
ORKESTAR KRIMINAL



"Imagine a 10-member gender-balanced band that sources material from the criminal underworld a century ago, performing songs in eight languages with quirky instrumentation and a punk attitude"

- Edmonton Journal

"Ryobra is an intoxicating listen... I found myself captivated from beginning to end."

- Jazz Sensibilities

"This is one of the most unexpected and musically adventurous records to come out of Canada this year."

- The Record

"They're the frenetic, hyperbolic version of the wildest live show... They sing tales in more languages than I can count, borrowed from the underground legends of criminals the world over." - DMNDR

Orkestar Kriminal is a gender-balanced 12-piece that creates daring arrangements of old underworld ballads, telling the tales of impoverished peoples the world over, driven to a life of crime. They breathe new life into long-forgotten criminal ballads in Yiddish, Greek, Bosnian, Polish, Pashto, Spanish, Hindi, or whatever other tongue might attract the multilingual stylings of frontwoman Giselle Claudia Webber. So long as the tune is catchy and a little shady, they'll give it their best shot. Orkestar Kriminal's "Tummel" was released in 2015, attracting a plethora of media attention, and winning a GAMIQ for "Roots Album of the Year". In 2018, their second album *Ryobra* hit the #1 spot on the Earshot "National International" college radio charts. After continuous touring and a multitude of festival performances, the biggest criminal punks in world music released their vinyl full-length: *Razlomanye Ryobra*, with Producer Josh Dolgin, in 2020. They are currently working on their first ever all-originals album with Grammy award winning Producer-Engineer: Mark Lawson

Recent Activities

2023 - Intensive composition and arrangement rehearsals for third full length with Producer-Engineer Mark Lawson. Feature episode on Orkestar Kriminal for Season 4 of YesTV's "Path to Creation", with footage and interviews about their upcoming album. European and Canadian tour booking begins.

2022 - Orkestar Kriminal headlines a Shtetl Pop outdoor concert at Entrepôt77 with Michael Winograd & the Honorable Mentshn, Gephilte. Conceptual prep work for their upcoming LP.

2021 - Orkestar Kriminal Klezkanada performance outside Café Dépanneur in Montréal. Fanfare performance down Bernard St to inaugurate Marché des Possibles' new outdoor performance venue: Entrepôt 77. Live performance at Entrepôt 77 with Waahli. Sold-out concert at Le Ritz in Montreal, with Méduse.

2020 - Orkestar Kriminal performs at Montréal Jewish Museum's Nuit Blanche. *Razlomanye Ryobra* vinyl release performance webcast live from La Ministère. *Na Moldavankye Musyka Igrayet* video release. The video was created by 9 Russian female animators, and was part of the official selection for Russia's largest animation film festival BCF 2020.

2019 - Orkestar Kriminal's *Ryobra* nominated for a GAMIQ award for *World Music Album of the Year*. Pop Montréal performance at Rialto Theatre. Orkestar Kriminal embark on sold-out 14-day Western Canadian tour, with performances at Folk On The Rocks Festival in Yellowknife, NWT and Dawson City Music Festival, YT.

2018 - FMO Official showcase, 4 FMO Coax Records showcases (Toronto, Ont.). Sold-out performance at La Nuit Solaire at the National Fine Arts Gallery in Quebec City with Pierre Kwenders, La Famille Ouellette, Millimetrik, Tupi Collective. Ontario-Québec Tour with Geoff Berner. *Ryobra* album release at Sala Rosa in Montreal with Geoff Berner. Montreal festival performances, as well as Ashkenaz Festival in Toronto. *Mayshele Stolyer* video release. Televised performance on La Fabrique Culturelle. *Ryobra* album recorded live to 2 inch tape at Hotel2Tango with Juno and Grammy award-winning Engineer: Howard Bilerman and Producer Josh Dolgin.

2017 - Pop Montréal Showcase with Kid Koala, Bonjay, Shades of Culture. Intensive repertoire arrangement rehearsals for *Ryobra* album. Orkestar Kriminal headlines with International Klezmer Stars: Veretski Pass, Geoff Berner, Shura Lipovsky, Sasha Lurje, Dan Khan and Micheal Winograd. 7 Sold-out SXSW performances in Austin. Media coverage from HBO Latin America, Fox News Austin, DMNDR.com, named Top 15 bands of SXSW by the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

Members

Giselle Claudia Webber: voice (*Em & Dzeej, Hot Springs, Gigi French, Giselle Numba One*)

Julian Selody: saxophone, clarinet (*Lemon Bucket Orchestra, Dumai Dunai*)

Li Kouri: accordion (*LiKouri*)

Eli Camilo: trumpet, voice (*Dumai Dunai, Murmurosi, Domaći Trubači*)

Lisa Gamble: musical saw, baglama (*HRSTA, Gambletron, Clues, Thundrah*)

Sam Minevich: electric guitar, bouzouki (*Yellow Jacket Avenger, Gigi French, Pink Breeze*)

Brigitte Dajczer: fiddle (*Briga, Gitans de Sarajevo, Roma Carnavale*)

Christos Smirnios: drums (*The Mahones, Swamp Ward Orchestra*)

Margaret Diane Donovan: trombone (*Domaći Trubači*)

Tyler Parent: upright bass (*Old Time Honey*)

Anna Frances Meyer: flute, piccolo, back-vocals (*Les Deuxluxes*)

Etienne Barry: keys (*Barry Paquin Roberge*)

English Press

July 1, 2022: [CULTMTL](https://cultmtl.com/2022/07/to-do-list-weekend-montreal-moving-day-canada-day-jazz-festival-fest-mad-dog-piknic-electronik-les-premiers-vendredi-leffet-mer)

<https://cultmtl.com/2022/07/to-do-list-weekend-montreal-moving-day-canada-day-jazz-festival-fest-mad-dog-piknic-electronik-les-premiers-vendredi-leffet-mer>

July 16, 2021: [CULTMTL](https://cultmtl.com/event/pop-montreal-presents-marche-des-possibles-with-orkestar-kriminal-and-waahli)

<https://cultmtl.com/event/pop-montreal-presents-marche-des-possibles-with-orkestar-kriminal-and-waahli>

August 17, 2020: [CULTMTL](https://cultmtl.com/2020/08/watch-the-new-animated-music-video-by-montreal-band-orkestar-kriminal-na-moldavanke-musy-ka-igrayet-razlomanye-ryobra/)

<https://cultmtl.com/2020/08/watch-the-new-animated-music-video-by-montreal-band-orkestar-kriminal-na-moldavanke-musy-ka-igrayet-razlomanye-ryobra/>

July 11, 2019: [NANAIMO BULLETIN](https://www.nanaimobulletin.com/entertainment/band-brings-multilingual-interwar-era-gangster-songs-to-nanaimo)

<https://www.nanaimobulletin.com/entertainment/band-brings-multilingual-interwar-era-gangster-songs-to-nanaimo>

July 4, 2019: [EDMONTON JOURNAL](https://edmontonjournal.com/entertainment/music/born-out-of-a-scam-orkestar-kriminal-evolved-from-yiddish-criminal-und-erworld-songs)

<https://edmontonjournal.com/entertainment/music/born-out-of-a-scam-orkestar-kriminal-evolved-from-yiddish-criminal-und-erworld-songs>

May 19, 2019 - [RADIO TAIGA](https://soundcloud.com/radiotaiga/lallonge-orkestar-kriminal)

<https://soundcloud.com/radiotaiga/lallonge-orkestar-kriminal>

January 11, 2019 - [JAZZ SENSIBILITIES](https://jazzsensibilities.com/world/orkestar-kriminal-ryobra/)

<https://jazzsensibilities.com/world/orkestar-kriminal-ryobra/>

December 18, 2018 - [EARSHOT](http://www.earshot-online.com/charts/index.cfm?intChartTypeID=104&dWeekOfID=2018-12-18)

<http://www.earshot-online.com/charts/index.cfm?intChartTypeID=104&dWeekOfID=2018-12-18>

October 31, 2018 - [HIGHLIFE WORLD](https://highlifeworld.com/orkestar-kriminal-ryobra/)

<https://highlifeworld.com/orkestar-kriminal-ryobra/>

September 4, 2018 - [CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS](http://www.cjnews.com/other-communities/russian/a-musical-look-into-the-criminal-mind)

<http://www.cjnews.com/other-communities/russian/a-musical-look-into-the-criminal-mind>

August 31, 2018 - [THE RECORD](#)

<https://www.therecord.com/whatson-story/8871571-music-from-all-corners-of-the-world-from-orkestar-kriminal/>

May 16, 2017 - [DMNDR](#)

<http://x.dmndr.com/sxsw-lost-in-austin-sessions-orkestar-kriminal-dou-dou/>

March 21, 2017 - [MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE](#)

<http://www.startribune.com/a-sxsw-wrap-the-15-best-acts-from-five-days-of-music-and-mayhem/416565483/#1>

March 19, 2017 - [FOX NEWS AUSTIN](#)

<https://youtu.be/ChtMG1UVwjk>

March 11, 2017 - [THE FORWARD](#)

<https://forward.com/news/breaking-news/365701/south-by-southwest-2017-5-don-t-miss-jewish-events/>

February 24, 2017 - [BROADWAY WORLD](#)

<http://www.broadwayworld.com/bwwmusic/article/Orkestar-Kriminal-at-SXSW--Criminal-Gypsy-Punks-Mix-Guerrilla-Shows-20170224>

Videos

[ORKESTAR KRIMINAL LIVE SHOW SAMPLER](#)

<https://tinyurl.com/orkestar-kriminal>

[ORKESTAR KRIMINAL @ LE MINISTÈRE - Razlomanye Ryobra Album Release Performance](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/orkestarkriminal/videos/303310174295245/>

[NA MOLDAVANKYE MUSYKA IGRAYET](#) - Directed by: Liza Skvo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fd1gSjglez0>

[MOYSHELE STOLYER](#) - Directed by: Joakhim Magdalena

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6PcLdCie40A>

[DER SHMAYSER](#) - Directed by: Bruno Goulard

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9WJ1A9vuH4>

[ON THE MAKING OF TUMMEL](#) - Directed by: Joakhim Magdalena

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKL_tX8jVYg

Grants Received

2023 - Orkestar Kriminal, Canada Council - Explore + Create: Concept to Realization Grant

2021 - Orkestar Kriminal, CALQ - Live Performance Grant

2020 - Orkestar Kriminal, Canada Council - Digital Originals Grant

2019 - Orkestar Kriminal, Canada Council + CALQ - Domestic Tour Grant

2018 - Orkestar Kriminal, Canada Council - Domestic Travel Grant

2018 - Orkestar Kriminal, Factor - Tour Support, Video + Radio Marketing Grant

2017 - Orkestar Kriminal, Factor - Juried Sound Recording Grant

2017 - Orkestar Kriminal, Canada Council - Explore + Create: Concept to Realization Grant

2017 - Orkestar Kriminal, Musicaction Marketing and International Tour Support Grant

2016 - Orkestar Kriminal, CALQ Development and Advanced Training Grant

2015 - Orkestar Kriminal, Musicaction Marketing and Domestic Tour Support Grant

2014 - Orkestar Kriminal "Tummel", Musicaction Album Production Grant

Awards

2018 - GAMIQ Award Nomination: Best World Music Album (ORKESTAR KRIMINAL, "Ryobra")

2015 - GAMIQ Award Winner: Best Roots Album (ORKESTAR KRIMINAL, "Tummel")

Important Links

Youtube: <http://tinyurl.com/orkestarkriminal>

Bandcamp: <https://orkestarkriminal.bandcamp.com/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/orkestarkriminal/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/orkestarkriminal/>

Website: <https://orkestar-kriminal.com/>

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