



## The Metalliferous Hills Jug Band:

*An international geomusical collective to speak about environment, land, and rural development*

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### In a nutshell

*The Metalliferous Hills Jug Band (MHJB, or Jug Band dalle Colline Metallifere, in Italian) is an inter-generational and international musical collective based in Southern Tuscany, started in March 2017. It is active in the production of events where live music and outreach on land and environmental issues are mixed in an educated way to provide a pleasant, entertaining, and instructive experience.*

*For more information, you may visit this page: <http://www.pibinko.org/the-metalliferous-hills-jug-band/>, write to [jugbandcm@pibinko.org](mailto:jugbandcm@pibinko.org) or call +39 331 7539 228.*

### The project

The Metalliferous Hills Jug Band (or MHJB) is a collective created in March 2017 and named in September 2018, with its base of operations in Southern Tuscany. The group was born from the collaboration of two young rock-blues musicians, with three albums in their resume, a free-lance researcher with 25 years of international experience, musically active since 1986, and a cool German

who retired in Southern Tuscany, now working more than when he was employed at home, following his passion for graphic design, biodynamic agriculture, and music.

The goal of the MHJB is to blend in a single event three components: cultural outreach, live music, and an awareness raising. The latter is on topics for the protection and promotion of disadvantaged rural areas, starting from the homeland of the band's components, so as to share various best practices concerning environmental management and land planning.

The idea of combining art and science is not new *per se*. However, the path followed by the MHJB to accomplish this is considered quite original, looking at the context where it developed, some of its milestones, and the motivations of the creators of the project.

## Components of the collective

*The core quartet of the MHJB: left to right, Dario Canal, Jack O'Malley, Wolfgang Scheibe, and Simone Sandrucci.*



- [Canal, Dario](#), (Castelnuovo Val di Cecina, Pisa, 1991), residing in Massa Marittima. Co-founder and lead vocals for Etruschi from Lakota. In addition to being a rocker, he works on various projects on education, cultural mediation and theatre, collaborating with national organizations. In the MHJB he sings and plays guitar. He also started playing a vintage washboard, kindly provided by Wolfgang (see below).

- [Giacomelli, Andrea \(Jack o' Malley\)](#), (Frankfurt am Main, Germany, 1967), with a home in Tatti but living as a wild rover, mostly in Southern Tuscany, and travelling as needed. MS in environmental engineering (1993) and PhD in Hydrology (1997). His technical expertise is in geographic information systems, on which he worked since 1994 between universities, research and technology transfer centers, and multi-national engineering companies. Since 2006 he started a series of independent projects concerning the integration of cultural, environmental and open innovation issues with a base in the Farma Valley, some 100 km South of Florence, while maintaining strong links to [other parts of Italy and foreign countries](#). Since 1986 he is active with [music](#), and since 2006 in the [creation and production of events](#). In the MHJB he plays mostly drums/percussions, but is occasionally called to switch with Dario on guitar and vocals.
- [Sandrucci, Simone](#) (Florence, 1991). Living in Pomarance (Pisa), lead guitar and banjo with Etruschi from Lakota, he also teaches guitar and works as a producer for La Tana del Bianconiglio in Montecchio di Peccioli (Pisa). He also collaborates with colleagues to provide sound services (namely with a Lombardi set from the Seventies). He sees his future as a toga party manager. Meanwhile he is active on various social causes.
- [Scheibe, Wolfgang](#), (Schwaben, Germany, 1947), living in Tatti (Grosseto), after various years of experience as a street musician in the Sixties and Seventies -also being cited in a book on the history of the Beat movement in Ludwigsburg- he starts to work as a graphics expert and biodynamic agriculture consultant. He also starts to visit Tuscany, where he eventually relocates in 2007. Apparently retired, he has the spirit of a 25-year old, bakes bread every Thursday, and makes posters, flyers, T-shirts and postcards for free, if he likes you (otherwise you can buy his Ape Piaggio prints in various shops in Tuscany). With the MHJB he plays the one-string bass.

### Other more-or-less-occasional participants

- Ciampini, Luigi (aka Roccia)– drums and video production
- Crivelli, Pietro – guitar, vocals, and harmonica. Specialised in folk and beat music, and old Italian cabaret (in 1966 he was already performing with a band)
- Klaus der Geiger, a street musician for fifty years, based in Koeln, Germany, he plays anything on violin and sings
- Eboli, Guglielmo – percussions in the Sep. 2018 “country session”
- Marini, Pietro – rythm guitar and bouzouki with Etruschi from Lakota. Also provides wild vinyl DJ sets (mostly with original Seventies records)
- Samba Governatore – freestyle and reggae
- Spinosi, Fabiano - drums

## Performance record

In italics we indicate shows not credited to the MHJB, where at least half of the core quartet was performing:

- 5-1-2019 Torniella (GR) Serata Live e Vinili: musica dai colli, dai campi e dai fienili
- 4-1-2019 Albinia (GR) live @ Garabombo Wine Bar
- 29-12-2018 Montemassi (GR) serata “1968...che ricordi...”
- *15-12-2018 Torniella (GR) in a hybrid formation with Amish from Jack White*
- *24-11-2018: Jam Session ARCI Sud Torino*
- 17-11-2018 Pomarance (PI) live @ Ganesh 0588
- *2-11-2018 Torniella (GR) jam session with Jack O'Malley, Fabiano Spinosi e Frank Maio*

- 1-11-2018 Sassofortino (GR) Festa della castagna
- 29-9-2018 Roccatederighi (GR), Jam Session @ enoteca Ampeleia
- 27-9-2018 Montecchio di Peccioli (PI) Country session Etruschi from Lakota & friends
- 25-9-2018 Grosseto – Jam session @ Caffè Ricasoli

In fact, the idea of setting up the MHJB originated at the end of an event organised in Castelnuovo Val di Cecina for the International Open Data Day on March 7, 2017. Between that date and September 2018 the team had numerous meetings, on-stage calls, jam sessions, and actual concerts which helped to shape the operation.

## Performance Formats

An MHJB performance can be modulated, seamlessly combining the musical and the outreach components. It can go from one end, where the components speak to the audience about environment and sustainable development issues, with short musical clips, to another end, with a high-power electric rock-blues set, including on stage maps, measurement sensors, and bibliography on environmental legislation during the Renaissance in Florence, or about the ancient people of Shardana, used by band members in their research.

Every component of the collective has at least ten years of experience dealing with an audience (from three to 1000 people). Furthermore, various band members can easily interact in multiple languages, and are happy to engage with visitors from abroad.

Another peculiarity of the MHJB is the systematic quest for participation by people residing in the location where a performance is to be held. These may be either musicians, or experts on subjects affine to those proposed by the band. Candidates are invited to reach the stage at some point, to speak, sing or play (provided the input is agreed upon before starting the show and is harmonised with the track list).

The typical duration of an MHJB set is two hours. Before and after, the band members are more than open to interact on technical and musical issues. This approach often leads to jam sessions, lightning talks, and other forms of collaboration which are not easily planned in advance.

## Repertoire

### Musical tracks

Rock, blues, beat, garage, folk, in Italian and English. The MHJB also proposes [covers of lesser known songs by famous artists](#), as well as various original songs. In addition to songs by Etruschi from Lakota and previous bands where Dario and Simone were active, at present we have a blues on air quality in Milano, and an Italian cover of the Fishin' Blues mostly known in the [Taj Mahal](#) version. That makes a list of about forty songs, plus the possibility of jamming as needed.

### Technical and cultural tracks

BuioMetria Partecipativa (participatory night sky protection and promotion), Gutenberg-style prints, community mapping, history of Southern Tuscany and of the Mediterranean, palla a 21 (or palla eh!), free/open-source geographic software and data, biodynamic agricoltura, etc. This list is intentionally unsorted somewhat obscure. We encourage you to review the [pibinko.org](http://pibinko.org) web site for ideas and details about these topics, on which we will be glad to elaborate if you have questions...please write to [jugbandcm@pibinko.org](mailto:jugbandcm@pibinko.org).

## Instruments and instrumentation

In addition to the standard equipment by Etruschi from Lakota, the MHJB carries various vintage instruments owned by the families of the band members, including two Eko guitars from the Sixties on the right in [this photo](#), a [washboard and a one-string bass](#) from the early Seventies. We then have scientific instruments and measurement tools: a *sky quality meter*, for light pollution monitoring, a lux meter. We also carry various constructions rulers, often used also for percussions during the live sets, and other similar tools.

## Technical requirements

These totally depend on the venue. The MHJB can perform in all-acoustic mode, without electricity, in a cozy cafe corner, or can rock the house with an electric set involving large amplifiers, stage lighting, and video projections. Also, the band explores the use of other devices: for example, during the Third Farma Valley Winter Fest (Dec. 14-16, 2018), the band played with a CO<sub>2</sub> sensor provided by the National Research Council in Florence, to assess indoor air quality during the concert.



*The MHJB set in Montemassi, Southern Tuscany, Dec. 29, 2018. On the left, the info desk with various outreach material.*

## What's next

In the last months of 2018 the MHJB held a series of concerts to launch the project, recorded in the Tana del Bianconiglio studio five songs as “Etruschi from Lakota and friends”, and tested on the ground various ideas which could not be verified in the design stage, obtaining an increasing interest and raising the curiosity of the public.

In parallel, the collective was presented to various research institutions, including the National’s Research Council Institute of Biometeorology, the University of Pisa, Politecnico di Milano, Universidad Politecnica de Madrid, Universidade Regional de Blumenau (Brasil), Université du Québec, Joint Research Centre in Ispra, triggering significant interest for the band’s combination of artistic, scientific, and civic engagement components.

During the course of 2019, the idea is to propose the MHJB in different contexts, with two types of formation. In our “home” area (imagine a one-hour drive zone from Tatti) we propose the core quartet. Outside of this area, we evaluate the best offer depending on our client’s needs.

Ideally, we look at having one performance per month, also considering the parallel activities of each of the collective’s members (several of which are in any case related to the MHJB mission).

The MHJB is furthermore interested to develop collaborations with other experts, either in the cultural/scientific or in the musical domain. Namely, for the coming Summer we are looking for Soul and Rythm ‘n’ Blues vocalists (better if from outside Italy) and horns players (ideally from Southern Tuscany, where they abound).

## Costs

The cost of an MHJB performance needs to be assessed case by case, considering the compensation for the performers, whose number is variable, and travel costs. The band has its own audio and lighting equipment, and a basic set (shown in the previous photo) is included in the standard offer. Larger sets may be supplied, with an additional cost.

## Added value on promotion

In addition to any promotion provided by the organizer of an event involving the MHJB, the band advertises the events where it performs to its own networks of fans and followers, press and institutional contacts. In this respect the package provided by the MHJB also embeds a communication and marketing component which has a real value, accounting for the combined networks of the band members. We may note that the two young rockers have won national musical awards, the agricultural expert has an extended pool of followers in Tuscany and German-speaking countries, and that the scientist has frequent national media visibility (please check <http://www.pibinko.org/in-the-media> for a detailed list of interviews and reports).

## Contacts

- For more information on the MHJB, or to book an event: [jugbandcm@pibinko.org](mailto:jugbandcm@pibinko.org) or +39 331 7539 228 (Jack O’Malley).
- Web page: <http://www.pibinko.org/the-metalliferous-hills-jug-band/>
- Facebook: the MHJB does not have its own page. All news on the band is relayed via <https://www.facebook.com/pibinko>
- Linkedin: As per FB, you may follow <https://www.linkedin.com/in/pibinko>

The MHJB with Peter Crivelli (in the middle) before the evening on memories from 1968 in Montemassi, Southern Tuscany.

