

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



MULTIETNICA



Erasmus+ program
Cooperation partnerships in adult education project

“The Network of European Bagpipers”

Cultural traditions of bagpipers in the region of Basilicata (Italy)

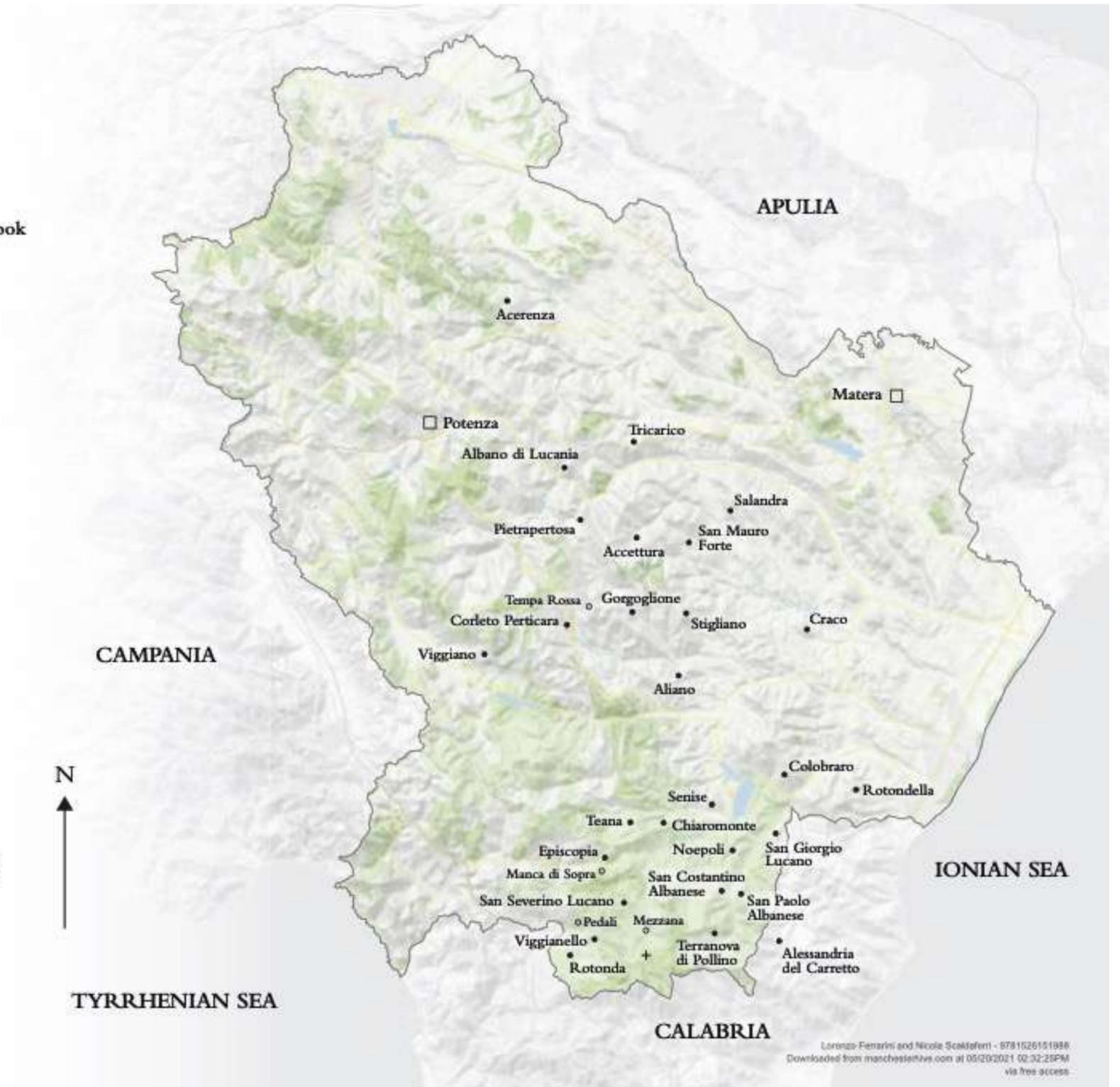
BAGPIPES IN BASILICATA

The bagpipes are very common in region of Basilicata, in Southern Italy, especially in the area of Mount Pollino National Park; they are also present in the valleys of Sarmento Sinni, Noce and Agri.

BASILICATA

Map of the places mentioned in the book

- Province capitals
- Towns and villages
- Hamlets and localities
- + Sanctuary of the Madonna del Pollino



BAGPIPES IN BASILICATA

INSTRUMENTS

The two types of bagpipes present in this area, are the *surdulina* and the *zampogna a chiave*; they are the most important musical folk instrument in Basilicata, and among the most relevant in the Italian folk tradition as a whole; this for the high number of performers still active in the region, the presence of several workshops in which it is built, as well as for the particularity of the sound and the musical repertoires.

The *zampogna a chiave* is composed of two conical chanters and two cylindrical drones of different length, inserted in a wood block; this is connected to a bag realized with and whole goat skin; it has an insufflator through which the performer blow the air.

The chanters and drones of *the zampogna a chiave* are made up of two pieces; those of the chanters (pipe and bell) are fixed with a screw, while those of the drones are mobile and sliding in order to be easily tuned.

The left chanter of the *zampogna* has a metal key (*chiave*) to close the last fingerhole, from which derives the name of the instrument. The *zampogna a chiave* can be of different sizes, spanning from about 50 cm of length up to 2 meters.



Zampogna a chiave
Giuseppe Salamone, Terranova di Pollino



Surdulina
Carmine Salamone, Terranova di Pollino

The *surdulina* is smaller, with the two cylindrical chanters of the same length made by only one piece of wood, and the two cylindrical drones composed by two sliding pieces; the *surdulina* too has a goat skin bag.

Beside the size, the substantial difference between the *zampogna a chiave* and the *surdulina* is in the reeds: the first mounts double reeds, and constitutes, from the organology, a double oboe with two drones; the second mounts simple reeds and constitutes a double clarinet with two drones.



Coppia di Ciaramelle
Antonio Forastiero, Lauria

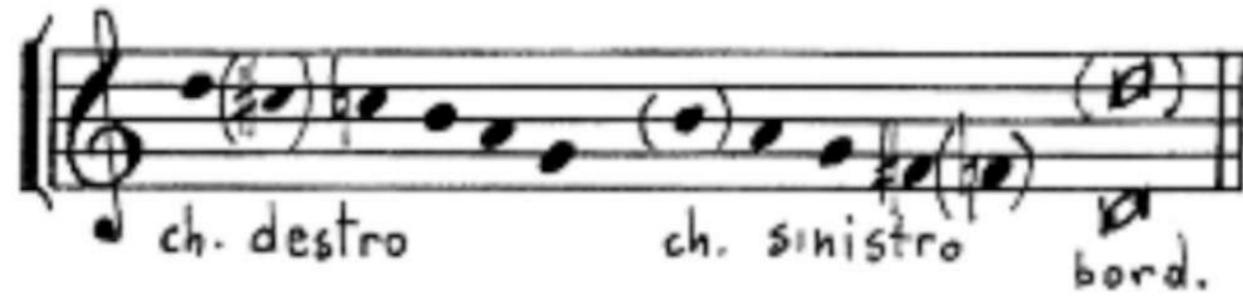
In this area is present also the *ciaramella*, also known in Italy as *oboe popolare* (folk oboe). It is a, a double reed conical instrument that plays together with the *zampogna a chiave*; usually the *ciaramella* plays melodies, while the *zampogna* provide the accompaniment.



Ciaramella
Angelo Mazziotta, Villa d'Agri

BAGPIPES IN BASILICATA

INSTRUMENTS



BAGPIPES IN BASILICATA

ICONOGRAPHY



Church of S. Donato, Ripacandida,
XV Century



Cathedral, Matera, XVI Century



Cathedral of Acerenza,
XVI Century



Church of S. Lucia, Avigliano, XVI Century

BAGPIPES IN BASILICATA

MAKING THE INSTRUMENTS



Leonardo Antonio Lanza



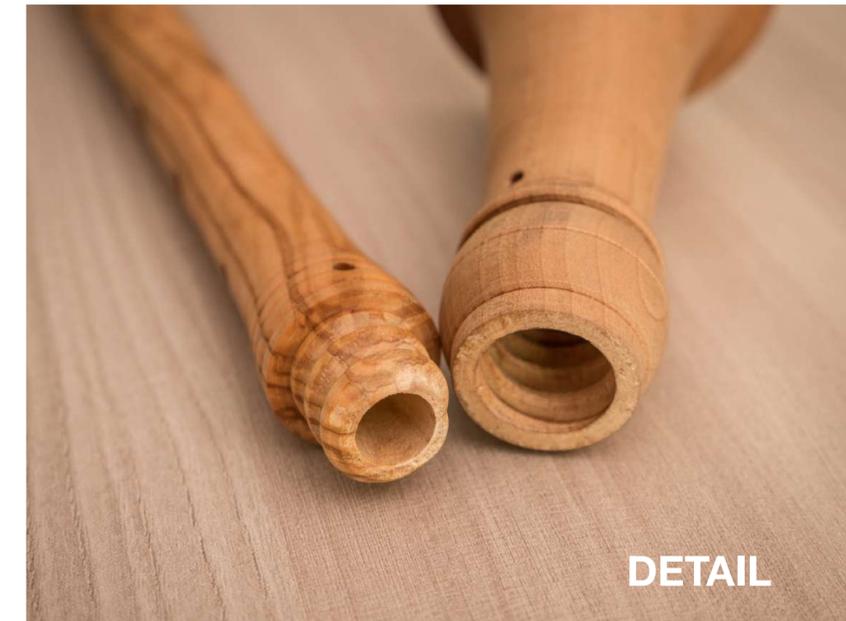
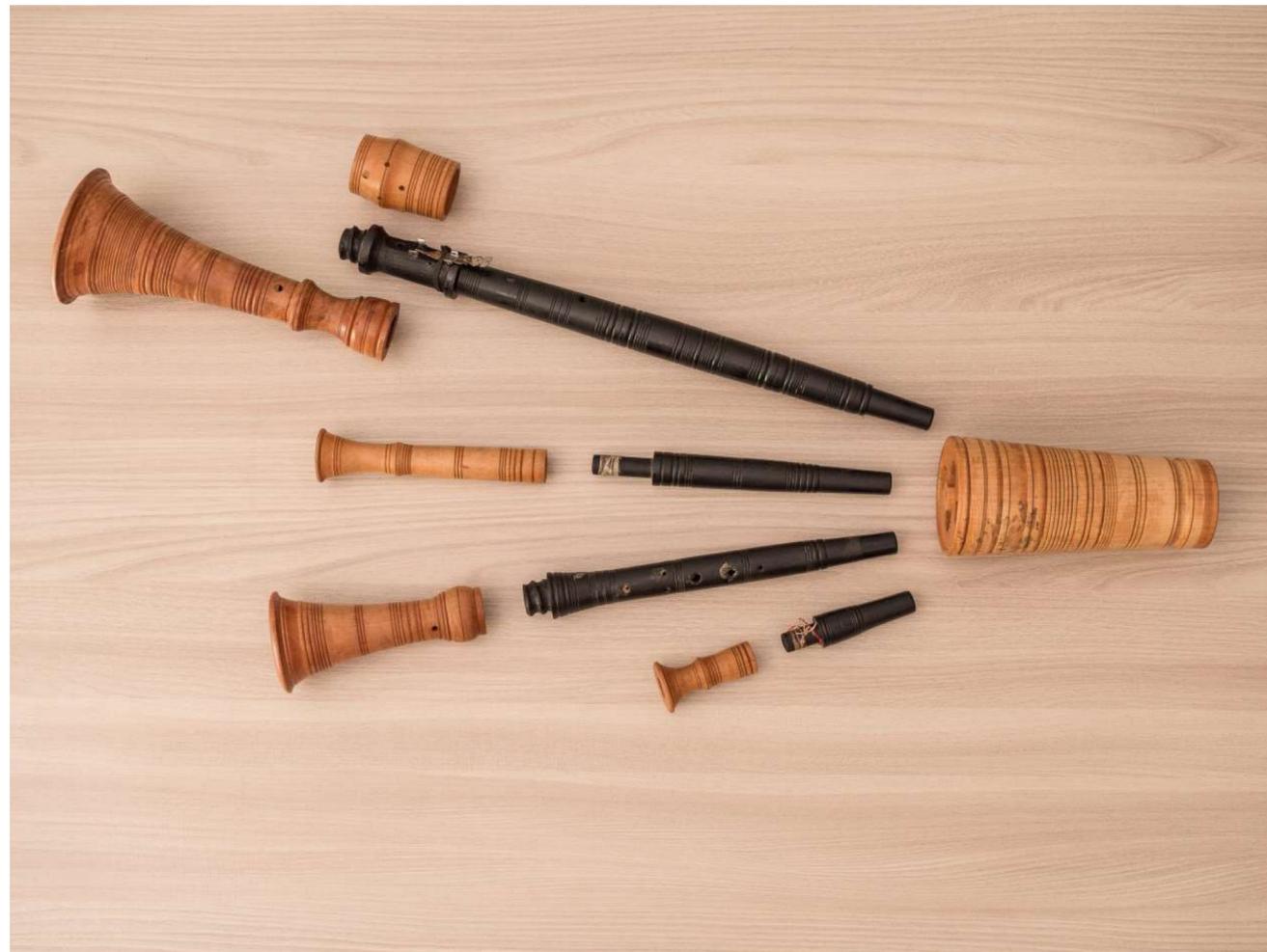
Quirino Valvano

The construction of the bagpipe, especially of the *zampogna a chiave*, requires specific ability and an equipment, consisting of a lathe, a drill, and the reamers.

In the construction of the *zampogna a chiave* different types of wood are used. One of the most frequent combination of wood is using maple for the block, olive for the pipes (as it does not absorb the humidity of the breath), and cherry or maple for the bells of the chanter.

BAGPIPES IN BASILICATA

ZAMPOGNA A CHIAVE
(bagpipe)



BAGPIPES IN BASILICATA

SURDULINA



DIFFERENT SIZES



CIARAMELLA

BAGPIPES IN BASILICATA

Reeds traditional by cane



Plastic Reeds



BAGPIPES IN BASILICATA



S. Antonio Festival Terranova di Pollino



Madonna della Pietà Terranova di Pollino

In the area of Mount Pollino, in Basilicata, the main gatherings of musicians were - and still are nowadays - some important religious pilgrimages: S. Antonio Festival in Terranova, Madonna della Pietà and the **Madonna del Pollino festival** is the main one.

The festival is in honor of the saint patron of the area, the Virgin Mary. All the devotees of the region make a pilgrimage to adore the Madonna, in the sanctuary built in the mountains, at more than 1500 meters, in the territory of San Severino Lucano.

BAGPIPES IN BASILICATA

The **Madonna del Pollino** festival is a fantastic opportunity to listen to a living tradition of the *zampogne* in Italy. During these events, there is also the transmission of musical repertoires from the older players to the young musicians; moreover, the makers bring and sell their instruments.



Madonna del Pollino Festival Organetto, diatonic accordion Tamburello, frame drum



Madonna del Pollino festival Organetto and zampogna a chiave

The Pollino Festival is one of the most important moments in Italy to observe and listen to a still active musical tradition. It is a unique case and over time it has been studied by various researchers.

The festival represents an important moment of encounter between players of *zampogne*, *organetto* and *tamburello*. Musicians of different generations, coming from different villages and regions, for some days gather together in informal way, and create a special musical community.

The festival therefore represents a key moment for the conservation of the music of the folk instruments.