

## MICHAEL KRUMINS

Presentation text:

Uniquely diverse and vastly experienced Norwegian multi-instrumentalist Michael Krumins releases his debut solo album in March 2023. Embracing a kaleidoscope of international influences, styles, and instruments, the Athens-based global artist brings a quarter-century of performing with some of Europe and Africa's most experimental and captivating projects to this long-awaited collection. Krumins seamlessly marries virtuoso progressive metal, world music, and dark neo folk into something all his own.

His rare talent helped land Krumins' first band a record deal when he was just 16. Yet this was just the springboard for a dizzying career that has included a master's degree in world music, touring across Europe and the Americas with prog rock band Green Carnation and goth metal act Sirenia, and forming adventurous world music collective Nutopia. With influences including Arabic, Balkan, and Turkish genres, Nutopia was invited to perform and collaborate with local artists in Tanzania and Mozambique, with Krumins playing to an audience of 60,000 in Maputo.

Truly a global citizen, Krumins has lived in Germany, The Netherlands, Mozambique, and on an Aegean island, constantly absorbing sounds and cultures. This deep well of international experience, mastery of multiple stringed instruments, and a cinematic world view irresistibly mingle like never before on his first solo release.

Bio:

*"Being constantly on the move is challenging, but I feel more alive than ever before."*

For virtuoso Norwegian multi-instrumentalist Michael Krumins, world music is much more than a genre. It's a way of life.

As he launches into an era of solo expression following a quarter-century in some of Europe and Africa's most experimental and captivating projects, Krumins is truly a musical nomad. He not only tours extensively as a performing musician, but has also lived and created in Germany, The Netherlands, Mozambique, on an Aegean island, and most recently in Athens.

Krumins began playing guitar at 14. His first band, gothic/symphonic metal outfit Trail of Tears, landed a record deal in 1996. But this was just a springboard for his diverse career spanning multiple musical styles and stringed instruments, plus a master's degree in world music.

Just as his vocation was gathering momentum, Krumins lost part of a finger in a motorcycle accident. Sheer passion propelled him through the music conservatory at the University of Agder, despite the impairment. With Norwegian prog rock band Green Carnation he toured Europe and the U.S., releasing multiple CDs and DVDs. In 2007 Krumins joined compatriot goth metal act Sirenia, performing with them throughout Europe and South America, including major music festivals.

Simultaneously, Krumins was growing increasingly interested in world music. He gathered likeminded musicians to form Nutopia, an adventurous band that embraced international influences including Arabic, Balkan, and Turkish genres. Nutopia was invited to Tanzania to collaborate with Tanzanian and Mozambican artists for a festival arranged by the Norwegian embassy.

Subsequent performances including the televised African New Year Concert 2008, before a live audience of 60,000 in Maputo, Mozambique. Krumins played a leading role in that production, as well as playing guitar with several major African artists. Multiple return trips to Africa followed while he studied for his master's degree. Reflecting his truly global appetites, Krumins also joined a Latino band with musicians from all over South America.

Nutopia's third album, 2018's aptly-titled *Nomad*, was inspired by the desert, natural beauty, and Krumins' increasingly rootless lifestyle. Right before the pandemic, he began contemplating his first solo record while bouncing between different European locations, eventually retreating to the Aegean Sea island of Ikaria.

After a period of personal growth, Krumins experienced an epiphany during a devastating 2020 earthquake. His clarity renewed, he relocated to Athens to record his imminent solo debut. Krumins' latest music has been described as meditative and virtuous, calming yet uplifting. Now without a permanent home, Michael Krumins has stepped off the edge and into the next chapter of an already incredible journey.

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