

Bio

Elena Ley was born in Milan, Italy. From a child she was heavily influenced by her parent's love of music. Her mother listens to a range of artists from Dionne Warwick to Mina, but also loves the classics, opera and enjoys visiting the Scala, her father was a big fan of Elvis and Frank Sinatra.

With this background Elena decided in the early years, that modern singing would become her life. After years of singing in the kindergarten-choir and in the church-choir she finally took singing lessons at the age of 12.

She went to the most recognised Italian pop-academy CPM (Centro Professione Musica). Among her teachers were Giulia Fasolino (who still works with artists such as Eros Ramazzotti and Riccardo Cocciante) and Lella Esposito. At the age of 14 she started with four friends the band "Toys and a Dolly" and won the price of "*Shooting Star of the year*" in the rock competition "Rock Limbiate". The group wrote their own songs and played various styles of music, from folk to rock. Her musical guides are, amongst others, Cindy Lauper, Dionne Warwick, Aretha Franklin and Patty Labelle. The band played in bars and festivals in the whole of northern Italy. Elena also participated as a choir singer in a show on the Italian TV channel Canale 5. Elena studied both English and German languages in Milan and since then has travelled extensively.

In 2001 she recorded her first single "Yellow Groove" produced by Jackson Mackay in France. From 2002 until 2005 Elena spent most of her time in Nashville, Tennessee in the USA, where she recorded her first album "...and so on", produced by Steve Williams. The album also contains two songs that Elena wrote herself. While living in Nashville she visited voice classes at the "Studio of Voice" in Nashville, here she also learnt to play the guitar and fiddle. Elena intensified her knowledge of music and violin at the music school Blair at the Vanderbilt University of Nashville where two teachers of hers, Mark Wood and Julie Lyonn Lieberman had a high influence on Elena's artistic development.

The encounter with Mark Wood took her back to her love of rock music. In Nashville she continued going to school, and between times sang in small music bars, wrote songs, poems and short stories.

From 2005 onwards Elena has been living in Germany and Italy. She has opened her own singing school "the heART of music" (visit www.theheartofmusic.de) and has started again to write and record songs, but this time in Italian... Back to the roots! Her music and her voice are pure temperament, with love for detail and for the typical Italian feeling, that she expresses fully on stage with her acoustic ensemble and her rockband.