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# *NoMad Dreams*

## **Short bio:**

Add thoughtful lyrics to luscious, breathy vocals, marry them to jazzy chords and world rhythms and beautiful, wistful melodies. Multiply all that by the professional dedication and skill of these musicians—and you get NoMad Dreams. We have rather eclectic inspirations, from jazz standards to Beatles, to indie rock, to French chansons and Russian ballads – it’s a mix that will go straight to your head, like champagne.

## **Medium bio:**

“What melody do hopes and fears dance to? What tune causes fantasy to sway? NoMad Dreams” (from album review by Victoria Kichuk, freelance writer).

Hailing from three continents, Asia, Europe, and Africa, and five different countries between them, NoMad Dreams are three musical mavericks. Their songs, by turns light-hearted and innocent, then dark and ironic, are certain to find their way into your heart. Singer Vlada Brofman and pianist Georges Nile started performing in local Boston venues and writing songs together nearly 4 years ago. Along the way, they were joined by drummer Wing La.

Last year, after a very successful kickstarter campaign, they recorded their debut album. Fittingly, their music draws on many traditions and genres – jazzy chords, French melodies and world rhythms. With thoughtful lyrics and luscious, breathy vocals they create a sound both refreshingly new and soothingly retro.



**Full bio:**

Such a story probably could not have taken place anywhere but in the melting pot of the U.S.: three musicians from different continents – came together and founded a band. They have released their self-titled debut EP on March 15, 2015.

The story begins with only two: pianist Georges Nile, a Canadian of Egyptian origins, and Vlada Brofman, a singer originally from Russia who responded to his ad for a vocalist on craigslist. United by their passion for jazz and French torch ballads, they started writing and performing songs of their own. Soon joined by Wing La, a Chinese drummer born in Vietnam,

they've performed in local Boston venues and developed attractively nostalgic acoustic sound with an international flair.

From the hauntingly dreamy intro of the opening number "House of Rainbows" to the African grooves of "Smile", the NoMad Dreams' debut album passes through a kaleidoscope of moods, genres, time periods, and different characters and personas.

The record was brought to life with the help of All-Star Producers Benny Grotto (Aerosmith, Amanda Palmer, "Weird Al" Yankovic) and Sean McLaughlin (New England Music Awards Producer of the Year 2013). Their creativity and steady hand helped NoMad Dreams achieve their vision. Mastering was done by perfectionist Jeff Lipton (Arcade Fire, Bon Iver, Josh Ritter).

Each new song appears to draw its inspiration from another decade and place: "Good Morning" sways you on the waves of Bossa Nova, while the cheeky number "Not Good Enough" sounds like a blues circa 1950. "The Road"'s piano riff and floating vocals have a prog-rock vibe while "Chocolate" has an irresistibly danceable Latin groove, propelled by Dave Birkin's flute solo and his dual horn hits. The whole album is, unsurprisingly, permeated by folksy and world music sensibilities brought from their native countries.

Vlada's crushed velvet voice and charismatic presence put an easy spell on the listener. Her breathy, powerful, and emotional vocals float over the rhythms and harmonies. As lead vocalist and one of the band's songwriters, she also brings to the fold a considerable dramatic talent, crafting a new persona for each song.

Georges grew up surrounded by Classical, Opera, Middle-Eastern, French, and American rock/pop music. During his studies at the New England Conservatory, he also got into Jazz and Latin music. Georges' tasteful piano lines amalgamate all these genres, letting you drift away to dreamy foreign lands. As a songwriter, he relies more on his instinct than patterns or rules.

Wing, the band's drummer, was born in a war torn Vietnam where he found peace and purpose through music. After finishing a Bachelor's of Music at UMass Boston he has performed a wide range of styles from Fusion to

Dance . Wing's grooves and energy make NoMad Dream songs come alive. His drums sing melody lines that perfectly complement each song.

Georges and Vlada are the band's main songwriters, but they don't "write and tell", never revealing who is responsible for which song. The lyrics vary from urgent and direct in some songs to ambiguously evocative and poetic

Several extraordinary session players also left their mark on the album. Bassist Zach Bridges provided a solid, honey-thick foundation on all the tracks. His tasteful bow strokes gave a lush sound to multiple tracks while his funky grooves on the electric bass kept the songs popping.

The album is notably graced by the brilliant multistyle violinist and champion fiddler Mari Black, reigning Glenfiddich Scottish Fiddle Champion. Her tantalizing and tasteful violin solos quickly became the heart and soul of such tracks as "La Belle Du Jour" and "House of Rainbows".

While NoMad Dreams may not be a party album, Dave Birkin's dynamic sax and flute work on "Chocolate", "Not Good Enough" and "Smile My Love" will make you tap your feet. Dave has shared the stage with such legends as Muddy Waters and Frank Zappa, and his masterful solos leave you longing for more.

Hailing from Morocco, Issam El Hadouti's vibrant djembe playing will transport you to a warm Mediterranean beach where you can't help but move in your seat even if you don't dance much!

The album leaves the listener with a delicacy of feeling, and a deliciousness of arrangement and color. The songs project a surprising combination of childlike optimism and a mature sense of irony. To learn more about NoMad Dreams' journey, visit [nomaddreams.com](http://nomaddreams.com).