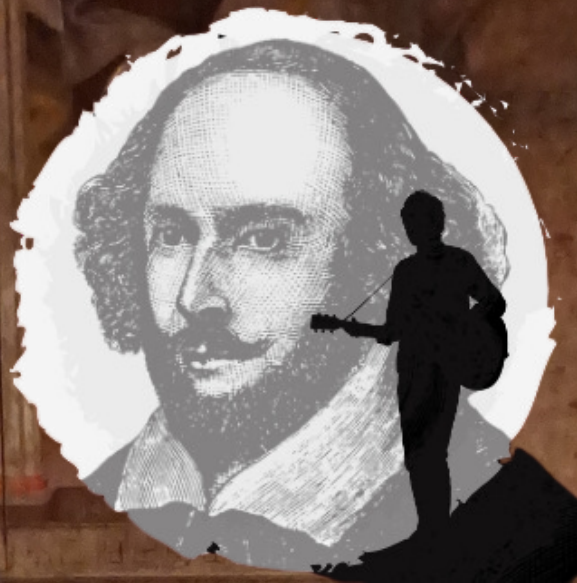


SHAKESPEARE IN SONG

**William Shakespeare songs, sonnets
and monologues set to original music
composed and performed by
Daniel Zappi**



Elizabethan plays would often include music and dance, with theatre companies having their very own 'musicians-in-residence' tasked with breathing musical life into performances. Shakespeare and his collaborators were no exception and he often included songs- both popular folk songs of his day and originals he penned himself- in his plays, as an important part of audience engagement. Indeed there are more than three dozen original songs and more than one hundred references to existing songs in his works.



In 2023, actor-musician Daniel Zappi set about composing original music for a selection of Shakespeare's monologues, sonnets and songs. Interpreted on voice, guitar, mandolin, piano and percussion.

Each piece was to be part of a wider emotional journey into Shakespeare's plays. In order to help the audience on this journey, Daniel interacts with the audience between each song, giving context to the stories, characters and history connected to each piece. What results is a musically eclectic, highly entertaining and emotionally-charged celebration of Shakespeare's works, through music. Plays featured include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Othello*, *Cymbeline*, *Twelfth Night* and more.

The show premiered in August 2023 at the International Theatre Festival of Volterra, Italy, where it was very well received. It has since been performed in venues in Prague (Pisecka Brana) and Milan (All Saints' Anglican Church). It lasts approximately 70 minutes and the show is typically performed with an accompanying violinist/ harpist.

It can be performed in both English and Italian as Daniel is bilingual (the songs sung in Elizabethan English and the spoken introductions in Italian).

YouTube
show promo
video



Daniel Zappi

Daniel Zappi is an Anglo-Italian singer-songwriter, actor and theatre director. He graduated from the Oxford School of Drama and has numerous stage, TV and film credits to his name, most recently playing recurring-role 'Ivor' in Carnival Row Series 2 (Amazon Prime, 2023).

In addition to having written a number of albums of original music, he has composed music and songs for plays and collaborated with prominent artists such as award-winning writer/director Justin Butcher, actress Caroline Faber, singer/songwriter/producer Tom E Morrison, and others.

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