

Loxandra

ENSEMBLE

Loxandra Ensemble Band Profile

Loxandra Ensemble was formed in 1997 in Thessaloniki, Greece. The band's name comes from the name of the main character of the eponymous novel written by Greek author Maria Iordanidou in 1962. Just as the famous heroine of the novel is known for her great culinary skills, Loxandra Ensemble gathers various "musical ingredients", mixing them to create new one-of-a-kind "dishes".

Loxandra Ensemble's musical roots spring from the urban music tradition of the Greeks (Romiee) of Istanbul and Smyrna, the highly diverse traditional Greek folklore and contemporary urban Greek music. These are mixed with stylistic references to classic Ottoman music, sounds of the Arabian world, the Balkans and the Sephardi Jews.

The first album of Loxandra Ensemble came out in 2006 and was entitled "Shedon Opos Palia..." ("Almost like in the past..."), being released on the Music Mirror label in Greece and the Eterna Production label in Turkey. The band mainly concerns itself on that album with the music of the Greeks living in Smyrna (today's Izmir) and Istanbul in the 20th century. That was followed in 2011 by another album called "Meyhane - Kafe Aman", which came out on the Polyphophon label, reaching #8 in the World Music Charts Europe in September 2012 and # 41 in the Annual World Music Charts Europe.

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Loxandra Ensemble has performed at a number of festivals and music events in Greece and abroad. The band has played in Turkey, Switzerland, Italy and France at festivals such as "EUROMUSICA", "Dimitria", "Balkan Stage", "Para thin alos", "FESTIVAL VOX FEMINA", "Earth Festival", "Mediterranean Music Festival", "Balkan Caravan" and many others.

In 2010 Loxandra Ensemble participated in the hit theatrical production "Loxandra", accompanying the performance live on stage. The piece was produced by the N.T.N.G. (National Theatre of Northern Greece) and was based on the eponymous novel by Maria Iordanidou. In 2013 Loxandra Ensemble was invited by the University of Macedonia to conduct a three-day workshop on the music of "Kafe Aman" for students of traditional music in the D.M.S.A. (Department of Music Science and Art).

Following a number of changes, the band has had a permanent line-up since 2014. With new members and fresh ideas, Loxandra Ensemble's third album has now come into being. "In Transition" is the name, marking a creative change in the band. In addition to the traditional Greek, Turkish and oriental sounds the group is known for, elements of swing, jazz, reggae and Latin can also be heard on the album. Featuring its own compositions for the first time, Loxandra Ensemble has delivered its most conclusive and coherent work to date. At the intersection of tradition and today, old and new, East and West... Loxandra Ensemble has arrived, and yet the journey has only just begun – In Transition.

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Members:

Nikos Aggoussis – clarinet / backing vocals

Foibos Apostolidis – percussion

Makis Baklatzis – violin / vocals

Ria Ellinidou – vocals

Thanassis Koulientianos – kanun / backing vocals

Loukas Metaxas – e-bass / double bass / backing vocals

Dimitris Panagoulas – percussion

Kyriakos Tapakis – oud

Links:

<http://www.loxandra.gr>

<https://www.facebook.com/Loxandra.Ensemble>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/loxandra>

<http://www.dalit-music.com>

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