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Paula Darwish

The Country and Eastern Band

Although a songwriter in her own right, Paula Darwish has become more well known in recent years for her unique and captivating interpretations of Turkish and Kurdish folk songs.

Biography

The Country and Eastern Band successfully fuse modern arrangements of Turkish and Kurdish folk with original songs in English. Their unique sound with its diverse eastern and western influences, relies on a careful balance of the familiar with the unknown.

With its passionate vocal deliveries, global rhythms and unique arrangements of classic pieces of traditional music from all over modern day Turkey, the music resonates with listeners all over the world.

Born in Northern England to an English mother and Jordanian father, Paula grew up listening to both "Eastern" and "Western" music. Darwish began to write her own songs and played in several bands as well as performing solo on the acoustic circuit. After some years, feeling frustrated and disappointed by the music scene, she decided to go abroad. Darwish then lived for a short while in Crete and Turkey, and fell in love with the local music.

A few years later, she applied to the London University School of Oriental and African Studies to study Turkish and Middle Eastern history. Living in London provided the opportunity to hang out in the Turkish and Kurdish music cafés of Hackney and once

again be immersed in the music she loved. Her biggest passion was for the types of music known in Turkey as halk müziği and özgün müziği and Dalston in North East London was full of bars and community centres playing this style of music. Still playing as a solo performer in the acoustic cafes of London, Paula began to add a few Turkish songs to the set and found British audiences receptive to the beautiful melodies of Anatolian folk.

During her third college year, Darwish studied at the Bosphorous University in Istanbul. On her return to London, she became a well known figure playing on the Turkish and Kurdish music scene of North London. After gaining a first class degree in Turkish, she returned to Istanbul with the intention of getting a job and starting a new band. Whilst musical opportunities were many, unable to earn enough money to survive, she was forced to return to England and start again.

Not wishing to be pigeon holed by UK audiences as solely a world music act, she created The Country & Eastern band with the idea of fusing musical styles to make Eastern music more acceptable to general UK audiences. The plan worked and together with her band she has been a regular performer on the UK scene



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ever since. Darwish signed with Berlin label Oriental Media in 2005 and released the EP "Urfa Folk Song". She performed every month for five years at Manchester's Iguana Bar before stopping to concentrate on recording the album "Do what you love" in 2008. The album was released on her own label "Purple Sheep Records" in 2009".

Regular touring & footage of gigs posted on the internet in recent years brought renewed attention from Turkey and Darwish began to refocus more on her original passion of traditional Turkish and Kurdish folk. In 2010 Darwish and the band were the subject of a TV documentary shown on National Turkish TV station TRT. Demand from fans lead to tours in Turkey in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Darwish is respected for her contribution to the world of global fusion as well as her work in the more traditional arena of Turkish and Kurdish folk music.



Adam Warne

Some Recent Concerts

Turkey tour 22 Sept-14th Oct 2012

London Alevi Festival June 2012

W3 Hamburg - May 2012

Sargfabrik Vienna - May 2012

Bilkent Music Festival Ankara October 2011

Escape from the City Festival, Salford Oct 2011

Haymatlos Istanbul June 2011

Vadi Cafe Ankara June 2011

Seyr-I-mesel Istanbul July 2010

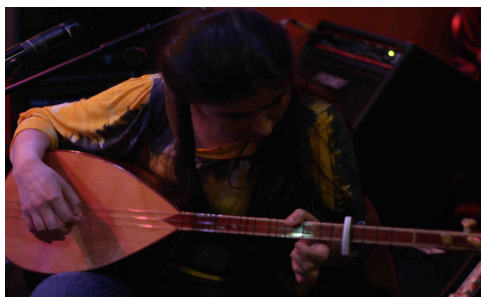
DAYMER London March 2011

London Alevi Festival March 2011

Ankara Telwe Hall July 2010

Musicport Fest Bridlington 2009

Paula Darwish - vocals, guitar
Serpil Kilic - saz, vocals
Lou Armer - vocals, ukelele
Ric Gibbs - drums, darbuka
Adam Warne - darbuka, percussion
Carlos Ballester - electric guitar
Pascal Paschalis - bouzouki



Serpil Kilic

Paula Darwish & the Country and Eastern Band are based in Manchester, England. They perform in any combo from solo to 7 piece band



Do What You Love
یُفَعْلُ مَا تَحِبُّ
YÜREĞİNİN GÖTÜRDÜĞÜ YERE GİT

Releases

3 Anadolu Ezgisi (3 Anatolian Songs)
Purple Sheep Records 2011

3 Kurdish Songs (3 Kilamen Kurdi, 3 Kürtçe ezgi)
Purple Sheep Records 2011

Do what you love (yüreginin götürdüğü yere git)
Purple Sheep Records 2011

Urfa Folk Song
Oriental Media Berlin 2006