

ALEXÁNDER PEWLÓ PROJECT

Mediterranean modal music

Duo for plucked and bowed strings — Crete, Anatolia and Sepharad



Alexánder Pewló and Natalia Martín in concert.

Prepared for Band on the Wall, Manchester
August 2026

www.alexanderpewlo.com

The project

Alexánder Pewló Project is a duo for plucked and bowed strings built around the modal traditions that share the Mediterranean: the music of Crete and the Aegean, the Ottoman makam repertoire, the Sephardic songbook and the Andalusí tradition of the Iberian Peninsula. It is not a revival act and not a fusion band. It is a working duo playing a living modal language, with its own arrangements and original pieces written in that language.

The two players cover an unusually wide instrumental range for a duo — lutes, bowed lutes, a hammered dulcimer and a bowed lyra — which lets a single concert move from an open, rhythmic Cretan dance to an intimate improvised taksim without ever leaving the same tonal world.

The concert

- Duration: about 70 minutes, single set. A two-set version is possible.
- Acoustic chamber concert, built for listening rather than volume.
- Works on a club stage, in a concert hall, a church or a courtyard.
- A spoken introduction to the instruments and repertoire can be included, in English or Spanish, when the venue wants it.

The musicians

- Alexánder Pewló — artistic direction and arrangements. Plucked and bowed strings: oud, lavta, bağlama/saz, bouzouki, santur and yaylı tanbur, the bowed Turkish lute. Trained in Crete and in Turkey with Cihan Türkoğlu, Evgenios Voulgaris, Christos Barbas, Sinan Ayyıldız and Efrén López.
- Natalia Martín — Cretan lyra and viola. Specialist in Cretan music and modal composition, trained in Crete with Stelios Petrakis, Efrén López and Christos Barbas.



Cretan lyra and plucked strings — the duo in open-air performance.

Track record

The project has performed at the FEX of the Granada International Festival of Music and Dance, at the Sephardic Music Festival of Córdoba and at the Noches de Ramón programme of the City of Madrid, and has been given a monographic broadcast on Radio 3 (RNE), the Spanish national cultural radio station. It plays regularly in churches, cloisters, museums, castles and chamber theatres across Spain, and also exists in trio format with Sephardic voice and with percussion.

Watch and listen

- Yaylı tanbur, the bowed Turkish lute, with frame drum: youtu.be/8JypL7zjkRw
- Duo — şelpe technique on bağlama with Cretan lyra: youtu.be/ZwJ26Nd0TJI
- One-minute excerpt: youtu.be/9ljl_gjIO4Y
- Tres Culturas concert, Madrid: youtu.be/oJozlowNlig
- Website: www.alexanderpewlo.com · instagram.com/alexander_pewlo

Technical needs — summary

A full technical rider is available on request. In short:

- Two musicians on stage. Minimum stage area of about 3 x 2.5 m.
- Two stable, silent chairs without armrests, and two power sockets (220 V).
- P.A. sized to the room, with a sound engineer for soundcheck and concert. In rooms of up to

about 80-100 people the concert can be played acoustically or with very light reinforcement.

- Four condenser microphones for acoustic strings, with tall boom stands, and two floor monitors with independent mixes. The duo can bring pickups for some instruments if that suits the room better.
- Set-up 45 minutes, soundcheck 45 minutes, finishing before doors.
- The duo travels with all its instruments.

Contact

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