

# CELIA SERRANO

activist · saxophonist · singer · composer · facilitator





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Celia Serrano is an activist, saxophonist, singer, and composer from Valencia (ES), currently based in The Netherlands. Her music blends intuition, improvisation, and poetry, creating compositions that merge free improvisation, modern jazz, folk, ambient, and Latin music. Celia often explores themes related to the passage of time, reflecting on perception and memory. Through this lens, inspired by her appreciation for philosophy, she crafts immersive soundscapes that invite listeners to engage fully with the present moment. In addition to her individual artistic work, Celia leads several musical projects, including Azúmbara, Still I Rise Collective, and LilyxCelia.

Celia is also an educator, she developed the "Sounds of Empowerment" course, which uses art as a tool for social transformation. Through instant composition, creativity, and improvisation, she empowers participants to express their voices and engage with social issues. She has taught this at the Prince Claus Conservatoire and led workshops promoting empowerment and social engagement.

She is passionate about interdisciplinary collaborations and residencies, having done one in Italy and another at Kamp Westerbork, both inspiring new compositions and deepening her artistic reflection.

Celia has performed in venues and festivals such as the North Sea Jazz Festival 2024, Noorderzon 2024, Hongerige Wolf Festival 2024, Zomer Jazz Fiets Tour 2024, TivoliVredenburg, De Doelen, Classic vs. Pop Festival 2023, Amsterdam Roots Festival 2022, and Sounds of Music Festival 2021.



# MUSIC AND PROJECTS

## Azúmbara

Azúmbara is a musical group born from a desire to spread salsa and flavor across the world. Formed by seven friends from Spain, Costa Rica, Venezuela, and the Netherlands, their exploration of diverse cultural and musical backgrounds creates a fresh, unified sound. Drawing inspiration from Latin music, salsa, Brazilian rhythms, jazz, pop, and Spanish folklore, they aim to cultivate their unique essence.

They have performed at festivals such as the North Sea Jazz Festival, Noorderzon, Zomer Jazz Fiets Tour, and Classic vs. Pop Festival. Currently, they are delving into their original music, with several compositions already completed. They are developing a show that features original material, showcasing their varied influences and exploring fusions of Latin music with other styles.

Their shows offer a journey through vibrant sounds, allowing the audience to immerse themselves in the present and escape from reality. A space where the only concern is which dance step to take next.

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# LilyxCelia

LilyxCelia is a duo formed by harpist and composer Lily Azur and vocalist, saxophonist, and composer Celia Serrano. Through intimate improvisations and compositions, they create introspective atmospheres that merge innovation, minimalism, fusion, and exploration. They challenge themselves to oscillate between soft and intimate sounds and the most wild, dirty, and electric soundscapes.





# Still I Rise Collective

Still I Rise Collective, founded in January 2023 by eight female musicians from diverse cultural backgrounds, is dedicated to combating sexism and gender inequalities through art. Their unique cross-genre sound blends Spanish, Arabic, classical, jazz, experimental, and improvisational elements, demonstrating the power of collaboration to create unity. Rejecting labels that divide musicians, they leverage their differences to build a new, engaging musical identity. Through original compositions and dynamic improvisations, they challenge societal norms and reclaim their narratives, driven by a collective desire to transform experiences with sexual harassment and misogyny into a powerful musical resistance. They have also performed at prestigious venues like TivoliVredenburg during the Transition to Equality Event 2024.



# Anarchic Snails

Anarchic Snails is a dynamic musical ensemble led by the sisters Eva, Blanca, and Celia Serrano, whose creative vision is driven by a desire to amalgamate diverse musical styles such as jazz, Latin, pop, R&B, soul, and ska. Renowned for their innovative fusion and socially conscious lyrics, they are one of the young promises in the Valencian music scene. Proof of this is their recent award for a recording session at the prestigious Jazztone studio, being the winners of the Jazzstone Stage Showcases in the last edition of the Mar i Jazz Festival from Valencia.



# WORKSHOP LEADER

As a facilitator and workshop leader, I bring passion, creativity, and inclusivity to every endeavor. Apart from teaching the elective "Sounds of Empowerment: Music as a Tool for Social Engagement" at the Prince Claus Conservatoire of Groningen, I've also offered "Sounds of Empowerment" as a workshop, empowering participants to use their own voices and creativity to address social topics. Additionally, I've co-organized events like the "Boart Event", providing artistic activities for ukrainian refugees; or "Still I Rise Event", an event to raise awareness on gender-related issues. Furthermore, it's worth noting my collaboration with The Mystifiers, an organization dedicated to empowering individuals through music, addressing psychosocial issues and homelessness while bridging the gap between the professional and social music sectors. With a focus on active listening, collaboration, and belief in the power of creativity, I strive to create inclusive environments where every voice is valued and empowered.



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