



The European Music Archaeology Project (EMAP) aims to provide the “sound-evidence” of Europe’s ancient common roots. It will do so by unveiling the role – until now scarcely investigated – played by music in creating a network of interconnections, cross-references and shared features among the various European cultures long before the Old Continent became known as such, before the birth of the European Union and before the so-called, and at this point presumed, “history of music” began.

From the Upper Paleolithic period (ca 40,000 BC) to the Iron Age, from the great classical civilizations to the Middle Ages and beyond, we witness a series of “decantations” that often lead to the traditional music that is still present in various areas of the continent and the Mediterranean basin. It will be a journey between archaeology, art (not exclusively *music* art), science and creativity.

The project will take advantage of the new sound design technologies and tridimensional images, to allow us to “read” and “hear” the horns, trumpets, flutes, harps, organs and other sophisticated music devices of the ancient world. It will also rely on the craftsmanship of musical instrument reconstructers and on special techniques capable of recreating the original sounds. Lastly, it will entrust contemporary musicians with the task of revealing the qualities, including the artistic value, that these artefacts still possess, and the timeless power of their *voice*. In this way we will better understand why Cicero claimed that “A life without music is like a body without a soul”.

From its base in Tarquinia, in the heart of Etruria, EMAP will bring together scholars and artists, scholarly-artists and artistic-scholars, from seven European countries in a network of events which will take place over the next five years. The multimedial, interactive and travelling exhibition *ARCHÆOMUSICA – Exploring the Sounds and Music of Ancient Europe*, will be accompanied by a series of workshops, conferences, concerts, publications and educational programmes aimed at every level, from pre-school on, into which both the scientific and more spectacular aspects of the project will merge.

