

= Mondo Cane ( album ) =

Mondo Cane is a 2010 album by Mike Patton . Featuring a forty @-@ member orchestra and fifteen @-@ piece backing band , the album contains a series of cover versions of 1950s and 1960s Italian pop music . Patton conceived of the album while living in Bologna , and became attracted to music he heard on the radio featuring pop singers backed by orchestras .

Released on May 4 , 2010 , through Patton 's record label Ipecac Recordings , Mondo Cane has been met with favorable responses from music critics . Reviewers have drawn comparisons to California , an earlier album by Patton 's first group Mr. Bungle . Mondo Cane peaked at number 2 in the United States ' Classical Albums chart , briefly charting in Switzerland and Finland as well .

= = Production = =

= = = Gestation = = =

Mondo Cane consists of Mike Patton 's arrangements and performances of 1950s and 1960s Italian pop songs . Patton had heard these songs while living in Bologna ; the singer had adopted the city as a second home after marrying Italian artist Titi Zuccatosta , and had become a fluent speaker of Italian . Patton began exploring Italian popular music ; although initially wishing to listen to contemporary music , he found nothing that interested him . However , he became drawn to pop music from the 1950s and 1960s , intrigued by singers using orchestras for backing rather than pop bands . Having considered making an album covering these songs for some time , Patton initially believed he would approach the project with a small band , but was offered the chance to compose music for an orchestra . Patton then opted to use this opportunity to record Mondo Cane instead .

Patton had also been inspired by the music of Italian composer Ennio Morricone . Patton 's record label Ipecac Recordings had previously released Crime and Dissonance , a two @-@ disc retrospective of Morricone 's work . The singer has described his admiration for Morricone 's writing , feeling that the composer turned " what could be banal , surface @-@ style pop into really deep , orchestrated , tense and compelling music " . Several of the album 's songs had been written by Morricone , including " Deep Down " , written for the 1968 Mario Bava film Danger : Diabolik . Patton had been aware of the song for some time , having been a fan of the film and Morricone 's score ; however , the two musicians have not actually met or worked together before .

= = = Recording = = =

Mondo Cane was recorded with the backing of a forty @-@ strong orchestra , a fifteen @-@ piece band , and a choir . Recordings were made on a live tour , with the album 's tracks assembled as composites from the first three dates of the Italian leg of the tour . Each song contains elements taken from different recordings , with Patton describing the process as " a giant Rubiks Cube [ sic ] " , noting that individual bars of one instrument 's music might be lifted from one concert and layered with bars of another instrument 's parts from another concert .

Stylistically , the album has been described by Allrovi 's Jason Lyman grover as ranging " from Frank Sinatra pop to psychedelic garage rock " ; while The Boston Globe 's James Reed has noted the " spare " sound of " Scalinatella " and the " furious and rocking " pace of " Urlo Negro " . Although wanting to remain faithful to the original versions of the songs covered , Patton wished to avoid simply mimicking the original recordings , stating " this is a record of covers , and I believe firmly that you have to make them your own . There is a very fine line to tread . You have to treat a song with respect , yet twist it up , fuck it up and somehow make it a part of your own voice " . When assembling the cut for " Deep Down " , Patton was able to get in touch with the original vocalist , a woman named Christy , though mutual friend Daniele Luppi . However , she declined to take part in the project .

One song on the record , " Scalinatella " , is sung in Neapolitan , rather than Italian , which required

Patton to re @-@ learn the correct inflections and pronunciations in that language . However , the conductor of the orchestra Patton used on tour was a native of Naples and would frequently correct the singer during rehearsal until he was able to perform it correctly . Describing this collaboration , Patton noted " I had a lot of great people around me . I wouldn't have been able to do any of this shit without them " .

= = Track listing = =

= = Release and reception = =

Although initially intended for released in 2009 , Mondo Cane was released on May 4 , 2010 through Patton 's record label , Ipecac Recordings . The album was released on both compact disc and vinyl record . The album 's cover feature a die @-@ cut design based on poster artwork created to advertise one of the early Mondo Cane concerts .

Mondo Cane has been met with generally favorable reviews . Review aggregation website Metacritic lists the album as having an average rating of 74 out of 100 , based on seventeen reviews . Writing for Allrovi , Jason Lymangrover rated the album four stars out of five , calling it Patton 's " most elaborate endeavor to date " . Lymangrover singled out " Deep Down " as a highlight , and felt that the covers were treated with due deference to the original recordings while still featuring Patton 's idiosyncratic take on them . Philip Bloomfield of Drowned in Sound awarded Mondo Cane a score of seven out of ten , describing it as " yet more proof that his talent and his breadth are perhaps indeed ' senza fine ' " . Bloomfield compared the sound of the album to California , a 1999 release by Patton 's first band Mr. Bungle ; and also felt that although the album 's covers were faithful to the original versions , they still showcased a degree of Patton 's versatility . Slant Magazine 's Jesse Cataldo rated Mondo Cane three stars out of five , describing Patton as " less a musician than a kind of gonzo multi @-@ specialty clearinghouse " . Cataldo felt that album was " actually simpler and less interesting than it sounds " , finding it to be well @-@ made but slightly incohesive .

Chris Martins of The A.V. Club awarded the album a B + rating , feeling that it " offers a new window into the obfuscated Patton oeuvre " . Martins also compared the record to California and felt that it would be greatly enjoyed by fans of Patton 's various side projects . Writing for The Boston Globe , James Reed described Mondo Cane as " offbeat for sure but not off @-@ putting " , adding that " language is no barrier with music this lovely " . Sputnikmusic 's Tyler Monroe rated the album three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half out of five , feeling that it would be , in theory , a bad idea . However , Monroe felt that , on listening to the album , it was " his best work in close to a decade " , describing it as " a summer @-@ time staple and a faithful reminder that Mike Patton can sing but sadly little else " . Writing for PopMatters , John Garratt rated the album seven out of ten , writing " even if this album is a genre exercise , it 's still a very fine one " . Garrat felt that " Deep Down " was the album 's best song , adding that it " feels like it was written just for Mike Patton to sing " .

= = Chart performance = =

In the United States , Mondo Cane reached a peak position of # 2 on the Billboard Classical Albums chart , spending forty @-@ two weeks in the chart in total . The album also spent one week in the Independent Albums chart , at # 41 , and two weeks in the Top Heatseekers album chart , peaking at # 7 . Mondo Cane spent one week in the Swiss Music Charts , at # 81 , and one week in The Official Finnish Charts , at # 44 .