



KIOOMARS MUSAYYEBI QUINTET

Where the Orient meets Jazz — Santur, Groove and the Art of Improvisation

BAND PORTFOLIO

2026



About the Band

The Kioomars Musayyebi Quintet is the natural evolution of the Kioomars Musayyebi Quartet, founded in 2015 by santur virtuoso Kioomars Musayyebi. Years of close collaboration have given rise to an expanded sound concept: new colors have been added to the original lineup, deepening the band's distinctive sound and giving it additional rhythmic and tonal depth.

Made up of santur, electric bass, guitar, drums and Iranian percussion, the ensemble uniquely combines the sonic worlds of the Orient with the improvisational spirit of jazz. Delicate santur melodies merge with powerful rhythms, warm tone colors and modern grooves into a fascinating sound that feels both familiar and strikingly new.

The quintet's music tells of encounters, of home, and of the courage to explore new paths — sometimes energetic, sometimes poetic, always deeply emotional. This is world music at its finest: timeless, cosmopolitan and full of soul.

From Quartet to Quintet

In 2015, Kioomars Musayyebi founded his first own ensemble in Germany, the Kioomars Musayyebi Quartet, bringing together Persian musical tradition and contemporary jazz. Since then, the band's musical language has continuously evolved: new musicians, new influences, a broader sonic palette. With the step to a quintet, the band expands its expressive range without losing its original idea — the meeting of East and West, of tradition and improvisation.

Lineup



Kioomars Musayyebi

Santur, Komposition, Bandleader



Jens Pollheide

E-Bass



Christian Hammer

Gitarre



Benny Mokross

Schlagzeug



Reza Samani

Iranische Trommel (Tombak/Daf)

Kioomars Musayyebi — Short Biography

Kioomars Musayyebi was born in 1977 in Tehran. He studied santur with the renowned master Faramarz Payvar, and music theory and composition with Farhad Fakhredini. In 2010 he completed his degree in instrumental music at the Tehran University of Art.

At just 18, he began teaching santur at various music schools in Tehran, and in 2008 founded his own music school, Avay-e-Shahrzad. As a musician and composer he performed with several Iranian ensembles and gave numerous concerts at home and abroad, including at the Fajr Festival in Tehran.

Since 2011, Musayyebi has lived and worked in Germany — first in Hildesheim, where in 2015 he completed his master's degree on "World Music – Cultural Diversity in Music Education," and today in Essen. Since 2013 he has been a permanent member of the Transorient Orchestra, the twelve-piece world music big band from the Ruhr region. He has worked with musicians from Europe, India, Africa and East Asia, and has performed at festivals such as Fusion, Folk'n'Fusion, Hildesheimer Wallungen and Musica Sacra International.

In 2015 he founded the Kioomars Musayyebi Quartet, from which today's Quintet has evolved.

Musical Concept

At the heart of the music is the santur, the Persian hammered dulcimer with 72 strings, whose delicate sound world is reimagined through the tools of modern jazz — free improvisation, dense band sound and layered rhythms. Classical Persian dastgah music meets contemporary groove; original compositions alternate with newly interpreted traditionals. The result is music that audibly transcends the boundaries between cultures.

Contact & Booking

Kioomars Musayyebi Quintet

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