

aberdeen rail station

est. 2001

The band called Aberdeen Rail Station, founded in Trieste in 2001, comes from the ashes of another band, called Almaviöla, active from 1999 to 2001 in the student scene of the same city. After the group was left by, in order, guitarist Giovanni de Flego and drummer Jack Coslovich (later with Trabant), bass player Alessandro Sala (later with Sinestesia and then Rhapsody of Fire), singer Eleonora Lana (later in the vocal trio Les Babettes) and guitarist Dani Mengotti (later an electronic solo artist), Eno Jakomin (voice) and the group's new boy Alessio Roveri (guitar) choose to focus on a new project. The name chosen is Aberdeen Rail Station, after Eno's love for Scotland and his travel there that year. The band is completed by: guitarist and songwriter Morgana, fiddler Seppa Frattini (who at the time is also playing with Alessio in a band called Desrever), drummer Sara Craighero, multi-instrumentalist Tiziano Bole on keyboards and singer Lisa Longo.

In 2002, after some changes in the line-up (which featured for a couple of months bass player Federico "Fu" Furlani, who left to join Nerochiaro, with future solo artist Zeno), the band goes through a series of concerts with former Almaviöla singer Eleonora Lana and ex Mallrats Marco Bernobi on bass and later on drums. In the following couple of years the band wether experiences increasing difficulties due to constant line-up changes or constant line-up changes due to increasing difficulties. Among others, some members of the band during this time are: Deborah Sifanno (who will happen to be very important in an Aberdeen Rail Station's rebirth ten years later), Guido Lucchese (later with Blue Rose and then EstRiver), Chiara Vidonis (in later years a renowned solo artist), Chiara Gelmini (more recently part of the vocal trio Les Babettes) and, very briefly, drummer Andrea Paoletti. Nevertheless, the quality of all these musicians proves not to be enough to keep the band ongoing.



Live at Posto Delle Fragole, Trieste, December 2001. Left to right: Eno Jakomin, guest bass player Alessandro Naglein, Morgana and Sebastiano "Seppa" Frattini

In 2004, after a break-up and a reunion with a reduced line-up, the band eventually finds a new form as a four-piece including original members Eno Jakomin, Alessio Roveri and Seppa Frattini alongside new entry Simone Calmo on guitar. Between 2004 and 2007 the four of them define Aberdeen Rail Station's sound as something between folk and rock and blues, always acoustic (and for a while strictly unplugged due to the lack of equipment). They play many concerts, in the areas of Trieste, Gorizia and, in a couple of occasions, Padova. There are many recordings of concerts of this era of the band, that, towards its end, sees the collaboration with singer Elena Vinci (Pinkover) and ends in September 2007 with a concert at the Oblivion pub in Trieste with Chiara Gelmini back on vocals.



The "classic" line-up at the Oblivion Pub in Trieste, April 2007. Left to right: Alessio Roveri, Eno Jakomin, Sebastiano "Seppa" Frattini, Simone Calmo.

In October 2007 Eno moves to Scotland, now so much identified in the Aberdeen Rail Station project that he decides to try and find some Edinburgh-based musicians to carry it on with. This proves to be a very short-tenured experience, as he returns soon to Trieste due to some troubles he experiences in Scotland and to some family matters. Good musicians as Jez McKenzie, Ross Finnegan and Viara Ivanova have barely enough time to print their name in Aberdeen Rail Station's history, and they leave no other trace. Thomas Jones writes and records three songs with Eno. Eight years later the two of them would re-record their signature song "Homeless in Edinburgh" with Viara's vocals, as originally intended, but it would be done remotely, each one at their home in their own country.



Thomas "Tam" Jones

In January 2008, stuck in Trieste not knowing if he would move back to Scotland or not, Eno starts a side-project named Blues del Cul (Blues of the Arse, resonating the expression "bus del cul": arsehole in Triestin dialect). In this project he is accompanied by the "classic" Aberdeen Rail Station line-up (Alessio Roveri, Seppa Frattini, Simone Calmo, here electrified) and former drummer Marco Bernobi. As Alessio is about to move to Portugal and Eno's future is uncertain, they play only one gig, at the Oblivion Pub in Trieste on the occasion of that year's Carnival.

As it becomes clear that Eno is going to stay in Trieste, Aberdeen Rail Station gets started again right from the Blues del Cul project, with Marco Bernobi, the only member still available, switching to his natural position of guitarist. With Fiore Apollonio on vocals and accompanied by folk guitarist and bass player Gabriele Giovannini, later replaced by the rejoining Simone Calmo, Eno and Berno find it difficult to get the band going again and in a year they only come up with a couple of cover arrangements and one new song ("The Homeless in EdinburghIs Back"). The collaboration with Fiore and Simone lasts shortly and Berno express the need to move to a more rocking dimension, hence they add to the band drummer Fiodor Cicogna and bass player Federico Furlani, who rejoins seven years after leaving the band for the first time. This line-up proves to be able to build a setlist of more than an hour and debuts live, once more at the Oblivion Pub in Trieste, in May, 2009.



Marco Bernobi at the Oblivion, May 2009

In 2010 enters Moreno Buttinar on drums, who would lead the band throughout the long recording sessions of a studio ep. On bass guitar there is Marco Seghene, Abba Zabba's bass player. Abba Zabba himself appears in the ep as guitarist, harmony vocalist and mixing engineer. Other studio guests are Chiara Vidonis, Sebastiano Frattini, Denis Beganovic. With the far too busy Moreno Buttinar working as a sound engineer and co-producer, the ep, later titled "To Edinburgh and Back", takes a very long time to get done (never reaching an official release if not the very limited one among friends) and it has a bad effect on the band's morale. Marco Seghene is the first to leave, but, despite bass player Federico Furlani's renewed availability, Eno and Berno part ways.



Moreno Buttinar

Andrea "Assa" Sauli is then introduced to Eno by Aberdeen Rail Station's original guitarist Morgana. Eno works with him on the project of a new full-band line-up including violin, willing to promote the unreleased ep, but the project is aborted as drummer Andrea Paoletti quits almost immediately to join Magazzino Commerciale.

Later in 2011 a new version of the band is born when Eno meets by chance former singer Deborah Sifanno, who was briefly in the band eight years before. Emulating the formula of the "classic" line-up, there are no drums and bass. Eleonora Montagnana, later a successful session musician and tiktokker, joins on the fiddle, while on the guitar there's the return of Simone Calmo, this time persuaded by Eno to play the electric guitar instead of the acoustic.



Aberdeen Rail Station, January 2012: Andrea "Assa" Sauli, Eleonora Montagnana, Eno Jakomin, Deborah Sifanno and Simone Calmo.

The band starts to play regular concerts in Trieste and its surroundings. In 2012 a live album is recorded at Round Midnight, Trieste, with Cristina Rei on vocals and Sebastiano Frattini back on the fiddle.



Cristina Rei at Round Midnight, November 2012

In 2013 a new singer, soprano Adriana "Ada Pikula" Tomišić, joins. The collaborations with Olga Zakharova Matic (a professional violinist in the Friuli Venezia Giulia Orchestra who quits when offered a job at La Scala, in Milan) and electric violinist Pier Paolo Foti, both last shortly. On occasion the band is once again helped by Seppa Frattini on the fiddle, but not after March 2014. In the absence of a violin, Adriana Tomišić starts playing some flute parts.



November 2013: Aberdeen Rail Station without a violinist. Left to right: Simone Calmo, Adriana "Ada Pikula" Tomišić, Andrea "Assa" Sauli and Eno Jakomin (photo: Valentina Alberti).

The flute parts are kept in the songs even after the joining of fiddler Simone Kodermaz, who completes the last line-up to feature Adriana Tomišić. This line-up is also short-lived and performs one concert only.



May 2015: Aberdeen Rail Station at Naima, Trieste. Left to right: Simone Kodermaz, Simone Calmo, Andrea "Assa" Sauli and Adriana "Ada Pikula" Tomišić.

Adriana Tomišić leaves Trieste and Simone Kodermaz quits too. Despite the comeback of singer Fiore Apollonio, the band is in no good shape and personal issues of the members, along with job commitments, do not help. For a couple of years Aberdeen Rail Station ceases to exist as a band, but the musical project goes on with the goal of recording a studio album with many guests (mostly former members but also other musicians, namely Alice Porro of Wooden Legs, former Wooden Legs Federico Seraffini and fiddler Giovanna Rados).



Giovanna Rados, fiddler and singer who helped with some recording sessions(photo Valentina Alberti).

In the spring of 2017, to fight the boredom of too long a time with no gigs, Eno, Assa and Simone take the chance to perform a couple of short ones as an acoustic trio. In September singer Federica Vinci and violinist Tullia Romagnoli join.



May 2017: the Aberdeen Rail Station Acoustic Trio live at Black and White in Trieste. Left to right: Simone Calmo, Eno Jakomin and Andrea "Assa" Sauli.

In February 2018 it is Simone Calmo's turn to quit. Eno, Assa, Federica and Tullia decide to go on, trying to complete the recording sessions for the still unfinished studio album and meanwhile find a replacement.



Left to right: Andrea "Assa" Sauli, Federica Vinci, Eno Jakomin, Tullia Romagnoli (photo Matilde Zacchigna).

In April the band finds a fifth member in Morgana, who rejoins Aberdeen Rail Station fifteen years after leaving the band in the first place.



Morgana, 2018.

Despite a good start, this new, more acoustic-oriented line-up, doesn't last. Insatisfaction spreads and, feeling no more on the same task with guitarist Assa, Eno decide to part ways with him, after seven years. The band actually splits but, after a few months of research and trials, in 2019 Eno puts it back on track with new members Greek-Italian acoustic guitarist Efstriatos Alexandros Mavridis and Serbian lead guitarist Nemanja Vujić. The band experiences a few weeks of pure magic in the year's first months, working as a trio. They make a prolific songwriting team, so for once all the band's past is put aside to concentrate on new songs. The band's home moves to Cervignano del Friuli (at Nemanja Vujić's place) and later to Aquileia, in a private studio owned by some friends of Alex Mavridis. When, in March, they feel ready to add female vocals and violin, things slow down a bit. After trying out a couple of singers, they hire Giulia Morelli, who proves to have a great voice but never really fits in the band, mainly because of her commitments as an university student. On the other hand, it is only natural for Tullia Romagnoli to be back, thus providing some continuity with the recent past.



The band at the end of March 2019. Left to Right: Nemanja Vujić, Alex Mavridis, Giulia Morelli, Tullia Romagnoli, Eno Jakomin.

After three unsatisfying months, Aberdeen Rail Station part ways with Giulia Morelli. With a live debut closing fast, they decide to stop working on female vocal arrangements and Eno Jakomin remains the only lead singer, with Alex Mavridis doing background vocals and singing a few covers and even Tullia Romagnoli performing some backing vocals. More free than in previous line-ups, the violinist decides to switch to electric violin, partly because of her passion for the instrument and partly because it feels more appropriate for the band's new sound, more rocking and with more guitar solos, due to the virtuoso approach of lead guitarist Nemanja Vujić. The live debut comes in July in Trieste, followed by an appearance at a private party. Soon after that, Nemanja Vujić quits.



Summer 2019. Left to Right: Alex Mavridis, Eno Jakomin, Tullia Romagnoli, Nemanja Vujić.

Despite willing to pursue his own musical project, the lead guitarist cites job commitments as the motivation for leaving and the rest of the band decide to leave his position open for a possible return. As a songwriting team, they are still doing good and the joining of new female singer Francesca Bernardi keeps the band alive. With only one acoustic guitar and a violin to build the songs on, they decide to hire a bass player. Michele Colautti joins in early 2020. They have a gig scheduled for early March, with Nemanja Vujić and two musicians from the Dublin based Water Gypsy Band as guests. It is supposed to be Tullia Romagnoli farewell show, because she's been accepted into a masterclass of interior design in Rome and is about to move there. But the gig never happen, because of the spread of the covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown. By June, when it's time to resume the band, Alex Mavridis has had enough.



February 2020. Left to right: Alex Mavridis, Michele Colautti, Tullia Romagnoli and Francesca Bernardi.

The line-up of Eno Jakomin, Alex Mavridis, Nemanja Vujić and Tullia Romagnoli enter the studio to cut the original songs they've written together the previous year, but can't meet for more than one recording session, meaning that only four songs get recorded. It would take a year before doing the definitive vocals take and even more before the songs got mixed. Stuff for Eno's archives.



June 2020: final rehearsal session for the "2019" line-up before entering the studio. Left to right: Nemanja Vujić, Alex Mavridis, Tullia Romagnoli, Eno Jakomin.

Meanwhile, with singer Francesca Bernardi and bass player Michele Colautti, Eno Jakomin starts working on a new line-up, but it's hard to find the right people and at some point the project is put on hold once again. The three of them rejoin during winter, when guitarist "Rio Ospo" Luca Collari is introduced to the band. Still, covid-related social restrictions restrain the bands activity. Only a few recordings are made: a couple of songs with Tullia Romagnoli as guest and the voices for the studio work recorded the year before. In June 2021 Francesca Bernardi quits and Morgana rejoins and, with the additions of violinist Arianna Bandieramonte and cellist Nicolò Bernes, they start working on a new setlist and record a four track demo, released for streaming on SoundCloud before the end of the year.



Promotional picture from February 2022. Left to right: Michele Colautti, Morgana, Arianna Bandieramonte, Eno Jakomin, Nicolò Bernes, "Rio Ospo" Luca Collari

In March 2022 the band is once again ready for gigging, which wouldn't start before May because of covid. Meanwhile, the line-up sees the addition of percussionist Marco Vattovani.



May 2022: the seven band members at their first gig together. Left to right: Marco Vattovani, Morgana, Michele Colautti, Eno Jakomin, Arianna Bandieramonte, "Rio Ospo" Luca Collari, Nicolò Bernes.

The seven-piece line-up is another of those short-tenured ones, as Marco Vattovani quits after a couple of gigs over a few differences. His departure is absolutely amicable and the band proceeds with their commitments as a six-piece, once again without percussion.