

For many years, since I was sixteen (I am now seventy-four), I have composed and sung songs for/with the band Stormy Six, or as a singer-songwriter. Many of those songs can be classified as “political”, in a strict or wider sense, related to the activity of the group, which was at some point one of the founding bands of Rock In Opposition. Before, during, or after the RIO era, some of my songs were narrative rock ballads, based on historical sources; clearly, the origins of that kind of song are in the folk tradition, but there are examples in popular music history as well, especially in the 1950s and 1960s. I considered them as models to imitate, be they from Anglo-American folk revival, folk-rock, and country-rock, or from an influential Italian collective named “Cantacronache” (chronicle-singers, a pun based on “cantastorie”, storyteller).

I will introduce and sing three of those songs: one based on a debate in Italian Parliament in 1863, one on Paolo Spriano’s *History of the Italian Communist Party*, one on an article Ernest Hemingway wrote for the “Toronto Star”. English translations will be provided. To sum up, massacres and aeolian pendulums.

Franco Fabbri