

Optimized Artist Biography

MOHAMAD “MEL” EL M’RABET

Mohamad “Mel” El M’Rabet is a Canadian-Moroccan musician, composer, educator, cultural producer, ethnomusicologist, and interdisciplinary artist whose career spans more than three decades across Canada, Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia, and international cultural markets. Widely recognized for his ability to build bridges between cultures through artistic practice, M’rabet has established himself as a leading voice in intercultural music-making, artistic diplomacy, community engagement, and contemporary interpretations of the musical heritage of Al-Andalus. A recipient of support from the Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, City of Ottawa, and FACTOR, M’rabet has developed and presented artistic projects internationally while contributing to the advancement of Canadian artistic excellence abroad. His work integrates Arabic, Andalusian, Mediterranean, African, jazz, and contemporary global traditions, creating a distinctive artistic language that transcends cultural and geographic boundaries. Throughout his career, M’rabet has performed, presented, collaborated, taught, and participated in festivals, showcases, conferences, artistic residencies, cultural exchanges, and professional arts markets throughout Europe, the MENA region, North America, and beyond. His extensive international experience includes participation in world music festivals, intercultural arts initiatives, multidisciplinary collaborations, and major sector gatherings that connect artists, presenters, cultural institutions, funders, and international networks. His artistic journey has included collaborations and shared stages with internationally acclaimed artists such as Salif Keita, Cesária Évora, Omar Sosa, Anouar Brahem, Marcel Khalife, Simon Shaheen, Paco de Lucía, Dhafer Youssef, Al Di Meola, Zakir Hussain, Steve Potts, François Thériault, Charbel Rouhana, Buika, Mariza, and numerous other distinguished figures of contemporary world music. M’rabet is also a Genie Award recipient for Best Original Soundtrack and has represented Canada through artistic touring, cultural exchange, educational initiatives, and international artistic collaboration. His professional trajectory includes participation in WOMEX as both a showcase artist and professional delegate, contributing to international dialogue surrounding artistic innovation, cultural diversity, audience development, and global music ecosystems. Beyond performance, M’rabet has built a distinguished record as an educator, mentor, researcher, and community builder. He has taught at the University of Granada, delivered workshops and masterclasses internationally, organized multicultural artistic initiatives, and supported intercultural dialogue through community-centred programming. His work consistently emphasizes accessibility, inclusion, artistic citizenship, and the role of culture as a catalyst for social cohesion. His current flagship project, *Echoes of Andalusia*, explores cultural memory, coexistence, migration, artistic identity, and intercultural exchange through music, research, and public engagement. Through this work, M’rabet continues to contribute to contemporary conversations surrounding cultural diversity, belonging, and the future of artistic practice in an increasingly interconnected world. Fluent in English, French, Spanish, and Arabic, Mohamad “Mel” El M’Rabet brings a uniquely international perspective to artistic leadership, cultural development, community engagement, and cross-sector collaboration, positioning him at the intersection of artistic excellence, intercultural dialogue, and public impact.