

# The "City of Calitri" Band

In 1896, the "City of Calitri" band ceased its activities because of emigration.  
On December 29, 2003, the "City of Calitri" band was born again and made its voice heard loud and clear.

*Translated from the Italian by Benjamin De Maio Montalbano*

In 1896, because of heavy emigration and economic problems, the "City of Calitri" band broke up. In the years after, the musical heritage was taken up by very small groups of amateurs without reaching past goals and the passion for music was transmitted throughout the years more at a personal level than at an organized level. On December 29, 2003, the "City of Calitri" band came back to life. The band made its debut in the crypt of the parish church of San Canio, before a very large crowd of people, arousing incredible enthusiasm.

In January of 2003, Pro-Loco Calitri, put up a public notice inviting, whomever wished, to participate in the formation of the "City of Calitri" band, with a minimum age of nine years. In a short time there were thirty five participants starting a magnificent adventure. The conductor, Giuseppe Rosa, who is from Atella, with the collaboration of his assistants Vincenzo Di Gironimo and Fabio Silvestro, who were contacted by Pro- Loco, quickly set to work by starting to teach the basics of music. In fact, some participants had not even the slightest familiarity with musical scales or with musical instruments. The skill and patience of the Maestro, the tenacity the steadfastness and strength of will of the students, even those more mature, overcame all the difficulties and, after just a few months, they played their first notes in the office of Pro-Loco, where they took their lessons. It was moving to see small, nine year old children blow into a clarinet that insisted on remaining mute. Yet, even the most mature had their problems with trumpets and trombones that remained silent. Then, they began to hear the first

noises, indeed, at the beginning there was more noise than sound, more chaos than harmony. Passion and will overcame first disappointments and obstacles and then the jarring notes, the useless top notes, then, from the confusion, the seven musical notes began, very slowly, to connect, to unite in a harmony that amazed the people themselves. Finally, on December 29, they made their debut with a sample of Christmas music. The worry about the impact with the public had been brilliantly overcome. The most nervous of all were not the children, who were fresh, joyous, and sure of themselves in

their blessed unconsciousness, but the adults, who never would have imagined that they could play in public, they who up until a few months ago knew nothing about either notes or musical instruments. At 6:43 PM on the evening of December 29, 2003, in the crypt of the mother church, came the first notes of "Sei Corali" of the new "City of Calitri" Band., linking itself, ideally, to the 1896 band in order to reconnect to the heritage and continue the tradition, and, thus, reestablishing that link that had been broken by emigration and by lack of money. The president of Pro- Loco Calitri, Giovanni Rinaldi, the Mayor of Calitri, Professor Vito Marchitto, the Provincial Assessore Dr. Giuseppe Di Milia and the Parish Priest, Don Maurizio, in a short speech, wished to emphasize this old, musical tradition, and also emphasized that to claim this inheritance is a great gesture of sensitivity, of culture, and of civility, because music ennobles the soul. The band leader, Giuseppe Nicola Stanco, speaking for himself and all his colleagues thanked Maestro Giuseppe Rosa, his collaborators, and Pro-Loco for what they've done, donating to them a piece of ceramic artistry made in Calitri. The show concluded with the joyous notes of a march "Prima Uscita". The sincerely enthusiastic public called for an encore. Maestro Giuseppe Rosa and the "City of Calitri" Band have set May 25, the feast of San Canio Protector of Calitri, as the date of their next performance.

*Vincenzo Di Maio*



**Flute**  
ZUARDI Iole

**CLARINETS**  
AGOCELLA, Giovanni  
CIANCI, Martina  
CESTONE, Lucia  
CESTONE, Vincenzo  
DI NAPOLI, Catia  
FASANO, Angela  
FASULO, Lucia  
GALGANO, Lucia  
MIELE, Mariangela  
ROSANIA, Rosa  
SANAPO, Mara  
SCIBELLI, Teresa  
SCOCA, Canio  
STANCO, Giuseppina

**SOPRANO SAX**  
MARGOTTA, Vincenzo  
ROSA, Ilenia

**ALTO SAX**  
DI GUGLIELMO, Vittorio  
DI MILIA, Antonio  
GALGANO, Erberto  
ROSA Mario, Giustino

**TENOR SAX**  
FIERRAVANTI, Pietro  
JASILLI, Giuseppe  
TORCHELLA, Beniamino  
TRIANI, Luigi

**TRUMPETS**  
BASILE, Donato  
CODELLA, Michele  
DI GIRONIMO, Vincenzo  
DI MILIA, Mariano  
GALGANO, Bernardino  
GERMANO, Roberto  
SILVESTRO, Fabio  
ZARRILLI, Valentino

**SOPRANO  
FLUGELHORN**  
IANNELLA, Riccardo

**TROMBONE**  
CIANCI, Antonio  
CIANCI, Mario  
STANCO, Giuseppe  
GROSSO, Simone

**BARITONE TUBA**  
DI NAPOLI, Giuseppe

**BASS TUBA**  
ACOCELLA, Michele  
DI CECCA, Giuseppe  
MELE, Dino  
ROSANIA, Giuseppe

**PERCUSSION**  
GAUTERI, Vincenzo  
LO PRIORE, Salvatore  
IANELLA, Daniele  
CUBELLI, Gaetano  
GUARINO, Paola

**MAESTRO**  
Giuseppe ROSA