



# OFF TOPIC MAGAZINE

INTERVIEW WITH **ETTORE CASTAGNA** ABOUT HIS NEW PROJECT [SENDUKI](#) + THE NEW ALBUM STRANIA (Alfamusic, IT - 2025)

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**Good afternoon, Ettore, and welcome to Off Topic.**

Lately, two meaningful words have been making waves on social media and digital platforms. The first is “*Senduki*.” It’s a new expression that evokes an ancient and original musical world. Tell us a bit about this musical project.

**Ettore:**

As we know, the devil hides in the details—and we love the minimal, humble, neglected, and residual things in life and in music... modal notes, forgotten rhythms, ancient timbres of wood, skins, and reeds—and then oscilloscopes and homemade algorithms.

*Senduki*, in the Greek dialect of Calabria, means something like “toolbox,” and that’s what we are—tightening and loosening the screws of our musical world. It’s a craft-based, self-managed, emotional, and vaguely pop project. We could say it’s first evident to itself, and then—perhaps—to those who listen to us.

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**The artistic union between you, Carmine, Elisa, Peppe/Yosonu, and Mimmo reflects a bond that, through your origins, embraces almost all of Calabria (Catanzaro, Reggio Calabria, Vibo Valentia). How has this influenced the birth and beauty of Senduki?**

**Ettore:**

We're very different musicians—individually, even before considering our local roots. Being Calabrian helps us understand the rest of the Mediterranean better, but we come from a contemporary South that knows how to handle both an electric instrument—by now as archeological as a *zampogna*—and a loop. Along with that come solitudes, obsessions, and gossip from a world where Battiato's "permanent center of gravity" isn't so easy to find anymore.

Speaking different dialects led us to look for new languages—so as not to forget how (or that) we are human. Dialects are richness: the salt of Italian, and the sugar of French and English.

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**Lira, electric guitar, *malarruni*, drums and electronics, voice, *zampogna*, winds, tambourine, electric bass, and vocals... a lineup of multi-instrumentalists mixing the archaic and the modern in a surprising and enjoyable blend. What guided these choices?**

**Ettore:**

The original idea was to bring fragmented musical identities back together. We know bits and pieces of the rural tradition, we have a sense of Mediterranean music, but we also chew on grunge, death metal, blues, singer-songwriter music, classical and contemporary.

When I was seventeen, I played punk and new wave—by eighteen, I was playing the *zampogna*. We needed the courage to risk tearing things apart and put everything together again. That's how a kind of *lysergic folk* emerged—infused with world music and pop undertones.

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**The second word is "Strania," the title of your debut album, released on May 16 by Alfa Music. What does this word mean for you, and how was it born?**

**Ettore:**

It's a dialect word with several meanings... *foreign*, but also *strangeness* or *estrangement*. The strangeness of life, with its inexplicable mysteries—the shadow lines where knowledge stops. Beyond the thinning of reason and love, there remains the need to communicate a world we still belong to. We build forms of belonging that remain unresolved, unreasonable, and yet tie us to an olive grove, a concrete suburban dormitory, or a gas station closed for too many years along Highway 106.

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**On April 25—symbolically, a day of liberation—“Focu & Palumbi” was released as the first single, anticipating the album. Why did you choose this track to lead the way?**

**Ettore:**

We love its hypnotic nature, the free associations in the lyrics, and its dancing energy. It’s full of timbral contrasts that bring just the right mix of surprise and joy.

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**What are your next projects?**

**Ettore:**

It’s a project that deserves to be played live—so, first and foremost, concerts and meeting the audience. For now, the project is our journey. Out at sea, we’ll have time to choose our next ports.



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