

Mel M'rabet (Mohamad El M'rabet) – Refined Professional Biography

Mel M'rabet (Mohamad El M'rabet) is a Canadian■Moroccan composer, oud virtuoso, and producer internationally recognized for his distinctive intercultural musical language. Working between Ottawa, Canada and Granada, Spain, M'rabet has spent more than three decades bridging the musical legacies of Al■Andalus, the Arab world, the Mediterranean, and contemporary jazz. His work integrates Arabic modal systems (maqam), Andalusian musical heritage, Mediterranean rhythmic traditions, and modern improvisation, creating a sophisticated global sound rooted in cultural dialogue. A Genie Award recipient for Best Original Soundtrack (2002) for the film *Khaled*, M'rabet has built an extensive international career performing across Europe, North America, Africa, and the Middle East. His performances have appeared at major festivals and international music markets including WOMEX, the Fez Festival of Sacred Music, the Chicago World Music Festival, and numerous Mediterranean, early music, and intercultural arts festivals throughout Europe and North Africa. Throughout his career he has collaborated with a remarkable roster of internationally acclaimed musicians, including Anouar Brahem, Omar Sosa, Marcel Khalifé, Cesaria Evora, Paco de Lucía, Zakir Hussain, Dhafer Youssef, Buika, Charbel Rouhana, Simon Shaheen, and Al Di Meola. These collaborations have shaped a musical practice grounded in improvisation, cross■cultural exchange, and artistic experimentation. M'rabet holds a Master's degree in Music and a Bachelor's degree in Ethnomusicology from the University of Granada, where he later served as Assistant Professor teaching music theory, ethnomusicology, acoustics, and psychology of musical performance. His academic background informs a compositional approach that blends historical scholarship with contemporary creativity. A recipient of multiple grants from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, and the City of Ottawa, M'rabet has also been active as a cultural organizer and curator, developing concert series and community arts initiatives that promote intercultural dialogue through music. His current artistic project, *Echoes of Andalusia*, explores the shared cultural and musical heritage of medieval Spain through newly composed works that combine maqam■based improvisation, Mediterranean rhythmic structures, and contemporary ensemble writing. The project is being developed for international presentation and touring, continuing M'rabet's long■standing commitment to artistic diplomacy and global cultural exchange.