

BABYLON ORCHESTRA // PROJECTS 2024-25

Availability upon request

ECHOES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

with Merve Akyildiz (TUR) // Momo Djender (ALG/FRA) // Stelina Apotolopoulou (GRC) // Basma Jabr (SYR/AUT)

“Echoes of Mediterranean” is a project by Babylon ORCHESTRA which presents love songs, ballads, personal stories and newly written vocal pieces for this occasion based on texts by authors who lived in the countries around the Mediterranean or have related to it in various ways during their lives. Hence, the listener encounters a performance taking him through the history of the Mediterranean cultures. Three singers from Greece, Syria and Turkey and 7 musicians from various countries of the Middle East and Europe performing together as a mixed ensemble with traditional and modern instruments. By using combinations composed and improvised elements, acoustic and electric as well as electronic instruments we create a lively and dramatic, almost scenic performance showcasing the richness of this cultural heritage. Sephardic, Arabic, Turkish and Greek folk songs with new arrangements (like f.e. Smirneiko Minore from 1909 from Smyrna or Morena me liaman from Sephardic Jewish tradition in Spain) make the core of this concert program.

7-16 instrumentalists

BABYLON PLAYGROUND: WOOD AND BRASS

Programme example, can be adapted individually on request

The sound worlds of the Babylon Orchestra, whose musicians come from Syria, Russia, Germany and Iran, among other places, lie between the Middle East and Europe. Different musical traditions are combined in new compositions and improvisations that leave the European tonal system behind - the Babylon Orchestra literally plays “between familiar sounds”. Through tunings from the Middle East, European instruments sound in an unusual way, instruments from there mix with European string instruments to form a transcultural jazz band, between Maqam and Balkan beats, microtonal scales and avant-garde folk.

- John Kameel Farah (Canada/Palestine): Jinju dervish
- Dance on Bayat (Syria): Milad Khawam
- Mahan Mirarab (Iran): Mahir II
- Layale Chaker (Lebanon/France): Frah el Donnyie
- Mischa Tangian (Germany/Russia): Flying Sticks
- Farhang Moshtagh (Iran): Chahargah (UA)
- Improvisation
- Zaher Alkaei (Syria): Exile in degrees (UA)
- Mischa Tangian: Santoor Intermezzo
- Improvisation
- Mischa Tangian: Seven Stories
- Tarek Yamani (Lebanon): Qumairah
- John Farah (Canada/Palestine): Between Carthage and Rome

10 instrumentalists

NEW BABYLONIA

with Kinan Azmeh (SYR) // Naghib Shanbehzadeh (IRN) // Sanaz Sotoudeh (IRN)

With the well-known Syrian clarinetist Kinan Azmeh, the Iranian pianist Sanaz Sotoudeh, the quintet of the Babylon ORCHESTRA will explore the music from the countries of the Babylonian Empire - today this area includes not only countries such as Iran and Iraq, but also Syria and as far as Lebanon or Armenia. Original compositions that take up traditional elements of these cultures in fresh modern form and improvisations between the musicians from Iran, Europe and Asia will give an impression of the current cultural diversity of the Near East through this special encounter.

8 instrumentalists

BEETHOVEN REMIKS 9

with **Hani Mojtahedy (Kurdistan), singer**

Mischa Tangian: BEETHOVEN REMIKS (über Motive von L. v. Beethoven)

Introitus & Reminiscences
Letter HH
Froh (Scher Zo)
Santoor Scherzo
Funny Games (Variations on Beethoven)
Ludwig in Morocco
Outro (Cloud)

Damir Bacikin: Babylonia Paranoia

Alaa Zouiten:

A Wlidi Wlidi

Teriyanyi (traditional, Hani Mojtahedy, arr. Ahmet Tirgil)

Mischa Tangian und Hani Mojtahedy: Nour

18 instrumentalists

ARMENIAN CONCERT

with **soloist (tbc), Duduk**

- Khachatur Avetyan: Tagh gorani (from Avetyan's Oratorium)
- Mischa Tangian: The forgotten
- Improvisation
- Arsen Petrosian (Arr. M. Tangian): Javakhki Shoror
- Ara Dinkjian, Arr. Moh. Nasser: Lullaby for the sun
- Arr. D. Bacikin: Medley Three Komitas Songs
- Qele, Erking, Kakavik
- Mischa Tangian: Arabesca Romancesca
- Sareri Hovin
- Mischa Tangian: He flew away (Piece for solo violin)
- Trad. Armenisches mittelalterliches Solo (Duduk / Drone)

6 instrumentalists

Contact

Michael A. Sauter

m.sauter@andreasrichter.berlin

+49 30 983 479 74

+49 176 249 59 686

andreasrichter.berlin