



**Handmade
In Hummus Land**



**Kamal
Musallam**

NEW ALBUM FOR 2020

Kamal Musallam & ‘Handmade In Hummus Land’

A new release from the ‘Homemade In Rome Series’



Click image to watch the new album teaser video

“**Handmade In Hummus Land**” is the 8th solo album release from Kamal Musallam, prominent Arabic Jazz & Fusion guitarist and oud player. It is also the 2nd release from the music themed series ‘[Homemade In Rome](#)’

Kamal’s critically acclaimed album “Homemade In Rome”, released in 2014, was his first exploration between Flamenco and his Middle Eastern music traditions. The new album ‘[Handmade In Hummus Land](#)’ is an elaboration of the previous one, with several new original compositions essentially inspired from Levant rhythmic and melodic traditions. The music tells “personal stories” progressing within a meaningful dialogue between the artist’s personal influences - Jazz, Rock, Indian and Latin music and his own developed oud sound.

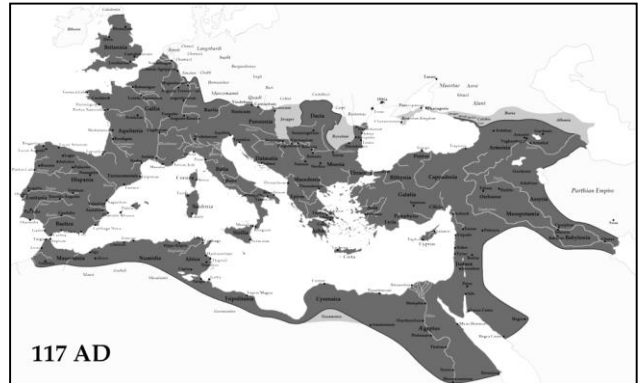
The band [line-up](#) continues to be the same expressing a stronger synergy having played together for over ten years, with Marcello Allulli on saxophone, Israel Varela on drums, and Daniele Cappucci on double bass and Kamal on ouds and guitars. This album also features Nasser Salameh on Arabic percussions, Rishloo Lahiri on Indian tabla and Hind Hamed on vocals.

The band will start touring from spring 2020, looking forward to exploring Kamal’s musical ideas like no other and share with audiences just everywhere. The performances may occasionally **feature guests** as Karen Lugo (Flamenco dance), Nafees Ahmed (Sitar), Rishloo Lahiri (Indian tabla) and Nasser Salameh (Arabic percussions).

Why “Rome” ?

Rome was the capital of [The Roman Empire](#) (27 BC - 476 AD). The empire was extended over the whole Mediterranean basin and included a major part of the Middle East within its borders.

The Romans were known as warriors and gladiators, however they had a clear interest in arts and music had left us with an incredible legacy all across their x-empire territories. Their **amphitheaters** are still so lively till this day. There are used to hold some of the most prestigious music festivals of the region.



And why “Hummus land” ?

Hummus is a basic dish made from cooked, mashed chickpeas blended with tahini, lemon juice, and garlic. It is popular in the Middle East and Mediterranean, as well as in Middle Eastern cuisine around the globe. It has appeared in cookbooks in early 13th century during the Abbasid period.

It may seem simple as a dish, though it is very complex to prepare. A really good tasting hummus needs experience and a deep understanding of the ingredients. That simplicity versus sophistication, yet the need to have Hummus as essential item on a Levant menu, is what Kamal Musallam wishes his music to represent for its regional and global listeners.



Kamal Musallam & 'Homemade In Rome'

Hints from the 'previous' album and its concept

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.



Click image to listen to the album



ABOUT



[Kamal Musallam](#) is one of today's most sought-after guitarists and modern oud players in the field of jazz-fusion, having achieved international acclaim for his innovative merging of Jazz, Rock, Latin, Indian and Asian musical traditions with Arabic sounds and rhythms, thus opening up a new genre of music.

Since his move to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates in 2002, the former architect has released six successful albums, including two official Grammy Award Selections. He has collaborated with such luminaries as **Sting, Yo-Yo Ma, Billy Cobham, Bobby McFerrin** and **George Benson**, and performed at the world's most prestigious music festivals, to include the Umbria Jazz Festival (Italy), the Java Jazz Festival (Indonesia), the Sori Festival (South Korea), the Dubai & Abu Dhabi Jazz Festivals (United Arab Emirates), the Southbank Centre London Jazz Festival (United Kingdom) and the Guangzhou Asian Games (China), to name a few. His achievements in musical instrument design include the development of signature-model electric and acoustic Arabic guitars with Ibanez Guitars in Japan, and electric MultiOud models with Godin Guitars in Canada.

Born in Kuwait to a Lebanese mother and a Jordanian father, [Kamal Musallam](#) was raised in an artistic family where he was exposed to a wide spectrum of music, art and culture. At a young age he mastered the accordion, the guitar and the oud, and in his teens performed in various rock and blues bands. After studying architecture in Jordan, Kamal moved to France to pursue an advanced degree in design - it was in Paris that he discovered his passion for Jazz and chose to instead pursue a career in music. Today Kamal lives in Dubai where he runs his record label, K&G. As a record producer Kamal works with both established and aspiring artists, always searching for fresh sounds and talent to collaborate with. When he is not in the recording studio, Kamal tours with his bands, the "Kamal Musallam Trio" and "EastMania", as well as his collaborative projects "Sea Of Strings" and "World Peace Band".

[Click here for full bio](#)

PRESS QUOTES



"A unique atmosphere of originality and excitement in the swinging, jazzy groove of Musallam's guitar sound."
- Robert Silverstain - 20th Century Guitar Magazine

"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

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

"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 Urashankar - Weekend

"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

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DISCOGRAPHY

[View full discography](#)

- **World Peace Trio (2017)** — *Peaceful Dialogues between Oud, Clarinet and*
- **Homemade In Rome (2014)** — *Jazz rock Experiments with Mediterranean music*
- **Songs For Seungeun (2011)** — *Portraits of Latin Jazz standards with an Arabic twist*
- **Lulu (2009)** — *Contemporary Fusion of Khaliji Rhythms, Bedouin Poetry, and Jazz*
- **Out Of My City (2008)** — *Arabic Fusion with Indian and Asian influences*
- **On A Jordan River's side (2003)** — *Arabic Conceptions for Jazz-Rock*

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ARTWORK

Kamal is also known as a skilled painter, graphic designer and a licensed architect. His presents his artworks under the name “Kammouli”. Visit a collection of his works a:

kamalmusallam.com/kammouli-art



HIGHLIGHTS



WATCH



Visit kamalmusallam.com/video-galleries for music videos, gear and educational videos, live performances at **Java Jazz Festival** in Indonesia, **Asian Games** in China, **Sori Festival** In Korea, and with stars as **Sting**, **George Benson**, **Billy Cobham** and **YoYo Ma**...and much more!

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