged and performed by Liina Rätsep (vocals), Mark Geary (vocals & acoustic guitar), Fabrizio Fontanelli (acoustic guitar), Alessandro Matilli (electric piano & keyboards), Carlo Di Tore Tosti (bass), Valerio Giovanardi (drums) and special guest Alessandro Cicala (electric guitar).

March 2019: "Adam & Eve" Song written by Mark Geary and taken from his first album "33 1/3 Grand Street" (2002), it was also the first single of the same album. Written from the point of view of departing. To

long goodbye, to hurt and the turning away and to the sea and air we travel. You might never go back but you always look back. Produced, arranged and performed by Liina Rätsep (vocals), Mark Geary (vocals & acoustic guitar), Fabrizio Fontanelli (acoustic guitar), Alessandro Matilli (piano & keyboards), Carlo Di Tore Tosti (bass), Valerio Giovanardi (drums) and special guest Alessandro Cicala (electric guitar).

December 2018: "One Guitar", written by Frank Joseph Lee and Willie Nile, winner of the Independent Music Awards in 2013 - Best Social Action Song. We had the pleasure of performing in Italy as part of the "Light of Day" tour, sharing the stage with Bruce Springsteen's musicians (Jake Clemons, Eddie Manion, Vini Lopez) to raise money and awareness for Parkinson's disease. Willie Nile then gave us his permission to cover his anthem "One guitar" which we've decided to release as a benefit single to raise funds and help the Light of Day Foundation. Produced by Sante Sabbatini and Mardi Gras; performed and arranged by Liina Rätsep (vocals), Fabrizio Fontanelli (acoustic guitar), Alessandro Matilli (keyboards), Carlo Di Tore Tosti (bass), Simone Sammarone (electric guitar) and Rodolfo Demontis (drums).

July 2018: "Tried", a love song with an unwritten end that speaks about feeling free to be ourselves in every possible way. Making mistakes but living fully because only those who fall can rise and shine again. And we can be as light as feathers with no burden on our shoulders. Produced by Sante Sabbatini and Mardi Gras; written, performed and arranged by Liina Rätsep (vocals), Fabrizio Fontanelli (acoustic guitar), Alessandro Matilli (piano & keyboards), Carlo Di Tore Tosti (bass), Simone Sammarone (electric guitar) and Rodolfo Demontis (drums). Special guest Claudio Desideri.

February 2018: "Shoes" is the band's brand new single, a rock soul track with enthralling groove. Produced by Sante Sabbatini and Mardi Gras; written, performed and arranged by Liina Rätsep (vocals), Fabrizio Fontanelli (acoustic guitar), Alessandro Matilli (keyboards), Carlo Di Tore Tosti (bass), Simone Sammarone (electric guitar) and Rodolfo Demontis (drums).

March 2015: "Playground" is their third record released through **Aereostella/Fermenti Vivi** label, 14 sonic chapters in the band's playground. Written, arranged and performed by: Claudia Loddo (vocals), Andrea Casini (bass), Fabrizio Fontanelli (acoustic guitar), Mauro Lopez (drums), Alessandro Matilli (piano & keyboards), Simone Sammarone (electric guitar). A record with even literary references: The Book of Kells, John Fante, Stevenson and the DC Comics; a bittersweet album mastered at Abbey Road Studios in London by Simon Gibson (The Beatles, U2, Keane, Robbie Williams, The Kings' Speech, Harry Potter). Special guest: is **Mundy**, one of the finest and best known Irish Songwriters. Other guests: Emanuele Cefali (electric guitar) and Danilo Filippino (drums) on "Are we ready for the sun?" and "Alys".

September 2013: Alys, inspired and composed for the "Alys" short film by Sante Sabbatini CSC Productions (Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia, Roma), it's Mardi Gras first original soundtrack. Produced, arranged and performed by Mardi Gras this is the fourth song under the 2013 line up: Claudia Loddo (vocals & acoustic guitar), Andrea Casini (bass), Emanuele Cefali (electric guitar), Danilo Filippino (drums), Fabrizio Fontanelli (acoustic guitar) and Alessandro Matilli (piano).

May 2013: "Are we ready for the sun?" is Mardi Gras green anthem, the rockiest tune they ever performed. You can even hear an excerpt of the Severn Cullis Suzuki speech at the UN conference back in 1992 when the activist was only 12, asking for a better world and action to save our world. Severn Cullis Suzuki is the "Girl who silenced the world for 5 minutes" since then. Produced, arranged and performed by Mardi Gras. This is the third song under the 203 line up: Claudia Loddo (vocals & acoustic guitar), Andrea Casini (bass), Emanuele Cefali (electric guitar), Danilo Filippino (drums), Fabrizio Fontanelli (acoustic guitar) and Alessandro Matilli (keyboards & synthesizers).

November 2012: Your constellation, a déjà vu song produced, arranged and performed by Mardi Gras. The track is written by Claudia Loddo and Fabrizio Fontanelli (lyrics) and Alessandro Matilli (music). This is the second song under the 2012 line up: Claudia Loddo (vocals & acoustic guitar), Andrea Casini (bass), Alessandro Fiori (drums), Fabrizio Fontanelli (acoustic guitar), Alessandro Matilli (electric piano & synthesizer) and Paolo Strina (electric guitar). The song is included in the cd next volume 2 Hit Mania 2013 (Universo/Universal).

October 2012: Feel Alright, a renaissance song produced, arranged and performed by Mardi Gras. The track is written by Fabrizio Fontanelli (lyrics) and Alessandro Matilli (music). This is the first song under the new line up: Claudia Loddo (vocals & acoustic guitar), Andrea Casini (bass), Alessandro Fiori (drums), Fabrizio Fontanelli (acoustic guitar), Alessandro Matilli (piano & keyboards) and Paolo Strina (electric guitar). The song is included in the cd next volume 2 Hit Mania 2013 (Universo/Universal).

October 2011: "Among the streams" is their first record released through Ermanno Labianca's label **Route 61 Music**, the line up was Claudia McDowell (vocals), Alessandro Cicala (electric guitar), Alessandro Fiori (drums), Fabrizio Fontanelli (acoustic guitar), Alessandro Matilli (piano & keyboards) and David Medina (bass). The band chose an half irish vocalist to tell the stories included on the album, a record where the irish rock meets acoustic rock, alternative country and Americana vibes ("**Shine**" is a tribute to **June Carter Cash** and received praise from the Carter Family) prayers in music, piano ballads and much more. Brand new songs and songs written on the streets of Grafton Street in Dublin create a unique blend. The album was then mastered in Nashville by **Alex McCollough** (Robert Plant, Nanci Griffith, Steve Earle, Kris Kristofferson). Special Guest on the album is **Liam O'Maonlai**, of Hothouse Flowers fame ("Liam is the best white soul singer on the planet".Bono) he features on the track "**Men improve with the years**", a **W.B.Yeats** poem put to music by Mardi Gras. "**Scarecrow in the snow**" is currently on **Neil Young's Songs of the times**, a list of anti-war and protest songs from artists all over the world. The website is Neil Young's reaction to the Bush Ban from Radio Play following the September 11th attacks. The record is acclaimed by the national musical press, and enters the Annual Critic's Poll, while the first single "**Song from the end of the world**" enters the national top 50 radio charts (fm and web radios).

September 2010: "For you 2", the second italian tribute to **Bruce Springsteen** music is released through Ermanno Labianca label **Route 61 Music**. Mardi Gras features with a rendition of "**Land of hope and dreams**". Also featured on the double album are Chris Cavacas (Green on Red), JT Van Zandt and many more italian artists.

March 2010: "Song from the end of the world" aired by Italian radio stations as radio stations as well as European independent and Us radio stations. Mardi Gras tour Italy having even supporting such acts as **Glen Hansard & The Frames**, **Micah P Hinson**, **Noah and the whale** and **Billy Bragg**.

February 2006: Mardi Gras tour Italy as an acoustic duo and release their first album "**Drops made**" (**Goodfellas ditribution**), the line up was Silvia "Six" Olivares (vocals & acoustic guitar), Alessandro Fiori (drums), Fabrizio Fontanelli (acoustic guitar) and Davide Iacoangeli (double bass). Most of the songs are aired by the American radio network Live365 as well as European independent and Us radio stations. "**The wait**" deals with the Death Penalty issue and was premiered during an Amnesty International conference and is also featured on **Neil Young's Songs of the times**. The band were also invited to perform at the Auditorium in Rome for the "X Generation" showcase promoted by one of the most important italian newspaper "La Repubblica". Mardi Gras tour Ireland with five shows including headlining Whelans in Dublin) just a few months after their italian tour with **The Frames** (Glen Hansard, "Once", Swell Season).

Discography



From zero to one

(Matilli/Rätsep)

Single independent release – 2020

Song produced by Stuart Epps (music producer of Elton John, Led Zeppelin, Oasis, Robbie Williams, Zak Starkey, George Harrison, Bill Wyman, Chris Rea). Written by Alessandro Matilli and Liina Rätsep. Performed by Liina Rätsep (vocals), Fabrizio Fontanelli (acoustic guitar), Alessandro Matilli (piano & keyboards), Carlo Di Tore Tosti (bass), Valerio Giovanardi (drums) and Fabrizio Del Marchesato (electric guitar).

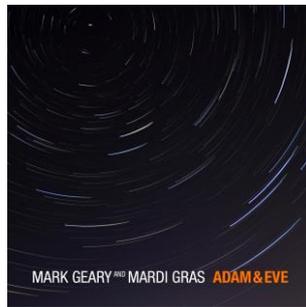


Gingerman

(M. Geary)

Single independent release – 2019

Song written by Mark Geary and taken from his first album “33 1/3 Grand Street” (2002), based on a novel “Gingerman” by Irish writer J.P. Donleavy. Produced, arranged and performed by Liina Rätsep (vocals), Mark Geary (vocals & acoustic guitar), Fabrizio Fontanelli (acoustic guitar), Alessandro Matilli (electric piano & keyboards), Carlo Di Tore Tosti (bass), Valerio Giovanardi (drums) and special guest Alessandro Cicala (electric guitar).

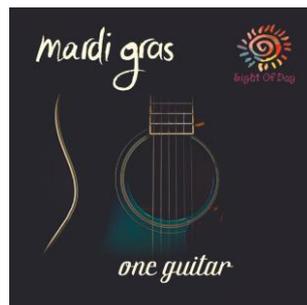


Adam & Eve

(M. Geary)

Single independent release – 2019

Song written by Mark Geary and taken from his first album “33 1/3 Grand Street” (2002), it was also the first single of the same album. Written from the point of view of departing. To long goodbye, to hurt and the turning away and to the sea and air we travel. You might never go back but you always look back. Produced, arranged and performed by Liina Rätsep (vocals), Mark Geary (vocals & acoustic guitar), Fabrizio Fontanelli (acoustic guitar), Alessandro Matilli (piano & keyboards), Carlo Di Tore Tosti (bass), Valerio Giovanardi (drums) and special guest Alessandro Cicala (electric guitar).

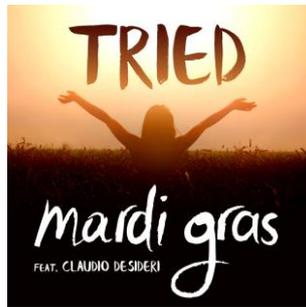


One Guitar

(Frank Joseph Lee/Willie Nile)

Single independent release – 2018

Written by Frank Joseph Lee and Willie Nile, winner of the Independent Music Awards in 2013 - Best Social Action Song. We had the pleasure of performing in Italy as part of the "Light of Day" tour, sharing the stage with Bruce Springsteen's musicians (Jake Clemons, Eddie Manion, Vini Lopez) to raise money and awareness for Parkinson's disease. Willie Nile then gave us his permission to cover his anthem "One guitar" which we've decided to release as a benefit single to raise funds and help the Light of Day Foundation. Produced by Sante Sabbatini and Mardi Gras; performed and arranged by Liina Rätsep (vocals), Fabrizio Fontanelli (acoustic guitar), Alessandro Matilli (keyboards), Carlo Di Tore Tosti (bass), Simone Sammarone (electric guitar) and Rodolfo Demontis (drums).



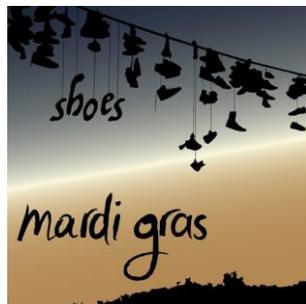
Tried

(feat. Claudio Desideri)

(Demontis/Di Tore Tosti/Fontanelli/Matilli/Rätsep/Sammarone)

Single independent release – 2018

A love song with an unwritten end that speaks about feeling free to be ourselves in every possible way. Making mistakes but living fully because only those who fall can rise and shine again. And we can be as light as feathers with no burden on our shoulders. Produced by Sante Sabbatini and Mardi Gras; written, performed and arranged by Liina Rätsep (vocals), Fabrizio Fontanelli (acoustic guitar), Alessandro Matilli (piano & keyboards), Carlo Di Tore Tosti (bass), Simone Sammarone (electric guitar) and Rodolfo Demontis (drums). Special guest Claudio Desideri.



Shoes

(Demontis/Di Tore Tosti/Fontanelli/Matilli/Rätsep/Sammarone)

Single independent release – 2019

"Shoes" is the band's brand new single, a rock soul track with enthralling groove. Produced by Sante Sabbatini and Mardi Gras; written, performed and arranged by Liina Rätsep (vocals), Fabrizio Fontanelli (acoustic guitar), Alessandro Matilli (keyboards), Carlo Di Tore Tosti (bass), Simone Sammarone (electric guitar) and Rodolfo Demontis (drums).



Playground

Aereostella – 2015

1. **I say yes** (Fontanelli/Matilli)
2. **Never** (Fontanelli/Loddo)
3. **Road song** (Fontanelli/Matilli)
4. **I have a dream** (Fontanelli/Matilli/Sammarone)
5. **Painlover** (Fontanelli/Matilli/Sammarone)
6. **Another place** (Loddo)
7. **Before I die** (Fontanelli/Matilli)
8. **Sarah and the three roses** (Fontanelli/Sammarone)
9. **Mine** (Loddo/Matilli)
10. **Are we ready for the sun?** (Loddo)
11. **Snakes and bones** (Fontanelli)
12. **Alys** (Fontanelli/Matilli)
13. **Superfriends** (Fontanelli/Matilli)
14. **Kiss the night** (Fontanelli/Matilli/Sammarone)

There is an open space where children can play freely and where the adults can return for a while to the days of their youth, living once again the flavours and colors of the most beautiful and precious memories. In English, “play” has got a double meaning and we wanted to emphasize this. Written, arranged and performed by: Claudia Loddo (vocals), Andrea Casini (bass), Fabrizio Fontanelli (acoustic guitar), Mauro Lopez (drums), Alessandro Matilli (piano & keyboards), Simone Sammarone (electric guitar); Other guests: Emanuele Cefali (electric Guitar) and Danilo Filippino (drums) on "Are we ready for the sun?" and “Alys”. Featuring Mundy in “Road song”, one of the finest and best known Irish Songwriters.

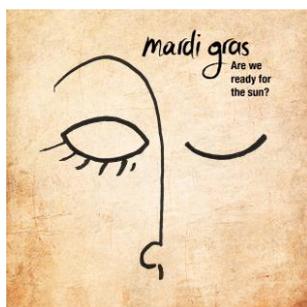


Alys

(Fontanelli/Matilli)

Single independent release – 2013

Inspired and composed for the "Alys" short film by Sante Sabbatini CSC Productions (Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia, Roma), it's Mardi Gras first original soundtrack. Produced, arranged and performed by Mardi Gras this is the fourth song under the 2013 line up: Claudia Loddo (vocals & acoustic guitar), Andrea Casini (bass), Emanuele Cefali (electricguitar), Danilo Filippino (drums), Fabrizio Fontanelli (acoustic guitar) and Alessandro Matilli (piano).



Are we ready for the sun?

(Loddo)

Single independent release – 2013

"Are we ready for the sun?" is Mardi Gras green anthem, the rockiest tune they ever performed. You can even hear an excerpt of the Severn Cullis Suzuki speech at the UN conference back in 1992 when the activist was only 12, asking for a better world and action to save our world. Severn Cullis Suzuki is the "Girl who silenced the world for 5 minutes" since then. Produced, arranged and performed by Mardi Gras. This is the third song under the 203 line up: Claudia Loddo (vocals & acoustic guitar), Andrea Casini (bass), Emanuele Cefali (electric guitar), Danilo Filippino (drums), Fabrizio Fontanelli (acoustic guitar) and Alessandro Matilli (keyboards & synthesizers).

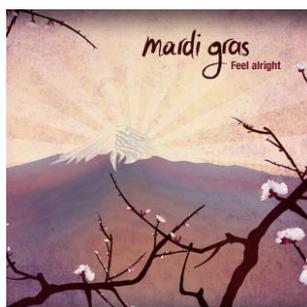


Your constellation

(Fontanelli/Loddo/Matilli)

Single - Hit Mania 2013 Cd Next Vol. 2 – Universo/Universal – 2012

A déjà vu song produced, arranged and performed by Mardi Gras. The track is written by Claudia Loddo and Fabrizio Fontanelli (lyrics) and Alessandro Matilli (music). This is the second song under the 2012 line up: Claudia Loddo (vocals & acoustic guitar), Andrea Casini (bass), Alessandro Fiori (drums), Fabrizio Fontanelli (acoustic guitar), Alessandro Matilli (electric piano & synthesizer) and Paolo Strina (electric guitar). Artwork: Chiara Arnone. The song is included in the cd next volume 2 Hit Mania 2013 (Universo/Universal).

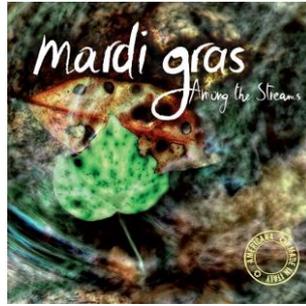


Feel alright

(Fontanelli/Matilli)

Single - Hit Mania 2013 Cd Next Vol. 2 – Universo/Universal – 2012

A renaissance song produced, arranged and performed by Mardi Gras. The track is written by Fabrizio Fontanelli (lyrics) and Alessandro Matilli (music). This is the first song under the new line up: Claudia Loddo (vocals & acoustic guitar), Andrea Casini (bass), Alessandro Fiori (drums), Fabrizio Fontanelli (acoustic guitar), Alessandro Matilli (piano & keyboards) and Paolo Strina (electric guitar). The song is included in the cd next volume 2 Hit Mania 2013 (Universo/Universal).



Among the streams

Route 61 Music – 2011

1. **Song from the end of the world** (Fontanelli/Matilli)
2. **Scarecrow in the snow** (Fontanelli/Matilli)
3. **Men improve with the years** (W.B.Yeats/Fontanelli)
4. **What comes what goes** (Fontanelli/Matilli)
5. **Sister i know** (Fontanelli/Matilli)
6. **Land of hope and dreams** (B. Springsteen)
7. **Shine** (Fontanelli/Matilli)
8. **Hard to believe** (Fontanelli)
9. **Ballad of love** (Fontanelli)
10. **Satellites and me** (Fontanelli/Matilli)

Ten different songs, ten different journeys. In this album have played Claudia McDowell (vocals), Alessandro Cicala (electric Guitar), Alessandro Fiori (drums), Fabrizio Fontanelli (acoustic guitar), Alessandro Matilli (piano & keyboards) and David Medina (Bass). The songs talk about how we feel as a band among the streams within the music spell. The first song of this album talks about the great power of love and it ends with an hymn to youthness. On track #6, called "Land of Hope and dreams", we pay tribute to Bruce Springsteen, and on "Shine" to June Carter Cash (Johnny Cash's wife). Liam O' Maonlai from Hothouse Flowers is the special guest on "Men Improve with the Years".



Drops made

Goodfellas – 2006

1. **Conversation** (Fontanelli/Olivares)
2. **Untitled** (Olivares)

3. **Home again** (Fontanelli/Olivares)
4. **High alive** (Fontanelli/Olivares)
5. **The wait** (Fontanelli/Olivares)
6. **Another day** (Fontanelli/Olivares)
7. **Conversation Alt. Ver.** (Fontanelli/Olivares)

An out of focus record, a black and white landscape featuring six songs written by Silvia "Six" Olivares (vocals & acoustic guitar) and Fabrizio Fontanelli (acoustic guitar). In this album have also played Alessandro Fiori (drums) and Davide Iacoangeli (double bass). "The wait" is listed on Neil Young "songs of times" a special section of his website where peace and protest songs are listed.

Press

<https://www.mardigrasmusic.it/press>

Video

Mardi Gras Playlist YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxHosDO_xN4L9P66R7U9KlovilbUSIN_X

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