



# BALAGAN CAFÉ BAND



**'Music for the ears, heart and feet.' Royal Albert Hall**

**'An inspired string trio.' Time Out**

**[www.balagancafeband.org](http://www.balagancafeband.org)**

Rooted in Parisian and American Jazz - but taking in the Chaabi music of Algeria, Balkan folk melodies and the early modern music of Western Europe - Balagan combines these threads into an elegant yet fiery fusion featuring the intimate chamber instrumentation of violin, guitar and cello.

Richard Jones - Violin

Christian Miller - Guitar

Shirley Smart - Cello

The band has maintained a busy gigging schedule, touring the UK and appearing at top London venues including the Green Note, Elgar Room and National Portrait Gallery. Their self-titled debut album is released on F-IRE presents on 6th July and features guest appearances by Alice Zawadzki, Joe Browne (Last Summer's Tealights) and Tommie Black-Roff (Teyr.)



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## Richard Jones - Violin

Richard Jones is an exciting young British violinist recognised for his innovative sound, approach and adaptability in bringing the violin to life within a broad range of musical contexts. Born in Wales, his musical upbringing was a diverse tapestry of experiences that ignited his passion for music and provided opportunity to explore and develop.

Since completing his studies at Guildhall, Richard has immersed himself in the London jazz scene and recent collaborations include projects lead by leading Jazz musicians Christine Tobin, Mark Edwards, Robert Mitchell and Nicolas Meier.

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## Christian Miller - Guitar

Trading astronomy for the guitar, Christian has played and recorded with a broad cross section of London's finest musicians including: Nigel Price, Adrian Cox, Mike Mondesir and many others in music ranging from New Orleans jazz and swing through to bop, contemporary jazz and electric fusion.

A student of a broad spectrum of musicians including Dave Cliff, Peter Bernstein, Barry Harris, Stevie Wishart and Keith Tippett, he aims to combine a deep respect for the traditions of jazz with an open mind for future directions. His projects include string fusion group Balagan Cafe Band, gypsy jazz band the Hot Club of Jupiter and electric jazz quartet Big Fan.

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## Shirley Smart - Cello

Shirley Smart is recognised as one of the UK's most versatile and creative cellists. She spent 10 years in Jerusalem, where studied and performed in a wide variety of musical traditions from the North Africa, Turkey and Middle East.

She has subsequently worked with many leading musicians including Avishai Cohen, Omer Avital, Yasmin Levy, Antonio Forcione, Mulato Astatke and Neil Cowley. Her own projects include leading her own trio, and the band Melange as well as a duo with pianist Robert Mitchell and Iraqi-folk based trio Sawa.

She also teaches jazz and improvisation at the Royal College of Music and City University.