Eleanna Pitsikaki

ároma

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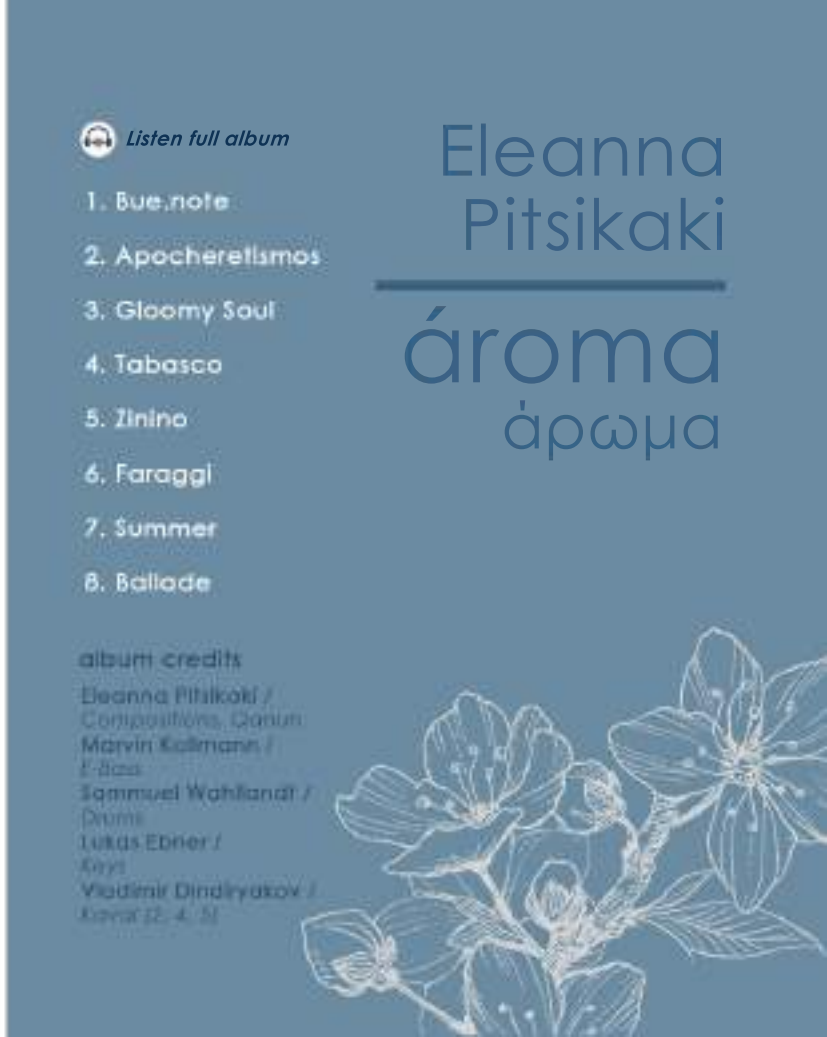
a few words

Aroma Debut Album | TIMEZONE RECORDS
Aroma is the debut album of Eleanna Pitsikaki, a Greek transculturall, ethno - Jazz qanun player and composer, blending the ancient with the contemporary. Released on Timezone Records, Aroma is a nostalgic, emotionally rich journey through memory — capturing sensations and moments that stay with us: the warmth of a mother's scent, the solitude of inner landscapes, and the quiet sadness of partings. Each note becomes a memory revived, each composition a deeply personal reflection transformed into sound.

Rooted in her Cretan origins and inspired by Byzantine traditions, Balkan folklore, Ottoman makam, and modern jazz improvisation, Eleanna's music defies genre boundaries. The album is shaped entirely through the voice of the qanun, that Eleanna lives, breathes, and innovates through. Her arrangements blend Eastern tonalities with Western harmonies, bridging cultures with honesty and intimacy.

Watch music video



meet Eleanna

Eleanna Pitsikaki

Qanun Virtuoso | Composer | Cultural Mediator | Educator | Explorer of Sound & Soul

Eleanna doesn't just play the qanun — she lets it breathe. Born and raised in Crete, she weaves stories through strings, building sonic bridges between worlds. Her music is a living conversation: East meets West, tradition meets improvisation, makam meets jazz, and ancestral memory flows freely into bold new forms. Her focus is on transcultural Ethno-Jazz.

Whether performing at the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, the Odeon of Herodes Atticus in Athens, or teaching in a university seminar room, Eleanna shows up fully — with heart, heritage, and a fearless spirit of exploration. As one of the few female qanun players on the international stage, she is a connector, a translator of cultures, and a passionate voice for artistic and academic transformation. She currently teaches at the University of Music Mainz, teacheing intercultural music education, and offers courses in qanun and Ottoman makam at the Freies Musikzentrum in Munich. Her academic work explores the intersection of music, migration, and belonging — and she is currently pursuing a PhD in University of Music Mainz in this very field.

More info

career highlights/awards

Global Music Awards – Silver Medal
with Aroma Album (2025)

WDR Liminal Music Prize
with Trickster Orchestra & George E. Lewis (2025)

German Record Critics' Award (twice) –
Complementarity, Bridges Kammerorchester (2024)

- **TWMC Chart** – *Aroma Album (2025)*
- **Schleswig-Holstein Festival** *with Balkan Fuego Trio (2025)*
- **Solist in Elbphiharmonie Hamburg** *with Bridges Kammerorchester (2024)*
- **Herodus Atticus Theater Athens** *with Evanthia Reboutsika & Yasmin Levy (2024)*

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