

Sweet Dreams

Etnica Radio is a free independent internet radio, webcasting every day from 7.30 pm to midnight. Born in 2009 out of the dream and enthusiasm of a group of young people led by Gabriele Mariani, it was inspired by the free radios which first appeared in the '70s. The choice of the name itself is a reminder of the non-commercial nature of those radios. Their motto is 'think globally, act locally' because thanks to the internet they have access to worldwide communication, but at the same time they are strongly rooted in their territory, participating in social projects and organizing wonderful parties. They webcast all kinds of music, but also information and sport. They span from Pop to Opera, Argentine tango, Jazz, Folk, ... and if your children understand Italian, on Wednesday evenings from 8.30 to 9.30, they will get fast asleep listening to some storytelling, with fairy tales from all over the world (for detailed information on programmes visit www.etnicaradio.it).

Last month, on the occasion of one of their parties (dinner for 300 people at Pieve San Paolo, followed by performance, in collaboration with the non-profit association *Il sorriso di Stefano*), I spoke with Alessio Cecchini and Lelio Pracchia, hosts of *Sotto le stelle del Jazz e altro* ('Under the jazz stars and more'), a



programme which is webcast every Wednesday from 10.30 pm to midnight. They explained that they interact with their audience primarily via facebook (but also twitter and skype). Their aficionados are scattered everywhere in Italy and the United States, England, Argentina and Chile. Their programme is mostly music, but there is also the occasional interview with jazz stars such as Franco D'Andrea and Enrico Pieranunzi. In our conversation they highlighted the involvement of the radio in social projects, primarily connected with young people, aimed at sensitizing them to voluntary work, advising them on job search, giving voice to the dreams and hopes of those who live in the *Villaggio del Fanciullo Lucca* ('Youth village', taking care of children and youth in need). They also collaborate with non-profit associations dealing with mental problems. This year they have organized an afternoon workshop where Middle School children learn about radio communication and produce their own radio programme.

From their tiny little premises on top of the *Ristorante I Diavoletti*, in Camigliano, this small group of young people, nine all together, every night devote their free time to delight us with good music and, at the same time, help improve our world.

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– by Chiara Calabrese



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