



Alex Baker
Debo & Mezo
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Il Divo
by [Bree Hoskin](#)
02 December 2011

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The world's foremost classical crossover group Il Divo – aka four beautiful men who go by the names Urs Buhler, Carlos Marin, Sebastien Izambard and David Miller – are back with their new album *Wicked Game*.

Here, we speak to Urs from Il Divo about surviving in the music industry, the evolution of the band's sound and how they have a lot to offer gay men!

Music is a tough industry - what do you think you need to be successful in it?
I would like to think that first of all you have to be a proficient musician and that you have to be talented, creative, expressive and charismatic. Unfortunately nowadays at least part of the music business seems to be turning into a freak show where the one with the sob story sells the most records. I do have faith in the consumer, though - I think there will always be a need for good music and talent will prevail in the end.

"Whether you're gay or straight, male or female, old or young, I love singing for you."

Tell us a bit about your new album *Wicked Game* - what can we expect?
This album has got a lot more depth to it than previous work, with a lot more colour, light and shade. Titles such as Chris Isaac's 'Wicked Game', Roy Orbison's 'Crying', 'Come What May' from the *Moulin Rouge* soundtrack, 'Dove L'amore' based on Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings* quartet as well as original compositions make for an eclectic mix. It's a listening experience that will not let you wander off for a second.

We've given ourselves a lot of time to find the best songs, record the strongest, most heartfelt vocals and work on the most beautiful lush and dramatic arrangements. The result is that *Wicked Game* is without a doubt the best album we've ever recorded. I would even go further and say that, no matter what kind of music one listens to, this album is a jewel, a very good piece of music which deserves to be heard by everyone - it's just great.



What are you most proud of about the album?
We achieved our goal of progressing and setting the bar higher than on all the previous recordings we have done. I can listen to the whole album again and again and never have a

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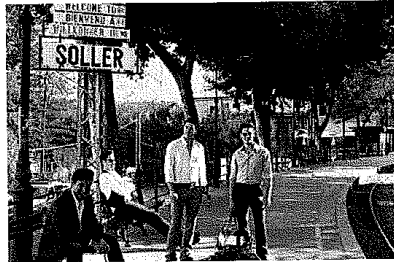
feeling of wanting to skip forward. On the contrary, I have goose bumps for 45 minutes and that makes me very proud.

"I guess it's like with the female attention. Everyone has their own personal favourite and, as the four of us are quite different from each other in many ways, I think we've got a lot to offer!"

What was it like to record?

A very diverse experience. We recorded over a year in several different studios in different countries and with different teams of producers, even though Per Magnusson and David Krüger have contributed the most on the album. Therefore it was a very organic process during which we had the flexibility to do the right thing at the right time, letting ideas and interpretations grow and evolve.

Also, we were heavily involved in the whole process of mixing and producing the songs, much more than on previous records, which again ties it much closer to our hearts.



How do you feel your music has grown or evolved since you first started out?

We have gotten to know each other's voices very well, just as we have our individual personalities and different ways of interpreting music. It all makes for a huge repertoire of shades and colours which we can use very precisely while arranging the vocals.

On the first album, everything was a bit of a shot in the dark and on the next couple of albums we held on to a certain dynamic that seemed to work best for the sound we had created. By now we can handle all our tools in a much freer way and experiment. However, certain things will always stay the same and that's what makes us Il Divo.

"I have goose bumps for 45 minutes and that makes me very proud."

Do you remember the first time you ever got up on stage? What happened?

The very first time Il Divo performed together was in a ballroom of a country hotel outside London. It was a showcase to present Il Divo to the UK's music and media world - the toughest crowd you can possibly imagine! I thought we did quite well and the response was very positive. As for our first big live show, there have been so many hundreds all over the world so I must unfortunately admit I cannot recall the specifics.



What does the support of the gay community mean to you?

I spent eight years of study and early career in Amsterdam where homosexuality is so accepted that hardly anyone even feels the need to mention it, which I find a very positive thing. That is I guess the way I look at our audience. Whether you're gay or straight, male or female, old or young, I love singing for you. You give me the possibility to live a great life and do what I love the most, singing. I thank everyone who listens to and enjoys our music from the bottom of my heart for giving me such a privilege.

"Certain things will always stay the same and that's what makes us Il Divo."

So, which one of you gets the most male attention then?!

You will probably know better than I do. I guess it's like with the female attention. Everyone has their own personal favourite and, as the four of us are quite different from each other in many ways, I think we've got a lot to offer!

It's our round - what are you having?

Depends on where we are. If we're just sitting in a pub in the late afternoon, then a beer. If we're in a club or bar, preferably Champagne, a vodka tonic or a screwdriver. If we're out for a nice dinner, then whichever wine goes best with the food we've ordered.



What's the guiltiest pleasure on your iPod?
Debbie Gibson - 'Foolish Beat'.

What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given?
Always try not to hurt other people.

Anything to add?
People - say 'no' to piracy! Keep listening to good music and enjoy Il Divo.

Wicked Game, by Il Divo
Label: Syco
Released: 28 November 2011
ASIN: B005KDWJFA

Buy **Wicked Game**, the new album from Il Divo, online now and save!

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