

# HONORING THE SEA GODDESS

*Alessandra Belloni and DAUGHTERS OF CYBELE*

Presented to sold out audiences at the New York Open Center, Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Venice, Perc Fest and Salsomaggiore, Italy.



*“Noted Italian percussionist/singer Alessandra Belloni and her all-female trio Daughters of Cybele... alternating between high, eerie incantations and earthy folk melodies and playing a small museum’s worth of percussion instruments, they wove a sonic web... it was as if the crowd had been transported to a secret clearing somewhere in the Piemonte to witness some wonderfully obscure, mystical ritual.” —NY Press*

The concert is inspired by two geographically distant but thematically parallel traditions. Southern Italian and Brazilian purification rites and procession performed in the summer to honor the archetypal sea goddess. In Brazil she comes from the West African Yoruba culture and is called Yemanjá, in Italy she is called the Black Madonna of the Sea (once called Aphrodite).

Internationally renowned singer, percussionist, dancer and REMO Artist Alessandra Belloni will be playing the ocean drum, recreating the sound of the waves of the ocean, her Yemanjá drum made by Remo that combines the sound of the water with the drum, her line of Southern Italian tambourines and frame drums accompanied by a small ensemble of women percussionists, dressed in white and blue to honor the sea.

They recreate rituals with songs, chanting and dancing, drumming and offerings of flowers to the images of Yemanjá and the Black Madonna. The music played will include fisherman’s songs, and love laments, from Southern Italy and Brazil, as original songs written by Alessandra Belloni inspired by her trips to Hawaii and Brazil written in honor of Yemanjá. This is unique passionate show with great music and joyous ritual that invokes the healing power of primordial waters, was presented in Italy (Venice, Salsomaggiore Thermal resort, PERC FEST, New York OPEN CENTER, Los Angeles Italian Cultural Institute) Trumpets Jazz Club.

**[Watch videos of the Daughters of Cybele](#) at the 2009 Woma Jazz Festival.**

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