

# Biography

## Malika Ayane

Malika Ayane was born in Milan in 1984. Her musical training began at the 'Giuseppe Verdi' Conservatory in Milan, where she studied cello from 1995 to 2001. In the same period she joined the Voci Bianche Chorus of La Scala, contributing not only as chorus member but frequently also as soloist. In 2007 Malika met Caterina Caselli, who was immediately impressed by her fresh, original and 'spicy' style. This was the expression used by Paolo Conte to describe Malika's voice. *'The colour of this voice is a deep orange with a bitter and rare spicy flavour'*, he said.

Malika immediately began to work on her very first recording project, which was released in the autumn of 2008 with the title of 'Malika Ayane'. The album, based on a project by Caterina Caselli Sugar and produced by Ferdinando Arnò, is a melting pot of talents: Pacifico (who wrote two of the songs – 'Sospesa' and 'Contro vento'), Giuliano Sangiorgi (author of 'Perfetta') and 'maestro' Paolo Conte, who wrote for Malika a previously unreleased track, 'Fandango'. Malika is co-author of two tracks: 'Briciole' and 'Il Giardino dei Salici'. Following the radio success of the single 'Soul Waver', and its even more popular Italian version 'Sospesa', featuring Pacifico, Malika won over the general public with the release of 'Feeling Better' (which remained one of the most frequently played songs on the radio for over 4 months - a real record for a new artist) and was greeted with enthusiasm by the music critics. 'Feeling Better' became a smash hit, with its video clip widely circulated on all the major music networks.

In March 2009 Malika Ayane took part in the Sanremo Festival with the song 'Come foglie' (music and lyrics by Giuliano Sangiorgi), produced and arranged by Ferdinando Arnò. This track, which is included in the re-edition of the album of the same name released under the Sugar label, remained at No. 1 of the Nielsen Music Control charts of the songs most frequently played on the radio. A year after its first release, the album 'Malika Ayane' went platinum. Malika Ayane was also the musical protagonist of the soundtrack for the film 'Generazione 1000 Euro', contributing with three tracks - 'Feeling better', 'Moon' and 'Soul Waver' – from her self-titled debut album. The film, directed by Massimo Venier, produced by Andrea Leone Films and Rai Cinema and distributed by 01 Distribution, features a cast of promising young artists of Italian cinema: Valentina Lodovini, Alessandro Tiberi, Francesco Mandelli and Carolina Crescentini, with special guest star Paolo Villaggio.

On June 21, 2009 Malika was one of the protagonists of 'Amiche per l'Abruzzo', a fund-raising concert in aid of the survivors of the Abruzzo earthquake. 2009 was also the year of a long tour in which Malika performed all over Italy with a show that combined old-fashioned artistic elegance with sophisticated rock, effectively alternating unreleased songs by the artist with exquisite cover versions of songs by prominent international artists. After a summer tour consisting of more than thirty concerts held throughout Italy, in November 2009 Malika won over the audience of Blue Note, a famous jazz club in Milan, accompanied by the band that in recent months had achieved a perfect alchemy with her voice, thanks also to the talents of its members Luca Colombo (guitars), Giulia Monti (cello), Carlo Gaudiello (keyboards), Marco Mariniello (bass) and Leif Searcy (drums).

Malika Ayane ended the year 2009 in triumph - a duet with Andrea Bocelli of 'Blue Christmas', a track from the Italian version of the tenor's album 'My Christmas', and 4 appearances in the UK (Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool and Glasgow), where Malika had the chance to sing with the most famous and highly-appreciated Italian artist in the world.

In January, Malika performed the cover version of the song 'La prima cosa bella' to accompany the closing credits of Paolo Virzi's new film of the same title, starring Stefania Sandrelli, Valerio Mastandrea, Claudia Pandolfi and Micaela Ramazzotti. In 2010 Malika took part in the Sanremo Festival with the song 'Ricomincio da qui' (lyrics by Malika Ayane and Pacifico, music by Ferdinando Arnò) and won the 'Mia Martini' Critics Prize and the Radio and TV Prize. 'Ricomincio da qui' is from Malika Ayane's second album 'Grovigli', which was released on 19th February, 2010. Her special guest in this second work is Paolo Conte, who duets with Malika in the brand new song 'Little Brown Bear, written by Conte himself, to whom Malika also dedicates the cover 'Chiamami adesso'. Produced by Ferdinando Arnò, the album also features Malika's reinterpretation of 'La prima cosa bella' by Nicola Di Bari, from the soundtrack of the latest film of Paolo Virzi, and a duet with Cesare Cremonini entitled 'Believe in Love'. Besides being unanimously acclaimed by the critics, 'Grovigli' was also a great success in terms of sales; with over 70 thousand copies sold, in fact, Malika was awarded the Wind Music Award 2010.

With a double sellout, on 22nd April Malika Ayane kicked off the 'Grovigli Tour' at Blue Note in Milan. After the concert at the Auditorium Music Park in Rome on 28th April, the tour, consisting of over forty dates, continued in the summer and was a great success with audiences in Italy.

In the wake of this Italian success, 'Grovigli' was also distributed throughout Europe (Sugar Label / Distribution by Universal Music Group International) - France, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Austria. Malika toured Europe with the 'Grovigli 2011 European Live Tour', with 5 performances in Germany (produced by Sugar/Just Me Levarco) in Mainz, Munich, Berlin (at the prestigious Admiralspalast), Hamburg and Cologne; in France at Midem 2011 in the section Best European New Talent and in the Netherlands in the Grand Theatre Up, Groningen, at the prestigious Eurosonic 2011, a festival featuring a selection of the best new pop-rock talents from the Old Continent and in which Malika represented Italy. This golden year for Malika concluded in September 2010 with a nomination in the MTV Europe Music Awards.

The success of the 'Grovigli Tour' results in the release, in the autumn of 2011, of the project 'Grovigli Special Tour Edition', a special edition of the album 'Grovigli' (which has already sold over 100 thousand copies) made up of a CD and a DVD which document in music and images Malika's most recent live discographical experiences. The album also features a duet with Cesare Cremonini, entitled 'Hello!', and a previously unpublished track by Pacifico, 'Il giorno in più', a heart-rending ballad produced by Malika Ayane herself and enriched with string and wind instruments arranged by Alexander Balanescu. This song is one of the original motives of the film of the same name, based on the novel by Fabio Volo.

Malika Ayane is currently working on her latest album, which is due to be released at the beginning of 2012. The new tracks include 'Something is Changing' by Paolo Buonvino with lyrics by Malika, which accompanies the credits of the film 'Il giorno in più' by Fabio Volo, and the title track of the film *Immaturo 2*.

In 2012, for the film " All the sounds of the sea " by Federico Brugia ( in cinemas from 24 August ) , Malika composed the song in the credits " Tangles " ( contained in his upcoming album of unreleased " RECREATION " ) as well as participate in the film with a cameo. During 2012 receives the award for Best Actress for her performance in Revelation " Perfect " ( directed by Federico Brugia ) Festival CORTINAMETRAGGI 2012. In September, he released " Recreation " , the third album of unreleased Malika Ayane ( Sugar ), the first from artistic producer , who collaborated Paolo Conte, Pacifico , Tricarico , Boost , The Niro, Paul Buonvino and others. The album also contains a previously unreleased track ( the music ) of Blanche Dubois . The disc features the triumph of summer " Three Things " , remained for weeks at the top of the list of most played songs on the radio networks , and the second single , currently on the radio, " Time Do not Deceive " ( co-written with Gino Pacifico ) . Recreation The tour ends in December with a double live in Milan and a big hit with audiences and critics .

During 2013 Malika Ayane took part in the 63th edition of the Italian Song Festival with the song " And If Then " and " No " ( written by Giuliano Sangiorgi and arranged and produced by the same Malika ) and ranks in 4th place with " And if then , " the song that remains in the race.  
From April blacks back on tour with the main Italian theaters RECREATION Tour