

BABYLON ORCHESTRA // PROJECTS 2025-26

Availability upon request

Projects with dancers or collaborations with symphony orchestras are possible upon request.

ECHOES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

with mit Rebal Alkhodari, countertenor (SYR) // Momo Djender, tenor (ALG/FRA) // Stelina Apotolopoulou, soprano (GRC) // Basma Jabr, alto (SYR/AUT)

Echoes of the Mediterranean is a project by BABYLON ORCHESTRA which represents love songs, ballads, personal stories and newly written vocal pieces for this occasion based on texts by authors who lived in the countries surrounding 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 out the core of this concert program.

orchestration: 7-16 instrumentalists (chamber group or full band)

ARMENIAN CONCERT - THE FORGOTTEN

with Ara Dinkjian, oud (USA) // Arsen Petrosyan, duduk (ARM)

The forgotten is a journey to a fictional Armenia with new music written by Ara Dinkjian and Mischa Tangian for strings, oud, duduk and percussion - rediscovering the ancient heritage of this Caucasian region with its neighboring countries Iran, Georgia, Russia and Turkey. Coming from an Armenian and Russian family, Mischa Tangian was born in Moscow and visited Armenia in 2023 for the first time and hence imagined this program before his trip as the Armenia he heard from stories and from the Armenian dance music he listened to. Inviting world-class musician Arsen Petrosyan on duduk the songs and dances from the region with its rhythms and melodies from medieval times up to contemporary and new songs by artists like Ara Dinkjian, Avetysian and alike this venture brings you to the faraway mountainous region of Middle Asia.

M. Tangian: *The forgotten*

A. Dinkjian: *Lullaby for the sun* (arr. Moh. Nasser)

KOMITAS: *Medley - Three Komitas Songs* (Qele, Erkinq, Kakavik) (arr. D. Bacikin)

S. Hovin: trad. Armenian work

Trad. Armenian medieval Solo (duduk/drone)

+ improvisations and new works by Ara Dinkjian and M. Tangian,

The program may be accompanied by visuals and animations.

orchestration: 6 instrumentalists

BABYLON ORCHESTRA FEAT. NESRINE with Nesrine Belmokh, cello and voice (ALG)

Together with cellist-singer Nesrine who combines French, Arabic and English songs in her own music fusing Maghreb styles with Jazz and classical cello, the BABYLON ORCHESTRA perform a program ranging from traditional Algerian, Moroccan and other North African styles alongside new arrangements of classical works from Renaissance and oral tradition.

orchestration tbc

NEW BABYLONA with Kinan Azmeh, clarinet (SYR) // Naghib Shanbehzadeh, Persian and Arabic percussion, (IRN) // Layale Chaker, violin and composition (LBN)

With the world-known Syrian clarinetist Kinan Azmeh, Iranian virtuoso percussionist Naghib Shanbehzadeh and Lebanese violinist Layale Chaker, the sextet of the BABYLON ORCHESTRA strings explore the music from the countries of the ancient 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.

orchestration: 9 instrumentalists

THE KIND FURY OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER with Gotopo., voice and small acoustic/electronic instruments (VEN/COL) // K'boko, Afro-indigenous drummer

Gotopo is a Venezuelan-Colombian singer and dancer living in Berlin who has performed widely in Europa and beyond as a soloist and with her musical partners on festivals and larger stages. In this special musical performance, BABYLON ORCHESTRA explores the spectrum between the kindness and the violence embodied in the encounter between Taino chieftain, religious scholar, composer and poet 'Anacaona' (golden flower) and Christopher Columbus (and crew).

Gotopo, the orchestra and the audience explore the metaphysical spectrum between community, kindness, love, power and greed. The performance contains a selected repertoire of Gotopo's songs expanded for the orchestra of ancestrally intelligent musicians, as well as improvisation sections that include poems, instrumental/vocal solos and dialogues. The ensemble disposition intends to disperse the wall with the audience - it can be on stage but also placed around the audience. Gotopo encourages musicians to explore the antiphonal effects by moving and shifting positions and making the audience part of this dance of motion and emotion with inclusive and interactive show and music elements.

orchestration: 8-10 instrumentalists

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