

Sangit Biography

Sangit is a producer, percussionist and songwriter from Israel whose passion for the sounds of the globe have led him to collaborate with a range of artists of different backgrounds and cultures.

Sangit Segal was born in Hadera, Israel in 1977, and grew up on Kibbutz Kfar-Glikson, a collective agricultural community with an idealistic social mission. His father managed the kibbutz factory, while his mother worked in the nursery when she wasn't taking care of Sangit and his four sisters. At his parents' insistence, Sangit took music and dance lessons throughout his childhood, and his love for music blossomed when he picked up the saxophone at the age of 11. Although his earliest musical influences sprung from listening to classical music records with his grandfather, he preferred Israeli, British and American rock bands. Later in life, Sangit discovered African, funk and electronic music, which have gone on to become fundamental to his own sound.

Disgruntled with the kibbutz's agenda, Sangit's parents relocated the family to nearby Zichron Yaakov when he was 14. There he began to play the drums and was inspired by his *djembe* instructor to develop both his musical and spiritual sides. A self-described troublemaker and individualist, Sangit flew to India at 19 rather than join the army. He embarked on a journey of self-discovery, learning from the philosophies he encountered in India and taking *tabla* and *sitar* music lessons. When he was 21, he underwent a Sannyasa initiation ceremony, receiving the name Sangit, which means "music" in Sanskrit. In Hinduism, Sannyasa is a life stage in which material desires are renounced and adherents pursue a life of peace, love and simplicity. "The name Sangit really grew on me, and it strengthen my true calling in life—music," he recalls. Although his birth name is Dotan, he has gone by Sangit ever since.

Returning to Israel, Sangit attended the Rimon School of Music, focusing on composition and music arrangement, but left after a year to study percussion in Cuba and later play with African masters. In 2004 he co-founded the Ethiopian jazz band **Kuluma** together with Alon Yoffe and Abate Berihun, and released the album ***Mother Tongue***, which won critical acclaim.

In 2012 Sangit released ***Open Channels***, his first collaboration with his wife, Noa Golan, who he met in the same house in Aviel, a small village in northern Israel, where they now live with their children. He built a recording studio on that verdant, peaceful land, where he invites other musicians from diverse backgrounds to join his inventive recording and filming projects. Since 2012, he has created a series of audio-visual collages as part of his **Studio Sessions Project**, featuring dozens of musicians and dancers in each music video. Sangit embraces the collaborative, creative process of experimentation, allowing the music to write itself and evolve out of the ideas and styles of each musician.

Over the years, Sangit has collaborated with a wide range of popular artists from Israel and beyond, including video mash-up star **Kutiman**, soulful singer **Karolina**, Ethiopian legend **Mahmoud Ahmed**, Tel Aviv-based funk group **Funkenstein**, Afrobeat drummer **Tony Allen** and many others.

Sangit released his first solo EP in 2016, ***Afro Love***, which blended African grooves with a funky, global fusion vibe. His video and recording work brought him to the attention of **Cumbancha**, a global music record label that signed him to their Cumbancha Discovery series, which seeks to bring exceptional little-known talents to wider audiences.

His first full-length album, ***Librar***, was released in February 2020 as part of the **Cumbancha Discovery** series, which seeks to introduce exceptional new talent to international audiences.

Blending the influences of African and Afro-Cuban roots music with jazz and funk, the desert yearning of Moroccan Gnawa trance music, mystical Ethiopian scales and Caribbean flavors, Sangit creates a unique and eclectic sound with ***Librar***. Sangit describes his album as "a reflection of my creative momentum. I am passionate and fanatical about my music," he says, "and this album represents my spiritual journey, my evolution."

Joined on the album by musicians from Mali, Guinea, Ethiopia, Morocco, Iran and Congo, as well as Israeli musicians representing a diverse array of cultural influences, Sangit continues his mission to collaborate with people from various backgrounds in projects that move him and his international audiences. *Librar* features 8 different languages and 12 different singers from around the globe to create a soulful blend. The live band consists of 8 musicians and is setting the groundwork for their first international concerts in 2020.

Sangit's album *Librar* serves as an impressive introduction to this uniquely skilled musician, producer and composer. With his gift for collaboration, respect for great musical traditions and innovative production techniques, Sangit has created an inspiring collection of songs that mark the arrival of an extraordinary new talent on the global music scene.