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Interview: Leonardo Barilaro Discusses His Upcoming Concert 'SeaSharp'

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On the 15th of February Leonardo Barilaro, an Italian pianist and composer, will be performing his new project **SeaSharp** at **Spazju Kreattiv** in Valletta.

A combination of both piano and synths, SeaSharp features all original compositions by Leonardo and is a reflective piece on the hybrid nature of life, as told through the metaphor of the sea.

I was fortunate to speak with Leonardo in the lead up to SeaSharp, and even asked him a few questions about himself and his project. Check out the full interview below.

It's a pleasure to meet you Leonardo! How are you doing today?

Hello Jean Paul, the pleasure is mine! I am happily juggling between many activities, as usual.

You've been involved with numerous musical projects since the early 2000s. Please describe your musical journey to us so far, and how you got to this stage in your career.

As a pianist, I have training in classical music. I graduated from the Music Conservatory of Padova in Italy where I also studied composition. In parallel, I developed my passion for synth and electronic music, being lucky enough to have had Jordan Rudess, the keyboardist for Dream Theater, as my mentor. In 2006 I started my project "Nullo Die Sine Nota", (translated to) No Day Without A Note. This concept originated from a filtered sentence that Roman natural philosopher Gaius Plinius Secundus (Pliny the Elder) wrote for the Greek painter Ἀπελλῆς (Apelles) and it is also my own personal "mantra", fuelling my travel in the music world. In those years I released 4 experimental albums and a live show for neo-classical and contemporary dance.

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Since then, I have had the opportunity to share my music outside my native country Italy – like Germany, UK, Netherlands and Turkey. Here in Malta I had the honour of taking part at the Malta International Arts Festival (twice), where I presented new music and did 2 classical concerts with tenor Nico Darmanin. My latest work is 'SeaSharp' and that will become a new album.

How did you get involved with the use of synthesizers and electronic music in your work?

This choice was very natural since I grew up listening also to a lot of "not-classical music" and playing in several rock and metal bands throughout the years. I always liked to experiment with new sounds and the world of synth and electronic music allows for endless possibilities.

You're an aerospace engineer AND a musician/composer, how do you find enough time to do both?

I always find time because this is how I plan to do a piano concert on Mars! Besides this goal, I have been on this path I have chosen with awareness since I was 13 and never saw music and science as a dichotomy – they are two sides of my life in a natural way. I stick with discipline, having understood that in the long term, a systematic and persistent approach in our activities is what makes a real difference. I believe that having different passions is something that really enriches us, the important point is to never lose the real fun in what we do.

Also, 24 hours is a very good amount of time if used properly, for sure sometimes I should sleep more!

Please give us some more details on your upcoming concert 'SeaSharp'. What story are you trying to tell? What message do you want to get across to your audience? What can we expect?

The identity of 'SeaSharp' is deeply linked with my hybrid nature as a musician and aerospace engineer, but also involves the seeds of being a photographer, Chinese martial arts instructor and freediver. Every note is embedded in the concept of the Sea. The title is the root of this and my new work can be read at different levels. I can say that the Sea is the perfect metaphor for Life. In my case, it is the top entity to host and protect my hybrid nature. The innovation of this project and its diversity comes from the union between the traditional acoustic piano and the electronic synth.

SeaSharp promo - Nullo Die Sine Nota



The conceptual show starts from an explosion, "Debris Wave", where the need to clear our soul urges us to start from scratch again, keeping only the few things that are really important from our previous life-cycle. Every piece paints a short story inside the main one, leading to a higher level of self-awareness. The concert ends with "Sonic Sky", the Key of this piece is C# and the main themes of the previous music appear again, filtered and evolved. The aim of the project is to capture the focus of the audience and allow us to dive inside a dream, able to trigger our inner emotions.

Lastly, how has your time been here in Malta? What do you like most about it? What do you like least!?

I arrived in Malta 3 years ago and life up until now has been really great and full of discoveries and surprises! What I like most is guess what...the sea! Plus the Mediterranean weather and environment of course. At the bottom of my list would be waste 'management' mentality and to the attitudes towards traffic!

Leonardo will perform SeaSharp on the 15th of February (8:30 pm) at Spazju Kreattiv Valletta – in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Center.

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Tickets for the event can be bought [here](#).

Also, follow Leonardo's journey on his website: www.nullodiesinenota.com



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