BASQUE MUSIC
CELTIC CONNECTIONS 2019

BASQUE WORLD MUSIC
A—Z GUIDE
2019
Europeans share a rich cultural heritage from centuries of trade and migration. Linguistic and cultural diversity is one of Europe’s main assets, each of us contributing with our uniqueness.

BASQUE. is a window into a land (the land of Basque or Euskara), a history, a way of seeing the world. It is the expression of a culture proud of its heritage, a people that have learned to embrace difference to create a new vision for tomorrow.

BASQUE. opens a new door to discovering Basque culture through music, dance, theatre, cinema, literature, art... And the Basque language. It is a place to share ideas, build bridges, spark new conversation, and foster dialogue between cultures.
This catalogue of musicians is a true reflection of the world music scene in the Basque Country today. These groups and soloists make up a rich, varied and constantly evolving universe of traditional, singer-songwriter, folk and fusion music.

Some have enjoyed long careers and recognition both at home and abroad, while others are new. But they all form part of a thriving and diverse corpus which we hope you’ll enjoy.

We are a country with a rich musical culture. That is why we’ve been working for years to reach a larger international audience. Now under the name Basque Music, our efforts are part of a framework of strategic cooperation between the Basque music sector and various public entities.

Jarraian aurkezten dizuegun artisten katalogoak, herri musikaren, folkaren, kantagintzaren edo fusionaren alorean gaur egun Euskal Herrian dagoen sormena islatzen du. Talde eta bakarleri hauek etengabe bilakatzen doan unibertsio aberats eta askotarikoa osatzen dute.


2zio

Rap / Hip Hop

2zio’s debut album is dark, complete with activist lyrics. The second album tackles intense emotions and social criticism. Despite the band’s short existence, they played at the most important festivals in the Basque Country.

Alboka

Folk / Roots / World

The veteran group Alboka, one of the best-known and most representative in Basque traditional music, specialise in presenting old music – both sung and instrumental – in a new guise, as well as composing new material in a convincingly traditional style.

Alos Quartet

Classic / Contemporary / Roots

Alos Quartet is a seasoned string quartet playing classical and folk music. Their latest disc, Garden (2016), is a beautiful combination of classical and modern music.

Amorante

Folk / Roots / Fusion

Amorante, aka Iban Urizar, walks on stage with a Spanish guitar, ukulele, cornet, harmonium, bell, and percussion instruments. With a looper he mixes, creates and plays with the sounds in a fascinating dichotomy of tradition and improvisation.

Contact
2zio.rap@gmail.com
facebook.com/2ZIOrap

Contact
Aztarna
+34 656 785 767
aztarna@aztarna.com
aztarna.com

Contact
xabizebe@gmail.com
alosquartet.com

Contact
Narvale booking
+34 645 704 252
narvalebooking@gmail.com
facebook.com/pages/category/Musician-Band/Amorante

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Anne Etchegoyen
Folk / Roots / Fusion
The young singer from Bidart has taken Basque musical heritage to the international stage, coming home to huge success in France and among her local audience.

Contact
Producciones Serrano
+34 946 765 631
serrano@pserrano.com
anne-etchegoyen.com

Atlanticë Ria
Folk / World / Roots
Jose Luis Montón, Gorka Hermosa and Mu Mbana present a fusion of different musical cultures bathed by the Atlantic. The group focuses mainly on Guinea Bissau, flamenco and the Basque Country, blending the three types of music to create their own unique voice.

Contact
Artimaña Records
+34 687 737 822
javetalopez@gmail.com
artimanarecords.com
+34 677 215 586
gorka@gorkahermosa.com
karabansarai.eu/atlantia

Aupa Quartet
Jazz / Fusion / World
The Aupa Quartet composes and plays modern music, with a special focus on improvisation. They draw their inspiration from jazz, funk, Cuban son and flamenco in developing their own signature style.

Contact
+34 656 832 167 / +34 635 753 344
info@aupaquartet.com
aupaquartet.com

Bas(h)oan
Folk / Roots
A surprisingly unique and transgressive undertaking by these virtuosic musicians. These unclassifiable musicians use the spirit of Robbie Basho as the jumping off point to experiment and rejoice in music.

Contact
Elkar
+34 943 310 267
elkarargitaletxea@elkar.eus
elkarargitaletxea.eus

Contact
Jose Luis Montón, Gorka Hermosa
Mu Mbana

Contact
Artimaña Records
javetalopez@gmail.com
artimanarecords.com

Contact
Elkar
elkarargitaletxea@elkar.eus
elkarargitaletxea.eus
Benito Lertxundi

Folk / Roots / World / Fusion

After a musical career spanning half a century, this Orio-born bard is a major name in Basque folk. His songs are part of the collective imaginary for several generations. Not to be missed.

Bidaia

Folk / Roots / World

Mixel Ducau (formerly of Errobi and Zaldibobo) and Californian Caroline Phillips take us on a journey of sounds based on Basque traditions and enhanced by different types of music and sound traditions. *Hitza* (2016) is their latest release.

Dead Bronco

Rock / Punk / Americana

Dead Bronco, led by the US-born Matt Horan, announces its new project with a new format, a new tour, a new album – *Driven By Frustration* – and a new sound called Americana Sludge. Pure energy and an explosive live show.

Elena Setién

Jazz/ Fusion

Songwriter and pianist from San Sebastian. Her first solo album, *Dreaming of Earthly Things*, is innovative and contains fine jazz elements. She has recently signed with Thrill Jockey Records and will release a new CD in 2019.

Contact

Elkar
+34 943 310 267
elkarargitaletxea@elkar.eus
facebook.com/benitolertxundiofiziala

Contact

MaidoKult
+33 (0) 647 886 132
bidaia.com

Contact

+34 665 73 79 27
info@deadbronco.com
deadbronco.com

Contact

Eduardo Ranedo
eduardo.ranedo@euskaltax.com
elenasetien.com
The band’s multidimensional approach to music brings us richly nuanced sounds with intelligently-crafted melodies and powerful rhythms. The result is eclectic and exotic – jazz with a personality of its own.

*Maitatzea nahiago* is Eneko Larrañaga’s second world music album. He plays the Kora (African harp) to accompany his original songs sung in Basque and Mandingo. Joyful rhythms, sweet melodies and lyrics that speak of love, life and trust.

Eñaut Elorrieta (Guernica, 1975), founder and singer of the popular group Ken Zazpi, started his solo career in 2013 with the release of *Deserriko kantak*, a disc filled with emotion and yearning, layered with a warm voice and suggestive melodies.

Since its formation by Xabi Solano in 2007, different worlds have come together in this melting pot with Basque and rebel roots. *Esna* (2016) is the band’s latest release.

**Elkano Browning Cream**  
**Jazz / Fusion**  

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**Enekora**  
**Roots / World / Fusion**  

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**Eñaut Elorrieta**  
**Pop / Folk / Singer-songwriter**  

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**Esne Beltza**  
**Rock / Roots / Fusion**  

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**Euskal Barrokensemble**

**World**

Euskal Barrokensemble (Basque Baroque Ensemble) owes its name to the historical performance practice, even if improvisation and traditional music (especially the rich legacy of the Basque one) are essential to their modus operandi. “Genuine, alive and eclectic”, they perform “an astonishing and fascinating range of music”. Some of their future appointments include the Royal Albert Hall and the Carnegie Hall.

**Contact**
+34 666 739 044
enrikesolinis@gmail.com
ebe.eus

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**Garikoitz Mendizabal**

**Folk / Roots / World**

Garikoitz Mendizabal balances his role as director of Bilbao’s Txistulari Band with his solo career. His personal style of playing the txistu takes him from tradition to experimentation to fusion.

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**Ghost Number & His Tipsy Gypsies**

**Swing / Country / Jazz**

The band offers a brand new approach, hiding the structures of rock within sounds and instruments from another age to bring us eclectic, fresh and stylish sounds with hints of country, 20s swing and calypso.

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**Glaukoma**

**Rap / Reggae / Fusion**

The band is made up of drums, bass, guitars and vocals. Glaukoma mixes rap and reggae with other musical influences. The result ranges from the sweetest reggae roots to the hardest rap and ragga jungle to the most melodic raggamuffin.

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**Contact**
+34 675 376 897
ghostnumber.htg@gmail.com
facebook.com/ghostnumberandhistipsygypsies

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**Contact**
+34 690 622 498
gari@garikoitzmendizabal.com
garikoitzmendizabal.com

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**Contact**
+34 675 376 897
ghostnumber.htg@gmail.com
facebook.com/ghostnumberandhistipsygypsies

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**Bidean Produkzioak**

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**Contact**
+34 675 376 897
ghostnumber.htg@gmail.com
facebook.com/ghostnumberandhistipsygypsies

---

**Contact**
Bidean Produkzioak
+34 647 024 034
info@bideanprodukzioak.com
bideanprodukzioak.com
In the early 90s, Gozategi caused a revolution on the Basque stage with a refreshing fusion of trikitixa and pop songs that were built to last. Since then, they have released several discs and continue to play with the same enthusiasm today.

Created in 2014 in Bilbao, the band consists of five people who met at university. In 2016 they recorded their first CD (Ertzetatik). Their song Aldapan gora became an unexpected hit, currently the most viewed music video in Basque (7.5 million views). Their music continues to reach a wider audience, not only in the Basque Country but also in Spain, France, Japan, Argentina and Uruguay.

Gorka Hermosa
Fusion / Roots / Contemporary
Internationally acclaimed composer and accordionist. Hermosa’s music has been played by musicians from around the world. Although trained in contemporary classical music, his penchant for experimentation has brought the accordion to the forefront.

Huntza
Folk / Pop
Jazz and traditional music merge exquisitely in this trio featuring Bixente Martinez (formerly of Oskorri). In their latest disc, the group freely adapts melodies used by bertsolaris.

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Igelaren Banda
Folk / Roots / Jazz
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Contact
Mauka Musikagintza
+34 680 254 735
info@maukamusik.com
maukamusik.com
huntza.eus

Contact
Syntorama
+34 943 314 800
syntorama@syntorama.com
syntorama.com

Contact
Gorka Hermosa
+34 677 21 55 86
gorka@gorkahermosa.com
gorkahermosa.com

Contact
Gozategi
+34 689 701 627
gozategi.eus

Contact
Igelaren Banda
Syntorama
+34 943 314 800
syntorama@syntorama.com
syntorama.com
Itziarren Semeak is a brass driven ska, punk and reggae party group that mixes in some folk music from the Basque Country. They proclaim themselves the proud heirs of RRV (Rock Radical Vasco- Basque Radical Rock).

Jabier Muguruza
Folk / Singer-songwriter

The singer-songwriter from Irun (1960) knows how to create delicate and introspective atmospheres like none other. Jabier Muguruza began his solo career in 1994 and has released fourteen discs to date.

Iñaki Salvador
Jazz / Fusion

Iñaki Salvador is a pianist, composer and arranger who studied classical piano, harmony and composition. He has released 12 albums as a leader and has appeared in more than 100 as a guest musician. He is an instructor at Musikene, the Higher School of Music of the Basque Country.

Iñaki and Dodosound crossed paths in 2014. The result is a mix of new textures and sounds and a subtle balance of digital and analogical elements leaning toward dub and reggae. With two albums and hundreds of concerts under their belt, the band enjoys undisputed success.

Contact
info@iseododosound.com
iseododosound.com

Contact
Vaivén Producciones
+34 943 423 947
info@vaivenproducciones.com
vaivenproducciones.com

Contact
+34 686 88 44 74
itziarrensemeak@hotmail.com
itziarrensemeak.com

Contact
+34 943 630 950
posta@jabiermuguruza.net
jabiermuguruza.net

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Rock / Ska / Fusion

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Contact
+34 686 88 44 74
itziarrensemeak@hotmail.com
itziarrensemeak.com

Contact
+34 943 630 950
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Contact
info@iseododosound.com
iseododosound.com

Contact
Vaivén Producciones
+34 943 423 947
info@vaivenproducciones.com
vaivenproducciones.com

Contact
+34 686 88 44 74
itziarrensemeak@hotmail.com
itziarrensemeak.com

Contact
+34 943 630 950
posta@jabiermuguruza.net
jabiermuguruza.net

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Contact
Vaivén Producciones
+34 943 423 947
info@vaivenproducciones.com
vaivenproducciones.com

Contact
+34 686 88 44 74
itziarrensemeak@hotmail.com
itziarrensemeak.com

Contact
+34 943 630 950
posta@jabiermuguruza.net
jabiermuguruza.net
Jean Mixel Bedaxagar
Folk / Roots / Jazz

Jean Mixel Bedaxagar (Urdiñarbe, 1953) is one of the best-known faces in Basque singing traditions, his songs intricately linked to tradition and nature. Belatxa (2015) is his latest release.

Josetxo Goia Aribe
Folk / Roots / Jazz

The Navarran composer and saxophonist Josetxo Goia Aribe fuses jazz and traditional music with a masterful touch. He has released several discs together with countless singers and musicians.

Juan Mari Beltran
Folk / Roots / Jazz

One of the most important figures in Basque popular music, Juan Mari Beltran is a musicologist and researcher. As an outstanding txalaparta player, he has released many discs and published research papers on folk instruments and music.

Kalakan
Folk / Roots / World

In 2012, Kalakan toured with Madonna as part of her world tour although this trio of voices and percussion does not need a fairy godmother to demonstrate their talent, quality and exquisite taste.

Contact
Syntorama
+34 943 314 800
syntorama@syntorama.com
syntorama.com

Contact
Syntorama
+34 656 620 744
josetxo@josetxogoia-aribe.com
josetxogoia-aribe.com
Photo: Koldo Chamorro

Contact
Syntorama
+34 943 314 800
syntorama@syntorama.com
syntorama.com

Contact
+33 (0) 616 675 197
kalakantrio@gmail.com
kalakan.eus

Photo: Imanol Urizar
Photo: Koldo Chamorro
Photo: Imanol Urizar
Kepa Junkera
Folk / Roots / World

Kepa Junkera has taken the trikitixa to unknown heights and faraway shores. In 2004, he won the Latin Grammy for Best Folk Album for his live disc K. Junkera has breathed new life into the diatonic accordion.

Contact
Infernuko Auspoa
+34 617 081 690
infernukauspoabilbao@gmail.com
kepajunkera.com

Korrontzi
Folk / Roots / World

Korrontzi are an amazing group who compile and transform traditional Basque music, creating a new repertoire. The group’s leader, Agus Barandiaran, has encouraged them to try their luck on the international circuit.

Contact
Korrontzi
+34 618 072 076
korrontzi@gmail.com
korrontzi.net

La Basu
Rap / Soul / Dancehall

La Basu is a role model in the feminist rap industry of the Basque Country. After 20 years she continues to sing about struggle. She is the first female soloist to release a rap album in Basque.

Contact
+34 650 081 508
haizeabeti@gmail.com
facebook.com/labasu1

Lurpekariak
Roots / Fusion

The band creates musical structures based on deeply-rooted traditional Basque music, using rich textures and sounds and lots of improvisation.

Contact
Gaztelupeko Hotsak
+34 943 753 016
gaztelupeko@hotsak.com
hotsak.com

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Contact
Infernuko Auspoa
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Contact
Gaztelupeko Hotsak
+34 943 753 016
gaztelupeko@hotsak.com
hotsak.com
Mikel Unzurrunzaga Schmitz, aka Makala, is a DJ, musician, remixer and promoter. He performs throughout Europe and is the man behind the Basque DJs collective and platform, Global Funk. Makala plays a variety of musical styles including jazz, funk, Afro-Brazilian and Latin, mixed with electronic and modern beats.

Maite Larburu's music is complex and passionate, full of freshness and purpose. Her sound combines hints of pop, jazz, blues, folk and Indian music. Her atmospheric songs, both poetic and classical, describe the small wonders of everyday life.

The music by the band from Lasarte-Oria has its roots in Africa, specifically in the Nigerian Afro-beat, fortified with jazz and funk. The result is what they themselves call “euskal afro-beat” a cocktail of lively protest rhythms interpreted in Basque.

McOnak play txistu Basque whistle, accordion, banjo, and assorted rock instruments. Their songs are written in the language of folk influenced by other genres like country, rock and punk. In 2013 they released their first album, Piraten matxinada, and in 2015 their second studio recording, Galarrena. The band is back in full force with new members and a new album, Gure naufragioak.

Maite Larburu
Jazz / Roots / Fusion

Contact
Gaztelupeko Hotsak
+34 943 753 016
gaztelupeko@hotsak.com
hotsak.com

McOnak
Folk / Rock

Contact
Mauka Musikagintza
+34 680 254 735
info@maukamusik.com
www.facebook.com/McOnak

Makala
Jazz / Soul / World / Fusion

Contact
+34 600 402 063
makala@makala.info
dj.makala.info

Makulu Ken
World / Roots

Contact
+34 640 245 772
makuluken@gmail.com
makuluken.eus

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María Berasarte
World / Blues / Jazz

María Berasarte, or ‘The Naked Voice’ as she’s called abroad, lives in constant change, evolution and emotion from the unexpected elegance of simplicity. In her live performances Berasarte enchants audiences with her clear voice and minimalist style.

Contact
Myriam Santiañez
+34 647 349 362 / +33 147 536 868
agent@mariaberastarte.com
mariaberastarte.com

Michel Etcheverry
Folk / Roots / World

His latest album, Ezinago Maitaturik, marks a turning point in Etcheverry’s career. Surrounded by young producers and musicians, he has freshened up his style and updated his songs. On this disc he sings for the first time with Miren Fernandez.

Contact
+33 (0) 559 523 903
helette@micheletcheverry.com
micheletcheverry.com

Mikel Markez
Folk / Singer-songwriter

Mikel Markez (Errenteria, 1971) began singing in public in 1988. His music is captivating, delivered with a smooth voice. He has released eight solo albums in addition to numerous compilations and other projects.

Contact
+34 656 730 215
ni@mikelmarkez.com
mikelmarkez.com

Mikel Urdangarin
Folk / Singer-songwriter

Mikel Urdangarin was a revelation back in his early days. Now after nearly 20 years, this singer-songwriter is a leading figure in Basque songwriting. His melodies with strong folk influences can be found throughout Urdangarin’s sizeable discography.

Contact
Bapo Bapo Produkzioak
+34 609 461 134
bapobapoprod@gmail.com
mikelurdangarin.eus

Maria Berasarte, ‘The Naked Voice’
Michel Etcheverry
Mikel Markez
Mikel Urdangarin

Contact
Myriam Santiañez
+34 647 349 362 / +33 147 536 868
agent@mariaberastarte.com
mariaberastarte.com

Contact
+33 (0) 559 523 903
helette@micheletcheverry.com
micheletcheverry.com

Contact
+34 656 730 215
ni@mikelmarkez.com
mikelmarkez.com

Contact
Bapo Bapo Produkzioak
+34 609 461 134
bapobapoprod@gmail.com
mikelurdangarin.eus
Moonshine Wagon

Roots / Fusion / Punk

Moonshine Wagon is one of the best-known breakout bands in the music industry. Their musical style is a mix of accelerated bluegrass, acoustic punk, accompanied by violins, guitars, banjos and mandolins.

Contact
+34 680 38 66 97
moonshinewagon@hotmail.com
facebook.com/MoonshineWagon

Mursego

Roots / World / Fusion

Maite Arroitajauregi from Eibar is the face behind Mursego. Working with percussion, flute, loop station, ukulele, cello, and vocals, she courageously and innovatively builds her songs layer by layer.

Contact
Bidehuts
ninaizmursego@gmail.com
facebook.com/Mursego
mursego.bandcamp.com

Nøgen

Folk / Pop

Created in 2016 in San Sebastian, the name of the band means “naked” in Danish. The band made its way to the top of the Basque charts with their first EP, Lys. Their latest release, Liv til Døden, came out in November. The album features catchy tunes that blend perfectly with the sound of the ukulele, creating fresh songs that combine three languages: Basque, English and Spanish.

Contact
Airaka
airakamusic.com
+34 680 254 735
info@airakamusic.com
nogenband.com

Oreka Tx

Folk / Roots / World

Since they began working together in 1997, this duo of txalaparta (a percussion instrument) players has performed at festivals around the world. The captivating way this instrument is played enchants Oreka Tx audiences wherever they go. They even use a stone txalaparta on their latest disc, Silex.

Contact
Txalaparta
+34 943 31 47 36
info@orekatx.eus
orekatx.eus

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Contact
Bidehuts
ninaizmursego@gmail.com
facebook.com/Mursego
mursego.bandcamp.com

Created in 2016 in San Sebastian, the name of the band means “naked” in Danish. The band made its way to the top of the Basque charts with their first EP, Lys. Their latest release, Liv til Døden, came out in November. The album features catchy tunes that blend perfectly with the sound of the ukulele, creating fresh songs that combine three languages: Basque, English and Spanish.

Contact
Airaka
airakamusic.com
+34 680 254 735
info@airakamusic.com
nogenband.com

Since they began working together in 1997, this duo of txalaparta (a percussion instrument) players has performed at festivals around the world. The captivating way this instrument is played enchants Oreka Tx audiences wherever they go. They even use a stone txalaparta on their latest disc, Silex.

Contact
Txalaparta
+34 943 31 47 36
info@orekatx.eus
orekatx.eus
The musician from Oñati is a driving force behind new Basque song. His first album, *Hautsi da anphora* (1980), is essential to understanding his trajectory. Ruper Ordorika is known for his wide-ranging discography and great folk-rock songs.

With its deeply-rooted gypsy and Basque tradition, Sonakay creates exquisite versions of beloved Basque music. The band has successfully introduced new sounds such as the txalaparta, tritxita and Basque and flamenco.

Pier Paul Berzaitz (1952) is one of the greatest singers to come out of Zuberoa. In short, his songbook is intricately linked to the traditions and people of his homeland. His latest disc is *Egunsetiaren kantak*.

Pauline eta Juliette bring a fresh new sound to Basque folk music. Singing in Basque, French and English accompanied by guitar, *Hegaldaka* combines traditional songs and new compositions filled with feeling and emotion.

Pier Paul Berzaitz
Folk / Rock

Ruper Ordorika
Folk / Roots / World

Sonakay
Folk / Roots / World

Contact
Aztarna
Elkar
Syntorama

Agorila
Kontratazioa@elkar.eus
Aztarna@aztarna.com
Elkar@gmail.com

Pauline eta Juliette
Folk / Roots / Pop

Contact
Agorila
agorila.basquemusic@gmail.com
agorila.com
**Tadusak**  
Folk / Roots / World  
Made up of musicians who got their start in bands such as Ganbara, Alboka or Xarnege, Tadusak’s first album (*Bide luzea Ternuarat*, 2014) aims to introduce coplas and songs once sung by Basque sailors. Beautiful, warm folk music.

**The Broken Brothers Brass Band**  
Blues / Gospel / Jazz  
Created in 2006, the band combines traditional and roots music. Apart from New Orleans influences, their music draws from funk, jazz, soul and brass, mixing traditional music with modern sounds.

**Travellin’ Brothers**  
Blues / Swing / Jazz  
Blues, swing, jazz, funk and rhythm & blues. Pure attitude, energy and complicity. The brothers have travelled all around the world, visited all kind of clubs and played on hundreds of stages. They’re one of the most respected blues bands in Europe.

**Xabi Aburruzaga**  
Folk / Roots / World  
The trikitilari from Portugalete (1978) can boast a wide-ranging career focusing on different projects that combine tradition and innovation. In *Geure*, Aburruzaga’s latest album, you’ll hear folk, jazz and Celtic tunes.

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**Contact**  
Pyrene  
+34 605 715 735  
bidasoaf@gmail.com  
facebook.com/tadusak  

**Contact**  
Gaztelupeko Hotsak  
+34 629 558 692  
gaztelupeko@hotsak.com  
hotsak.com  

**Contact**  
Bapo Bapo Produkzioak  
+34 609 461 134  
bapobapoprod@gmail.com  
aburruzaga.com
Xarnege

Folk / Roots / World

‘Xarnege’ is a Gascon word used to describe the border towns between Gascony and the Basque Country. This makes the Xarnege musical project a meeting point between the two cultures.

Contact
+34 605 715 735
info@xarnege.com
xarnege.com
**SECTORAL ASSOCIATIONS**

- **Musika Bulegoa**  
  Basque Music Office  
  musikabulegoa.eus

- **Musika Industriaren Elkarteak (MIE)**  
  Music Industry Association  
  mieelkartea.eus

- **Kultura Live**  
  Association of music venues in the Basque Country  
  kulturalive.com

- **Musikagileak**  
  Association of Basque composers  
  musikagileak.com

- **Musikari**  
  Association of Basque musicians  
  musikari.com

**DOCUMENTARY COLLECTIONS**

- **Eresbil, Euskal Muskaren Artxiboa**  
  Basque music archive  
  eresbil.com

- **Badok**  
  Basque music portal  
  badok.eus

**OTHER ASSOCIATIONS**

- **Eusko Herriko Abesbatzen Elkarteak**  
  Confederation of Basque Country choirs  
  koralakeae.com

- **Eusko Herriko Trikitixa Elkarteak (EHTE)**  
  Association of Basque Country trikitixa  
  trikitixa.eus

- **Eusko Herriko Txistulari Elkarteak**  
  Basque association of txistularis  
  txistulari.com

- **Bertsozale Elkarteak**  
  Association of Friends of Bertsolaritza  
  bertsozale.eus

**EDUCATION**

- **Musikene**  
  Higher School of Music of the Basque Country  
  musikene.eus

- **Eusko Herriko Musika Eskolen Elkarteak**  
  Association of Basque music schools  
  ehme.eus

**FESTIVALS**

- **Bidasoia Folk**  
  irunhondarribiahendaye.com/bidasoafolk

- **Getxo Folk**  
  getxo.eus/es/getxo-folk

- **Errobiko Festibala**  
  errobikofestibala.fr

- **Mundumira**  
  mundumira.com

- **Heineken Jazzaldia**  
  heinekenjazzaldia.eus

- **Aintzina Folk**  
  aintzinafolk.org

- **Hondarribia Blues**  
  blueshondarribia.com

- **Atlantikaldia**  
  atlantikaldia.erreteria.eus

- **Vitoria-Gasteiz Jazzaldia**  
  jazzvitoria.com

- **Getxo Jazz**  
  getxo.eus/getxo-jazz

**ORCHESTRAS**

- **Euskadiko Orkestra**  
  Basque National Orchestra  
  euskadikoorkestra.eus

- **Bilbao Orkestra Sinfonikoa**  
  Bilbao Symphony Orchestra  
  bilbaorkestra.eus

**INSTITUTIONS**

- **Etxepe Euskal Institutua**  
  Etxepe Basque Institute  
  etxepare.eus

- **Eusko Jaurlaritza, Kultura eta Hizkuntza Politika Saila**  
  Department of Culture and Linguistic Policy of the Basque Government  
  kultura.ejgv.euskadi.eus  
  kulturklik.euskadi.eus

- **Euskal Kultur Erakundea (EKE)**  
  Basque Cultural Institute  
  eke.eus