

## Program Bio

Beginning in the mid nineties, *Massimo Cusato* pioneered the use of the tamburello with a drum set. Since then he has perfected and expanded this unique style using his *Multi Drum Set* and combining it with other percussion instruments. The combination of *tamburello and drum set* defined his unmistakable sound and has become the reference point for many percussionists in the Italian/Ethnic folk music.

*Arnaldo Vacca, Giovanni Imparato, Ettore Mancini, Horacio Hernandez, Cristiano Micalizzi, Maurizio Dei Lazzaretti, and Louis "Changuito" Quintana* are the teachers that most influenced Massimo during his early years of study. He is a sensitive musician with an artistic and humane sensibility. This coupled with his varied musical training helped develop his keen ability to play across a wide swathe of musical styles. His extensive career has found him on television, on stage and in concert halls playing with some of the international music scene's biggest performers. Massimo has played with *Quartaumentata, Massimo Ranieri, Niccolò Fabi, Simon Cristicchi, Paola Turci, Tony Bungaro, Eugenio Bennato, Zero Assoluto, Franco Califano, Marco Zurzolo, Lucilla Galeazzi, David Riondino, Dario Vergassola, Pino Insegno, Rodolfo Laganà*, among many others.

In 2015, Massimo signed an endorsement contract with the prestigious drum company *Remo Inc.* Together with them he designed and launched the *Tamburello Calabria* and a hybrid instrument the *Pandurello* into the world market.

He is the first Italian to obtain this amazing collaboration with Remo, the world's premiere manufacturer of drumheads and percussion instruments.

During the same year Massimo became the endorser for *Ludwig, Paiste and Vic Firth*.

He also traveled to Castleton State College in the United States to teach in *KOSA, the International drum and percussion camp*, as one of its faculty members.

Massimo is currently in collaboration with:

*Quartaumentata* (his band since 1998) *Elisabeth Cutler* and *Mujura*.

Website [www.massimocusato.it](http://www.massimocusato.it)