

---

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

# Mehmet Polat Quartet

*Where jazz meets the ancient voice of the ud*

# The Quartet

## ABOUT THE ENSEMBLE

Virtuoso **ud (oud) player and composer Mehmet Polat** brings together three exceptional talents from the jazz and world music scene in his latest project: the Mehmet Polat Quartet. The line-up features Mehmet Polat on ud and compositions, Franz von Chossy on piano, Jeroen Batterink on drums, and Daniel van Huffelen on double bass.

Together, the quartet explores a distinctive blend of jazz and global musical traditions, continuing Polat's journey through musical crossovers that are deeply contemplative, emotionally rich, and rhythmically complex. The ensemble's compositions are rooted in diverse traditions, shaped by experimentation and artistic curiosity.

Venturing beyond standard time signatures, the music weaves through odd meters like 5/4, 7/4, and 9/8 —rhythms common in non-Western cultures. A deep, grounded pulse from bass and drums supports the soaring melodic dialogue between ud and piano. Each musician brings a unique voice, creating a collective sound that transcends genre and geography.

*"Every phrase I play sounds a bit Turkish to me. Even when I venture far from my roots, the ud carries the essence of home."*

— Mehmet Polat



Mehmet Polat · © Wim van Zon



Quartet Live · © Joris van der Linden

## The Ud

### THE INSTRUMENT

The **ud**, a fretless short-necked lute with 11 or 13 strings, is considered the ancestor of the European lute and guitar. Its name derives from the Arabic word for “wood.” With over 5,000 years of history across Mesopotamia, the instrument produces a warm, resonant tone that can express both melancholy depth and joyful vitality.

Mehmet Polat has dedicated his life to transcending the ud's traditional boundaries. After years of research, he developed an innovative left-hand technique that allows him to perform more advanced and contemporary repertoire. He also designed a **custom ud with two additional bass strings**, extending its range for bass lines and looping — transforming an ancient instrument into a vehicle for contemporary jazz improvisation.

# The Musicians

A CONVERGENCE OF VOICES

## Mehmet Polat

UD & COMPOSITIONS

Virtuoso ud player and composer blending Anatolian folk, Alevi spiritual music, and Ottoman classical traditions with jazz improvisation. Based in Amsterdam since 2007, he has developed revolutionary techniques that expand the ud's expressive range.

## Jeroen Batterink

DRUMS

Dynamic drummer whose rhythmic foundation grounds the ensemble's explorations into complex odd meters. His versatility spans jazz, world music, and contemporary improvisation.

## Franz von Chossy

PIANO

Acclaimed pianist whose sensitive, lyrical playing bridges classical refinement and jazz freedom. His harmonic vocabulary enriches the quartet's cross-cultural dialogue with European sophistication.

## Daniel van Huffelen

DOUBLE BASS

Master bassist providing the deep, grounded pulse that supports the soaring melodic interplay between ud and piano. His solid groove anchors the music's rhythmic complexity.

*"A collective sound that transcends genre and geography"*



Mehmet Polat Quartet — Press Photo © Hans de Vries

# Discography

## MEHMET POLAT QUARTET'S ALBUMS



LATEST ALBUM — 2025

## Roots in Motion

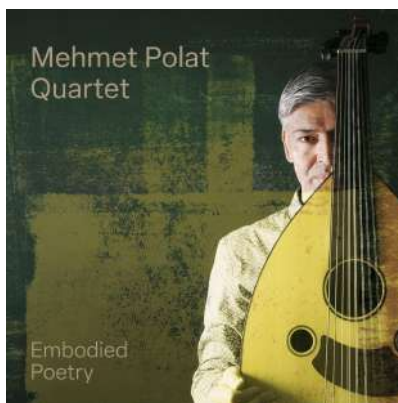
The quartet's latest album explores movement and belonging through intricate odd meters — **9/8, 10/8, 11/8** — rooted in non-Western musical traditions. The interplay between the steady pulse of drums and double bass with the soaring melodic voices of ud and piano creates a rich, immersive listening experience.

*The Pistachio Tree · Roots in Motion · Urfa Blues · Soul's Tide · Ode to Mahzuni*

[Spotify](#) · [Bandcamp](#)

"One of the most liberating aspects of this music lies in its rhythmic complexity... Polat develops a cross-cultural conversation that Dave Brubeck picked up in 1958."

— SONGLINES MAGAZINE



DEBUT ALBUM — 2023

## Embodied Poetry

The quartet's debut album weaves together diverse musical traditions shaped by experimentation and artistic curiosity. Venturing beyond standard time signatures into odd meters like **5/4, 7/4, and 9/8**, the music creates a contemplative, emotionally rich soundscape.

[Spotify](#) · [Bandcamp](#)

## Polat's Previous Albums

### SOLO & ENSEMBLE WORKS



**The Promise** (2020) — A journey of musical storytelling through Mediterranean and Middle Eastern landscapes

**Quantum Leap** (2019) — "There are 12 songs in the album, each one is a gem" — [OnTopOfMusic.com](#)

**Ageless Garden** (2018) — Intimate compositions blending Ottoman classical with contemporary jazz

**Ask Your Heart** (2017) — Debut international release featuring original ud compositions

**Next Spring** (2014) — Early works exploring the intersection of Anatolian folk and improvisation

► Available on [Bandcamp](#) and [Spotify](#)

# Mehmet Polat Quartet Live

SELECTED VIDEOS OF LIVE PERFORMANCES



**Mehmet Polat Quartet — Live in Bimhuis (2026)**

Bimhuis in Amsterdam, Netherlands - April 2026



**Mehmet Polat Quartet — Groove Stories, Live in Taiwan (2024)**

World Music Festival Taiwan, Taipei - October 2024



**Mehmet Polat Quartet — Live at A to Jazz Festival (2025)**

World Music Showcase in Sofia, Bulgaria - July 2025



**Mehmet Polat Quartet - Live in Muziek Podium Zeeland**

Heer Arendskerke, Netherlands - May 2024



**Mehmet Polat Quartet — Live at Jazz in Duketown (2025)**

World Music Showcase in Sofia, Bulgaria - July 2025



**Mehmet Polat Quartet live at Vrije Geluiden - Embodied poetry**

November 2023

► Full catalogue on [YouTube](#) · [Bimhuis Debut](#) · [Morning Smiles](#)

# Tour Dates

UPCOMING CONCERTS 2026

DATE	VENUE	CITY	COUNTRY
May 21	Ru Pare	Amsterdam	Netherlands
May 30	De Ark	Amsterdam	Netherlands
May 31	Amsterdam Turkish Classical Music Choir	Amsterdam	Netherlands
Jun 13	Muziekcentrum Leiden Noord	Leiden	Netherlands
Jun 14	Mehmet Polat SOLO Concert	Amsterdam	Netherlands
Jun 27	Wallen Festival (Duo w/ Jacobus Thiele)	Amsterdam	Netherlands
Sep 5	Verhalenhuis	Haarlem	Netherlands
Sep 24	Mehmet Polat Quartet (feat. Flip Noorman & Vera van der Bie)	Rotterdam	Netherlands
Sep 25	Mehmet Polat Quartet	Amsterdam	Netherlands
Oct 4	Crossroads Festival	Doorn	Netherlands
Oct 18	Mehmet Polat Quartet	Amsterdam	Netherlands
Nov 1	Mehmet Polat Quartet at Matinee Mondiaal	Haarlem	Netherlands
Nov 8	Mehmet Polat Quartet	Venezia	Italy
Nov 20	Mehmet Polat Quartet	Barcelona	Spain
Jan 30	Mehmet Polat Quartet in Paradox	Tillburg	Netherlands
Feb 28	Mehmet Polat Quartet	Naarden	Netherlands

[Full Schedule](#) · [Bandsintown](#)

# Photo Gallery

PRESS PHOTOS



Live at LantarenVenster · © Wim van Zon



Mehmet Polat · © Wim van Zon



Quartet Live · © Joris van der Linden



Press Photo · © Hans de Vries

# Press Quotes

CRITICAL ACCLAIM

*"There are 12 songs in the album, each one is a gem. Quantum Leap absolutely must be listened."*

— ONTOPOFMUSIC.COM

*"One of the most liberating aspects of this music lies in its rhythmic complexity... Polat develops a cross-cultural conversation that Dave Brubeck picked up in 1958."*

— SONGLINES MAGAZINE

*"Mehmet Polat is a wonderful musician: an open eye and ear for everything and everyone."*

— DANI HEYVAERT, ROOTSTIME.BE

# Tech Rider

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

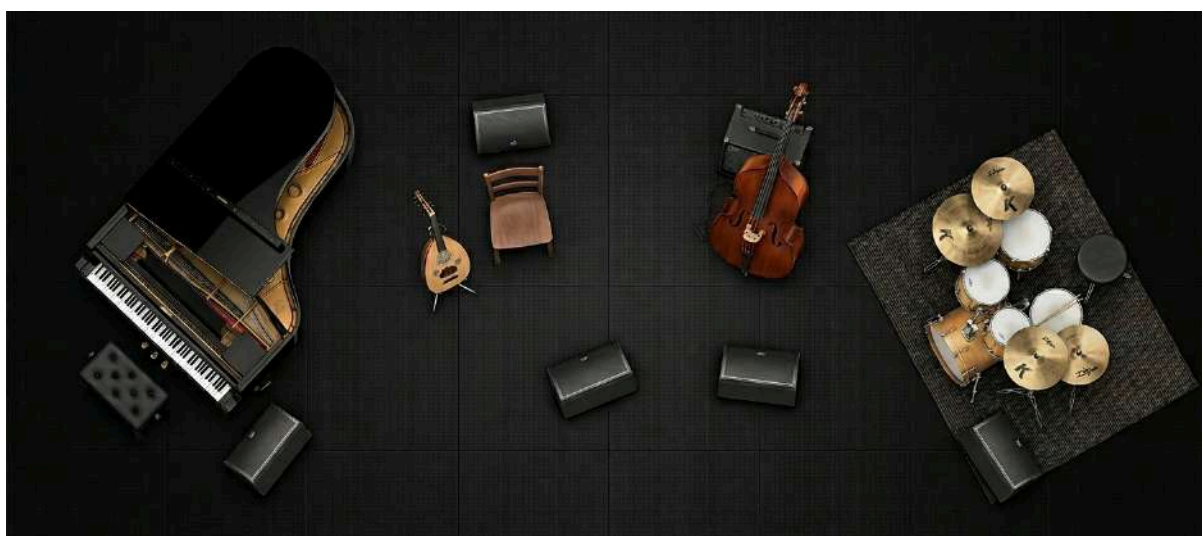
<b>Genre</b>	Jazz / World Music / Contemporary
<b>Line-up</b>	Ud, Piano, Double Bass, Drums (4 musicians)
<b>Duration</b>	60–90 minutes (flexible)
<b>Stage</b>	Min. 4m × 3m, standard PA required
<b>Languages</b>	English, Dutch, Turkish
<b>Backline</b>	Piano (grand or upright), drum kit, contrabass + bass amp provided by venue
<b>Travel</b>	Based in Amsterdam, NL — EU and worldwide

### Full Technical Rider [here](#)

Detailed stage plot, input list, monitor requirements, and hospitality rider available for download.

# Stage Plot

## STAGE LAYOUT AND POSITIONING

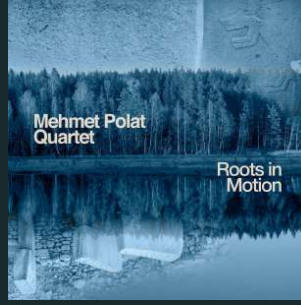


# Contact & Links

## SOCIAL MEDIA



Spotify



Bandcamp



Apple Music



YouTube



LinkedIn



Facebook



Instagram

## MANAGEMENT & BOOKING

EMAIL

[info@mehmetpolat.net](mailto:info@mehmetpolat.net)

WEBSITE

[www.mehmetpolat.net](http://www.mehmetpolat.net)

*"Where jazz meets the ancient voice of the ud"*

© 2025 Mehmet Polat Quartet · All rights reserved