



KAPIKO

ETHNO/WORLD JAZZ AND FUSION FROM ISTANBUL

Electronic Press Kit
2026

ABOUT



KAPIKO is an Istanbul-based powerful fusion and progressive ethno/world jazz lineup centered around the kaval - a traditional flute of Anatolia and the Balkans. KAPIKO's latest album *Nova*, a milestone of Turkish fusion and ethno/world jazz, was listed among the best Turkish jazz albums of 2022 by writers of Türkiye's foremost jazz magazine, *Cazkolik*. Following the release of *Nova*, the band performed at several prominent festivals in Türkiye and Europe. Later that same year, KAPIKO released the single *Viensko Horo*, in collaboration with legendary Bulgarian drummer Stoyan Yankoulov, followed by the single *Ethiopian Waltz* in 2023.

A wide array of traditional and progressive improvisational concepts, the mesmerizing sound of Turkish kaval virtuoso Batuhan Aydın's soulful playing, energetic stage performances, and driving rhythms make the music of KAPIKO a unique experience.



Album Info

Batuhan Aydın kaval

Nikolaus Grill keys

Ozan Erkan guitars

Neyzen Özseri bass

Ali Kaan Uysal percussion

Riccardo Marengi drums

Şenova Ülker trumpet

Tamer Temel saxophones

Burak Dursun trombone

Ezgi İrem Mutlu vocals

Gabriela Partofsky vocals

Merve Akyıldız vocals

Yasin Türk vocals

The Kitchen

Ozan Sarıboğa recording

Taner Ersoy recording

Çağlayan Yıldız recording

Dimitar Atanasov recording

Paul Pouwer mixing

[Power Sound Studios, NL]

Pieter Snapper mastering

[İstanbul Babajim Studios, TR]

Benyamin Nugraha cover design

Latest Album "Nova" (2022)

KAPIKO's masterpiece *Nova* is the result of years of reflection and artistic exploration. Through *Nova*, Batuhan Aydın not only redefined the boundaries of modern kaval playing, but also set new standards for the instrument in contemporary jazz.

The album features a delightful assortment of ethno/world jazz and fusion compositions, including a pop-jazz interpretation of Gomidas Vartabed's *Gakavik* and a hard bop arrangement of the Anatolian folk song *Hele Yar*, presented alongside fresh takes on classics like John "Jaco" Pastorius' *Reza* and Rahsaan Roland Kirk's *Serenade to a Cuckoo*.

On *Nova*, KAPIKO breathes new life into Alain Blesing's 1989 arrangement of *Haydar Haydar* – a folk song based on a poem by 17th century philosopher and poet Kul Nesîmî – by adding a touch of magic to the song's extended solo sections.

Mixing was done at Amsterdam's Power Sound Studio by Dutch sound engineer Paul Pouwer, known for his work with legends like Michael Jackson, Phil Collins, and Gregory Porter. Mastering was done by American sound engineer Pieter Snapper – who has collaborated with artists such as Ibrahim Maalouf, Fazıl Say, and Stewart Copeland – at Babajim Studios in İstanbul.

"KAPIKO's new album Nova has taken its place among the vanguard of contemporary ethno/world jazz and fusion albums.

Over the course of Nova's 8 tracks, Batuhan Aydın's unique approach to improvisation – blending traditional Turkish and Bulgarian kaval techniques with concepts of modern jazz – creates a fresh new approach to fusion and ethno/world jazz."

– **Zekeriya Şen**, Music Critic

"Perhaps the most striking feature of KAPIKO's album Nova is that it incorporates the kaval into jazz; the entirety of the music, though, paints a greater picture. I can easily say that Nova is one of the best recordings of the year."

– **Feridun Ertaşkan**, Music Critic

"Nova appeals to many different audiences, but most of all to refined music enthusiasts! You're facing an album that is ambitious in every aspect."

– **Murat Beşer**, Music Critic



Single Info

Batuhan Aydın kaval
Nikolaus Grill piano
Ozan Erkan guitar
Neyzen Özşarı bass, synth
feat. Stoyan Yankoulov drums

The Kitchen

Doli Media Studio recording
Ozan Sarıboğa mixing
Pieter Snapper mastering
[İstanbul Babajim Studios, TR]



Single Info

Batuhan Aydın kaval
Nikolaus Grill piano
Ozan Erkan guitar
Neyzen Özşarı double bass
Riccardo Marengi drums
Ezgi İrem Mutlu vocals

The Kitchen

Ozan Sarıboğa recording
Taner Ersoy recording
Paul Pouwer mixing
Pieter Snapper mastering
[İstanbul Babajim Studios, TR]

Single "Viensko Horo"

feat. Stoyan Yankoulov (2022)

Viensko Horo marks the beginning of the collaboration between the legendary Bulgarian drummer Stoyan Yankoulov and KAPIKO – a vibrant instrumental journey on which progressive jazz-rock meets Balkan fire.

The title *Viensko Horo* - Bulgarian for "Viennese Horo" - pays tribute to the fact that the piece was composed by Batuhan Aydın and Nikolaus Grill nearly spontaneously while on tour in Vienna/Austria.

The track unfolds around a melody echoing the spirit of Balkan horo dances, Yankoulov's powerful drumming, cool guitars and a playful piano riff. Batuhan Aydın's hypnotic Bulgarian kaval playing breathes soul into the song and rounds off the listening experience.

Viensko Horo is more than a tune – it is a meeting point of cultures and rhythms, a celebration of roots and the paths they have evolved by.

Single "Ethiopian Waltz"

feat. Ezgi İrem Mutlu (2023)

Ethiopian Waltz is a smooth jazz piece built upon traditional Ethiopian motifs, composed by Türkiye-based Austrian pianist and composer Nikolaus Grill. The lyrics are adapted from *Ripe and Raw*, a deeply emotional poem by the contemporary Ethiopian writer Zewdu Milikit.

Combining the soulful voice of Turkish singer Ezgi İrem Mutlu with Batuhan Aydın's mesmerizing kaval playing, the track offers a listening experience that feels both unique and strangely familiar – appealing to fans of jazz and world music alike.



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Videos

KAPIKO - "Nova" (Album Trailer)

[https://youtu.be/tF8z58V7Fp8?
si=dFMbNjhdksCHsxw1](https://youtu.be/tF8z58V7Fp8?si=dFMbNjhdksCHsxw1)

KAPIKO - Serenade to a Cuckoo

[https://youtu.be/g1q5pq1BHsM?
si=enfxnsVCd6pFjr_c](https://youtu.be/g1q5pq1BHsM?si=enfxnsVCd6pFjr_c)

KAPIKO - Ethiopian Waltz (feat. Ezgi İrem Mutlu)

[https://youtu.be/CQR3az96POw?
si=oY_peWOeSJfc9InI](https://youtu.be/CQR3az96POw?si=oY_peWOeSJfc9InI)

KAPIKO - Gakavik (feat. Gabriela Partofsky)

[https://youtu.be/zXOaS9KRLJo?
si=33Q3JXeO_OXtrMdG](https://youtu.be/zXOaS9KRLJo?si=33Q3JXeO_OXtrMdG)

KAPIKO - Haydar Haydar (feat. Merve Akyıldız)

[https://youtu.be/zmYsPJILGhM?
si=JVK7FGPnw6l9_wz8](https://youtu.be/zmYsPJILGhM?si=JVK7FGPnw6l9_wz8)

KAPIKO - Viensko Horo (feat. Stoyan Yankoulov)

[https://youtu.be/hWP2hXL4HU8?
si=FGETU8Xs817DaBi4](https://youtu.be/hWP2hXL4HU8?si=FGETU8Xs817DaBi4)