

BIOGRAPHY

The band "Checkmate in 2 Flats" (Ματ σε 2 Υφέσεις) was established in 1999 by graduates of the Music High school of Western Athens. Although it started as a cover band, it soon shaped its own material and released its first album with the same title, which was produced by Nikos Grapsas and "Forces of Aegean" (Δυνάμεις του Αιγαίου): Filocalia Romana Productions, January 2003. After releasing the album, the band was led into a series of performances in Athens, and in festivals in broader Greece and abroad (Éire, 2003). Further experiments on the sound of the group along with the intention to co-operate with well-established members of the ethnic-jazz music scene in Athens, led to a long process of recording which concluded with their second album, entitled "A Lie that Sounds True" (Ψέμα σαν αλήθεια), produced by Nikos Xydakis and Haig Yazdjian for Universal Music in November 2005. "Checkmate in 2 Flats" have collaborated with great musicians in Greece such as Nikos Grapsas, Haig Yazdjian, Ross Daly, Vassilis Rakopoulos, Christos Thiveos, Orfeas Peridis. During the years 2003 and 2004, the group performed as a session band in three albums. In 2005, they participated in Nikos Xydakis' album "Second Calendar" (Ημερολόγιο Δεύτερο) by composing an instrumental tune called "Roi... Waltz". Additionally, in 2007 they re-arranged the traditional song "On the rose tree" (Απάνω στην τριανταφυλλιά) for a world music compilation cd by the Limkokwing University (Kuala Lumpur - Malaysia) named "Suara: Voices from 3 Continents". In 2008, Checkmate in 2 flats composed and performed a soundtrack for one of Lotte Reiniger's animated videos in collaboration with the Music Department of the University of Athens. Their music genre features elements of Greek traditional music, shaped by a contemporary harmonic and rhythmical development, influenced mainly by jazz. The blend of acoustic and electronic sound and the use of modern Greek lyrics contrasted with instrumental sections represents their idea of redefining World Music in the Globalised era.