

Bio

Breaking walls, overcoming fears, acceptance, searching for balance between mind, body and heart as part of an ecosystem which reflects the larger world - these are the themes running through Merime's music.

Merime is a French singer songwriter drawing inspiration from the diversity of musical styles he has encountered while traveling the world (gypsy-swing, folk-rock, reggae, flamenco, hip hop...). With various instruments (guitar, samples, cajon, handpan, didgeridoo...), humor and a genuine talent for storytelling, Merime takes his audience on a journey that makes them lean-in and open their hearts, smile, sing along, and reconnect.

Merime's career as a musician began in Australia in 2010. Although he started as a busker on the streets of Melbourne, he quickly found an enthusiastic audience and joined the local music scene.

"Pursuing a musician career was an unattainable dream to me until I came to Melbourne. I started then because I had no choice. I couldn't find a job and needed to make a living. I started my life in Melbourne as a busker. And for the first time I felt really encouraged to keep going with music. People responded really well to my music, and I fell in love with the street life. All the little kind gestures that we do for one another, I never noticed before... I witnessed people going through difficult times, and telling me that my music was a ray of sun in their lives. I experienced countless funny, joyful, inspiring anecdotes in my interaction with people. I felt that in my small way, I was contributing to make a better world."

Not long after starting as a busker, Merime found opportunities to play his first gigs in local venues. Soon after, musicians touched by the way he was connecting with his audience joined him on this musical journey, giving joy and bringing people together.

From playing solo, to playing in a [trio](#), and eventually in a quintet named [Chalouche](#), Merime contributed to the Melbournian scene with a Gypsy Swing vibe flavoured with a very personal French touch. The atmosphere of genuine and pure energy created by his band, each time they [performed live](#), brought together a growing number of enthusiastic followers.

Merime toured with his band [Chalouche](#) in Australia for a few years, playing in venues such as [La Niche Café](#), [ParisCat JazzClub](#), [Belleville](#), [Open Studio](#), [The B-East](#), [The Spotted Mallard](#)... and in festivals like [Renaissance festival](#), [Paris to Provence festival](#), [Momba Festival](#), [Folk Rhythm & Life](#), [Confest](#), [Cygnet Folk Festival](#)...).

In 2013 he recorded his first EP "[Mon Errance](#)" with [Chalouche](#).

In January 2016, Merime moved back to France and for 2 years worked on the release of his first solo album, "[L'Eveil – The Awakening](#)." This album is the result of a long musical self-exploration, in pace with his personal journey.

"The music I played with Chalouche focused on a really festive, high energy upbeat vibe. I wanted to bring people together, to sing along, to laugh and to dance until exhaustion. My artistic approach on this first solo album is much more personal. It reflects the emotional, political and spiritual growth I've experienced for the last 10 years of my life while travelling, meditating and seeking an alternative way of life. I speak about breaking walls, accepting, giving, listening to the heart, and about love, of course."

In the meantime, Merime developed a wish for a more personal and reflective connection with his audience. Inspired by his travels, he created a new show written specifically to be performed within the

home of an unknown host, shared with their family, friends and neighbors; an intimate house concert experience, a world-tour from the comfort of the living room, a collective journey of the heart.

“In my journey as a musician, establishing a stronger bond with my audience has become more and more essential. Offering an experience of connection, opening and acceptance, but also leaving people free to support me how they wish to or how they can, makes them listen with curiosity and a more open mind - this is a way for me to be inclusive. It is also a learning process for me. Observing the value people give to my work can be difficult and humbling. It requires me to surrender, and accept any offering as an act of generosity. I have to trust that if I open my heart and give what I can, others will too.”

Alongside his house concert tour all around Europe, Merime reached for a broader audience and performed in local community centres, small venues and festivals ([The Living Village](#), [Heart Culture](#), [Shankra Festival](#)).

Artist Statement

Music has always been part of who I am, what I have to give. Music tells the most intimate stories beyond words. It touches the deepest part of ourselves and brings people together as one. I traveled around the world and through music connected with people from so many different backgrounds and cultures. It fed my soul, my creative process and helped me to remember how much we share in common regardless of who we are, where we come from, what we believe in.

For much of my life, I've been afraid. And in my fear, I built walls to protect myself. These walls not only stopped me from being who I really am, but also left me isolated, fighting against everyone else, and against the flow of life. Through the process of breaking them down, I've learned to be more honest, and more courageous, but also more humble. I am still craving recognition and acceptance from the whole world. I am still scared of living in scarcity. But it won't stop me. I follow my way, the one which feels right for me. This is the way of my heart.

Music chose me, not the other way around.

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