

# Sefiroth



Olesya Zdorovetska - voice  
Alice Zawadzki - voice, violin  
Nick Roth - saxophone, furulya  
Alex Bonney - trumpet, electronics  
Shirley Smart - cello  
Alex Roth - guitar, effects  
Ruth Goller - electric bass  
Simon Roth - drums, percussion

Sefiroth is an international collective of musicians founded by brothers Nick and Alex Roth to explore and reimagine traditional Sephardic (Judeo-Spanish) repertoire with a contemporary aesthetic. Sung in Ladino, these ancient songs weave timeless stories of love, loss and yearning for home, evoking the lands in which the Sephardic diaspora settled: Iberia, the Mediterranean and the Middle East. The group's arrangements are as porous and wide-ranging as the history of the Sephardim, combining acoustic and electric instruments, improvisation, modern harmonies and trance-inducing rhythms.

Following the release of its debut EP, Sefiroth presented the multimedia theatre show *Arvoles Lloran por Luvia*, which set the group's experimental arrangements at the heart of an epic, Kabbalah-inspired narrative conveyed through dance, digital projection and production design. Premiered with a three-night run at Battersea Music Hall, it was hailed as “absolutely incredible” (Musicians Benevolent Fund), “striking and innovative” (playstosee.com) and “flawless... an incredibly fascinating collaboration between music, dance and digital media” (bargaintheatreland.com).

*Adio Kerida* ("Farewell, Beloved") is the group's new show - a continuous, hour-long musical performance enhanced by aspects of theatricality and story-telling. Alex Roth's original English translations of the Ladino lyrics are dramatically recited in interludes between songs, accompanied by musical improvisations in the Arabic maqam style - a reminder of the cross-pollination between these two cultures that dates back at least as far as medieval times. Ultimately, the show invokes a sense of humanity's quest for belonging and our pursuit of individual and collective identity.

### *Sefiroth in the press*

*"I really enjoyed listening back again and again...I love the way you keep the spirit of the traditions alive yet do something totally different at the same time."*

Fiona Talkington – Late Junction, BBC Radio 3

*"These guys sound really great. Who would have thought that mixing Sephardic music with avant-garde jazz could work so well...but somehow it does!"*

Mike Flynn – Jazzwise Magazine

*"Really, really beautiful...this music has an energy that is difficult to describe...exhilarating with wonderful contrasts."*

Bernard Clarke – Nova, RTE Lyric Fm

*"The slow, spatial, meditative tone pieces such as the opening track, Abre Tu Puerta Serrada, seem to explore the spaces between the sounds as much as the notes themselves...It's like abstract painting with music."*

Glyn Philips – WorldMusic.co.uk

### *Sefiroth online*

[www.alexrothmusic.com/arm/projects.asp?Project=1107](http://www.alexrothmusic.com/arm/projects.asp?Project=1107)

[www.facebook.com/sefirothensemble](https://www.facebook.com/sefirothensemble)

[www.twitter.com/1osefiroth](https://www.twitter.com/1osefiroth)

[www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWxlqb7iGjIILdZ1O6fzyY6GImXc\\_YmqC](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWxlqb7iGjIILdZ1O6fzyY6GImXc_YmqC)

### *Contact*

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