

## **Raffi Mandalian (guitar)**

Born in Beirut, Raffi started classical guitar when he was 16 years old at the Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of Music with professors Joseph Diban and Jad Hidari. Raffi earned a Master of Music Degree in Musicology from the University of Holy Spirit – Kaslik.

During his education, his passion for jazz and Latin music lead him to study with Professor Arthur Satyan, one of the finest jazz pianists in the Middle East. Soon he entered the jazz scene in Beirut in 2005.

During the past 20 years Raffi has performed and recorded with many local and international musicians such as Arthur Satyan, Ziad Rahbani, Fayrouz, Oussama Rahbani, Victor Bailey, Anthony Wonsey, Walid Tawil, Abboud Saade, Carlos Abou Chabke, Thomas Hornig, Nidal Abou Samra, Fouad Afra and many others.

In 2013, he formed his own jazz quartet (RMJQ), which featured his own compositions and arrangements. Being of Armenian descent, Raffi's influences of Armenian folk tunes are found in many of his modern arrangements.

Raffi currently teaches classical and jazz guitar in the Faculty of Music at the University of Holy Spirit – Kaslik.