

# CV - Francesca Ter-Berg

## ABOUT:

Francesca is a cellist and producer with a deep improvisation and collaborative practice. She is known for her specialism in Eastern European traditional music (specifically Klezmer and Roma) which she has been studying in-depth for over 10 years. Her improvisation practice stems from studying with renowned improvisors in the US and UK—including Vijay Iyer and Okkyung Lee and Ashley Paul. Since graduating from Goldsmiths University of London, with a Masters in Popular Music, she has explored working with live electronics, studio composition and writing music for film, documentaries and video games. She has recently become the co-director of the Cliftonville Cultural Space in Margate, to develop a new multi-arts space in what was previously a Synagogue that was saved from auction to property developers. Recently Francesca composed the music for the Turner Contemporary's digital commission, an interactive virtual game created by Umut Gunduz & Anna Skutley. Francesca releases her debut EP in Spring 2021 and hosts a monthly radio show on Margate Radio.

Francesca is also one half of the duo project, Fran & Flora, alongside violinist Flora Curzon—with whom she has recorded and performed extensively to critical acclaim— and she has collaborated with groundbreaking and genre-defying UK and international artists Hejira, Imogen Heap, Talvin Singh, Frank London and Portico Quartet.

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## PROJECTS & RELEASES:

**'In Eynem' - debut solo EP, April 2021 (Phantom Limb Label):** In Eynem (Yiddish for "united"), the debut EP by acclaimed cellist Francesca Ter-Berg, straddles the worlds of live processing, improvisation and traditional folk song. Weaving together fragments of field recordings, samples and beats with winding cello melodies and tunes from the Yiddish and Sinti Manouche traditions, the EP is a mesmeric first peek into the cellist's recorded solo works.

[Press release & preview](#)

[Pre-order bandcamp link](#)

**Fran & Flora:** Fran & Flora (Francesca Ter-Berg & Flora Curzon) captivate audiences with world class performances of music from across eastern-Europe and beyond. The duos compositions and arrangements stem from the modes and melodies of Klezmer, Transylvanian, Romanian, Greek and Armenian music, as well as drawing on archival recordings. Fran & Flora seek to combine elements of these rich musical traditions with their ever evolving, experimental collaboration.

Unfurl, the debut album by Fran & Flora, was released in February 2019 to critical acclaim. Incorporating tunes and songs collected on their travels, the album was the culmination of three years studio work with producer Sam Beste (The Vernon Spring / Hejira) where they explored their aesthetic, experimenting with interweaving textures and layers, electronics and analogue processing. In June 2020 a 5 track remix EP was released celebrating tracks from Unfurl. Remix artists included Portico Quartet, Deep Throat Choir, Dylan Henner, Enhang Ha (Berlin), The Yellow House and Dylan Henner which was championed by Mary-Anne Hobbs (BBC 6 Music). 2021 sees the duo re-grouping between Margate and London to manifest a new body of work to be released later in the year leading into 2022.

*"exquisite album"* - Lopa Kothari, BBC Radio 3 Music Planet

*"brave & classy"* - Robin Denselow, The Guardian

*"an album of beguiling beauty"* - Clive Bell, The Wire

Listen to [Unfurl](#) and [Remix EP](#)

More info: [www.franandflora.com](http://www.franandflora.com) — @franandflora

**Yja:** *Yja* is the brainchild of cellist and producer Francesca Ter-Berg and renowned singer-songwriter Ana Silvera. *Yja* explores lesser known historical Ladino songs from Spain, Turkey and the Sephardi diaspora. Working with expert archivists and ethnomusicologists to find material, *Yja* resculpts these hidden gems with lushly arranged strings, vocals, guitar and electronics. The project is co-produced by Ana Silvera and Francesca. Their debut single "Le Serena" was self-released via AWAL in May 2020 during the lockdown. It was featured in The Jewish Chronicle (full article [here](#)) and championed by Max Reinhardt on Soho Radio.

*"breathing new life into ancient Sephardi songs"* - The Jewish Chronicle.

[Listen to La Serena](#)

#### Remixes:

You (Hejira) - Fran & Flora Remix, 2019. [Listen here](#).

After Rain (Bird World) - Fran & Flora Remix, 2021. [Listen here](#).

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## FILM, DOCUMENTARY & VIDEO GAME MUSIC

**Memory Palace Thanet:** produced a minimalist score featuring field recordings and processed cello for 'Memory Palace Thanet' a video game by Umut Gunduz & Anna Skutley. Part of the Turner Contemporaries Digital Commission series (2021). [Link](#).

**First Steps:** wrote and produced original score to documentary 'First Steps', premiered on Al Jazeera, (2020). [Link](#).

**Jewish Britain on Film:** Commissioned to compose and produce an original score for feature length collection of films on Jewish life in Britain from the British Film Institute's archives which premiered at the UK Jewish Film Festival in London (2019). [Link](#).

**Cabinet of the Living Cinema:** part of live-scoring collective performing scores across the UK at cinemas, immersive events and festivals. [Link](#).

**'Unorthodox':** New York based film makers Nadja Oertelt and Anna Wexler. [Link](#).

**'The Devi', Satyajit Ray':** Talvin Singh performed at the Royal Festival Hall and Cannes Film Festival (2013/14).

Please visit my [soundcloud page](#) for further examples of works.

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## AWARDS & SHOWCASES

Fran & Flora - *'Best Live Act'* nomination at Association of Independent Music awards 2020, and *'Best Group'* nomination at Songlines Music Awards 2020  
Mercury Prize Nomination for Sam Lee *'A ground of it's ownand'* BBC 2 Folk Award for Sam Lee & Friends *'A Fade In Time'*.  
Recipient of national grants including *Arts Council England 'Project Grant'*, *Arts Council England 'Develop Your Creative Practice'* grant, *Help Musicians UK Transmission Fund* and the *PRSF Women Make Music fund*.  
Showcases - WOMEX, APAP (New York) and Folk Alliance (Montreal).

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## EDUCATION

University of Sussex, BaHons Social Anthropology, 2003-7  
Goldsmiths College, MMus in Popular Music, 2014-16

Banff Jazz & Creative Music Programme, directed by Vijay Iyer, 2017.  
Solo Residency, The Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, Canada, October 2017.  
Specialist study in Klezmer, Roma and Greek music with Tcha Limberger, Ross Daly, Marcel Ramba and through attending KlezKanada, Yiddish New York and Yiddish Summer Weimar.