

KAMAL MUSALLAM

Arabic Fusion Guitarist

Press Kit

2017



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<http://www.kamalmusallam.com>

Facebook :

<https://www.facebook.com/kamalmusallam>

Youtube :

<http://www.youtube.com/user/kamalmusallam>

Reverbnation :

<http://www.soundcloud.com/kamal-musallam>

Highlights (1)



With **STING**

Highlights (2)



With Yo-Yo Ma

Highlights (3)



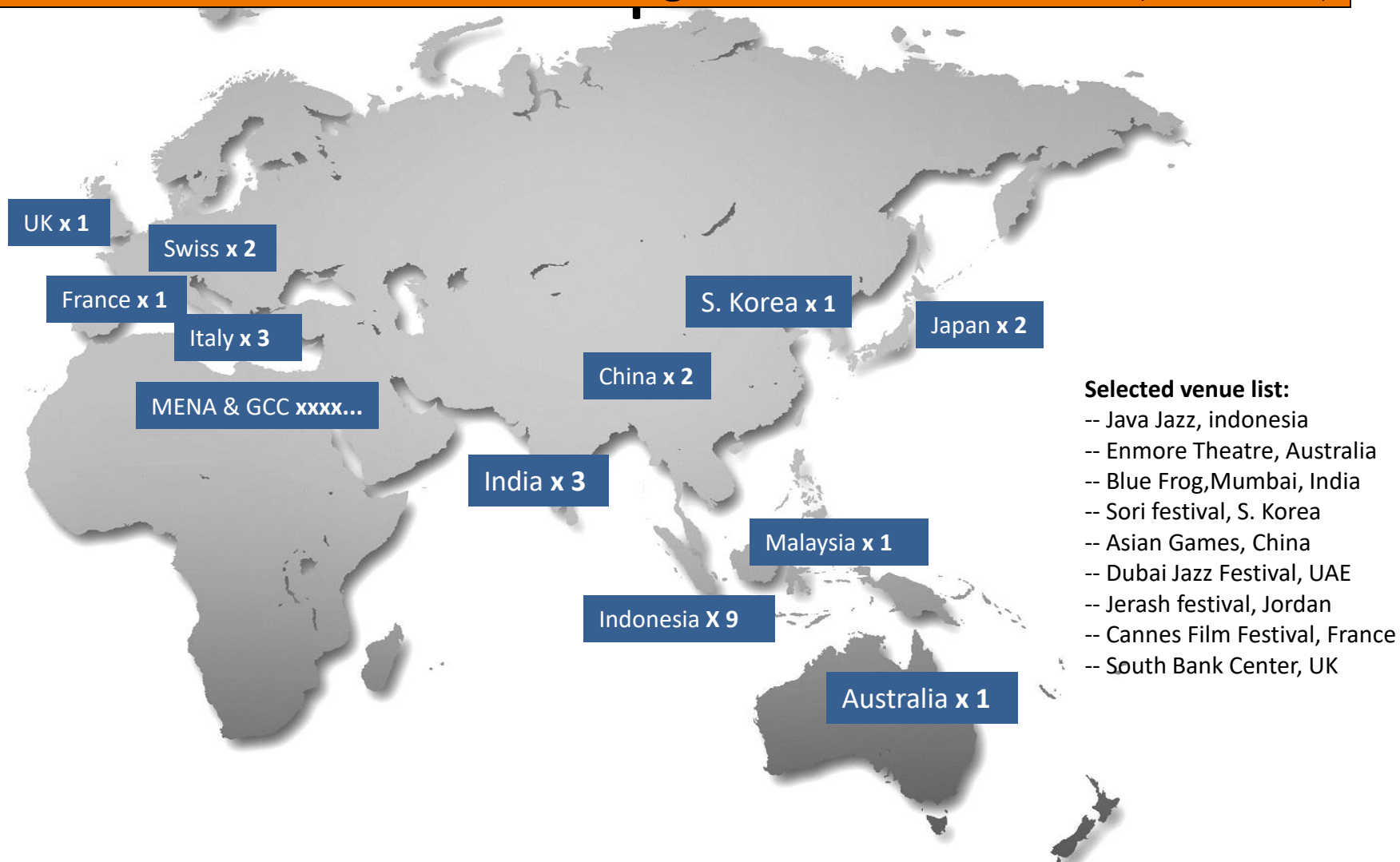
With Bobby McFerrin

Highlights (4)



With George Benson

Regions Toured & venue list (2001-2016)



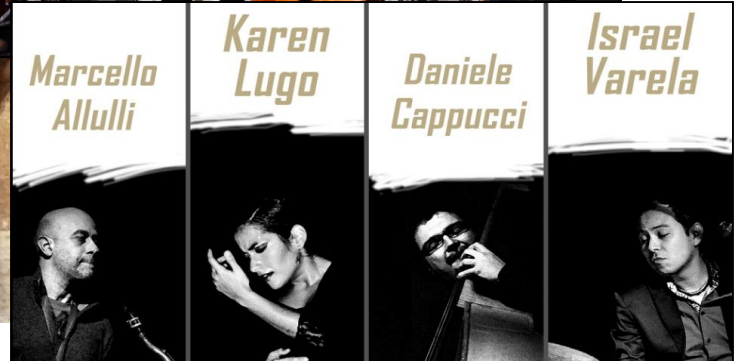
X = indicates number of trips to those destinations for festivals or concerts

Latest Album / “Homemade in Rome”




- In February of 2013, Kamal traveled to Rome, Italy, to experience a new musical adventure surrounded by the Roman Spirit and the iconic city's cultural treasures. Here he aspired to tie it all together: the centuries-long influence of the Romans on the Middle East, and of the Arabs on Spain; the voyages of the Italian, Spanish and Arab merchants, reaching Asia in the Far East and the Americas in the Far West, who explored new lands, engaging in commerce and cross-cultural exchange, joy and beauty continually reborn.
- The creation of this album was no different: on a winter's night in the eternal city of Rome, in the warmth of an Italian home, a group of close friends of Italian, Spanish and Arabian origin were sharing stories, laughter and food, and most of all, making music - and so the album was born.
- This project is showcasing how the sound of Oud and old Arabic rhythms can talk beautifully to Flamenco rhythms and dance especially the Bularias and Rumbas. It translates those connections within a modern concept performed by some of the best Arabic, Flamenco and Jazz musicians that Kamal is bringing together on stage with him. The performance also features a beautiful Flamenco dance appearance by a special guest, the talented Karen Lugo. Karen is known for her ability to mix the real Flamenco traditions with modern movements and an astonishing reflection to all the music played by the band.

“Homemade in Rome” ...Continued



Current Major Project / “EastMania”

A large, multi-masted sailing ship with white sails is sailing on a golden sea under a bright, hazy sun. The ship is moving towards the right, leaving a white wake. The sky is filled with soft, golden clouds, and the water reflects the bright light of the sun.

EastMania is a social & musical adventure aiming to revive the ethnic musical traditions along **The Silk Road** and their historical connections with the Middle Eastern and the Western ones. In an attempt to refresh the cultural bridge between the East and the West, EastMania uses **music** as a platform for exchange and expression. It creates **stories** and inspires a new cross-cultural **dialogue**.

www.eastmania.net

“EastMania” ... *Live shot*



Kamal Musallam, the founder of Arabic Fusion bands Kamal Musallam Trio and EastMania, has been expressing himself through music since the age of 3. Born in Kuwait in 1970, and encouraged by his parents for both art and music, he started out playing the piano and the accordion and then picked up the guitar when he was 9. He finished his studies in architecture in 1994 to pursue a Masters in “Design Management”, and after 3 years of working as architect and project manager, he decided to quit all and follow his heart as a musician.

Musallam developed his skills playing the guitar and the oud and began to fuse together the influences that inspired him, mainly Jazz, Rock, Arabic music and Asian music. The release of his first album in 2003, called *On a Jordan River's Side*, under his own label K&G, was highly acclaimed and appreciated on an international scale. Since then he released 5 more albums: 2008 - *Out Of My City*, 2009 - *Lulu* (Grammy selection), 2011 - *Songs For Seung-eun* (Grammy selection), 2012- *The Best Of Kamal Musallam 1999-2011*, and 2013 – *Homemade in Rome*.

Kamal has recorded and played along with a long list of world class musicians such as George Benson, Bobby Mc Ferrin, Billy Cobham, Randy Brecker, Mike Stern, Kai Eckhardt, Ada Rovatti, Stanely Jordan, Anne Ducros, David Reinhardt, Jorge Pardo (Paco De Lucia Septet) and Francisco Molina, among others.

In 2001 Kamal registered his record label K&G, and Since 2006, he had established his music production & promotion company in the UAE, KMAC. Musallam is currently playing the newly developed electric oud by Godin, the Multi-Oud. He had also developed with Ibanez (Japan) new signature guitar models that provide the facility to play Arabic quarter tones, the KMM1, and KMA1, released early 2010. The latest generation of those models is now in a prototype phase, and is called KMM100 (*check products page*).



Works & Collaborations

Festivals (selection)

- 2017/ Vienna Jazz Festival, Austria
- 2017/ Java Jazz Festival, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2016/ YPO 2016, Dubai
- 2016/ Mother Of The Nation Festival, Abu Dhabi
- 2015/ Bali World Music Festival, Indonesia
- 2015/ Jazz @ Kota Tua, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2015/ Frankfurt Museum Festival, Germany
- 2015/ Sharjah World Music Festival, UAE
- 2014/ Abu Dhabi Volvo Ocean race, UAE
- 2014/ Sabang Jazz Festival, Indonesia
- 2014/Asean Jazz Festival, Indonesia
- 2013/ Asia Music Festival, Malaysia
- 2013/ Sikka Music Festival, UAE
- 2012/ Jeonju International Sori Festival, S. Korea
- 2012/ du world Music Festival, UAE
- 2011/ Abu Dhabi International Film Festival, UAE
- 2011/ Asean Jazz Festival, Batam, Indonesia
- 2011/ Umbria Jazz festival, Perugia, Italy
- 2011/ du World Music Festival, UAE
- 2011/ Java Jazz Festival, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2010/ Asian Games, Guangzhou, China
- 2010/ Monju World Music Festival, Bandung, Indonesia
- 2010/ Abu Dhabi Formula I, UAE
- 2010/ Abu Dhabi International Film Festival, UAE
- 2010/ Vienna Jazz Festival, Austria
- 2010/ Cannes Film Festival, France
- 2009/ Abu Dhabi Formula I, UAE (opening act)
- 2009/ Middle-East International Film Festival, UAE
- 2009/ Jordan Music Festival, Jordan.
- 2009/ Java Jazz Festival, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2008/ Dubai International Film Festival, UAE
- 2007/ Dubai International Jazz festival, UAE (opening act)
- 2005/ Abu Dhabi International Jazz Festival, UAE (opening act)
- 2005/ Abu Dhabi International Jazz Festival, UAE (opening act)
- 2005/ Dubai International Jazz Festival, UAE
- 2005/ Musqat International Jazz Festival, Oman
- 2004/ Dubai International Film Festival, UAE
- 2003/ Abu Dhabi International Jazz Festival, UAE (Opening act)
- 2000/ Jerash Festival, Jordan

Works & Collaborations

Stage & Record Collaborations

- **STING**
- **Yo Yo Ma**
- **George Benson**
- **Billy Cobham**
- **Bobby McFerrin**
- **Gary Husband**
- **Jorge Pardo**
- **Bob Franceschini**
- **Randy Brecker**
- **Ada Rovatti**
- **Stanely Jordan**
- **David Reinhardt**
- **Ranjot Barot**
- **Anne Ducros**
- **Dwiki Dharmawan**
- **Andy Suzuki**
- **Yuichiro Tokuda**
- **Francisco Molina**



Music Brands

- 2006-present/ **IBANEZ Guitars** - Japan, <http://www.ibanez.co.jp/>
- 2006-present/ **GODIN Guitars** - Canada, <http://www.godinguitars.com/>
- 2006-present/ **RODE Microphones** - Australia, <http://www.rodemic.com/>
- 2011-present/ **REFERENCE Cables** - Italy, <http://www.referencelaboratory.com/>

Other Brands

- 2015/ **RAY BAN sunglasses** - USA, <http://www.ray-ban.com/>

Quarter tone fretted and fretless guitars, inspired from the Arabic oud for special scales and Fusion music applications.

Ibanez KM Signature "Oriental Series"



IBANEZ KMA-1



IBANEZ KMM-1



IBANEZ KMM-100 (JAPAN)

2017/ **World Peace Trio** - ENJA Records



Products / Albums

As Solo Artist (1)

2014/ **Homemade In Rome** - K&G
(Official selection at the GRAMMY AWARDS 2015)



2012/ **The Best Of Kamal Musallam 1999-2011** - K&G



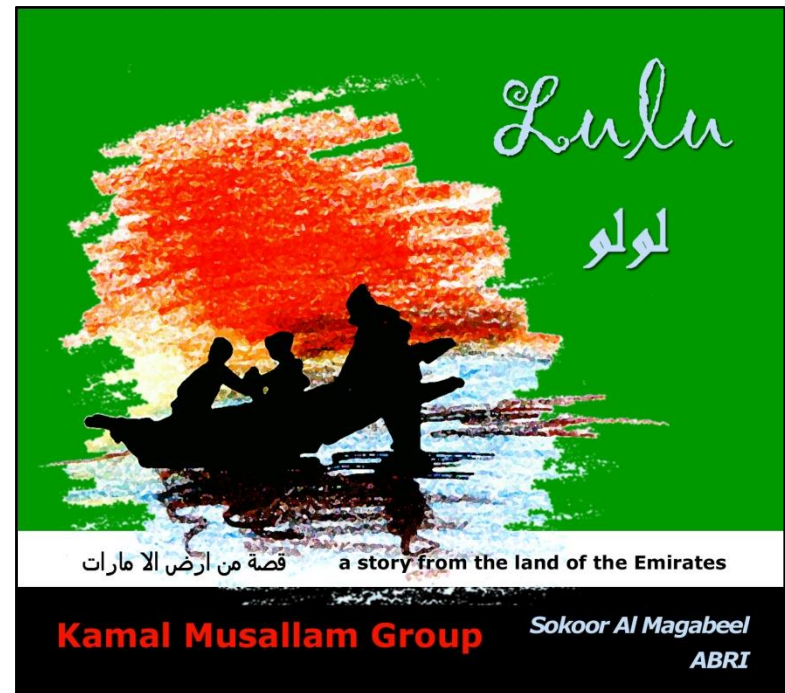
Products / Albums

As Solo Artist (2)

2011/ **Songs For Seung-eun** - K&G
(Official selection at the GRAMMY AWARDS 2012)



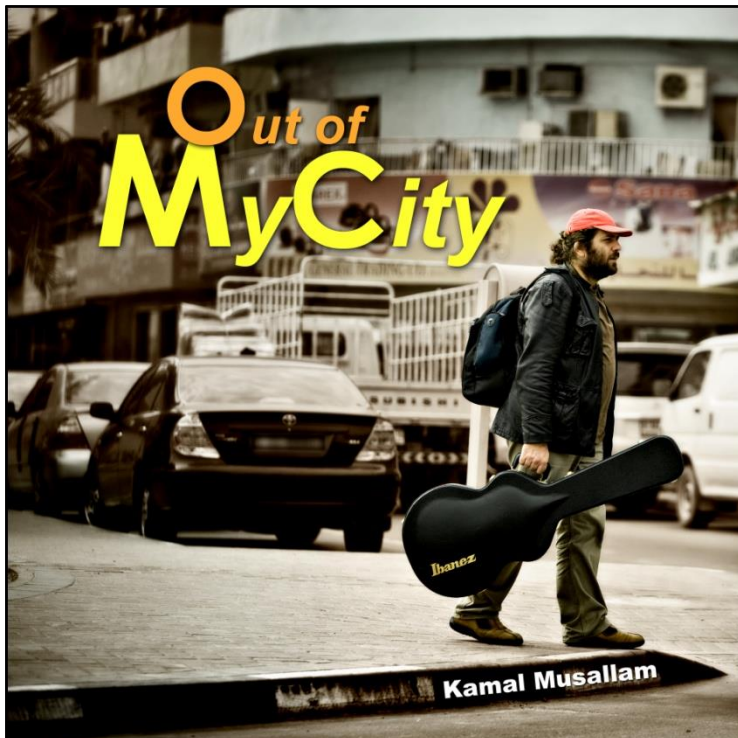
2009/ **Lulu** - K&G
(Official selection at the GRAMMY AWARDS 2010)



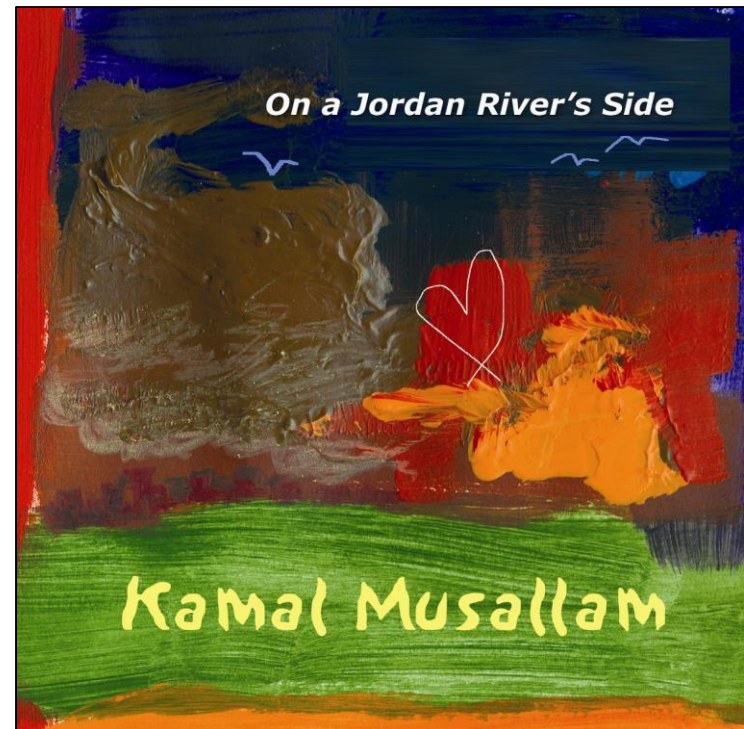
Products / Albums

As Solo Artist (3)

2008/ **Out Of My City** - K&G



2003/ **On A Jordan River's Side** - K&G



2016/ **NOW** – UNIVERSAL (MENA)



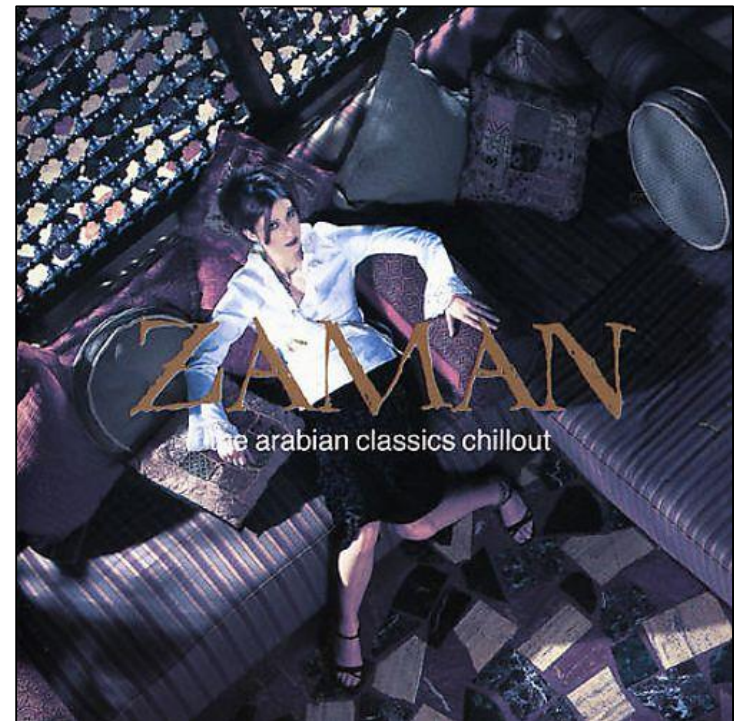
Products / Albums

As Guest Artist (2)

2011/ **Dubai-Lima** - Pascoal Meirelles (Brazil)



2004/ **ZAMAN** - EMI



Products / Albums

As Producer / Exec. Producer (1)

2019/ **Red Won** - K&G



Products / Albums

As Producer / Exec. Producer (1)

2017/ **Racha Rizk "Malaak"** - K&G/BUZZPROD



2016/**Healer Twins "Healer Twins"** - K&G



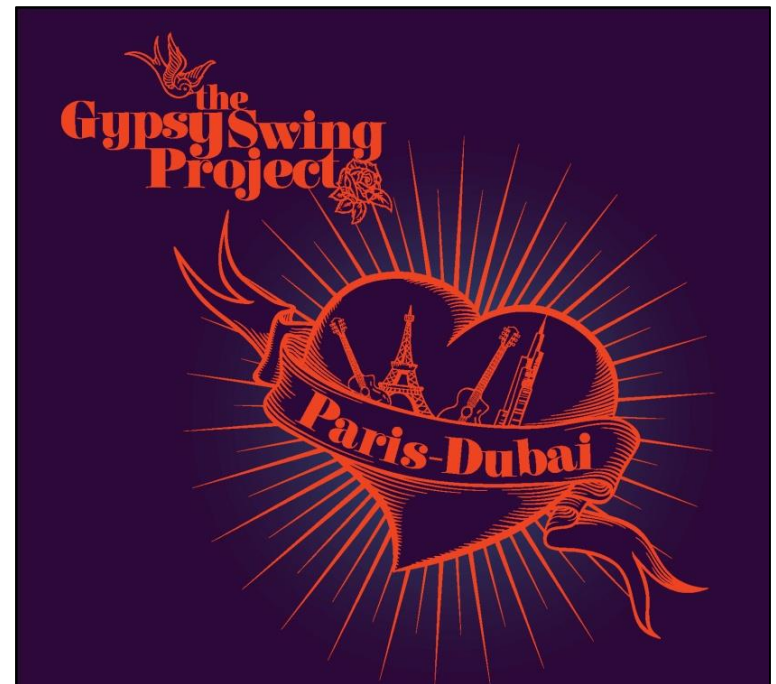
Products / Albums

As Producer / Exec. Producer (2)

2015/ **Pasha Cazan**
"Back From The Souq" - K&G



2014/ **The Gypsy Swing Project**
"Paris - Dubai" - K&G



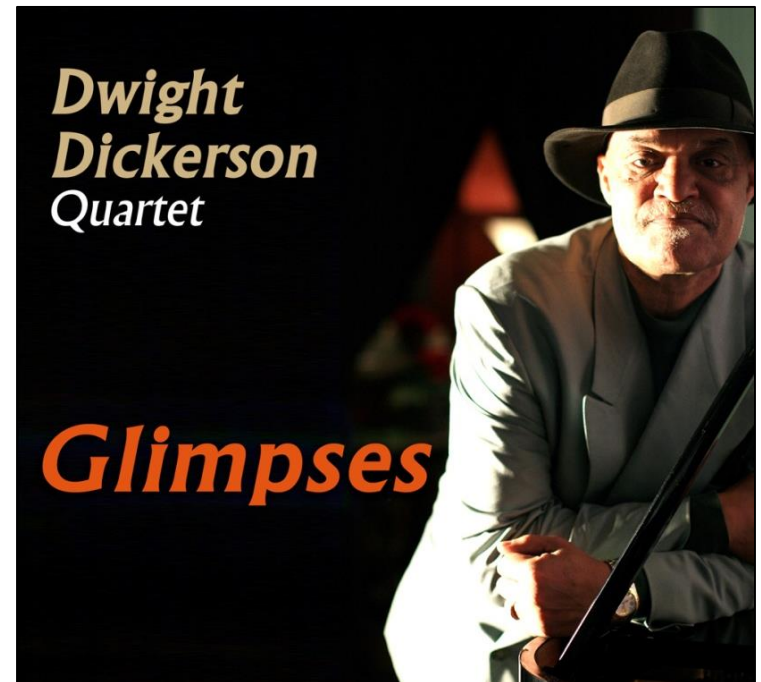
Products / Albums

As Producer / Exec. Producer (3)

2013/ **SIKKA**
"Sikka Score, Volume 1" - K&G



2011/ **Dwight Dickerson**
"Glimpses" - K&G



In The Press (extracts)

- *“Kamal Musallam is arguably one of the Arab world's most exploratory, accomplished fusion musicians. Over the past decade, the Dubai-based world traveller has managed to fill his suitcase with an enviably eclectic collection of performances and collaborations.” (Creative Lab)*
- *“A unique atmosphere of originality and excitement in the swinging, jazzy groove of Musallam’s guitar sound.” (Robert Silverstain - 20th Century Guitar Magazine)*
- *Fusing the exotic Arabic scales and sensibilities of his Jordanian roots with Western rock and jazz styles, at his best Musallam’s virtuoso improvisations have left me speechless.” (Rob Garratt – Time Out Dubai)*
- *“The fact that the ‘world music’ label has generated some controversy does not bother Musallam. “I think the whole world has come closer than ever before. Cultures have begun to have fluid borders. For me, whether it’s north, south, east or west, music is just that — music. The boundary of demarcation between different traditions has begun to blur.”” (Pratiba Umashankar – Weekend)*
- *“Arabic and jazz are probably two of the most dissimilar music genres to fuse, yet Kamal Musallam does it so seamlessly that it sounds like a different genre altogether.” (Martie Youssef – Gulf News)*
- *"I had to follow my love for music," said Musallam, 38, who shared his life story with XPRESS in a Dubai café with two guitar cases leaning nearby against his chair. (Derek Baldwin – XPRESS)*
- *“Some people have classified me as a "middle -eastern jazz rock guitarist" others, "world music" or "alternative". I really don't give much attention to these classifications unless I'm asked where I want my CD to be placed in a music store.” (Rahul Ahmed – Khaleej Times)*