

Who's Who in Basque music today

AKATZ. - Ska and reggae big band from Bizkaia with a decade of Jamaican inspiration.

ALBOKA. - Folk group that has taken its music beyond our borders, participating in festivals across Europe. Instruments include alboka, accordion and the txistu.

ALEX UBAGO. - Donostia-born pop singer and songwriter who with only two CDs under his belt has gained international acclaim. His first CD, "¿Qué pides tú?" came out in 2001. "Fantasía o realidad" is the title of his second record. His two CDs have sold over two million copies, winning him a Diamond Record award.

AMAIA ZUBIRÍA. - One of the most beautiful voices in Euskal Herria. Her repertory includes a rich set of traditional Basque songs.

AMBULANCE. - Quintet that could enter into the category of the so-called new Euskal Herria pop, with songs reminiscent of 70s and 80s English language pop.

ANA POZAS. - She has two discs that fall somewhere between pop and rock. Her second CD, "Sin querer," was produced in the USA.



ANARI. - Singer, songwriter and guitar player, but nothing to do with folk music. Her songs are filled with tense voices and sad, lonely melodies, lyrics laid naked and uneasy atmospheres.

ANARKO. - Rock quartet born in 1994, and fired up by trash core and furious punk.

ANGEL UNZU. - Composer, arranger, producer and guitarist. Co-founder of

folk group Ganbara. Accompanies performers like Benito Lertxundi, Amaia Zubiria and Kepa Junkera, in live performances and on record. In 2003 he recorded a CD called "Melodías de piel."

ANJE DUHALDE. - Singer-songwriter who composes in Euskara. Former member of late 70s folk-rock group, Errobi, and of Akelarre. In the 80s he launched his solo career. His latest work is "George Brassens en Kantan."

ARIMA BELTZA. - The band from Elgoibar cultivates the blues and also writes their own songs. Their concerts include work by Freddy King, John Mayalle, Rory Gallagher and Cream.

ASIER SERRANO. - The former vocalist with the group Lorelei initiated his solo career with pop rock. He is backed by a solid band.

ANTOM RHUMA. - Classic rockers with an impeccable string and wind instrument section. They've played in Barcelona at the BAM Festival, at the Benicassim Festival and festivals in France, including Trans Musicals in Rennes.

AUDIENCE. - Rock band with a mixture of different styles including raspy blues and Texas swing. In times of need they'll pull out the punk and their own special vision of country.

BARRICADA. - Since its creation in 1982 this half-punk, half-heavy foursome from the Pamplona neighborhood of Chantrea has written and recorded over 100 songs and released 15 albums. Songs like "En blanco y negro," "Contra la pared," "No hay tregua," and "Ocupación" have earned their place in the annals of Spanish rock & roll. Their last CD, released in 2004, is titled "Hombre mate hombre".

BATZUK. - Their first CD,

recorded in 2000 at the Azkoitia slaughterhouse, includes six of their own songs performed live between 1998 and 2000.



BENITO LERTXUNDI. - The singer-songwriter from Orío made his first forays into music linked to the Ez Dok Amairu movement, together with the Artze brothers, José Angel Irigarai, Lourdes Iriondo, Xavier Lete, Julen Lecuona and Mikel Laboa. In 1971 he recorded his first album of songs of love and struggle accompanied by his own guitar. He has put music to Lizardi's poetry, sung traditional songs from Zuberoa and recovered ancient Basque melodies. He has also made a record with the Euskadi Symphony Orchestra. In 2002 Lertxundi released his latest album, the most intimist and lyrical to date, titled "Nere Ekialdean".



BERRI TXARRAK. - The band was first formed in 1997 and burst onto the so-called "euskaldun metal" scene. Two years later their CD "Ikasten" put them in the limelight of rock in Euskara, and proved that pop, hip hop, hardcore and punk can be blended with metal today and not end up in total chaos.

BETAGARRI. - Created in Gasteiz in 1992, this group plays ska rock, although it also skilfully incorporates other styles into its party and dance songs.

BIDE ERTZEAN. - The members of the group come from melodic punk rock

circles. In 1998 the band began spreading power pop fever throughout Euskadi with its gifted musicians, solid imaginative guitar playing and elegant melodies.

CAMPING GAZ & DIGI RANDOM. - Comprised of Javi Pez and Txarly Brown from Catalonia, the two joined forces in 1995, and have since played on and off as a duo.

CHUCHÍN IBÁÑEZ Y LOS CHIHUAHUA. - Tex-Mex style ranchera music with sounds from "south of the border."

CONFLICT NOISE. - Hailing from Bilbao, this fierce heavy metal band fused trash, death and hardcore in their first CD titled "Uhinak."

CUERNO DE CHIVO. - This eight-member metallica rap band from Navarra also incorporates the txalaparta. Social protest resounds in their lyrics.

CUJO. - Melodic rock band from Getxo, formed in 1995, sometimes inclined to pop and others punk. Known as the greatest exponent of Getxo Sound.

DALE KE LIBRA. - Created in 1999 with members from Beer Mosh, Blue Velvet, King Mafrundi and Ke No Falte. The band could be labelled Latin pop, but leaves plenty of space for salsa and reggae.

DESTINO NORTE. - Juanjo Niella (vocals) and Esteban García (guitar) make up this pop duo with songs in Spanish.

DIEGO VASALLO. - Born in Donostia, the former member of Duncan Dhu - together with Mikel Erentxun - writes pop songs with intimist lyrics in Spanish.

DISTURBIO. - Made up of former members of Sálvate si Puedes, this quartet is known for its rude and lewd punk rock.

DJ AXULAR. - Gipuzkoa-born Axular Arizmendi adapts the txalaparta to techno music. In his second and most recent CD he also adds voices from the Mutriku children's choir into the mix, with contributions by Mikel Laboa.

DOCTOR DESEO. - Pop rock band from Bilbao. Ringleader Francis Diez writes songs about love and suffering, heaven and hell.

DRAGON LORD. - Founded in 1997 and based in Iruña, this fast-paced, melodic heavy metal band is known beyond our borders.

EGUEN BANDA. - Former members of Itreiz and Oskorri, this threesome started playing together in 1998 every Thursday at the Bodega Hika-Ateneo in Bilbao. The vocals, sung in Euskara, English or Spanish, become yet another instrument, respecting the origins of lyrics and vocalist alike.

EL COLOR DE LA DUDA. - Winner of the Navarra pop-rock competition in 2001

ENE BANDA. - The band embraces trikitixa, pop, rock, reggae, salsa, Cajun and Tex-Mex. Their second disc focuses more on pop.

ENRIKE ZELAYA. - Singer-songwriter who, accompanied by his accordion, has appeared on the stages of Euskal Herria for decades. His last disc, "Heritnilenio," blends some of the oldest traditional instruments (txalaparta, tobera and Zarpantzar bells), with urban drum-playing and modern keyboard. The rhythms are inspired by Carnavalesque melodies, removed from their natural setting and taken to a place where traditional music is fused with the rhythms of today.

EPELDE ETA LARRAÑAGA. - The innate, self-taught trikitilari Tomás Sorraluze (aka

Epelde), accomplished accordionist associated invariably with local processions, and Angel Larrañaga, old-school bertsolari and singer who so brilliantly combines traditional sensibilities and humor, are up to their ears in a beautiful, solid and enriching project. Their fresh style sets them apart. They are believable, simple, authentic and, most importantly, homegrown to the core.

ERASO. - One of the most robust bands on the Basque rock, metal and trash panorama today. Started in 1996, the band's strength lies in its powerful guitar playing.



ERRAMUN MARTIKORENA. - Born in the Basse-Navarre town of Baigorri and nicknamed "Otsobi," for 30 years he has divided his time between shepherding and singing. He has one of those powerful voices, yet full of emotion, both moving and natural. This outstanding, big-voiced singer is now saying his last goodbyes to the stage.

ET INCARNATUS. - Chamber orchestra comprising 14 string musicians from Gipuzkoa, whose music ranges from classical to jazz to pop to songs by Basque singer-songwriters. The group have more than 20 recordings under their belts, some of which are motion picture soundtracks. Their last record, "Troika," released in 2004, highlights Carnival tunes from Tolosa.

EURITAN BLAI. - The appearance of this band was unquestionably one

of the major events of the Basque music scene in the late 1990s. With polished sounds and surprising arrangements, tradition became yet another element to combine with their own ideas and other influences, giving way to an unmistakable style and powerful personality.

FERMIN MUGURUZA. - After playing rock, punk and ska with the band Kortatu, he formed Negu Gorriak, a pioneer in fusing styles and creating innovative compelling sounds. His later discs are an exhaustive exploration and remake of reggae via dub, drum 'n bass and a combination of new and classical sounds. His hard-driving lyrics in Euskara have led authorities to suspend several of his concerts, which hasn't kept him from embarking on successful international concert tours. Currently he is not active in the concert circuit.



FITO Y LOS FITIPALDIS. - Fito Cabrales is back with another band: Los Fitipaldis. The lead singer from Platero y Tú has recorded a collection of exquisite songs that have broken out of Platero's rock & roll mold.

FLITTER. - Founded in 1989, this is one of the longest standing groups on the Basque music scene. Its long life, coupled with an unfaltering curiosity, has defined the band as a genuine work in progress. Starting with punk and moving on to metal, its music today is marked by reggae rhythms and danceable combinations, making Flitter one of the freshest bands on the Basque music panorama today. Hundreds of concerts and a number of CDs bear them out.

FLYIN' FREAK. - Bilbao-based group that takes its inspiration from German heavy rock. Songs in English: power metal to the core. When the melodies and strength come

together, the results are amazing.



GARI. - The former member of the radical Basque rock band Hertzainak set out on his own in 1995. He has released several solo CDs, the lyrics of which are mostly sung in Euskara. His songs are direct rock, with simple instrumentation and no elaborate musical arrangements. His robust yet soft-spoken voice gives his music an unmistakable touch.

GATIBU. - Quartet from Gernika with lead singer Alex Sardui at the helm. Guitars and vocals make up the band's solid base. Released in 2002, their first CD, "Zorarena," was pure rock, sometimes cold sometimes hot - like life itself. Lyrics are sung in Euskara from Gernika.

GOLDEN APPLE QUARTET. - Quartet of male voices created in Donostia in 1986. Their love for gospel music was the common ground for their early performances, although they didn't limit themselves to one style. They blend humor and imitations of musical instruments. They have three records out and their music has been featured in several films.



GONTZAL MENDIBIL. - Basque-language singer and songwriter who initiated his career singing songs of protest during the Franco years. His latest CD came out in 2004. "Zuri so" is a combination of his own songs and songs written by Gandiaga, Kirmen Uribe and Padrón.

GONZALO TEJADA. - Influenced by so-called European jazz, for years he

has worked feverishly composing for classical and jazz groups. In his most recent work, he has fused jazz with contemporary orchestra music, and has combined regular jazz instruments with classical string orchestra music.



GOZATEGI. - Among the new trikitilari groups, the trio consisting of brother and sister Asier and Ainhoa Gozategi and Inigo Goikoetxea was one of the most successful from the outset. The group has done an excellent job of merging trikitixa and Latin rhythms, particularly cumbia and merengue, to create clean, easy-listening and very danceable melodies. They have taken part in a number of festivals and have become a highlight at festivals.

HARLAX. - The band has taken a giant step with its second CD "Ez diren gauzak ere badira". Without abandoning their heavy metal background and their melodies and choruses, they've ventured into nu-metal with the agility of rap. The title track is a poem by Joseba Sarrionandia. They've taken their lyrics, written with a critical eye, to Ireland, the USA and Turkey.

HIRU BELTZ. - This six-man band is comfortable walking the same ground as bands like Su ta Gar or Latzen. High energy, young blood and momentum, together with creative capacity and solid musicianship, are what will undoubtedly make this group one of the finest in new metal.

HIRU TRUKU. - Ruper Ordorika, Joseba Tapia and Bixente Martínez are the members of this group. They keep traditional Basque songs from sinking into oblivion.

IBON KOTERON. - Born in Bilbao, he took up alboka and bagpipes at the age of 20. He has been instrumental in rediscovering the alboka.

He founded a school dedicated to teaching the instrument to younger generations, and in collaboration with Kepa Junkera, recorded "Leon Oroak," considered a milestone for the alboka. The two musicians organized festivals to pay tribute to great traditional instrument players. Ibon has composed alboka and bagpipe theme music for radio programs. He has also recorded with a number of groups and musicians including Tapia ta Leturia, Tomás San Miguel, Berroguetto and Kepa Junkera.

IDI BIHOTZ. - Melodic and classic heavy. In "Amaigabe berria" the band turned up the heat and stepped up pace. Keyboard and choruses repeat one after another, softening the hard base with a smooth swinging beat. This is what's called power metal.

IGELAREN BANDA. - The idea that brought the members of this group together was to start with traditional melodies or rhythms, create new themes and develop the songs as freely as possible, using lessons learned from jazz and new music, but always keeping their own personality.

IKER GOENAGA. - This musician from Zizurkil's background is linked to the more acoustic and traditional aspects of trikitixa. He adds a modern and eclectic perspective to produce universal, fresh, acoustic music.

ILEON. - The five-member band started in 1997. Their main inspiration is drawn from heavy, but their music is dabbed with different styles of rock ranging from hard to glam.



IÑAKI SALVADOR. - Pianist, arranger and composer. In the area of modern music and jazz he is basically self-taught, although he's taken master classes from musicians including Dave

Liebman, Richie Beirach, Billy Hart and Roc MacLure. Since 1980 his career has taken him in several directions. He's composed and arranged music for shows, written musical scores for movies, and headed up his own jazz bands: Iñaki Salvador Trio, Naima Quartet, Andrzej Olejniczak-Iñaki Salvador Quartet, Iñaki Salvador & Zilbor Hestea. He has also recorded CDs with all of them and played in concerts and on records for a number of other musicians.

INSTRUMENTAL. - Parallel project of Javi Pez, head of Parafunk. His experimental dub took him to the top of the year's best lists in magazines like "Rock de Lux" and "Spiral."



JAVIER MUGURUZA. - Fermin Muguruza's big brother and former member of Les Mecanicis. After going solo, in 1994 he recorded a CD titled "Boza Barraun." He has played accordion for a number of Basque singer-songwriters. In recent years he has managed to take his music beyond Euskadi, working in Madrid, Zaragoza, Andalusia, Asturias and Catalonia. He continues to balance music with literature and collaborates regularly in literary and musical projects.

JAUKO BARIK. - This all-girl trio borrows from punk, metal, pop and rock to create their own songs. The result is refreshing and solid. Based in Donostia, Enara, Haizea and Itsaso are making their way into the world of rock 'n' roll.

JEAN BORDAXAR. - Somewhere between traditional and modern, he has contributed new styles to the music of Zuberoa. Brought up among the ancient sounds of a capella, he wanted to open a new window and show the outside outside world the

energy of Zuberoa today. His first CD titled "Adiskideer" is the result. And like all the great voices of Zuberoa, he has also composed music for pastorals ("Agirre Presidenta").

JIMMY ARRABIT SOUND SYSTEM. - The drummer from Itoiz is back with melodies created for the direct public. He meshes sounds from Jamaica and Cuba with techno. His electro-dub uses acoustic instruments, plus sampler + synthesizer. He is joined in live gigs by Seb Lekuona on bass and Audrey Laport on sampler and groove box.

JOHN WAYNE. - In 1999 they edited and recorded their own CD titled "Grandes Éxitos". Good melodies full of fresh energy, and songs in Spanish, along the lines of good old pop rock bands.

JOSEBA TAPIA. - One of the best diatonic accordion players and composers of recent years. Together with Leturia, he created a new school of folk, dance and popular procession music. He launched his solo career in 1998 with "Apoaren edertasuna," putting music to the words of Koldo Izagirre. The following year saw the release of "Québec: 14 kantu independentziarako", an acoustic album featuring a number of singer-songwriters from Quebec, and Tapia himself, accompanied by arrangements for accordion, guitar, violin and bass. His latest disc, "Agur Intxorta maite," was released in late 2001, featuring a number of unpublished and unknown songs from the Spanish Civil War of '36. This highly acoustic work is made up of 20 songs rendered in an austere, direct style with different types of accordions and voices.



JOSETXO GOIA-ARIBE & MADDI OIHENART. - Maddi Oihenart is considered by critics, commentators and musicians alike to be one of the richest, most sincere

and least rose-tinted voices in Basque music today. Her style of singing, a product of her heritage, keeps young audiences spellbound. Joxetxo Goia-Arribé brings together the elements and instruments of traditional music, and adds a personal touch to his compositions.

JOXAN GOIKOETXEA. - Energy and multiplicity mark the career of this eclectic and innovative musician. His facet as an accordion player, both solo and in cooperation with a long list of musicians, singers and bands, rounds out his facet as composer and producer.



JUAN CARLOS PÉREZ. - Former lead vocalist of the legendary Basque rock band Itoiz, Juan Carlos later set out on his own to explore other worlds. Over the past ten years he has created theme music for television, compositions for string quartets and musical soundtracks for films, without abandoning pop rock. He has also recorded a number of albums.



JUAN MARI BELTRÁN. - This seasoned researcher and promoter of traditional Basque music created "Arditurri," a journey through the many paths of traditional Basque music. In this work he does a splendid job of combining the old with the new.

KAOTIKO. - The band formed in July 2000 after some of the members of Kaos Etiliko decided to leave the group. They belong to the Agurain-Salvatierra school and are

faithful followers of their guru, La Polla. Their first CD, "Mundo Kaotiko," delves into the tendencies of punk rock, with short, fast, lively tracks and catchy chorus lines. The guitars are the jumping off point, with vocals reminiscent of punk rock festivals.

KAUTA. - Quartet from Andoain and winner of the 2003 "Grupos Noveles" prize awarded by radio station Euskadi Gaztea. Hyper melodic metal. The weight and intensity of metal contrasts with the level, even-keeled vocals of the band's singer, Mikel, associated with pop-style melodies. Their first CD, "Izan zaitez zu" (Be yourself), released in 2004, is a combination of rock and hardcore.



KEN ZAZPI. - Few groups have become so popular after their debut release. The five-member band Busturialdea dazzled thousands of listeners with "Atzo da bihar" thanks to melodic pop rock and catchy lyrics.

KEPA JUNKERA. - From an early age Kepa Junkera was involved in dance and traditional rhythms. He learned to play the accordion and showed an interest in trying new things. He combined his music with jazz and later with folk-rock music. His inspiration has come from all corners of the globe, sharing both stage and recording studio with such artists as: La Bottine Souriante, Phil Cunningham, Béla Fleck, Pedro Guerra, Hedningarna, Máirtín O'Connor, Liam O'Flynn, Carlos Núñez, Paddy Moloney, María del Mar Bonet, Justin Vall, Glen Véléz, Voces Búlgaras, Caetano Veloso and Dulce Pontes. Together with his band he creates a fine-tuned machine, and is considered the best performer on the scene today. "Maren" won him a Gold Record six months after its release. Another one of his albums, "K," was

awarded a Latin Grammy for the Best Folk Album.

KEU. - This group started in the jazz-rock scene, exploring different styles used by the members in their regular bands.

KONTRAIRO. - Folk music ensemble consisting of eight musicians from different parts of Euskal Herria. For seven long years the group has performed on stages in numerous towns, playing songs from their CDs plus other traditional melodies.

KUDAI. - The band started in 2002 with guitar, bass and rock drums. More members signed on later with the idea of playing industrial metal backed by samplers and sequencers. Synthesizers and computers were used in their first disc titled "Hutsa." The hard edge is sweetened by the voice of the vocalist. The inspiration for the band's style and look comes from two groups: Fear Factory and Rob Zombie.



LA BUENA VIDA. - This quartet from Donostia plays slushy, mellow pop. Their songs are lyrical, melancholic and cosmopolitan, highlighted by the soft voice of the sweet Irantzu Valencia.



LA OREJA DE VAN GOGH. - Euskal Herria's most international pop group. Their three CDs have sold over a quarter of a million copies worldwide. They've been awarded 42 Platinum and 8 Gold Records. Their concerts fill auditoriums in Latin America and Europe.

LA SEDA. - The group's CD "Dulce arañazo" features eleven songs and six interludes - perfect for dancing. Stunning sounds, beautiful, well-crafted production and bewitching

songs that speak of hedonism and pleasure, an ethereal reflection of every inch of the body, desire, and the need for a gentle touch. Discerning electro-pop rock. **LÁTEX.** - Quintet from Vitoria-Gasteiz that could be categorized as part of the new generation of punk groups. Released years ago, "Más allá del orgasmo" was their first disc. "No hay raza peligrosa" is punk rock in its purest state - no sweeteners added.



LEHIOTIKAN. - Punk rock foursome from Iruñea, via California, one might say. Melodic hardcore forged on the streets, with lots of attitude and lyrics worth a second read.

LINGERIE. - The band started in 1998, and after creating some 20 songs and producing a rough cut, they decided to venture out. Initially they were called Ricoamor. They perform in major cities throughout Spain, showing their admiration for some of the more dramatic icons of pop and rock: Leonard Cohen, Nick Cave, Elliot Murphy, The Doors . . .

LIZARRAKO GAITEROAK. - One of the most representative instruments in Nafarroa is the gaita, or bagpipes, a sound familiar all over Euskal Herri thanks to this group from Estella.

LOR. - Quartet from Elorrio, Bizkaia, whose style is founded on melodic rock. Their tastes are varied, ranging from pop to more metallic sounds, depending on their instincts. Their trump card is Dummy's ability to tackle the group's melodies with voice or guitar licks. Their lyrics preach non-conformity; their war cry "no somos cómodos sofás" (we're not comfy couches). The very name of the band shows how eager they are to accomplish things (Lor = attain).

LOS MUELLES. - Kaban and Chano were members of Los Rotos, a beer-guzzling, non-combustible R&B band. Since then they are

musically inseparable, deeply united by their love for the Beatles and music with black roots. Kaban provides the bass and the voice. Chano plays a mean, fast-moving guitar and Carlos is an authentic jackhammer.

LOS WHITOS. - Band from Bizkaia. Combative guitar-filled rock that speaks of society's injustice and incomprehension. With a healthy dose of humor, they remind us of bands like La Polla, Los Suaves or Reincidentes.



LUIS CAMINO Y ABYA YALA. - Self-taught percussionist born in San Sebastián who intermittently appears and disappears from the scene. His first record came out in 1978 and in 1987 he founded 21 Japonesas, with whom he has made four discs. He has worked with an endless list of musicians. His most recent CD, "Idiosincrasia," was released in May 2002.

LUTHER. - Heavy metal

MAIXA. - Maixa Lizarribar started out on a fruitful but intermittent career. With her former group, Maixa ta Ixiar (1988-1999), she played festival and popular procession music, and recorded four records that were important to her career. She later recorded a more intimist album which features a beautiful fusion of traditional music and jazz.

MANGO MELAO. - Irrefutable proof that music knows no boundaries. This group combines musicians from two continents to produce Latin rhythms full of flavor and tropical heat.



MAREA. - After three earlier successes, the band came back in 2004 with a new album titled "28.000 puñaladas," joined by some high-powered musicians.

MARIFE NOGALES. - Born in Andoain, Marife studied voice and accordion, and became known on ETB as the winner of the "Izar Bila" competition. She is also known for her work with "Sorginen Laratza" and "Agur 2000 Kantuz."

MARKOS UNTZETA. - Markos began his musical career on the English-speaking stages, where much of his inspiration was taken. He creates songs accompanied by a potent electric folk-rock style band.

MICHEL ETCHEVERRY. - Born in Heleta, he was known as a pelota player before becoming a singer. He soon started entertaining pelota and rugby crowds with his music. Now he sings traditional music in Euskara and French. He has recorded nine CDs.



MIKEL EREÑTUXUN. - Former member of Duncan Dhu, founding fathers of the so-called Donostia pop movement, with ten CDs on the market. In 1992 he went solo and has since released six CDs in Spanish. Mikel has a busy agenda both here and abroad. He's given concerts in the USA - Chicago, Los Angeles and Anaheim - and in Mexico.

MIKEL ERRAZKIN. - Composer, arranger and former leader of Sorotan Bele, for which he played flute and wrote songs. In 1995 he released a solo album, "Bostan arte," and now works on a number of projects to round out his solo career.



MIKEL LABOA. - Born in Donostia, doctor and psychiatrist by profession, Mikel Laboa is considered one of the most respected figures in contemporary Basque song and one of the most influential for the younger generation. His music could be defined as a

combination of tradition, poetry and experimentalism. He was one of the creators of the legendary cultural group Ez Dok Amairu. After 35 years dedicated to song, he is now irresistibly drawn to all sorts of creative processes, particularly by young people. He no longer performs in public.



MIKEL MARKEZ. - Singer-songwriter from Renteria active in the world of song for 17 years. Poems by Lizardi, Pako Aristi and Sarrionandia can be heard in some of his songs. His latest disc, *Erabil mazazu,* was released at the end of 2004



MIKEL URDANGARIN. - Revelation in the Basque music world. His latest recordings have been sales successes. The songs he sings at his concerts are infused with folk. The direct, naked style of his early years has given way to more modern elaborate arrangements.

MIREN ARAMBURU. - In recent years, this vocalist has concentrated on the world of jazz. She has had two CDs released, the latest in the autumn of 2002. Acoustic and raw in live gigs.



MIZTURA. - Formed in the summer of 1996 in Donostia. The band writes its own songs. 2002 saw the release of their first CD, followed by another the following year. They also put together "Arrazen miztura," an audiovisual show for the Plaza Festival in Donostia. They also took part in the Tanned Tin festival in Santander.

MUGATIK. - Extreme hardcore with subtle metallic influences. The band took

second prize in the metal section at the Villa de Bilbao 2000 competition. **NAÏVE.** - Their musical world is full of different styles. Starting with melodic, they are known to delve into the deepest darkest pits, because that's precisely where there's still a lot to discover.

NOK. - The bank revolves around Paul Erdozia. They mesh hardcore with a smattering of punk. Attitude, courage, strength and a fighting spirit are coupled with integrity, skill and the desire to live life to its fullest.

NON DEMONTRE. - Started in 1995, for four years the band's musical activity was limited to concerts. After some 80 live performances, the group scaled down to four members. Then they began to craft their first LP, recorded in May 2000.

NOVA. - All of the members came from other bands. Lovers of rock music, they decided to focus on melody, but with the kick of metal in their guitars and vocals, and a touch of keyboards for atmosphere. Their lyrics are in Euskara, with a few songs in English.



NUEVO CATECISMO CATÓLICO. - Two groups were created from the ashes of La Perrera: this one and Señor No. Both were faithful to their roots, claiming the punk style of La Banda Trapera del Río. NCC don't feel identified with radical Basque rock. Their lyrics are intelligent, direct and simple. In concert they rock the stage like very few others.

NUMEN. - The most extreme metal band in Euskadi started up in 1997 with sounds based on black death metal and elements of folk and traditional Basque music. Their songs talk about Basque traditions, legends and mythology.

Their first work, a mini-CD with five tracks, was a harbinger for their excellent debut, a disk that

got raving reviews in Europe, America and Japan.

ÑACO GOÑI. - Bluesman considered one of the best harmonists in Europe. His professional career began at the age of 14, when he left school and started playing the harmonica in the Madrid metro in the company of Malcolm Scarpa.

OBLIGACIONES. - "Rápido y sucio" is the title of the work that put the band on the Spanish punk and hard rock map. It was given excellent reviews and in several publications described as one of the best albums of 2000.



OLAITZ ZUGASTLI. - Singer and harp player for Benito Lertxundi's ensemble. She has also had a short but successful solo career. "Bulun-bulunka," her second record, features 14 lullabies from a songbook compiled by Resurrección María de Azkue. This sweet, tender work is filled with emotion and embellished with guitar arrangements by Angel Unzu.

ONDDO. - Quartet from Navarra whose members have toiled in an endless number of bands, town squares and recordings under the guise of new trends in pop music. The band is eclectic but meticulous with its melodies and arrangements.



OREKA TX. - The duo explores tradicional txalaparta and experiments with other rhythms and tones using stone, metal and other materials. The

result is an extraordinary concoction of sounds. They are spectacular to watch, working in absolute unison, exuding variety, musical sensitivity and rich tones.



OSKORRI. - Clean, fresh, spontaneous and full of life. Oskorri is the perfect balance between vocal and instrumental, ballad and dance, acoustic and eclectic, traditional and modern. Their music can't be labelled. It draws its inspiration from new sounds steeped in traditional but with an innovative perspective, characterized by richness, quality and universality.

OST. - Formed in 1996 in Bermeo. Songs in Euskara. Extreme metal is their thing, true to the latest in US metal but with a force and personality of their own.



PANTXOA ETA PEIO. - The songs of Lapurdi-born Pantxoa Carrere and Peio Ospital are a part of Euskal Herria's collective memory. They were the voice and heart of Basque patriots in the trying times of the seventies. Their music spoke of their language and the reprisals and resignation of the working class. Their songs based on poems by Telesforo Monzón and Manex Pagola have passed down from generation to generation, becoming Basque classics. Their music is beautiful, humble and moving.

PARASMA. - The musical repertoire of this five-member band from Lekeitio ranges from the hard sounds of thrash metal to death and core. Picking up the pieces from Etsaiak, drummer Toki

provides backup vocals and percussion for gigs.

PASCAL GAIGNE. - Pascal Gaigne, is one of the best and most prolific musicians in the film world, was born in Normandy and lives in Euskadi. Over the years the composer and multi-instrumentalist has left his exquisite musical mark in the way of soundtracks for dance, film, theater and television.



PETTI. - Existential songsmith. Petti has nothing to do with any other Basque singer-songwriter. His slow languid voice and the way he rips into the guitar are absolutely unique.

PIER PAUL BERZAITZ. - Vascophile, composer of pastorals and the music of Zuberoa. Founder of the band Guk. In 1987 he published his first album, "Baratze bat," followed by "Baratze bat." Today he is among the singers that have led the way to a new, more urban feel to the songs of Zuberoa. His songs express feelings and frustrations associated with the Basque language and preconceived misconceptions about Zuberoa.

PI-LT. - This rock band from Mungia creates fantastic lyrics based on a clear and provocative vision of the present.

PIN PAN PUN BAND. - Potpourri of cultures, sounds and musicians. The ensuing tutti frutti links up Euskal Herria and Latin America to bring us a very tasty dish. Batucada, conga drums, percussion, salsa, rock, metal, txalaparta, horn, Cuban timba and techno give life to the band's multicultural rainbow. The perfect mix for a wild, frenetic and fun concert.

PIRINEOS JAZZ ORCHESTRA. - Big band made up of 19 reputed jazz musicians from Euskadi, Navarra and the Aquitaine region. Their repertoire includes compositions by conductor Iñaki Askunze and bass player Gonzalo Tejada, with classical arrangements by Askunze and Laurente Agnés. Their first CD was recorded in 2004 at a concert in Bruges, Belgium.

PISO 31. - Created in 1998. The band has since performed concerts all over Spain, promoting its first CD "Muchos días buenos... y alguno malo," released in June 2001.

POTROTAINO. - Punk rock since 1984. The band's third disc is a return to their original style in all its untamable glory.

POTXO TORENA. - Unusual voice, direct and to-the-point messages. Music for slow or fast dancing. Pleasant, easy-listening tunes with lyrics that reflect the feelings and experiences of a musician caught somewhere between Euskadi and Andalusia.

RHUNE. - Synonymous with celebration, movement, joy, dance and commitment. Rhune is the union of two musical worlds. One is a summons to traditional roots and vestiges, and the other, the impetus and rebellion of rock. Violins, flutes, accordions add a lively counterpoint to their songs.

ROGELIO BOTANZ. - Spanish is sometimes replaced with Euskara or Guanche. Interactive psychosomatic music.



RUPER ORDORIKA. - One of the most important rock singer-songwriters on the entire Basque music scene. His huge repertoire includes his own work, songs with lyrics by author Bernardo Atxaga, and traditional music. Backed by an in-depth understanding of Basque music heritage, ever since his first album Ruper Ordorika has been active in

refurbishing the musical landscape of Euskal Herria. He gives numerous concerts and goes on tour with his inseparable Mugalaris. Ordorika is also a member of Hiru Truku.



SAGARROI. - Inigo Muguruza comes back with a guitar rock trio influenced by hardcore and power pop, leaving behind the Caribbean sounds of Joxe Ripiau.

SEGISMUNDO TOXICÓMANO. - Punk fivesome from Alava who slowly but surely have climbed their way to the upper echelons of Spanish punk.

SEIURTE. - Following the release of their first disc, the group divided their time between summer festivals and new compositions, and before they knew it, they had the makings of a new CD. In "Ekiozu" their live gigs are accentuated and their sound beefed up.



SELEKTA KOLEKTIBOA. - Hip-hop beat and biting words of protest are the stuff of this band, the proud parents of the first hip hop CD recorded in Euskara.

SEN. - Melodic pop rock sounds with lots of guitar and a set of songs with solid rhythm.



SEÑOR NO. - This is the other half of La Perrera, the half that does punk. The quartet from Donostia is one of the most venerated bands on the Spanish rock scene. Their punk rock discography is admirable, their live performances savage and explosive.

SIN MAS. - The band started in 2002 with members from

different bands and musical styles. The former musicians from Biok, Noraezean, T.P.P. eta H.K.M have their base camp in Galdakao, where they churn out bad-ass, hard-driving rock. Their first album reveals their unique way of meshing good ol' rock 'n roll with metal. The members of the band saw to all the record-making details: recording, mixing, production, masterization and design.



SKALARIAK. - From vintage 60s ska to breakneck 90s ska, a foray into reggae and a smattering of punk, little by little this band has managed to make a name for itself on the international scene. Their concert tours have taken them to Italy, Switzerland, Mexico, Germany and Spain.

SKUNK. - Ska-punk-hardcore band created in 1990 and based in Hendaia. The group has taken its Basque music and lyrics to countries like Lebanon, Canada, Austria, Czech Republic and Denmark. Their wind section is razor sharp. Awesome live. "Giltzak," their seventh and most recent album, features hyperactive ska, the group's forté.



SOCIEDAD ALKOHOLIKA. - Pioneers of hardcore radical Basque music. Ruthless lyrics set to a brutal beat. Before their first album was released they'd already made a name for themselves in Spain thanks to a rough cut titled "Intoxicación etilica," later to become the title track of one of their CDs.

SPLIT 77. - Vibrant sound, sometimes slow, sometimes rocking. These boys from Bilbao combine melodies and acoustic distortions to perfection. In 2004 they

released their second CD, "Mentura," featuring original songs and versions of Itoiz, Joy División and Nico.

SU TA GAR. - Pioneer heavy band with lyrics in Euskara created in 1987. Protest and social struggle are underlying themes in all eight of their CDs. The band have performed in over 500 concerts and sold 100,000 records. Their first live recording titled "Jo Ta Ke" is a perfect illustration of their career and showmanship.



TAPIA ETA LETURIA. - Joseba Tapia and Xabier Leturia modernized trikitixa, lifting it from local processions and country dances and bringing it to bars, town squares, and above all to the younger generation. Since then many new groups have followed in their footsteps. All of their albums feature a surprising combination of rhythms uninhibited by musical preconceptions (rock, pop, trash, Arab music and rap). Today it is just as enjoyable to dance to the music of this acoustic quartet in the town square as it is hear them on stage at one of the leading international folk festivals.

THE STARLITES. - Born in 1996, the band continues to produce good reggae, ska and rock steady. There have been very few changes in the band's makeup and their CD "Bikini Groovy" is becoming a European hit.

TIRRI TARRA. - Three decades of history have converted a fanfare band into an increasingly mature, charismatic and paradigmatic group of musicians. The 25-member symphony-edged proposal takes audiences to other worlds through music, illumination and imagination. Blues-loving guitarist who's been performing concerts for nearly two decades, but his résumé doesn't end there. His first CD, backed by a long list of artists, is Blues with a capital B.

TONTXU. - Básico" is a collection of the best songs from Tontxu's three albums. Antonio Vega, Kepa Junkera and Olga Cerpa de Mestisay worked with him on this project, a CD featuring live versions of songs from the musician's career. Tontxu's versatility makes it easy for him to fit in with other groups, adapting to virtually any type of program or venue.

TREPI ETA ARAWAK. - Surprising reggae with roots in their disc "Sorterria." The band is a smooth reggae machine. And if you add Trepi's skilful vocals and his catchy, seductive chorus lines, the result is instantly believable.

TRIKI TA KE. - Their first disc is full of surprises and hits. The sounds of the trikitixa range from folk to a kind of pop, with steady rhythm and playful accordion and guitar riffs. Added to the mix is the crisp, clear voice of Anabel Arraiza. The musicians may be young but not inexperienced, playing earlier with Maixa ta Ixiar and Gozategi.

TRÍO VERACRUZ. - This trio, one woman and two men dedicated in heart and soul to music, create and recreate songs. "Amar y vivir" is the name of their 1999 release.

TTAKI! - These boys from Donostia are another one of the great ska bands still alive and kicking in Euskadi. A mix of classic ska and reggae, accompanied by tell-it-like-it-is Basque lyrics, create a fresh and convincing sound. Their live performances are a great way to spend an intense evening listening to the sounds of Jamaica.

TXALAPARTA TTUKUNAK. - Twin sisters Maika and Sara Gómez start with tradition and spice it up with new shapes sounds and rhythms. Their creation is the product of improvisation, which explains why the rapport between the two txalaparta players is so important.



TXAPELPUNK. - Their songs have the fragrance and frenzy of punk, but with other colors thrown in. Rock melodies, lightness of the songs, quality of the singing and unforgettable choruses are Txapelpunk's secret weapon.

TXUMA MURUGARREN. - After seven years as leader, composer and vocalist of the rock band Sasoi Ilunak, Txuma Murugarren started his solo career with an acoustic album of raw songs called "Nere leihoak." In 2001 his second disc was released, featuring a modern combination of electric and rock. His poetic lyrics and characteristic voice enhance his well-crafted style of rock. He is one of the most important names in singer-songwriter rock in the Basque Country.

URGABE. - The band has a special sense of music and a lot of experience with traditional tunes. Their roots go back to 1994. Since then the band has been extremely popular at numerous festivals and local processions, and have over 500 concerts under their belt. The group's forté is playing before live audiences.

XARNEGE. - Xarnege is a Gascon word which refers to villages on the Gascony-Basque border in which people express themselves in both Basque and Gascon. The group's musical project is a blending and includes many of the abundant elements common to both cultures. Joan Baudoin Matèu Baudoin and Roman Baudoin join Basque musicians Juan Ezeiza and Josean Martín Zarko to create a common ground for the musical tradition of the members' two places of origin: Gascony and the Basque Country. Traditional music from both sides of the western Pyrenees, Bearn, Navarra and the Basque Country make up their repertoire of songs, dances

and tunes. "Gauoko lan musika-Música de contrabanda," their first CD, was released at the end of 2004.

XUKAN. - The group put together a show called "Iturrian zer dago?" featuring dance, trikitixa and verses, offering each of the three parts separately or a combination of all three. The stage for "Iturrian zer dago?" is an old public clothes washing facility. Mothers and daughters meet to do the laundry, while fathers and sons converge on the drinking fountain.

YELLOW FINGERS. - The core of the band is Juan Luis Crónico, former leader of the defunct Power-Trio, erstwhile Los Crónicos. Top-rate compositions and instrumentation mark their resurgence.

YENIN. - The group has played gigs in youth clubs, bars and public venues. They'd like to work with musicians interested in the less common musical styles heard today, including blues, jazz and funky.

ZAPORAIN. - Alternative rock mixed with influences taken from Celtic, Irish, and Basque rock. Pure party rock 'n roll.

ZEA MAYS. - Formed in Bilbao in 1997. Their first CD, titled "Zea Mays," came out a year later. In 2000 the band recorded its second album, "Elektrizitatea," taking it on tour to Holland. The same year it was also awarded the best record of the year in Euskal Herria by "Mondo Sonoro" magazine.

ZEI. - Although they've been compared to bands like Extremoduro, Los Suaves, Eskorbuto, Boikot, Cicatriz, La Polla, Reincidentes and R.I.P., Zei goes one step further. Based on pure feeling, they put all of their energy, rage and desire into expressing their ideas and concerns through their music.

ZODIACS. - This band creates refreshing, powerful and very entertaining songs. They shy away from labels, are seriously into the guitar, and follow certain patterns ranging from pop to furious punk.