



Stefani Valadez Ensemble - Biography

Singer, guitarist, songwriter, percussionist Stefani Valadez offers a rich repertoire of soulful, romantic and enchanting melodies from many nations. A third generation musician, Stefani has an international following of fans who have thrilled to her deep, haunting voice and the wide range of musical and ethnic lore she incorporates into her performances.

Ms Valadez has attracted some of the best world & jazz musicians in the business to form the Stefanie Valadez Ensemble. The Ensemble is a seven piece group of Los Angeles based musicians from diverse backgrounds who play World Music infused with Ladino, Turkish, Blues, Brazilian, R & B, American Folk, Jazz, Gypsy, and Middle Eastern rhythms and melodies. Ms Valadez' repertoire is broad and the Ensemble's multi-ethnic instrumentation creates a tapestry of sound, both ancient and modern, spiritually uplifting and danceable. Their CDs and live performances have been variously described as joyous, high energy, haunting and passionate, taking people to a deep soulful place one moment and in the next tapping their feet and clapping or dancing in the aisles.

The Ensemble includes any number of the following musicians:

Jeff Breeh

Electric Bass wizard, has performed with Oingo Boingo and the Pointer Sisters and countless others.

Richard Hardy

Saxes, Flutes and Ethnic Woodwinds. He performed with Carole King for 14 years and has played and recorded with the Dave Matthews Band, James Taylor and Stevie Ray Vaughn.

Jamie Papish

Jamie has made a name for himself in the LA World Music Scene as a passionate percussionist of ethnic rhythms. He maintains an active performance and recording schedule as a member of the critically acclaimed Yuval Ron Ensemble, The Stefani Valadez Ensemble, The Nashuva Band, The Ava Nahas Percussion Ensemble and has recently recorded with the Kronos Quartet. Jamie has performed at such notable venues as the Ford Amphitheater, the Skirball Cultural Center, the Getty Museum, the Hammer Museum, UCLA's Fowler Museum, The Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, The Islamic Center of LA, San Diego's Museum of Modern Art, USC, Yale University, Museum of Jewish Heritage-NYC, and has performed at numerous international festivals. Jamie has numerous recording credits including a soon to be released CD with The Kronos Quartet; Yuval Ron's 'Under the Olive Tree', 'Tree of Life' and 'Seeker of Truth', Heyraneh's 'Prayers on Tanbour', Tony Khalife's 'Transcendence' and short film Academy Award winning 'West Bank Story' composed by Yuval Ron.

Christo Pellani

World Percussion. He has played with Air Supply, Mary Wells, The Shirrelles, the Marvellettes, Nina Hagen, Ronnie Spector, Brandon Fields, Fabien Mamman, The Agape International Choir and many others.

Nyofu Tyson

Born in Los Angeles of Danish-Lebanese-African and Native American heritage, Nyofu began his career as a bassist, playing jazz and Latin. He began to play the Saz in Turkey and lived for many years in Sweden, where he worked with Zulfu Livaneli, Okay Temiz and Hadji Tekbilek. Since returning to LA, he has collaborated with Omar Faruk Tekbilek, oudist John Bilezikian, Cuatro Caminos Flamenco, among others. In addition to being part of Stefani Valadez Ensemble, he has recently started the IST/West Ensemble, blending Flamenco with Turkish influences. Nyofu has two CD's "Timeless Songs", a collection of Turkish folk poets; and "La Guitarra Turca", original work blending Mideast, Latin and Jazz. Nyofu has gained recognition in Turkey for his interpretations of Turkish folk poets and his eclectic style of Saz playing.

Leo Chelyapov

Leo Chelyapov, composer and clarinetist, graduated from the Moscow College of Musical Arts and immigrated to California in 1992. As a klezmer musician he is devoted to infusing pure, traditional Jewish folk music into the fabric of American pop culture. Leo was commissioned to arrange "Klezmer Dances" for the LA Guitar Quartet, and recorded it for Sony Classical. He has two CD's with Hollywood Klezmer. Leo's crossover endeavors into jazz music include concerts with jazz luminaries Buddy Collette, Herb Jeffries and Bobby Rodriguez. He's performed at the Playboy Jazz Festival, the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony. Leo's commercial work includes soundtrack for "Private Parts," with The Red Hot Chili Peppers, performances on MTV, Late Night with David Letterman, and Madison Square Garden.

Brandon Turner

Brandon Turner is a double bassist and composer, originally from Maine, currently based in Los Angeles. Brandon has studied bass most recently with living jazz legend John Clayton and Los Philharmonic principal bassist Dennis Trembly. During his graduate studies at University of Southern California, Brandon was recipient of the Ray Brown Memorial Scholarship. Brandon enjoys playing the bass across many genre including classical, jazz, folk and "world" music. Brandon is the leader of a crossover world chamber group called the Haberdashery Ensemble. Brandon can also be found with French chanteuse Jessica Fichot, Stefani Valadez and freelancing with many Los Angeles artists. Brandon recently received a Subito grant from the American Composers Forum, which helps emerging composers produce new music.



The **Stefani Valadez Ensemble** has been performing together since 1998 at Sacred Music Events, Peace Festivals, Concerts, Clubs and Cultural Centers including:

Concerts:

Parliament of World Religions, Barcelona
Harris Theatre, w/ Luna Negra Dance Company, Chicago '08
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion - (Holiday Celebration '07, '08)
Vanderbilt University, Nashville
Grand Performances at California Plaza
'Hallelu' Concert at Universal Amphitheater
Skirball Cultural Center '06, '07
World Festival of Sacred Music LA ('03, '05, '08)
Chapman University (Genocide Conference '08)
Malibu Eco Fest '07
Valley Beth Shalom Sephardic Concert '07
Venice Eco Fest '08, '09
KPFK Radio Live '07, '08, '09
Topanga Sacred Sound Festival '05
Santa Monica Farmers Market (Concert Series '08, '09
"Salute to Recreation" - Northridge '08
Venice Cabaret Theatre '08
Fontana Performing Arts Center
Instituto de Tao, Barcelona
Brandeis Bardin Institute
Traveling Jewish Theater, San Francisco
Beyond Baroque, Venice
Ojai Women's Festival
Whole Life Expo L.A.
Garden Theatre Festival L.A.
Harvest Festival Irish Faire, Dodger Stadium
UCLA International Peace Festival

Clubs:

El Cid (Hollywood CA)	'Acoustico' at Farfalla's & GianCarlo's (LA)
GianCarlo's	Venice Cabaret (Venice, CA)
Knitting Factory Hollywood	The Daisy (Bev Hills)
House of Blues (LA)	Sierra Inn (June Lake)
Music Box, Hollywood	The Patio (Boca Raton)
Torre Rosa (Barcelona)	Fais Dodo (LA)
Marguerita Blu (Barcelona).	Club Tropical (LA)
Rusty's. (LA)	Ashgrove (LA)
American Pie (LA)	McCabes (LA)
BeBop Records	Temple Bar (Santa Monica)

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