

## MINOR EMPIRE

Minor Empire Band members:

Ozgu Ozman - Vocal  
Ozan Boz - Electric guitar  
Chris Gartner - Bass  
Rob Joannis - Drums  
Tamer Pinarbasi - Kanun  
Scott Neary - Electric guitar

Genre description:

Various described by reviewers as “trippy”, “dreamy”, “cinematic”, “stylishly hip” and “deeply exotic”, award winning Turkish Canadian world music group Minor Empire has racked up a lengthy list of plaudits for its seamless blend of Turkish traditional music and modern sounds.

Band Information (Tours, Awards, Reviews)

Various described by reviewers as “trippy”, “dreamy”, “cinematic”, “stylishly hip” and “deeply exotic”, award winning Turkish Canadian world music group Minor Empire has racked up a lengthy list of plaudits for its seamless blend of Turkish traditional music and modern sounds. Its debut album, **Second Nature**, earned it a **Canadian Folk Music Award** for World Group of the Year, an **Indie Music Award** for Favourite World Artist of the Year, a **nomination for the About.com World Music Readers Choice Award** and **number one spot on the Canadian World music radio charts**.

Minor Empire’s sound is defined by the dreamy vocals of Ozgu Ozman which soar above a bed of pulsating grooves and organic instrumentation to create the airy psychedelic vibe. Exclaim praised the group for its “slinky, duby, knotty Turkish rhythms”. Le Devoir called their sound “refined” and said “Ozman weaves a most beautiful music from her Turkish roots”. Songlines UK praised “Ozman’s pure and sinuous vocals” and the “percussion that simmers with delicious intensity”. CBC Radio said, Minor Empire has “marked an important way forward for Turkish and world music”.

The group has recently created a fresh, conceptually-inspired sophomore album. With a lyrical worldview that addresses the turmoil of modern realities – mass migrations, cultural dissolution, and the resettlement of a spiritually homeless generation, the project is aptly named “**Uprooted**”. As a record of the voyage of the spirit, this album accesses springs of hope and passion through poignant imagery and epic tapestries of aural feast. The resulting sonic world oscillates between epic, intimate and inspirational episodes.

***Uprooted*** was launched in December 2017 and hit **#1 spot on Canadian radio charts** soon after its release. Produced by co-lead and guitarist Ozan Boz, it was recently **nominated for Independent Music Awards** in World Beat Album and World Album Producer categories.

Minor Empire has showcased its captivating blend of ethereal vocals and transcending arrangements at prominent venues such as Yoshi's in San Francisco, National Arts Centre in Ottawa, Banff Centre for the Arts, Harbourfront Centre in Toronto, Hillside Festival, Luminato Festival, Sunfest, Vancouver Folk Music Festival, Calgary Folk Music Festival, JAZZ.FM91 World Music Festival and Musikfest. The band was also featured on Identities, an award winning documentary series on Jazz FM.