

RIERKA - The Electric Soul of Mesopotamia

Rita Movsesian - vocals (Armenia/Iraq/Austria)

Rita committed herself to Armenian and Arabic music in Baghdad/Iraq, where she was born and raised. After her move to Austria music still remained the focus of the Armenian ex-patriot's life. There she received intensive vocal training from a wide variety of renowned coaches and enriched her vocal-technique at the Salzburg Mozarteum in the fields of classical music and jazz. There followed a great number of stage appearances both in Austria and abroad, before Rita Movsesian struck upon several multifaceted projects and international collaborations. Rita uses music as an intercultural link in today's world and places her emphasis on the musical traditions of Armenia, whereas she descends from an Armenian family that left their ancestral homeland in Turkey due to the historical events in 1915 and consequently settled in Iraq. Her voice reflects the multifaceted soul of Iraq as well as the passionate spirit of Armenia.



Karen Asatrian – piano, arrangements (Armenia/Austria)

Born in Yerevan, Armenia; Karen Asatrian received his first education in classical Violin and Piano at the Tchaikovsky Music School in Yerevan. He then continued his studies of both instruments as well as in composition at the Komitas State Conservatory of Yerevan. In 1999, he moved to Carinthia, Austria, where he finalized his Jazz-Piano studies. Karen is the holder of a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Instrumental (Vocal) Pedagogy.

Significant highlights have been the initiation of the "Brahms Project" (Jazz-Trio with Chamber Orchestra) and the presentation of his original compositions with the Norbert Artner Chamber Choir. Collaborations with The Bruckner Symphony Orchestra, Samul-Nori (Korean percussion Ensembles), Dee Dee Bridgewater, George Garzone, Jamaaladeen Tacuma, a.m.m.. Several performances at various Jazz-Festivals inside Austria and abroad as well as numerous studio productions, Radio- and TV-Appearances in Austria, Korea, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Slovenia, Armenia, a.m.m. In 2007, Asatrian received the "Armenian Music Award" in the category of Best Jazz Album for his CD "Pathway". He demonstrates his attachment to his roots and passion for the Armenian musical tradition through his continuous projects around the music of Armenia.



Erik Asatrian – keyboard & electronics (Armenia/Austria)

Erik Asatrian is a versatile Pianist playing all different kinds of music: Classical, Pop and Jazz. He was born into a family of musicians and started his musical education at a young age. He enjoyed a classical music training at the conservatory of Carinthia (Austria) while going to school. Within this period he also won the first prize of the music competition in classical Piano, Prima La Musica, several times in a row. After graduation from school he started studying Jazz-Piano at the MUK-Conservatory and Private University of Vienna. He is also known under his alias „Asat“ where he composes and produces electronic music. This music is a combination of all the music which has influenced him: Armenian Folk, Jazz and Classical music. Asat's music would be best described as atmospheric, melodic and experimental.

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