

Orkestra del Sol

The swagger of a Balkan wedding band – the riotous energy of Latin carnival...

Orkestra del Sol's explosive reinvention of global brass band music has captured imaginations, set pulses racing and left a trail of pummelled dance floors across continents since their formation in 2004. Ska, porro, Balkan brass, klezmer and funk mix effortlessly with flavours of Bollywood, Havana and the sassy street bands of New Orleans to create a living, breathing polka-ing, pogo-ing *Honkstep* of immense proportions. Hailing from Edinburgh, their music is globally inspired, but distilled in Scotland.

"Magnificent!" – **The Independent**

"Utterly captivating" – **Songlines**

"Brilliant musicians" – **Time Out**

Orkestra del Sol's legendary live shows are a joy to behold, bursting with anarchic humour, wildly skilful musical arrangements and a roguish sense of theatre. They have delighted audiences from Barcelona to Beijing, Dublin to Delhi and Sarajevo to Southend-on-Sea, racking up critical acclaim and five star reviews on the way. Equally comfortable headlining a music festival, entertaining a theatre audience or gathering a crowd on the street, Orkestra del Sol's success lies in their universal appeal.

"Anything as unashamedly fun as this should go a long way" – **The List**

"The genius of the Orkestra is the way they hide serious musicianship inside tongue - in - cheek humour. It's a winning combination" – **The Scotsman**



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Gig Highlights

Festivals -

GLASTONBURY (AVALON STAGE)
SHAMBALA (MAIN STAGE)
CAMBRIDGE FOLK FESTIVAL
BESTIVAL (RED BULL STAGE)
BOOMTOWN FAIR (MAIN STAGE)
TOWERSEY FESTIVAL (MAIN STAGE)
CELTIC CONNECTIONS, GLASGOW
STOCKTON INT. RIVERSIDE FESTIVAL
SECRET GARDEN PARTY
LATITUDE FESTIVAL
WINCHESTER HAT FAIR
LARMER TREE FESTIVAL
DURHAM BRASS FESTIVAL
NORFOLK & NORWICH FESTIVAL
EDINBURGH FRINGE FESTIVAL
EDINBURGH JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL
HULL FREEDOM FESTIVAL
KELBURN GARDEN PARTY

Venues -

SOUTHBANK CENTRE, LONDON
THE BARBICAN, LONDON
THE FAMOUS SPIGELTENT, VARIOUS
HACKNEY EMPIRE, LONDON
KOMEDIA, BRIGHTON
THE JUNCTION, CAMBRIDGE
CHEESE & GRAIN, FROME
THE LEMON TREE, ABERDEEN
THE TRADES CLUB, HEBDEN BRIDGE
CARGO, LONDON
DINGWALLS, LONDON
NOTTING HILL TABERNACLE, LONDON
PASSING CLOUDS, LONDON
QUEENS HALL, EDINBURGH
PERTH CONCERT HALL
THE STABLES, MILTON KEYNES
NORWICH ARTS CENTRE
EDEN COURT, INVERNESS

International shows in...

AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BOSNIA, CHINA, CZECH REPUBLIC, FRANCE, GERMANY, INDIA, IRELAND,
ITALY, SERBIA, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, THE NETHERLANDS





Press reviews

The Herald ** (2014)**

(Edinburgh Fringe: Queens Hall. Review: Miranda Heggie)

"There is no way you cannot dance to Orkestra del Sol. Their sun-soaked blend of brilliant bonkersness leads you like a child to the pied piper to something seriously good fun. With their funky-up jazz tones to crazy klezmer style beats, their unique blend of global rhythms gets even the most staid of audience members up on their feet and boogying down to a blend of who knows what! A hugely skilled collection of musicians, this band of players displayed their musical dexterity with highly complex soprano saxophone solos juxtaposed with bold, brazen harmonies in the lower brass, underpinned by their now legendary sousaphone. With the band's name clearly stencilled on the rim of its horn, this instrument could easily be mistaken for solely taking pride of place. Not so, however, as nothing could for a second mask the fact that this group of players are all incredibly skilled instrumentalists. Their expertise amounts to no bounds as each instrument on stage has its moment, from nimble accordion solos to zesty trumpet tunes. Playing with catchy syncopation and a cheeky sense of humour, Orkestra del Sol are bound to make you move your feet.

Broadway Baby *** (2013)**

(Edinburgh Fringe: Queens Hall. Review: Clara Packett)

Orkestra del Sol are a nine piece brass band with a difference. The most energetic performance, and possibly the most mad, that I have seen at the fringe, they will leave you exhausted from all the dancing, theatre and amazing musical talent which they pack out Queen's Hall with. Sometimes sounding like street music, but also including tangos, waltzes, a calypso and a super-fast polka, every one of their songs ends in rapturous applause and rightly so. If you want to have a good time, they are an absolute must-see.

Their entrance is grand, great showmanship is present from the very beginning. Announcing their show as the 'Return of the Comeback' in a crazy and eccentric video complete with dissonant harmonies and a jazzy feel, it is clear that they are going to every effort to make their instruments come alive. I really did not expect a violin to be summoned through the air however and I have great respect for the man who managed to dance and jump around with a sousaphone for the entire gig. There was an on-stage burglar running around and occasionally stealing instruments and a pause for the 'News Headlines' – information on band members provided mainly by the 'local trumpet correspondent'. The best performer still has to be the sousaphonist, however, and watching him have a mock battle with the violinist is a definite highlight for me.

Musically, Orkestra del Sol are also exceptional. Impressively, a number of them are able to switch instruments, and they keep a party atmosphere and tempo going for the entire tonight. Though they make their way through so many different genres, they make everything sound like their own. The audience demand an encore and are delighted with an extra half an hour, dancing until the very end. Bizarre but truly amazing, this is surely what the Fringe is all about.

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