

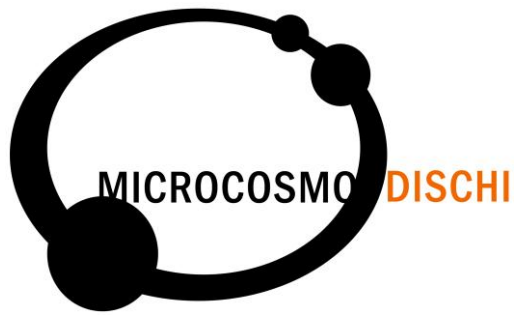
JOE BARBIERI: BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Joe Barbieri (Naples, December 14, 1973) is a fascinating anomaly. He is an outsider who, operating beyond the conventional tracks of the music industry, has managed to forge a remarkably personal path both in Italy and abroad. In doing so, he has succeeded in the rare feat of earning the genuine admiration of colleagues, critics, and audiences alike.

Following an early apprenticeship under the guidance of Pino Daniele (who served as his first producer), the artist—whom the French magazine *Les Inrockuptibles* aptly dubbed “l’artiste qui murmure à nos oreilles” (the artist who whispers in our ears)—released his debut album, *In Parole Povere*, in 2004. The record is an irresistible kaleidoscope that seamlessly weaves world music with jazz and the most refined traditions of Italian singer-songwriters (“*Joe Barbieri rightfully belongs in that special category of authors that includes the likes of Sergio Endrigo and Piero Ciampi*,” praised *La Repubblica*). The album was released in twelve countries and was crowned “Album of the Year” by the German magazine *Cd-Kritik*.

2009 marked the release of *Maison Maravilha*. Barbieri’s sophomore album reached shelves across Japan, North America, and Europe, quickly selling 20,000 copies and winning the *Premio Lunezia* for “the exceptional value of its lyrics.” Once again, the French press captured his essence best, with *Le Nouvel Observateur* describing his work as “a way of distinguishing true grace from mere beauty.” *Maison Maravilha* is a treasure trove of superb songs, with two undeniable standouts: *Normalmente*, which Stefano Bollani publicly proclaimed to be the most beautiful ballad ever written, and *Malegría*, a heart-rending fado featuring a duet with Cuban *Buena Vista Social Club* star Omara Portuondo. The ensuing concert tour drew massive, enthusiastic crowds, leading to the 2010 release of *Maison Maravilha Viva*, a live CD/DVD recorded at the Auditorium Parco della Musica in Rome.

On the spring equinox of 2012, Joe Barbieri returned with *Respiro*. He was joined by a cast of distinguished friends, including Uruguayan Oscar-winner Jorge Drexler, Gianmaria Testa, trumpeter Fabrizio Bosso, and the aforementioned Stefano Bollani. Italy finally bestowed upon Barbieri the



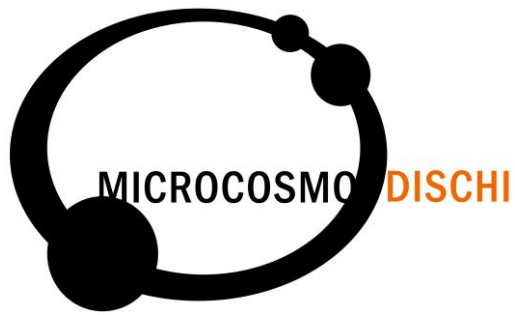
mainstream attention he deserved, and the album debuted on the FIMI charts. The national press described it as: “*Scents of ginger and cinnamon, the aroma of freshly brewed coffee, Naples and bossa, satin strings and Django. Auteur short films. Delicate, elegant. A minor masterpiece.*” During the summer of the same year, through the historic French label Le Chant du Monde/Harmonia Mundi (which previously brought international acclaim to Paolo Conte), *Respiro* was released in over fifty countries, and Barbieri was invited to perform in Tokyo as well as numerous European capitals.

On May 13, 2013, exactly twenty-five years after the jazz legend's passing, Joe Barbieri released *Chet Lives!*, a tribute album to Chet Baker, featuring the evocative sonic backdrops of Luca Aquino on trumpet and Antonio Fresa on piano. The tribute was further elevated by contributions from American vocalist Stacey Kent (with whom he shared the prestigious Olympia stage in Paris), Brazilian singer-songwriter Marcio Faraco, and esteemed jazz musicians Furio Di Castri and Nicola Stilo.

In the spring of 2015, Joe released his fourth album of original material. Inspired by the poetry of Konstantinos Kavafis and centered around the overarching theme of travel, the album was titled *Cosmonauta Da Appartamento*. Recorded across Naples, Rio de Janeiro, Copenhagen, New York, Paris, and Madrid, the record is a journey in itself, enriched by the transnational collaborations of Luz Casal, Hamilton de Holanda, La Shica, and Italy's own Peppe Servillo. A unique feature is the title track, which was built from audio recordings sent in by fans from all over the world and assembled in the studio. This experiment also served to raise awareness about the migrant crisis and collect voluntary donations for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). On September 9, the album earned a *Targa Tenco* nomination for "Album of the Year".

2016 saw Barbieri take a brief sabbatical from his solo singer-songwriter endeavors to embark on a tour with his close friend—producer, songwriter, and guitarist Tony Canto. Armed with only their guitars and Joe's voice, the two musicians traveled across the Italian peninsula to pay live homage to the often-unsung writers behind Italian pop music. The tour, which ultimately visited 26 cities, was fittingly titled *Maestri*.

On June 9, 2017, Joe Barbieri returned to his own compositions with the release of his fifth album of original material, *Origami*. The album, minimalist in approach and heavily influenced by jazz and Latin music, is a celebration of



aesthetics as a guiding compass, and of fragility as a vital tool to intercept the world's deepest heartbeat. On the track *Rinascimento*, Barbieri is joined by the masterful trumpet of Paolo Fresu.

Two years later, in May 2019, Joe completed a duology dedicated to his jazz idols—a project that had begun in 2013 with Chet Baker. He released *Dear Billie*, an homage to Billie Holiday. Recorded live in the studio in front of an audience of 50 fans, the album features several masterpieces made famous by the "Queen of Baltimore", alongside an original title track. The recording boasts a stellar lineup: Barbieri on guitar and vocals, Gabriele Mirabassi on clarinet, Pietro Lussu on piano, and Luca Bulgarelli on double bass.

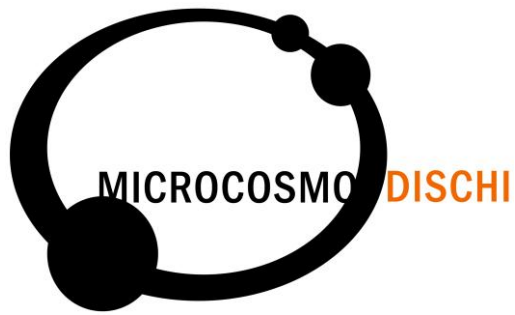
In October of the same year, he took on the multifaceted role of artistic producer, arranger, author, and translator (from Portuguese and French) for *Morabeza*, the most internationally oriented album by his friend and colleague Tosca. Among the tracks is a standout bilingual rendition of one of Barbieri's classics, *Normalmente*, performed as a striking duet with Ivan Lins. In February 2020, Barbieri arranged and orchestrated a fresh interpretation of *Piazza Grande* for Tosca, which she performed at the 70th Sanremo Festival alongside Spanish artist Silvia Pérez Cruz; the breathtaking duet secured 1st place during the festival's cover night.

In the spring of 2020, Joe wrote and produced *Tu, Io E Domani*, a collective track featuring Fabrizio Bosso, Luca Bulgarelli, Sergio Cammariere, and Tosca. The proceeds from its sales (channeled through a dedicated website) were donated to the Italian Civil Protection department to aid in the fight against COVID-19.

2021 marked Barbieri's return to his own songcraft. On April 16, *Tratto Da Una Storia Vera* was released across Europe (followed by Japan on April 22). This symphonically driven album features dozens of guest artists, including Jaques Morelenbaum, Carmen Consoli, and Mauro Ottolini, alongside Sergio Cammariere, Fabrizio Bosso, and Tosca—who reprised their contributions to *Tu, Io E Domani*, which was included on a physical release for the first time.

On September 17, he appeared on fellow artist Mario Venuti's album *Tropitalia*, collaborating on a reimagined version of the Lucio Dalla and Gianni Morandi hit *Vita*.

After co-writing the song *Per L'Eternità* for Turkish director Ferzan Özpetek's TV series *The Ignorant Angels* (Italian: *Le Fate Ignoranti*), Joe celebrated his 30-year career milestone in 2022 with the release of the live anthology album



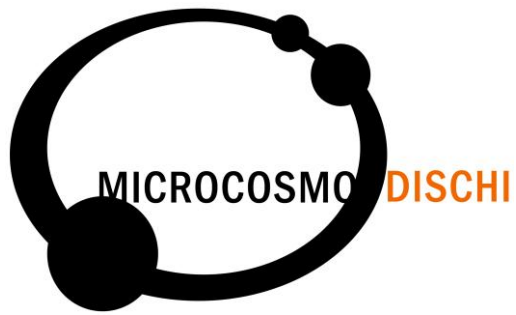
Tratto Da Una Notte Vera, followed by a highly successful, extended tour titled *30 Anni Suonati*.

In 2024, Barbieri finally tackled one of the most significant and emotionally resonant projects of his long artistic journey: his personal tribute to Neapolitan Music, of which he is a cultural descendant. He realized this through a chamber album "for strings" (accompanied by the manouche guitar of Oscar Montalbano and the DBguitar of Nico Di Battista) titled *Vulio*. In June of that year, the album earned a prestigious *Targa Tenco* nomination in the "Best Interpreter Album" category.

2025 marked Barbieri's debut as a composer for the theater. He was commissioned to write the music for a new comedy centered on the popular character created by Diego De Silva and successfully portrayed by Massimiliano Gallo: the lawyer Vincenzo Malinconico. The play is titled *Malinconico, Moderatamente Felice*.

On April 11 of the same year, nearly five years after his last collection of new songs, Joe Barbieri released *Big Bang*, his latest original album.

Further cementing his visionary talent behind the console, in 2026 Barbieri stepped entirely into the role of producer for the highly anticipated new album by Italian singer Tosca. Masterfully steering the project's artistic direction, he orchestrated several remarkable collaborations—producing, among others, a stunning and precious duet between Tosca and the iconic Brazilian singer Maria Bethânia.



DISCOGRAPHY

2025 "Big Bang"

2024 "Vulfo"

2022 "Tratto Da Una Notte Vera" (live)

2021 "Tratto Da Una Storia Vera"

2019 "Dear Billie"

2017 "Origami"

2015 "Cosmonauta Da Appartamento"

2013 "Chet Lives!"

2012 "Respiro"

2010 "Maison Maravilha Viva" (live)

2009 "Maison Maravilha"

2004 "In Parole Povere"