

Interview Transcript

File: *Interview_3.mp3*

Interviewer: Christian Ferlaino

Interviewee: Giovanni Cristiano – Giovanni de Paola participates too

30-04-2023 Festa della Pita, Alessandria del Carretto

CF: Sorry can I disturb you?

GC: Tell me...

CF: Do you mind if I record? I'm doing a research on instruments... minor let's say... and I saw you playing the bottle, playing....

GC: Paolo Napoli has the key.

CF: I just wanted to ask you how come....

GC: Tell me tell me...

CF: How did you get to playing the bottle?

GC: By playing as a child

CF: As a child... but was there anyone in the family who did this?

GC: Eh yes, in the village that I'm originally from here.

CF: From here exactly? And so, it was commonly played?

GC: Yes, we would serenade in the evening to the bride to the fiancée and.... then there was one playing the bottle, one the tambourine...

CF: I saw that you play the tambourine as well, you play organetto....

GC: More or less yes... He plays the spoons..

CF: Yes I had... I talked to him as well yes....

GC: It's an old tradition..

CF: The thing that interested me was just this... objects that are not...

GC: Commonly...

CF: Commonly musical instruments but that become musical instruments.

CG: Yes, the key to the catuaiu, the storage room as you call it... and it becomes a musical instrument.

CF: And you modified it on purpose to do that. this is...

GC: The handle

CF: The handle... to make it more...

GC: More manageable to play it.. The only bottle I play is Fiuggi and Sangemini from back in the days.

CF: But why?

GC: Because it has a cleaner sound



CF: Cleaner?

GC: Yes, the Sangemini and the Fiuggi are the only bottles that sound better... then oh...

GP: The bottle that really sounded ... is the one of the gazzosa (soft drink).

GC: Ah!

CF: The one from the gazzosa?

GP: The old three-quart litre bottle of the gazzosa. It had a sound that was killer. If you make the whistles with the cane, if you don't cut the cane with the new moon.

GC: They're no good

GP: Then you put it in the straw.... Even if you make the reed of the trummetta (pipita)... it's not that you improvise it!

GC: It takes art

GP: No! It has to be seasoned, it has to be [cut] with the moon.

GC: According to the moon.. Even when they cut the poles for the beans.

GP: All things

GC: The beans, if you make a bean pole...

GP: Jesus Crist said this "Quisque [unintelligible] semper. New moon, full moon it's always... But.. the moon. Everything you do you must do it with the [right] moon. Planting...

CF : I play bagpipe. I too, when I go to cut wild cane, January moon, new moon..

CP: You put them in the thing...

GC: You must make them dry...

CF: Yes, indeed.

GC: Anyway these are... I learned... okay I don't play it the way I have to play it (I don't play it very well) however I get by

CF: No, it's fine. I just like these things a lot...

GC: I mean... I'm fine with the Fiuggi and Sangemini bottle... okay as he says about the gazzosa but who can find it anymore... they don't exist anymore... the one he says... the one with the...

CF: The one that looks like...with the rough glass

GC: Opaque...like the one you have in your bathroom

CF: And you're Albanian by origin?

GC: Arbereshe...I'm originally from...I have great-grandmother from Farneta... upper Ionian area

CF: May I know your name?

GC: Giovanni Cristiano

CF: OK. Thank you very much...it was...just these things.

GC: If you want to record record record, it's fine with me

FC: Yes, yes, now when you play... I had also seen a gentleman with the nacchere... this set of tablets that looks like...

GC: The tric e trac!