

Domenico Modugno - Domenico Modugno [CD3] (2013)

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1 *Piove (Ciao Ciao Bambina)* 2 *Strada 'Nfosa* 3 *Lu Pisce Spada* 4 *Lu Minaturi* 5
Una Testa Piena Di Sogni 6 *Nisciuno Po' Sapè* 7 *Marinai, Donne E Guai* 8 *'O Sole Mio*
9 *Sì, Sì, Sì* 10 *Se Dio Vorrà* 11 *Selen* 12 *Cicoria Twist* 13 *Tu Sì 'Na Cosa Grande*

9 January 1928, Polignano a Mare, Italy, d. 6 August 1994, Lampeduso. Modugno disappointed his father, a civic dignitary, by rejecting higher education to seek a career as a film actor in Rome. However, although he passed an entrance examination to drama college, National Service postponed entry for two years. Among the parts he gained on graduation was that of a balladeer in 1955's *Il Mantello Rosso*. More conspicuous than expected in this role, he was contracted by both national radio and Fonit Records as a vocalist, with accompaniment that varied from his own lone guitar or accordion to full orchestra. In a developing repertoire were self-composed pieces such as 'Ninna Nanna' (a lullaby penned in 1943), 'Lu Piscispada' and - recorded by many other Latinate artists - 'La Donna Riccia'. While he was runner-up in 1957's Neapolitan Song Festival with 'Lazzarella', 'Nel Blu Dipinto Di Blu' (written with Franco Migliacci) was placed first at the more prestigious San Remo event the following year, and thus flung Modugno into a lucrative round of appearances in venues beyond Italy - including North America. With English lyrics by Mitchell Parish, the opus became better known as 'Volare', a Grammy-earning US chart-topper that also reached the UK Top 10 - despite cover versions by Charlie Drake, Marino Marini and Dean Martin. 1959's 'Piove' - another San Remo winner - was an international smash, too - if overtaken in Britain by a version from Marini - when translated by Parish (as 'Ciao Ciao Bambino'). This and lesser triumphs, such as 'Addio Addio' and 1966's 'Dio Come Ti Amo', blessed Modugno with the dubious title of 'genius', though many claim that his most enduring work was his earliest, as demonstrated by periodic revivals of 'Volare', from Bobby Rydell in 1960 to David Bowie in 1986's *Absolute Beginners* movie. ---oldies.com

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