

MICHAEL SARIAN'S ESQUINA

Trumpeter and composer Michael Sarian has been praised for his "endlessly renewable strain of lyric improvisation regardless of context or material" ([Downbeat Magazine](#)) and his "unique compositional and instrumental voice" ([All About Jazz](#)).

Born in Toronto and raised in Buenos Aires, Sarian moved to New York City in 2012 and has since performed on some of the world's most iconic stages — including the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., the O2 Arena in London, and Teatro Colón in Argentina — as well as beloved NYC venues such as the Blue Note, Jazz at Lincoln Center, BRIC JazzFest, the Beacon Theatre, Yankee Stadium, Barclays Center, and Central Park SummerStage. He has appeared on WNYC's Soundcheck, NPR's World Cafe, and more.

After an intense four-month arena tour with pop superstars the Jonas Brothers, Sarian returned to his roots, eager to flex his creative muscles. He transformed his long-running acoustic quartet — featured on several albums including *Live at Cliff Bell's* (Shifting Paradigm Records), named one of 2024's best live records by The New York City Jazz Record — into a bold new outlet for the artistic energy built up after months of playing high-octane, two-and-a-half-hour pop shows. And so, ESQUINA was born.

Out now on Greenleaf Music, ESQUINA is a genre-defying project shaped by Sarian's Armenian heritage, Argentine upbringing, and deep grounding in jazz and improvisation. The ensemble blends layered synths, extended trumpet techniques, and long-form structures to create immersive, emotionally resonant performances exploring memory, ritual, and dislocation.

ESQUINA offers a personal yet expansive vision — one that lives between forms and across borders, inviting audiences to explore where improvised music, memory, and narrative collide through a cinematic, culturally rooted lens.

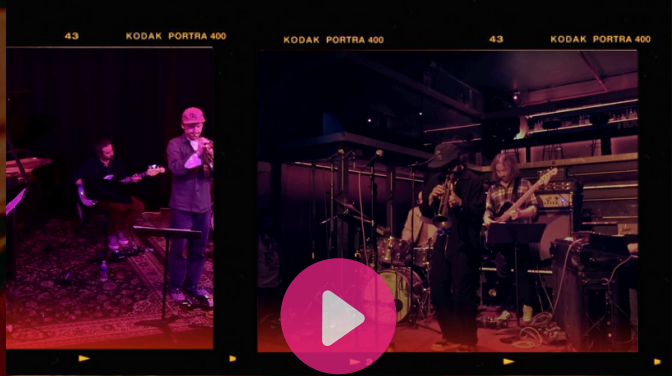
Whether at a jazz festival, black box theater, or contemporary art space, ESQUINA delivers a bold and transportive experience — a glimpse into where jazz is going.

www.michaelsarian.com

MUSIC + VIDEOS



ESQUINA
(Greenleaf Music, 2025)



ESQUINA
live videos

PHOTOS



PRESS (SELECTED)

"Perhaps the most surprising piece of the album is the quartet's reimagining of Portishead's 1994 hit 'Glory Box'. Sarian holds onto its deeply melodic core, although his clarion horn is a brighter and less ethereal presence than Beth Gibbons' haunting voice. Leibson's expansive Rhodes then taps into its solid soul-jazz potential, reaching beyond, but never quite escaping, the spell of the original."

[UK Jazz News](#)

"There are more than enough interesting sounds to make this album well worth hearing."

[Burning Ambulance's Five Jazz Albums You Need to Hear](#)

"An impressive album for a lot of reasons...The mood morphs and shifts from manic to introspective to dreamy."

[A Green Man Review](#)

"Full of lunar mystery and dreamy mirages, Sarian traverses, hovers, inhabits and floats across a largely improvised vision of prog-jazz and jazz fusion."

[Monolith Cocktail](#)

"Trumpeter Michael Sarian beams in on a very absorbing whispery electro jazz-rock recording that offers up a pair of exceptionally long tracks as the main bones of the album"

[Marlbank](#)

"The looseness in their playing, at times bordering on telepathic, makes Esquina feel like a sharp left turn taken with total control."

[Cast the Dice](#)

"The trumpet's voice is ethereal and haunting, weaving in and out of the electronic textures that underpin the track. The rhythmic drive is equally compelling, with galloping beats and deep bass grooves"

[Twisted Soul Music](#)

"Every performance is different, full of improvisatory twists and turns. They're not imitating anyone... the music is about being in the moment. They know where they're going, but they're creative about how they get there."

[Little Village Magazine](#)

Featured on TIDAL's
OUT THERE: BEST NEW JAZZ
playlist

