

# MICHAEL SARIAN

"Sarian's trumpet literally speaks"

karl ackermann, all about jazz

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

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.

Michael's artistic output is as diverse as his background. He has released several albums with his long-standing acoustic quartet, including [Live at Cliff Bell's](#) (Shifting Paradigm Records), which was named one of the best live albums of 2024 by [The New York City Jazz Record](#), praising the quartet as "a band that's developed the kind of telepathy only the road can build... there's a late '70s-early '80s feel to the music throughout, more akin to the 'stadium jazz' of V.S.O.P. or Milestone-era McCoy Tyner" (Philip Freeman).

His latest project, [ESQUINA \(out now on Greenleaf Music\)](#) shaped by Sarian's Armenian heritage, Argentine upbringing, and deep grounding in jazz and improvisation, blends layered synths, extended trumpet techniques, and graphic scores to create immersive performances rooted in memory, dislocation, and ritual.

In 2023, he joined the [Jonas Brothers](#) on their world tour, performing at sold out arenas and stadiums around the globe, and appears on their 'Live From the O2 London' album. He has also recorded and toured extensively with artists such as progressive jazz orchestra [The NYChillharmonic](#) and soul and blues powerhouse [Bette Smith](#).

Michael was selected to join the 2024 [Art Omi: Music Residency](#) cohort, repeatedly reached the semifinal round at the prestigious [DCJazzPrix](#), was artist in residence at [Culture Lab LIC](#) in 2022. In 2025, he continues his creative journey with residencies at [Millay Arts](#) as well as the [Virginia Center for Creative Arts](#).

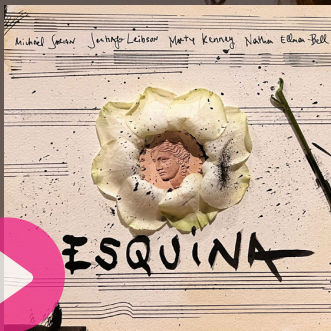
Michael is a [Del Quadro Trumpets Artist](#), performs on his signature 'SARIAN' custom line of mouthpieces made in France by Atelier Donat, and is endorsed by [Applied Microphone Technology \(AMT\)](#).

[www.michaelsarian.com](http://www.michaelsarian.com)



# MUSIC + PRESS

(selected)



## "ESQUINA"

(Greenleaf Music, 2025)  
Featured on Tidal's Playlist  
Out There: Best New Jazz

*"it absolutely sounds like the work of a band that's developed the kind of telepathy only the road can build."*

Phil Freeman, [The New York City Jazz Record](#)

*"If this album doesn't demonstrate that Michael Sarian is a talent deserving of wider recognition, nothing will. There's an urgency in this music that is well beyond the norm these days, and the trumpeter has a way with forward thoughts and frayed expression that seriously separates him from the pack."*

Dan Bilawsky, [AllAboutJazz](#)



## "Living at the End of the World" (ears+eyes Records, 2022)

*"A heightened sense of sophistication can be heard ... leaving the trumpeter sounding warmer, more confident and simply grander than ever [...] The influence of pioneering romantic horn players who prominently feature in the ECM catalogue, such as the late great Kenny Wheeler, Tomasz Stanko or Enrico Rava, seems within one's reach at each and every turn of New Aurora."*

Friedrich Kunzmann, [All About Jazz](#)

*"...veers between the swagger of 'On The Corner' and the menace of 'Agharta'....no amount of electronic treatments can disguise the fact that Sarian's quartet are a serious improvising unit."*

Frank Graham, [UK Jazz News](#)

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

Gary Whitehouse, [A Green Man Review](#)



## "Live at Cliff Bell's"

(Shifting Paradigm Records, 2024)

Named one of 2024's  
'Best Live Albums'  
[The NYC Jazz Record](#)

*"Sarian reveals an endlessly renewable strain of lyric improvisation regardless of context or material. He achieves a luxurious sprawl that summons the classic spaciousness of vintage ECM albums."*

Peter Margasak, [Downbeat Magazine](#)

*"[Sarian's] ongoing exploration between composed music and spontaneous creation is stimulating for both musicians and listeners, making 'Living at the End of the World' a must-listen for fans of innovative and captivating jazz music."*

Matt Micucci, [Jazziz Magazine](#)



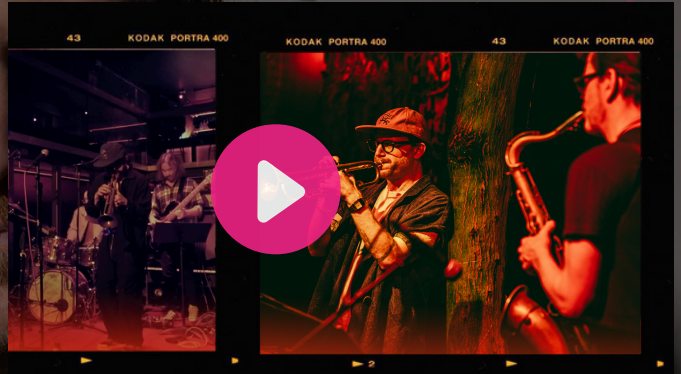
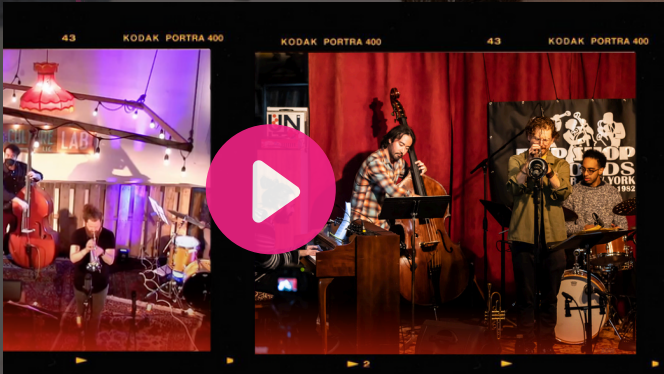
## "New Aurora" (ears+eyes Records, 2020)



# VIDEOS

Michael Sarian  
Quartet

Michael Sarian's  
ESQUINA



# PHOTOS

