

## NERA MARIA

NERA MARIA is the title of Fabiola Saccomanno's new programme. Sung in Italian, it is a journey back to her roots.

The waft of citrus blossoms, pirates of the Tyrrhenian Sea, old and twisted olive trees - all of which have a strong hold over the Italian-born singer.

This programme, in collaboration with composer Matthias Weiher, presents powerful and sensuous compositions that capture the melancholy felt by Sicilian guest-workers in Germany as their souls struggled to find a new home. The songs are also coupled with the memories of their children spiked with humour and her people's passion for life.

Fabiola Saccomanno derives her inspiration for her title song, soon out on CD, from the lava stone statues of the Madonna, found at every crossroads in Sicily. La NERA MARIA is an ambivalent figure, steeped in the Catholic tradition of this society and incorporates not only the sanctity of the religious figure but also sensual desire.