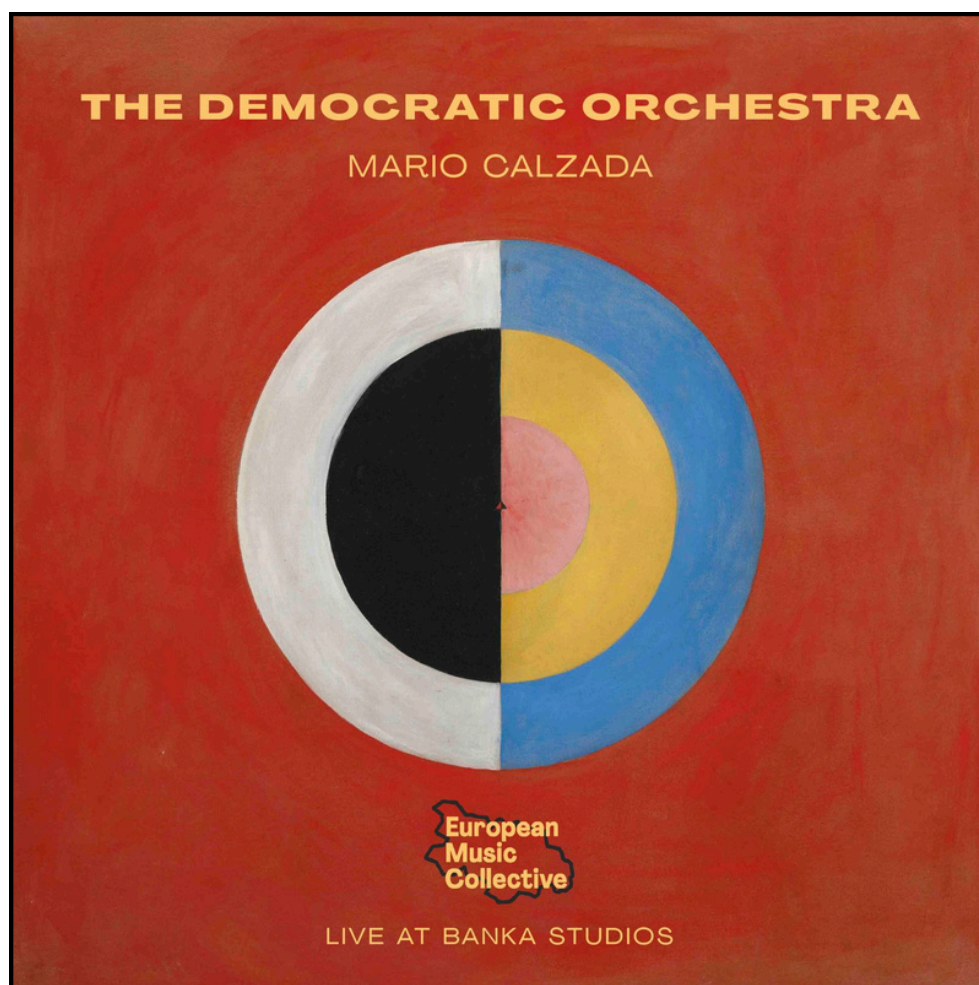


THE DEMOCRATIC ORCHESTRA

live at banka studio

A COMPOSITION BY MARIO CALZADA FEATURING
EUROPEAN MUSIC COLLECTIVE



THE DEMOCRATIC ORCHESTRA

practical information

The Democratic Orchestra is a composition for improvisers ensemble written by Mario Calzada and dedicated to the European Music Collective, who premiered it in June 2025, at Banka Studio, Maastricht (NL).

Album: The Democratic Orchestra - live at Banka Studio

Artist: European Music Collective

Composer: Mario Calzada

Release date: 2026

Lenght: 40 minutes

Number of Tracks: 6

Recorded at Banka Studio (live set) in June 2025

Mix and Master: Mama Studio

Organization: Christoph Götzen

Performers of the European Music Collective: Ghazal Faghihi (clarinet), Francesca Fantini (alto saxophone), Ondrej Zintaer (tenor saxophone), Selendis Selbastian Alexander Joohnson (trombone), Milana Sarukhanyan (vocals), Darja Goldberg (accordion), Christoph Götzen (electric guitar), Arto Van Roey (electric guitar), Ipek Eginli (piano), Ethan Blackburn (piano), Anton Lambert (doublebass), Mario Calzada (drums and composition), and Ben Finlay (electronics).

THE DEMOCRATIC ORCHESTRA

concept

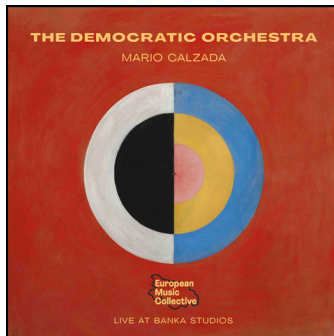
The Democratic Orchestra is a composition for an ensemble of improvisers whose music is based in dialogue and freedom.

The composition emerges from a fundamental question: how can music, and especially improvisation, help us reflect on democracy as both an ideal and a practice? In liberal democracies, citizens are granted the right to speak, to act, and to shape collective decisions, but these freedoms are not absolute. They are balanced by structures, by laws, and by the need to coexist with others. Similarly, in music, complete individual freedom can result in chaos, but when framed by shared principles or rules, it can generate powerful, collective expression.

The Democratic Orchestra serves both as a living metaphor to describe the processes of liberal democracy and as an artistic laboratory where sound, politics, and society intersect. The aim is to use music as a medium to reflect on the strengths, challenges, and limitations of democratic systems, while also inspiring performers and audiences to think critically about what “freedom” can mean in contemporary societies.

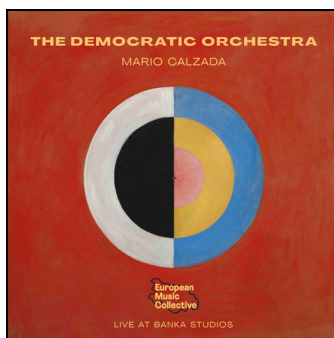
By using improvisation as core tool, the project asks musicians to listen, respond, negotiate, and compromise — just as citizens do in democratic life. The “why” of this project is rooted in the conviction that art can not only mirror reality but also make us question it, and in doing so, provide new perspectives on issues that are central to our lives.

links to audio



FOR A QUICK LISTENING

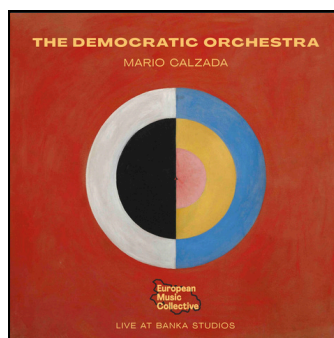
Listen on soundcloud to selected excerpts



DEMOCRATIC ORCHESTRA -full

Listen on soundcloud to the finalised tracks

<https://on.soundcloud.com/laTTxNKGPHo00Ks4oD>



DOWNLOAD TRACKS



[MP3 files for download](#)

ABOUT EMC

SHORT BIO

The European Music Collective (EMC) is a union of musicians from all around Europe (and beyond), which constantly seeks out brand new and exciting **international collaborations**. The collective exclusively focuses on **improvised** and **contemporary** music and notably features the new generation of artists working through primarily improvised mediums.

The collective's main goal is to build a **platform** and **community** for improvised and contemporary music that transcends borders and unites diverse cultural identities into a collective spirit.

The European Music Collective has organized a wide range of performances, tours, and residencies across Europe. Since 2024, they have been hosting their annual residency in Sidrabini, Latvia, where the collective recorded their debut album Sidrabini No. 1 (Klankhaven Records).

As an ensemble, the European Music Collective has been presenting original works and world premieres at leading venues and festivals across Europe. Their performances include premieres at the Moers Festival (improviser in residence with Bart Maris), the ContemPLAY Festival (Vilnius, Lithuania), Banka Studios (Maastricht, The Netherlands), and the Kintai Music Festival (Lithuania), among others.

LINKS



YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/@EuropeanMusicCollective>



Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/emc.collective>



Bandcamp
<https://europeanmusiccollective.bandcamp.com/album/sidrabini-no-1>



Website - <https://europeanmusiccollective.wordpress.com/>

PHOTO GALLERY



CREDITS: Maximilian Kandora

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