

## Melange Press Kit - Quartet

### Band Biog

Melange seamlessly blend music from North Africa, the Middle East and Mediterranean, incorporating both traditional and original material into a dynamic and lively on-stage show. Formed by cellist Shirley Smart, after 10 years in Jerusalem studying and playing the music of the region, Melange is a true reflection of modern cosmopolitanism, comprising musicians from Greece, Spain, Morocco, Iraq, Italy and the UK.

Recent performances include the Songlines Encounters Festival, World Village Festival, IGNITE series at the Royal Albert Hall National Portrait Gallery, St Ethelburgas, National Theatre, Green Note, Forge, Rich Mix, Wiltons Music Hall, Edge of the World Festival and the Vortex Jazz Club.

Melange host the monthly Gypsy Nights sessions at the Ritzy in Brixton. They also performed recently on the BBC's World on 3 Sessions.

Melange perform as an acoustic quartet with oud, cello, guitar and percussion, up to a full 8 piece band with accordion, saxophone, trumpet, and bass.

Their second album "Via Maris" featuring a blend of original and traditional material, was released to great critical acclaim on Two Rivers records in 2016.

### Promotional Materials

Video : [Live at St Ethelburgas](#)  
[Live at Wiltons Music Hall](#)  
[Live at the Green Note](#)

Audio : [Quartet Playlist](#)

Website : [www.melangecollective.com](http://www.melangecollective.com)

Press:

" an ensemble that works really well together, and their dynamism makes not just a great and ambitious exploration of Mediterranean musical culture, but also a thoroughly enjoyable listen.

.." Songlines

"Immaculatey played" fRoots

"a splendid album" World Music Central

"Via Maris succeeds thanks to its exoticism and sheer vivacity, plus the brilliance of the musicianship, both individually and collectively ....a highly exciting live prospect " The JazzMann

"A compelling fusion of modern jazz and Mediterranean and Middle Eastern musics" Bird is the Worm

Personnel and Biographies

Shirley Smart – Cello



Shirley Smart is one of the UK's most versatile and creative cellists – being equally at home and well versed in jazz and Middle Eastern music, as well as classical music.

Originally trained in classical cello under Raphael Wallfisch at the Guildhall School of Music, and Janos Starker in Paris, she subsequently moved to Jerusalem. She remained for 10 years, studying and performing a wide variety of world music from the Mediterranean and Middle East, as well as jazz, and became being highly involved with the jazz and improvised music scene. Since returning to the UK, she has quickly become known as one of the most creative cellists on the music scene and has worked with many leading jazz and world music groups, including Antonio Forcione, Gilad Atzmon, Neil Cowley, Julian Ferraretto, Robert Mitchell, Maciek Pysz, Maurizio Minardi, and Alice Zawadski. Shirley is also an active educator, teaching Improvisation at the Royal College of Music Junior Department and is a Visiting Lecturer at City University and giving workshops for Trinity Laban, Jazzlines and National Youth Jazz Collective. She is also leading the London Cello Society's new Beyond Cello division, giving workshops and masterclasses in Improvisation

**Stefanos Tsourelis – Oud**  
Born in Larisa, Greece, he has been playing music from the age of 10. He took his first lessons

on the greek Lute by Yiorgos Deligiannis. Later he studied the Oud with Kuriakos Kalaitzides and guitar with Kostas Maginas in Thessaloniki. At the age of 17 he started performing professionally as a Guitarist and Oud player in local clubs, theatres and festivals across Greece.

In 2005 he moved to London and studied at The London Guitar Institute/ Guitar X. He was taught and inspired by great guitarists such as Shaun Baxter, Mike Outram and John Wheatcroft, and was awarded the prestigious title of 'Best Guitarist of the Year' in 2008.

### Peter Michaels – Guitar

Peter Michaels is a guitarist and composer for film, television, theatre, dance and the concert platform. He has a unique performance style influenced by his classical and flamenco guitar training combined with contemporary and jazz influences. Trained in classical and jazz theory, he has expanded his style across genres to become one of the most versatile composers in media today. Performing with musicians from around the world, he has incorporated elements from Brazil, Eastern Europe, India, the Middle East and Africa into his compositions. Broadcast clients include BBC Drama, Sony Europe, National Geographic, Sky TV and independent production companies. Theatrical work includes productions at Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, Trafalgar Studios, The Orange Tree, New End, King's Head

and Pleasance.

## Demi Garcia Sabat – Percussion

Originally from Barcelona, and a graduate of the London College of Music, Demi is in

demand one of the most versatile and drummers/  
percussionist in the UK He has worked with

Nic Meier, Alec Dankworth, John Crawford, La Tipica, La Xhula and and many others leading

jazz and world musicians. He is noted for his mastery of flamenco percussion, and works

regularly with some of the UK's leading flamenco shows  
High Res Images









## Tech Specs

Cello : DPA mic (provided) requires xlr input and phantom power

Oud : AKG contact mic ( provided) requires xlr input and phantom power

Guitar : jack input

Percussion : 1-2 overhead mics

Cajon mic

Speaking mic

Both guitar and oud may bring AER amps to use on stage in addition

## Stage Plan

		Percussion	
Guitar	Cello	Oud	