

A Summer of Music, 17 years ago

It has been 17 years since Bob Dylan appeared at Lucca's first ever Summer Festival, and in memory of that time, Grapevine has decided to re-publish an article from our July 1998 edition, before Summer Festival became a regular production of the talented impresarios D'Alessandro and Galli.

This year the Lucca Summer Festival opens on 1 July with Bob Dylan and Francesco De Gregori. The performers to follow are: John Legend, Los Lobos, Paolo Nutini, The Script, Billy Idol, Elton John, Lauryn Hill, Mark Knopfler, Robbie Williams, Fedex & J-Ax, Lenny Kravitz, Marcus Miller & Snoop Dogg, and three tribute nights (dedicated to Lucca talents, to Pino Daniele & Joe Cocker and to comedians Lillo & Greg). The dates and times are listed in our What's On Section.

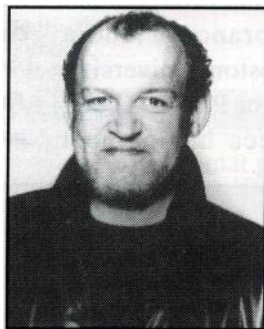
It's going to be a very hot summer in Lucca this year. At least, as far as music goes. With the last notes of "Anfiteatro Jazz" still hanging in the air, a living legend of rock and roll will be here to open Lucca's first "Summer Festival". In fact, on July 6th, Bob Dylan will be playing in Piazza Napoleone. The poet of rock & roll will be in Italy to celebrate the 25th anniversary of his career with just three concerts, one of which will be in Lucca.



But this is just the first concert of the "Summer Festival". The whole festival consists of four concerts, all by important international stars of contemporary music. The second concert, in Piazza dell'Anfiteatro on July 13th, is with George Benson, the great guitarist from Pittsburgh, who has always experimented with various types of music, making an interesting "cross-over" of different kinds of music, from jazz to pop and evolving a fascinating type of jazz-rock.



The next day (July 14th) Joe Cocker plays in Piazza San Martino. The white bluesman, with his unmistakable voice, will sing songs from his latest album "Across from Midnight", as well as some of the songs which have made him famous, like "Unchain my heart" or the hit "You can leave your hat on", from the soundtrack of the film "Nine and half weeks".



After this, on July 22nd in Piazza S. Martino, it's the turn of one of the most interesting groups formed in 1997, the "Latin Crossing" band, which plays in Piazza San Martino. This relatively anonymous name hides some very important musicians. The line-up includes Steve Winwood (keyboards, piano, guitars and voice), Tito Puente (timbales and voice), Arturo Sandoval (trumpet, piano and voice), and other musicians. Sandoval is one of the founders of "Irakere", the band which used jazz, classical music, pure rock and Cuban music to create an exciting sound, which won them popularity and, in 1978, the Grammy Award.

Sandoval also played with Dizzy Gillespie. Steve Winwood needs no introduction – he was leader of the legendary "Traffic" in the 60's and 70's, and played with Eric Clapton and Ginger Baker in *supergroups* like "Blind Faith" and "Airforce". His solo career has been impressive and he has worked with various musicians such as Jimi Hendrix, Marianne Faithfull, Etta James, Billy Joel and George Harrison. Tito Puente is the author of "Oye como va" and "Para los rumberos", songs that everyone knows.



This interesting and exciting festival has been set up by the Administration of the Province of Lucca who intend it to run for many a summer.

– by Federica di Spilimbergo
from the Grapevine Archives, July 1998

Amanda Brett
artist

On exhibit at:

Mamma Rò
26 June - 9 July
Via Cenami 16, Lucca

Galleria Borgo degli Artisti
10-17 July
Ponte a Serraglio, Bagni di Lucca


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Tel. 0583 467711
www.locandadellangelo.it
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