
ORKESTAR KRIMINAL



"It is undoubtedly one of the mysteries of the music world, why an ensemble like Orkestar Kriminal is not literally world famous.

- RootsTime

"The mixture sounds rough and very contagious, but light and full of bittersweet melancholy."

- IN Magazin

"A wild, roaring, gloomy-diabolical sound [...] where the boundaries between yesterday and today blur seamlessly".

- Bongartz

For a dozen years now, **Orkestar Kriminal** has created daring arrangements of old underworld ballads in 12 different languages, telling the tales of impoverished peoples the world over, driven to a life of crime. With their unique instrumentation and a refreshing gender-mashup in their musicianship, Orkestar Kriminal has arranged some of the world's long-forgotten criminal ballads with all the fervour and gusto that they could muster. After continuous touring and a multitude of festival performances, the biggest criminal punks in world music released their first ever all-originals album "Originali" in March, 2024 on the German label CPL-Music, with Grammy award-winning Producer-Engineer: Mark Lawson, hitting the #1 spot on the Earshot "National International" charts. Drenched in expression, celebrated and improvised, this is "cabaret noir" at its finest!

Members

Giselle Claudia Webber: voice (*Em & Dzeej, Hot Springs, Gigi French, Giselle Numba One*)

Julian Selody: saxophone, clarinet (*Lemon Bucket Orchestra, Dumai Dunai*)

Lisa Gamble: musical saw, baglamas (*HRSTA, Gambletron, Clues, Thundrah*)

Sam Minevich: electric guitar, bouzouki (*Yellow Jacket Avenger, Gigi French, Pink Breeze*)

Brigitte Dajczer: fiddle (*Briga, Gitans de Sarajevo, Roma Carnavale*)

Christos Smirnios: drums (*The Mahones, Swamp Ward Orchestra*)

Julie Richard: sousaphone (*Les Angles Mortes, Urban Science Brass Band, Gypsy Kumbia Orchestra*)

Etienne Barry: accordion (*Les Deuxluxes, Barry Paquin Roberge*)

Anna Frances Meyer: flute, piccolo, back-vocals (*Les Deuxluxes, Barry Paquin Roberge*)

Andy King: trumpet (*Urban Science Brass Band*)

Discography

ORIGINALI, 2024 (CPL-Music, Coax Records) - Full Length (digital, vinyl and CD format)

RAZLOMANYE RYOBRA, 2020 (Coax Records) - Full Length (digital and vinyl format)

RYOBRA, 2018 (Coax Records) - Full Length (digital and CD format)

TUMMEL, 2015 (Sainte-Cécile/Dare to Care) - Full Length (digital and vinyl format)

ZONTANI! L'BIN! LEVENDE!, 2013 (Independent) - E.P. (digital and CD format)

Festivals Played

Gawafest, Fourth International Klezmer Festival, Folk On The Rocks, Dawson City Music Fest, Pop Montréal, SXSW, Festival des Traditions du Monde à Sherbrooke, Sudbury Northern Lights Festival, Suoni Per Il Popolo, Folk Music Ontario Conference, Nuit Blanche, Mondial Montréal, Canadian Music Week (CMW), Toronto Ashkenaz Festival, Luminato Festival, Festival de l'Outaouais Emergeant, Festival de Musique du Bout du Monde, Festival Widewood, MXQC, Carnaval de Sherbrooke, RIDM, Montréal Jewish Music Festival, Festival d'Été de Québec, L'OFF Festival de Québec, Nuit Blanche sur Tableau Noir

Performed Alongside With

Angine de Poitrine, Quebec Redneck Bluegrass Project, Mononc' Serge, Dan Kahn, Blisk, Benj Rowland, Micheal Winograd & The Honorable Mentshn, Waahli, Lido Pimienta, Balkan Shmalkan, Bučan Bučan, Gordon Grdina, Pierre Kwenders, Geoff Berner, Black Bear Combo, Quantum Tangle, Kid Koala, Klo Pelgag, Shura Lipovsky, Sasha Lurje, Les Deuxluxes, Detroit Party Marching Band, Maude Audet, Kutsi Merki, Tintamare, Yves Lambert, Socalled, Lemon Bucket Orchestra, Operators, Bad Uncle, Karim Ouellet, Gypsy Kumbia Orchestra, Dear Criminals

Press

March 31, 2026: [EXCLAIM!](#)

<https://exclaim.ca/music/article/toronto-s-luminato-festival-celebrates-20-years-with-2026-edition>

October 30, 2025: [FUGUES](#)

<https://www.fugues.com/2025/10/30/mundial-montreal-2025-une-mosaique-musicale-internationale/>

August 30, 2025: [LE LAC ST-JEAN](#)

<https://www.lelacstjean.com/culture/646706/le-gawafest-de-retour-a-saint-nazaire-pour-une-2e-edition-festive/>

August 16, 2024: [FOLKER WORLD](#)

<https://folker.world/folkgalore/artistgalore/orkestar-kriminal/>

August 11, 2024: [NEW FOLK SOUNDS](#)

<https://www.newfolksounds.nl/orkestar-kriminal-originali/recensies/2024>

May, 2024: [INMAGAZIN](#)

<https://www.forum-der-kulturen.de/download/24944/?tmstv=1714723770>

May, 2024: [AUDIO+STEREOPLAY](#)

<https://abo.audio.de/einzelhefte/audio-stereoplay-ausgabe-05-2024.html>

April 29, 2024: [BONGARTZ](#)

https://www2.bongartz-musik.de/index.php?nav=20&ausgabe_select=2024/17

April 26, 2024: [JAZZ FUN](#)

<https://www.jazz-fun.de/inspirationen-von-winfried-dulisch.html>

April 21, 2024: [EKULTURA](#)

<https://ekultura.hu/2024/04/21/zenek-a-nagyvilagbol-tyva-kyzy-orkestar-kriminal-vilaggenerol-szobjektiven-4172>

April 20, 2024: [CBC](#)

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/3-songs-from-london-morning-for-your-playlist-april-20-1.7178737>

April 9, 2024: [EARSHOT](#)

<https://www.earshot-online.com/charts/index.cfm?intChartTypeID=104&dWeekOfID=2024-04-09>

April 7, 2024: [WESTZEIT](#)

<https://www.westzeit.de/rezensionen/?id=23889>

April 4, 2024: [PANM360](#)

<https://panm360.com/en/records/orkestar-kriminal-originali-montreal-band-yiddish-punk-balkan-europe-fanfare/>

April 1, 2024: [ROOTSTIME](#)

<https://rootstime.be/index.html?https://rootstime.be/CD%20REVIEUW/2024/APR1/CD21.html>

March, 2024: [IMAGE HIFI](#)

<https://image-hifi.com/produkt/image-hifi-177/>

March 16, 2024: [RADIO CANADA](#)

<https://ici.radio-canada.ca/ohdio/musique/emissions/nomadeoreille/episodes/801017/ratrapage-samedi-16-mars-2024>

March 28, 2024: [THAT NIGHT IN TORONTO](#)

<https://michaelbarclay.substack.com/p/a-kriminal-mind>

July 16, 2021: [CULTMTL](#)

<https://cultmtl.com/event/pop-montreal-presents-marche-des-possibles-with-orkestar-kriminal-and-waahli>

August 17, 2020: [CULTMTL](#)

<https://cultmtl.com/2020/08/watch-the-new-animated-music-video-by-montreal-band-orkestar-kriminal-na-moldavanke-musy-ka-igrayet-razlomanye-ryobra/>

July 11, 2019: [NANAIMO BULLETIN](#)

<https://www.nanaimobulletin.com/entertainment/band-brings-multilingual-interwar-era-gangster-songs-to-nanaimo>

July 4, 2019: [EDMONTON JOURNAL](#)

<https://edmontonjournal.com/entertainment/music/born-out-of-a-scram-orkestar-kriminal-evolved-from-yiddish-criminal-underworld-songs>

May 19, 2019 - [RADIO TAIGA](#)

<https://soundcloud.com/radiotaiga/lallonge-orkestar-kriminal>

January 11, 2019 - [JAZZ SENSIBILITIES](#)

<https://jazzsensibilities.com/world/orkestar-kriminal-ryobra/>

December 18, 2018 - [EARSHOT](#)

<http://www.earshot-online.com/charts/index.cfm?intChartTypeID=104&dWeekOfID=2018-12-18>

October 31, 2018 - [HIGHLIFE WORLD](#)

<https://highlifeworld.com/orkestar-kriminal-ryobra/>

September 4, 2018 - [CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS](#)

<http://www.cjnews.com/other-communities/russian/a-musical-look-into-the-criminal-mind>

August 31, 2018 - [THE RECORD](#)

<https://www.therecord.com/whatson-story/8871571-music-from-all-corners-of-the-world-from-orkestar-kriminal/>

May 16, 2017 - [DMNDR](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=788734957968372>

March 21, 2017 - [MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE](#)

<http://www.startribune.com/a-sxsw-wrap-the-15-best-acts-from-five-days-of-music-and-mayhem/416565483/#1>

March 19, 2017 - [FOX NEWS AUSTIN](#)

<https://youtu.be/ChtMG1UVwjk>

March 11, 2017 - [THE FORWARD](#)

<https://forward.com/news/breaking-news/365701/south-by-southwest-2017-5-don-t-miss-jewish-events/>

February 24, 2017 - [BROADWAY WORLD](#)

<http://www.broadwayworld.com/bwwmusic/article/Orkestar-Kriminal-at-SXSW--Criminal-Gypsy-Punks-Mix-Guerrilla-Shows-20170224>

Awards

GAMIQ (Nomination): World Music Album of the Year (ORKESTAR KRIMINAL, "Ryobra")

GAMIQ, Roots Album of the Year ("Tummel")

Videos

ORKESTAR KRIMINAL LIVE SHOW SAMPLER

<https://tinyurl.com/orkestar-kriminal>

ORKESTAR KRIMINAL @ LE MINISTÈRE - *Razlomanye Ryobra* Album Release Performance

<https://www.facebook.com/orkestarkriminal/videos/303310174295245/>

NA MOLDAVANKYE MUSYKA IGRAYET - Directed by: Liza Skvo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fd1gSjglez0>

MOYSHELE STOLYER - Directed by: Joakhim Magdalena

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6PcLdCle40A>

DER SHMAYSER - Directed by: Bruno Goulard

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9WJ1A9vuH4>

ORKESTAR KRIMINAL @ SXSW - Directed by: Joakhim Magdalena

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kg7w6qjVBJU>

ON THE MAKING OF TUMMEL - Directed by: Joakhim Magdalena

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKl_tX8jVYg

Links

Website: <https://orkestar-kriminal.com/>

Youtube: <http://tinyurl.com/orkestarkriminal>

Bandcamp: <https://orkestarkriminal.bandcamp.com/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/orkestarkriminal/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/orkestarkriminal/>

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