

O SISTER!

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SOME LIVE PERFORMANCES

XVIII Summer Jamboree Festival of Senigallia, Italy
(August 2017)

Festival Grec 2017 of Barcelona (July 2017)

III Festival JazzMadrid (November 2016)

XI Borneo Jazz Festival of Miri, Malaysia (May 2016)

XLIX Riverboat Jazz Festival of Silkeborg, Denmark
(June 2015)

XXV International Jazz Party Festival of Lund,
Sweden (January 2015)

Operaen Christiania of Copenhagen, Denmark
(January 2015)

Half Note Jazz Club of Athens, Greece (December 2014)

The Old U.S. Mint + Snug Harbor of New Orleans,
USA (October 2014)

XXVII International Jazz Festival of Malaga, Spain
(November 2013)

XV Menorca Jazz Festival, Spain (October 2013)

XXXIII International Jazz Festival of Granada, Spain
(November 2012)

XV Nights of Jazz in Platja d'Aro Girona, Spain
(July 2012)

IX Encontro de Culturas of Serpa, Portugal (June 2012)

O Sister! is a swing band which revisits the golden age of vocal jazz and North American popular music from the 20s and 30s. Rooted in Seville (Spain), the band started its activity in 2008 as a quartet formed by the vocal trio Paula Padilla (contralto), Helena Amado (soprano) and Marcos Padilla (tenor), accompanied by guitarist Matías Comino. It soon expanded to its present sextet line up with the addition of bassist Camilo Bosso and drummer Pablo Cabra, thus enhancing the rhythmic character of their sound in a repertoire of lively dance music, attractive both to jazz fans and a more general kind of audience.

O Sister! was born as a tribute to the feminine bands of the time such as The Boswell Sisters, a pioneer vocal swing trio whose influence would be later acknowledged by artists as important as Ella Fitzgerald. The sextet from Seville doesn't just evoke the style, but elaborates original harmonisations and modern arrangements for compositions of the Jazz Age (as well as their own original ones), favouring a fresh and highly creative rendering.

With nearly 200 concerts, O Sister! has performed at the most important jazz events and venues in Spain, such as the Madrid and Vitoria Jazz Festivals and the prestigious clubs Clamores and Café Central (Madrid) or Jamboree (Barcelona). In late 2014 they confirmed their growing presence in the international swing scene as the only European band invited to the Boswell Sisters Tribute Festival in the birthplace of jazz –New Orleans. Touring through Greece, Denmark and Sweden in 2015, they have continued to broaden horizons with performances at Festivals in Malaysia in 2016, further proving the universal character of their live performances that are conceived as a total show in which music shines through its quality, closeness and spontaneity.

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STOMPIN' IN JOY (2016)

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“Stompin’ in Joy” is O Sister!’s fourth release and third long album. It’s also the first to include original material. The sextet from Seville, who’ve always interpreted early 20th Century Swing, have accepted the challenge and incorporated their own compositions in their repertoire for the very first time. These are songs born in 2016, but performed with that popular and danceable jazz style that has become their hallmark. “Stompin’ in Joy” is therefore a mix of these new originals with O Sister!’s familiar arrangements and personal renderings of classics from the golden era of Swing. The work shows the sextet has reached maturity. Their sound has evolved towards the original and primitive jazz, Dixieland, increasingly explored by the band since their New Orleans tour in late 2014, which led to the addition of traditional instruments such as the banjo or the washboard.

Eight years of musical exploration added to their experience in New Orleans have given the band a clearly identifiable *O Sister! sound*. This sound revisits the aforementioned genres and takes them a step further with the help of two extra factors. On the one hand, the great skill of producer Jordi Gil at Sputnik Studios in a live recording done the old-fashioned way although exploiting the possibilities offered by present-day technology. On the other hand, the collaboration of excellent guest musicians featuring an extraordinary brass and reed section formed by Juli Aymi (clarinet), Julien Silvand (trumpet) and Josep Tutusaus (trombone), and the indispensable contribution of a regular collaborator at the band’s recordings, pianist Ángel Andrés Muñoz.

Such a concentration of talent works well for a record which, in contrast to the *darker* tones of their previous release “Spooky Sessions” (2014), takes inspiration from the luminous spirit with which New Orleans faces adversity, as uttered in the verse in the song *The Dances I Owe You*: “Dance your pains all right out!”. Joyful music combined with simple and catchy lyrics for their new original songs, ranging from light-hearted daily topics (*The Baby Rag*, *Please Don’t Talk to Me Before My Morning Coffee*) to the band’s ongoing concern for social issues, such as inconformism or the role of women in society in general and as jazz musicians and composers in particular (*Keep Your Head Up, Sister!* and *Nowzah!*).

The repertoire of “Stompin’ in Joy” brings to a climax the potential shown by O Sister! over the years, literally bursting with life in the title song when the brass section kicks in. The band has turned its hometown Seville’s Guadalquivir River into its own Mississippi. No need to reinvent itself: it drinks from the source. It has been a long time since jazz was given such a therapeutic, regenerating and joyful boost. With this new album, O Sister! exceeds expectations yet again, lifting our hearts and spirits song after song. In these times, as back then, perhaps this is the most difficult thing to achieve.



CRAZY PEOPLE (LP, 2009)



SHOUT, SISTER! (LP, 2012)



SPOOKY SESSIONS (EP, 2014)



STOMPIN' IN JOY (LP, 2016)