

Eleonore

Kurdish & Anatolian Songs



Credit Photo : Eric Legret

WITH
ELEONORE FOURNIAU
SYLVAIN BAROU
EFRÉN LÓPEZ
ERSOJ KAZIMOV
APOSTOLOS SIDERIS

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ELEONORE: A “KURDISH” FRENCH ARTIST



Eléonore's music is the result of French artist Eléonore Fourniau's journey of assimilation in the heart of Kurdish and Anatolian communities, and her implication in the conservation of their culture. Thanks to a media coverage touching over 30 million people worldwide, the name "Eléonore" has gained notoriety in the Kurdish music industry.

The Kurds' traditional music can be heard in four different States (Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria). Despite the persecutions they suffer, the Kurdish people have preserved their unique music and its regional variations.

Heir to a tradition of different types of "troubadours" (story-tellers, minstrels and bards), this music communicates a large range of emotions, whether they be epic, passionate, festive or religious.

Through heartbreaking laments, spiritual Alevi poetry and dance songs for weddings, Eléonore finds her inspirations in Anatolia and Kurdistan.

By introducing instruments such as the hurdy-gurdy, the Bansuri flute and the Afghan rubab, played by multi-instrumentalists from Cataluña, Brittany, Turkey or Macedonia, Eléonore Fourniau proposes an innovative rendition of Kurdish tradition in adding these atypical elements. Thanks to her unique energy and sincerity, the performance promises to be a profoundly intense experience.

With her warm and powerful voice, accompanied by phenomenal musicians, Eléonore Fourniau welcomes the audience into a world that, over the years, has become her own.



A FIRST ALBUM OF KURDISH MUSIC

Eléonore's first album of Kurdish music will be released in 2024. This project is the result of many years of research and exploration in the field of music from Anatolia and Kurdish traditional music.

Because she sings in three different dialects (kurmanci, soranî and zaza), Eléonore has been embraced by several Kurdish communities as a representative of their culture and as a Kurdish artist. This position allows her to easily overcome issues concerning different communities, dialects and even politics, enabling the album to be coherent both geographically and linguistically.

The album features both traditional songs (of which some are unpublished) as well as several compositions that honor talented, yet often unfamiliar, Kurdish artists such as Sait Gabari and Said Yusif, two musicians from the Rojava region in Syria, that both passed in 2020.

The opus also includes two of Eléonore's personal compositions, of which one that honors a young man who died fighting the Islamic State, with a text written by the young man's brother.

By surrounding herself with musicians from diverse traditions, both oriental and occidental (Turkey, Iran, Macedonia, Brittany etc.) and through arrangements and a choice of instruments that are original and

Click here to listen to the album:

<https://urlz.fr/nmlU>

uncommon, this entirely acoustic album strives to offer a unique musical experience to a wide audience, whether it be world music amateurs or the Kurdish community.

Occupying a central role in the album is the hurdy-gurdy, accompanying the vocals as would a string instrument (kemençe) or a wind instrument, its continuous sound being similar to that of the kaval or duduk.

Other bold choices are also solicited: the Macedonian brass band led by trumpeter Dzambo Agusevi for a Kurdish dance, an Istanbulite string ensemble, the zarb-player Bijan Chemirani and his accompaniment for a lament, the coexistence of both classical instruments (oud, kanun) and popular instruments (saz, kaval, duduk etc.) within a same composition, and an electric guitar and drums that bring a rock-and-roll-like energy on one of the tracks.

In total, thirty-five musicians took part in the recording of this ambitious project.

Crédit photo : Attar Visuals



A SHOW FILLED WITH EMOTION



Following a residency at the Chantier de Correns (France) and in Rocher de Palmer (France) in April 2024, Eléonore Fourniau will present her new performance that coincides with the release of her album.

Alongside Sylvain Barou, Efrén López, Ersoj Kazimov and the greek jazz musician Apostolos Sideris, Eléonore Fourniau pay tribute to Kurdish culture and dialects from the four regions of Kurdistan through the repertoire present on her album, combining moments of mindful listening and dance songs, with a wide variety of textures and emotions.

THE QUINTET

ELEONORE FOURNIAU : VOCALS, HURDY GURDY, SAZ

SYLVAIN BAROU : WOODEN FLUTE, BANSURI, DUDUK, ZURNA

EFRÉN LÓPEZ : OUD, SAZ, AFGHAN RUBAB, BUZUQ, HURDY GURDY

ERSOJ KAZIMOV : PERCUSSIONS

APOSTOLOS SIDERIS: DOUBLE BASS

ÇAĞATAY ŞEN : SOUND ENGINEER

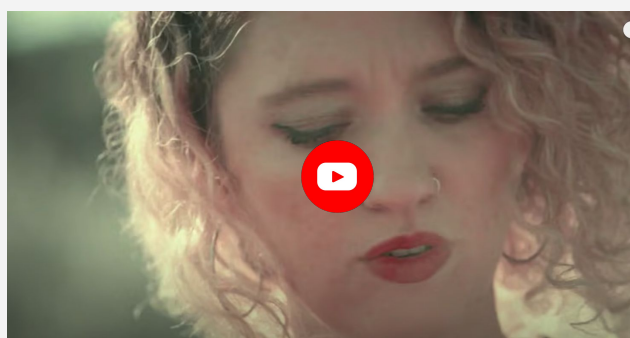


A TRIO FORMULA



A restricted acoustic formula in a trio of strings, vocals and flutes is proposed. Eléonore has been performing as a trio with [EFREN LOPEZ](#) and [SYLVAIN BAROU](#) for 7 years, with their first residency in 2016 during the Europhonik festival in Nantes.

Discover the vidéo clip [QUMRÎKÊ](#), p. 9 as well as the video of the Kurdish song "Arix" below :



"Arix"

(Mas de Flor - Espagne - 2018)

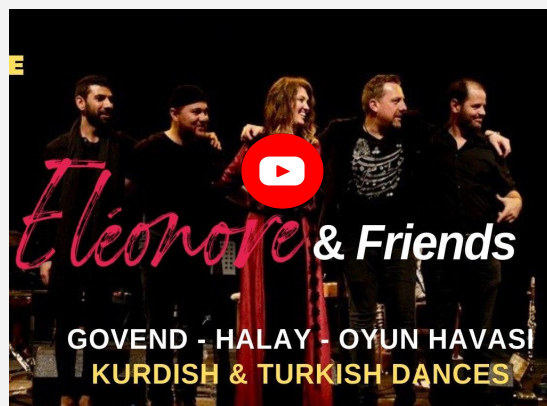
ELEONORE FOURNIAU : VOCALS, HURDY GURDY, SAZ
SYLVAIN BAROU : WOODEN FLUTE, BANSURI, DUDUK, ZURNA
EFREN LÓPEZ : OUD, SAZ, AFGHAN RUBAB, BUZUQ, HURDY GURDY

A FESTIVE FORMULA



The quintet also offers a festive dance format (see video on page 7), featuring a diverse repertoire from different regions of Turkey (9/8 Gypsy rhythms, Kurdish chain dances, etc.). The melodies are highly rhythmic, the dance steps are simple, and they invite a sense of communal joy that is contagious.

An initiation to the dances can be provided prior to the concert. With many years of teaching Anatolian music in Turkish and Kurdish, Eléonore has guided over 350 people through workshops, online courses, and in-person classes. A mini-workshop on Anatolian singing can also be offered alongside the concert. Discover her the atmosphere of a dance party !





ELEONORE FOURNIAU: AN ATYPICAL JOURNEY

Since 2011, Eléonore Fourniau has built her life amongst Kurdish and Turkish Alevi communities and the diaspora, and has forged a place for herself as an accomplished Kurdish artist on the international scene. Born into a family of historians specialized in Central Asia, Eléonore Fourniau spent a part of her adolescent years in Uzbekistan, where she learnt to speak Russian. Her father was an Occitanist, and she was made appreciative of traditional music and regional languages from a very young age.

She started learning the piano at age 7, and discovered the hurdy gurdy at 19 years old. Studying Russian language and History at the ENS university of Lyon, she obtained her Masters FESup in History in 2010 at 23 years old. With her hurdy gurdy on her back, she took a one-way trip to Turkey, her head filled with images of the Bosphorus from Fatih Akin films, determined to completely change life and to welcome whatever her future had in store for her. She was taken by passion for foreign languages and local music, first of all Turkish, then Kurdish. She founded there the projects OKSIT, ESMAN, and a duo with [MERCAN ERZINCAN](#). Through her encounters, whether they be academic (at the State Conservatory where she studied), traditional (the mentor-student relationship), or amicable, she developed a special bond with these cultures.

From 2016 onwards, she performed on stage with [MIKAIL ASLAN](#), one of the greatest singers of the decade, and went on multiple tours with him (Turkey, Europe, Australia). With the unique addition of the hurdy gurdy, a vocal prowess resulting from diligent practice, and a number of viral videos (Lê Lê Rihê and Xezal Xezal that account for over 30 million views across all platforms), she rapidly caught the attention of the media.

She started her solo career in 2017 and performed in many community events and world music festivals all over Europe (Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, United Kingdom, Spain, Belgium etc.) and elsewhere (India, Canada, Kyrgyzstan etc.). Eléonore knows how to conquer the heart of both her Kurdish and international audience, thanks to an authentic and original artistic proposal.

For this first album dedicated to Kurdish music, she performs alongside her musical brothers with similar backgrounds: [SYLVAIN BAROU](#) and [EFREN LOPEZ](#), as well as percussionist [ERSOJ KAZIMOV](#) and bassiste [APOSTOLOS SIDERIS](#).

With the intention of supporting female vocalists and the energy and intensity the female voice provides, she had founded two vocal ensembles: the trio [SAMAÏA](#) (polyphonies) and the quartet [TELLI TURNALAR](#) (music from Anatolia).

Crédit photo : Makam Studio



VIDÉOS LIVE



Eleonore's Quintet feat. Kelly Thoma & Mayu Shviro
(Houdetsi - Crete - 2021)



Eleonore & Friends, Kurdish & Turkish Dances
(La Marbrerie - Paris-Montreuil - 2020)



Concert avec Labyrinth Ensemble
(Cardedeu - Cataluña - 2020)



Feat. Nandini Shankar & Abhishok Mishar
(Chennai - India - 2019)



Gandia Theatre with Efrén Lopez
(Spain - 2021)

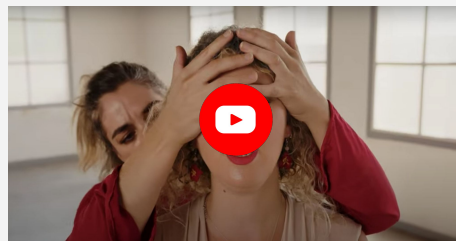


Automne Jazz Festival with Istan trio
(France - 2018)

CLIPS



"Lawo"
(Mardin - Turquie - 2023)



Xwezî min turrfas nekur ba
(Barcelone- Espagne - 2023)



"Qumriké"
(Mas de Flor - Espagne - 2018)

[SEE ALL VIDEOS >>](#)



14 MILLION VIEWS / 70 600 FOLLOWERS

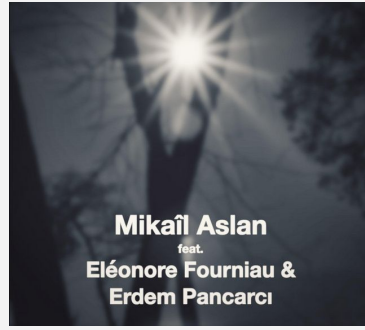


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DISCOGRAPHIE



ELEONORE FOURNIAU, Lawo



MIKAÏL ASLAN - Xerîb Im
(feat. Eléonore Fourniau)



KARIYAN - Lovers Left Alone
(feat. Eléonore Fourniau)



ISTAN TRIO - istan
(feat. Eléonore Fourniau)



ELEONORE FOURNIAU,
Xwezi min tu nas nekir ba



SAMAÏA 2d Album "Traversées"



ÉLÉONORE FOURNIAU : Selvi Kêrazê



ÉLÉONORE FOURNIAU - Esmer Eman



E.FOURNIAU, S. BAROU,
E.LOPEZ, Qumrîkê



SAMAÏA - First album



KARIYAN - In Between
(feat. Eléonore Fourniau)



ÉLÉONORE FOURNIAU - Keklik
Gibi Kanadımı Süzmedim



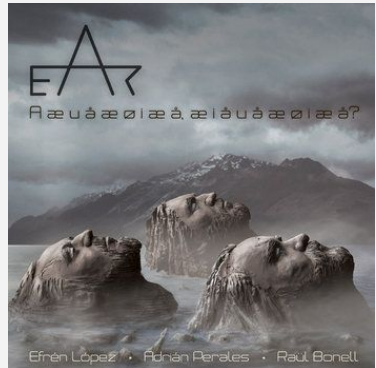
E.FOURNIAU, S. BAROU,
E.LOPEZ, - Arix



MIKAÏL ASLAN - Axpîn
(feat. Eléonore Fourniau)



MERCAN ERZINCAN - Gökkuşagi
(feat. Eléonore Fourniau)



EFRÉN LÓPEZ - A æ u â æ ø i æ
å, æ i â u â æ ø i æ å?
(feat. Eléonore Fourniau)



PRESS

French

AUX SONS : Interview with Benjamin Minimum, 2023

ACADEMIA : Interview with Eléonore Fourniau - Festival Haizebegi, 2018

LE PETIT JOURNAL : L'EXPAT' DU MOIS - "Eléonore Fourniau, la musique dans la peau", 2016

ROJ'INFO : Eléonore Fourniau : "A French woman singing in Kurdish", 2018

LE PETIT JOURNAL : OSCARS - The film representing Turkey has been chosen and a French woman participated, 2016

English

THE HINDU : Kurdish-Turkish folk musician shares stage with Hindustani artistes

NEWSFOUNDED : Queens of melody by Dr Elsa Lycias Joel

INDULGE EXPRESS : Into the world of hurdy gurdy with Eléonore Fourniau and violinist Nandini Shankar

Kurdish

KURDISTAN NEWS / **KURDISTAN 24** / **RUPELA NU** / **VOICE OF AMERICA** / **AVA TV** / AL ETIHAD PRESS KURDI / **KESKESOR TV** / **JINNEWS** / **ARYEN TV** / **WELAT** / **PEL TV** / **KOREK TV** / **RUDAW TV** / **YENI ÖZGÜR POLITIKA** / **PIRTUK WEJE** / **STÊRK TV** / **KURDISTAN 24** / **JINH** / **ICI TV** / **BIANET** / **RONAHI TV** / **NAV KURD** / **XWEBÛN** / **ROJ NUÇE** / **VISION TV** / **ARJEN TV** / **KURDISTAN TV**



Participant in the show Newroz (Kurdish New Year) alongside Kurdish artists
[Hozan Aydin](#) and [Ali de Agire Jiyan](#)



RUDAW TV - Music Program in the Ancient City of Dara



WAAR TV - A day in Mardin

En turc

PIR HABER AJANSI / **YILDIZ TV** / **MED HABER AJANSI** / **ÖZGÜR DENİZLİ** / **ARTI GERCEK** / **HABERCUK** / **YENİ ASIR** / **GZT** / **MİLLİYET** / **CAN TV** / **YENİ ASYA** / **PAZARCIK ELBİSTAN RADYO TV** / **HABER ERCİŞ** / **MEZOPOTAMYA TV** / **YENİ YAŞAM** / **KRONOS 7**

Et aussi...

Article written in Turkish about Dengbej Xalide: <https://www.seregolaintabe.com/bi-kurtasi-eleonore-fourniau/>

Encyclopedia SARA DISTRIBUTION (directory of Kurdish artists): <https://www.saradistribution.com/eleonoreFourniau.htm>



RÉFÉRENCES SCÉNIQUES

In France

*Cité de la musique de Marseille/ Festival international de musique de Besançon/
Celtomania (44)/La Galésie en fête(35)/Festival des Hautes Terres
Caen Theater / La Croisée des Arts /Festival Bizz'art Nomad (Dieulefit) / Festival Haizebegi - Cité des Arts (Bayonne) / La
Marbrerie (Montreuil) / Festival Arrée Voce - Abbaye du Relec (Plounéour-Ménez)
Les Vieilles Charrues (Carhaix) / Les Méridiennes (Tours) / Eurofonik (Nantes)*

International

*Kurdish New Year (Newroz) among the headliners in Van and Diyarbakir, TURKEY (2022)
Dom Bretani, Poznan, POLAND (2022)
International Kurdish Film Festival, LONDON (2022)
Kurdish Film Festival Hamburg, GERMANY
Kurdish Film Festival, Amsterdam, NETHERLANDS
Xera International World Music Festival, Andalusia, SPAIN
"Jazz in Erbil" Festival, French Institute, IRAQ
Neumünster Abbey, LUXEMBOURG
Museum of Fine Arts, Castellon de la Plana, SPAIN
Wine Festival, La Seca, Valladolid, SPAIN
Aegos Festival in Veria & Mieza, Greek Macedonia, GREECE
Labyrinth, Heraklion, Houdetsi, CRETE
Poliritimia Festival, Valencia, SPAIN
Theater in Gandia, SPAIN
Kurdish Culture Week, Nuremberg, GERMANY
Kurdish Culture Week, Basel, SWITZERLAND
Union Theater, Basel, SWITZERLAND
Cardedeu Theater with "Labyrinth Ensemble," SPAIN
Werkstatt der Kulturen with Petra Nachtmanova, Berlin, GERMANY
International Zurna Festival, Mugla-Fethiye, TURKEY
Kurdish New Year at the European Parliament, Brussels, BELGIUM
"Queens of Melody" Project tour organized by Kalasetu - French Alliances, INDIA
Arab World Festival "Kurds in Strings" with the Kamaan Ensemble - City of Arts, Montreal, CANADA*



ACCLAIMED MULTI-INSTRUMENTALISTS

EFRÉN LÓPEZ



www.efrenlopez.net

Efrén López is a multi-instrumentalist, composer, producer and sound engineer, specialized in the hurdy gurdy and plucked string instruments from the Eastern Mediterranean, the Middle East and Central Asia.

He has performed with many bands and artists, notably Trio Petrakis / López / Chemirani, L'Ham de Foc, Ross Daly & Labyrinth, Jordi Savall, Derya Türkan, Katerina Papadopoulou, Michalis Kouloumis, Göksel Baktagir, Zohar Fresco, Rocío Márquez, María del Mar Bonet, Sima Bina, Daud Khan Ensemble, Ziya Tabassian, Bijan & Keyvan Chemirani and many others.

With these various projects he has performed in Europe, North Africa, North and South America, the Middle East, China and the lower Indian continent. He has participated in the recording of over 70 CDs.

ERSOJ KAZIMOV



www.facebook.com/darbuka.bendir

A Turkish speaking percussionist from Kocani (Macedonia), from the age of nine Ersoj started accompanying the great Balkan soloists such as Marko Markovic (trumpet), Amza Tairov (keys), Ceko Demirov (Kocani Orkestar clarinetist). As a member of Barthalo Band founded in 2003 by Vinko Stepanov (Kocani Orkestar accordionist), he has ignited the stage of the largest festivals in France such as the Orientales, Le Grand Soufflet, Les Mondes Croisés, Les Nuits Métis, Musiques Métisses...

During one of his tours, he was spotted by Tosha Vukmirovic (Slonovski Bal clarinetist) who asked him to play on the album "Djumbus". Ersoj moved to France in 2007 and became a member of several projects such as Slonovski Bal, Perrine Fifadji, Band of Gypsies, Taraf de Haidouk, Kocani orkestar, Bojan Z, Didier Ballan Jazz Ensemble, Balkan Kartet, Orient Mon Amour (Bratch, Kamilya Jubran), Trio Joubran, Peuple Étincelle with François Corneloup, Rona Hartner et DJ Tagada, Sophie Alour and many others.



APOSTOLOS SIDERIS



<https://www.apostolossideris.com/>

Apostolos Sideris, born in 1978 in Athens, began his musical career as a classical flautist, then switched to electric bass at the age of 15, playing with various rock bands in Athens.

At age 17, he turned to jazz, taking him to Berklee in Boston, where he learned the double bass. He studied with renowned bassists like Ron Mahdi and John Lockwood.

After his time in Boston, Apostolos moved to New York and obtained his master's degree in jazz performance at the City College of New York, while being instructed by bass virtuoso, John Patitucci. He has collaborated with various jazz musicians from around the world (Clarence Pen, Lionel Loueke, Rez Abbasi, Leo Genovese, Ara Dinkjian, Youssef Kasab), exploring varied musical genres, from jazz to world music.

He is also a composer, mixing modern jazz and Greek and Middle Eastern influences. Apostolos resided in Istanbul in recent years, working with his ethnic jazz group, MESEL. He has released several albums, including "Σummatation" and "Hane," reflecting his musical diversity. His third personal album, "Past-Presented," will be released in November 2023 with a sextet and will mark his move to Paris, France.

SYLVAIN BAROU



www.sylvainbarou.com

A virtuoso flutist from Breton and Irish tradition, he quickly became interested in Eastern music after certain decisive encounters: he studied firstly Hindustani music on the bansuri flute, then turned towards Tukey, Kurdistan, Armenia, Iran and Azerbaijan, playing the duduk and the zurna.

Each of these influences have nourished a unique musical language, interweaving traditional music, jazz and improvised and modal music. He has performed on stage and in studio with great international artists such as Keyvan Chemirani, Prabhu Edouard, Trilok Gurtu, Vincent Segal, Donal Lunny, Stelios Petrakis, Efrén Lopez, Adnan Joubran, Denez Prigent, Rusan Filiztek, Jacques Pellen, Erik Marchand, Annie Ebrel, Karim Ziad, Altan, Titi Robin, Coskun Karademir...



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