



## **MICHELE TORPEDINE** BIOGRAPHY

### **THE 80'S**

At the beginning of the Eighties Michele Torpedine worked for the Bologna based agency Ballandi, and was responsible for a large number of tours featuring Lucio Dalla, Loredana Bertè, Francesco De Gregori and others.

He was Gianna Nannini's road manager on her American tour. In 1983 he became a partner of the agency '051' in Bologna which includes artists like Pino Daniele, Gianna Nannini, Tony Esposito and Loredana Bertè. His work ranged from promotions, to general organization of tours to artist's' radio and TV appearances.

### **ZUCCHERO & MT**

Zuccherò's indisputable artistic caliber deserves a special mention; Michele Torpedine was in charge of the artist's full management up till 1994 . After that date he became responsible for advising Zuccherò both for Italian as well as for international ones; in this latter role he worked in conjunction with Zuccherò's international manager Miles Copeland.

### **ZUCCHERO FORNACIARI - DISCOGRAPHY WITH MICHELE TORPEDINE**

- Zuccherò And The Randy Jackson Band - 1985
- Rispetto - 1986
- Blue's - 1987
- Snack Bar Budapest Original Movie Soundtrack - 1988
- Oro, Incenso & Birra - 1989
- Live At The Kremlin - 1991
- Miserere - 1992

The concert at the Kremlin in 1990 was one of the most important events in pop music in recent years.

Zuccherò was the first ever performer at the venue. The concert was broadcast by Italian TV and numerous other networks worldwide. It became a double album and a video, titled "Live at the Kremlin".

Torpedine and Zuccherò also took part in the Freddy Mercury Tribute, a worldwide media event from Wembley Stadium featuring Queen, George Michael, Lisa Stansfield and other famous rock music performers.

Torpedine produced Zuccherò's famous album Miserere, featuring the title track song, a duet with Zuccherò and Luciano Pavarotti, and the following concert tour including most big venues in Italy.

### **THE 90'S**

#### **1990-95**



Michele Torpedine became Andrea Bocelli's producer and manager during this period.

Within a very short time Bocelli became an international star with performances at the 1994 Pavarotti International Show, at the Vatican Christmas Concert in 1995, and at various locations in Canada and the USA.

In November 1995 Bocelli went on a European tour entitled "Night of the Proms", an intensive month of performances in Belgium, Holland, Germany, France and Spain, accompanied by an orchestra of 80, a choir of 70 and fellow performers Al Jarreau, John Miles (with whom Bocelli sang a duet), Robert Hodgson (lead singer of Supertramp) and Brain Ferry.

The audience of these performances was in the range of 20,000 people every evening. Bocelli's third album, "Viaggio Italiano" was released and featured the Moscow Radio Symphonic Orchestra conducted by Vladimir Fedoseyev, who is considered one of the most important conductors in the world. During this period Michele Torpedine was also manager and art producer of Giorgia, the female singer winner of the 1995 San Remo Italian Song Festival.

The artist has released two albums in her native Italian (Giorgia and Come Thelma & Louise) and one in English, produced by Ben Sidran, who has also worked with Diana Ross.

After winning at the San Remo Song Festival, Giorgia gave a number of concerts, participating in many of Italy's most important collective events over the summer. She sang a duet with Pavarotti in 1994 at the Pavarotti International, and also took part in the Vatican Christmas Concert in '94 and finally had the honour of singing before the Pope in Saint Peter's Square. She went on to tour with Whitney Houston's backing band.

Michele Torpedine was Art Director of the TV special show "30 ore per la Vita" ("Thirty hours for life") a fund-raising event aimed at collecting financial support to promote scientific research on multiple sclerosis, and then produced the mega-concert CLIO RDS LIVE 95 in Rome's Piazza San Giovanni in September, a televised event attended by 200,000 people and featuring Zucchero, Def Leppard, Paul Young, Giorgia, Alannah Myles, The Connells and a number of other Italian artists.

He also manages Gerardina Trovato and produced her albums "Non E' Un Film", "Gerardina Trovato" and "Ho trovato Gerardina", as well as her subsequent promotional tours.

He produced Luca Carboni's album "Carboni", with its 900,000 copies sold, it is the singer's best selling album to date.

Torpedine also produced the accompanying tour. He was Art Director of the first two editions of Pavarotti International Show. The first edition featured not only the great tenor but also artists like Mike Oldfield, Sting, Bob Geldorf, Brian May, the Neville Brothers, Suzanne Vega, Lucio Dalla, Zucchero, Patricia Kaas and Michael Kamen, the conductor of the world famous orchestra for the first concert.



In 1994, the second edition of the Luciano Pavarotti International Show included Nancy Gustavsson, Bryan Adams, Andreas Vollenweider, Anita Baker, Andrea Bocelli, Giorgia and the orchestra conducted by Leone Magiera and Michael Kamen. As a partner of the Rome based recording company P.P.M. Torpedine also works for young artists such as Leandro Barsotti, Zenima, Petra and I Ragazzi Italiani.

## **1996**

At the beginning of 1996 Michele Torpedine began to work closely with Andrea Bocelli, and started laying the foundations for his international career. This work culminated with a tour of Northern Europe (June), accompanied by a symphony orchestra, and performed at the most prestigious auditoriums for classical music: Palais des Beaux Arts in Brussels, Elizabeth Halle in Antwerp, and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. At the end of the year Bocelli's recordings for "Romanza" were released in Italy and other European countries, topping sales everywhere for a total of 2,500,000 copies sold in Europe. In September, Michele Torpedine produced the second edition of CLIO RDS LIVE 96, an event organized simultaneously in Milan and Palermo, with famous Italian and overseas guests (Luca Carboni, Ligabue, Noa, ZZ TOP, Vasco Rossi, Lucio Dalla and many others). The show was broadcast live by Italian state TV (RAI 1).

## **1997**

Besides being committed in the usual management activities, Michele Torpedine, on behalf of the FAO, in October, produced a concert at the Vatican (Nervi Room) featuring Andrea Bocelli, José Carreras, Daniela Dessì, Michael Bolton, Zuccherò and many others artists.

## **1998**

Michele Torpedine organized and co-ordinated Andrea Bocelli's participation in "La Bohème" at the Teatro Lirico of Cagliari (Sardinia), directed by Steven Mercurio.

This was followed by the pro-charity performance of Bocelli in Washington D.C. on 19 April, at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, in the presence of US Vice President Al Gore. The following day Andrea Bocelli was received at the White House by President Clinton.

Michele Torpedine also arranged Bocelli's participation in Israel's 50th anniversary celebrations, which included performances in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, under the direction of Zubin Mehta.

To promote Bocelli's international career Michele Torpedine organized the performer's first US tour in July/August 1998.



## 1999

The work carried out by Michele Torpedine at the end of the 90s has been essentially related to promoting the international artistic career of Andrea Bocelli.

Specifically, 1999 included a series of promotions in different locations.

Worthy of mention are the nomination of Andrea Bocelli for a Grammy Award and the duet with Celine Dion during the Academy Award ceremony.

In the course of 1999, Michele Torpedine organized Andrea Bocelli's US tour, his European tour directed by Lorin Maazel, his participation in the Christmas Concert at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris conducted by Myung Whun Chung, as well as his participation in a New York concert which was part of Celebration 2000.

In addition, Michele Torpedine organized number of other important events on behalf of Andrea Bocelli including: the Michael Jackson & Friends Show, the José Carreras Show, the Tribute to Style in Los Angeles (a charity fund-raising event attended by well-known figures from show business and fashion), the Royal Variety Show in Birmingham (in the presence of H.R.H. Queen Elisabeth II), the ceremony of the receipt of the city of New York keys from the Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, performances before US President Bill Clinton, a charity event organized at Steven Spielberg's home.

Furthermore, Michele Torpedine organized Andrea Bocelli's participation in the official events taking place around the G7 summit in Florence, attended by Bill Clinton. In the opera world Michele Torpedine arranged Bocelli's participation in "La Vedova Allegra" at Verona's Arena, and "Werther", Bocelli's US Opera debut, in Detroit.

Andrea Bocelli's successes in 1999 include:

- Nomination for a Grammy Award
- Participation with Celine Dion at the Academy Award Ceremony
- Celebration 2000, New York
- Michael Jackson & Friends
- The Royal Variety Show, Birmingham, before H.R.H. Queen Elisabeth II
- Receipt of the keys of New York City, from Mayor Rudolph Giuliani
- Performance before US President Bill Clinton at the Steven Spielberg's home



- G7 summit in Florence.

The year 2000 will include many promotional events to enhance the world-famous and immense talent and professional skills of Andrea Bocelli.

## **2000**

2000 has been a year full of events for MT Opera & Blue's.

Michele Torpedine, together with his staff, has continued working on the 'internationalization' of Andrea Bocelli's great voice. The events scheduled and produced for the Millennium were particularly important and above all unique:

### **APRIL**

In April some of the most important North American towns like Tampa, Nashville, Atlanta, Worcester, Atlantic City, Dallas and Houston hosted Andrea Bocelli's sold out US tour. The audience for each of the concerts ranged between 15 and 18 thousands people.

### **MAY**

One of the most memorable moments is represented by the meeting with Pope John Paul II, in the wonderful concert held on May 1 in Tor Vergata, near Rome. During the same month, after the beautiful concert in Paris at the Eiffel Tower which was the first extraordinary collaboration between Andrea Bocelli and M.o Seji Ozawa, the international activity planned by Michele Torpedine led to a tour with M.o Chung in Japan, a country where Andrea Bocelli is greatly loved. This same tour took the Italian singer also to Korea (Suwon). Japan and Korea paid a major tribute to the voice and image of Andrea Bocelli, much in the same way as it had happened in the US. Finally, at the end of May, he participated in the Elizabeth Taylor's Charity Gala held at the Royal Albert Hall in London and broadcast live in the UK.

### **JULY**

July was a very special month: Andrea Bocelli's deep love for Italy and the Italian traditions reached its climax in two unforgettable moments. First he gave a concert in Rotterdam during EURO 2000, the European Football Championship and a few days later, he starred in a big concert organized in honor and memory of the Italian emigrants to the US. The concert, which was broadcast by PBS in the USA as well as all over the world (Rai 2 in Italy), took place in New York City near the Statue of Liberty one of the deepest symbols of America both for Americans themselves and also for the immigrants arriving on a boat. Those who were lucky to attend or watch (on television) the concert which was held at the Liberty State Park will not easily forget the great emotions and the memorable moments that Andrea Bocelli's voice created. The atmosphere was unique, the event was a one-time event, the setting was magnificent and the live audience counted 18,000 people.

### **AUGUST**



The month of August witnessed Andrea Bocelli's live debut in the "Messa da Requiem" by Giuseppe Verdi at the Arena in Verona under the baton of M.o Lorin Maazel.

#### SEPTEMBER

In September Andrea Bocelli offered another tribute to sport: he had the honor to be chosen to receive the Olympic Torch in front of the Opera House in Sydney on September 14 prior the Opening of the Olympic Games. On the same evening he performed in his first Australian concert in the prestigious Auditorium of the Sydney Opera House with a huge success. For this concert, tickets were already sold out a few months earlier. Michele Torpedine was also responsible for the Artist's other two Australian concerts, in Perth and in Melbourne. Both concerts were equally successful and were a source of great pride for the millions of Italians living in Australia.

#### OCTOBER

In the upcoming month of October Michele Torpedine is organizing Andrea Bocelli's participation in the NIAF (the National Italian American Foundation) Gala in Washington D.C., where President Bill Clinton shall welcome the Italian community attending the event. For the first time, President Clinton will appear together with the two presidential candidates, the Republican George Bush Jr. and the Democratic Al Gore.

#### **From January 2001 until the end of 2006**

Michele Torpedine's activity is always more focused on securing Andrea Bocelli a very high profile career either in the opera and the pop world. The events he takes part in, the albums he releases put Andrea Bocelli at the highest spot within the music scene worldwide.

As an acknowledgement for what he has achieved in those years of great success Michele Torpedine awarded with the prestigious LEONE D'ORO ALLA CARRIERA on December 11, 2006 in Venice.

#### **2007-2008**

The work carried out by Michele Torpedine during these years has been related to the recording and live project for the Thirty-year career of the Italian artist Pino Daniele, which culminated in the concert held in Naples at Piazza Plebiscito in July 2008 (live broadcasting by Rai Uno prime time). Pino Daniele performed with several bands, especially formed for this occasion, and special duets of his songs with the most famous Italian artists. The event has been followed by a Summer live tour in the most prestigious Italian places.

#### **2009**

Michele Torpedine is in charge of Artistic Director of the VENARIA REAL MUSIC, a Summer Music Festival held in the suggestive location of the Venaria Royal Place near Turin.

In 2009 Michele Torpedine, together with Tony Renis, undertakes a new challenge in the opera music and International pop music fields with IL TRIO, a band of three young boys, who in September 2009 start their adventure in the show business, very welcomed by the audience.