

1. BIO

XADREX شطرنج is a fresh music project of producer, drummer and vocalist Cyril Kaplan (Vložte kočku, Mutanti hledaj východisko) and oud player, vocalist and performer Husam Abed. Interplay between melodies composed for the oud and motives from the electronic music realm results in an immersive sonic and musical experience. Husam and Cyril started their collaboration in years 2019 and 2020, finding their common musical language during work on soundtracks for two video art projects by Jiří Žák. This phase of collaboration culminated in a Tv-streamed performance during the second wave of covid-related restrictions. Reuniting in 2023, Xadrex evolved their sound with the addition of vocals and tougher, dance-driven arrangements, blending their electronic post-rockish cinematic version of world music with elements of indie pop and experimental rap. Their first EP called 7 is being released under Swedish label Ostron Music in March 2025.

2. SOUNDCZECH PRESS RELEASE

CYRIL KAPLAN AND HUSAM ABED PLAY XADREX

Xadrex with an X, *Xadrex* (pronounced *shah-dresh*), like *chess*, like a situation that lasts exactly until a change occurs. And with it, another situation. This is how you could describe the dynamics of the music from this fresh project, which combines elements of electronic music, drum and bass, Arabic music, post-punk, post-rock, and film music.

[Cyril](#), known as the drummer for Vložte kočku or Mutanti hledaj východisko, takes on the role of producer, singer, and percussionist. [Husam](#), a musician straddling a broad spectrum of genres from ambient to folk and rap, sings and plays the Arabic oud and frame drum.

Xadrex are releasing their first EP, simply titled 7. The EP will be available on all streaming platforms in March 2025 under the Swedish label [Ostron Records](#). You can already listen to Xadrex's music exclusively on the band's [Bandcamp](#).

The EP Xadrex 7 was created with the support of the [Sound Czech](#) program and is part of the *Year of Czech Music*.

3. ABOUT EP (for playlists...)

XADREX - EP "7" (long text about whole EP)

7 is the debut EP from Xadrex شطرنج, a boundary-pushing duo fusing Arabic traditions with the pulse of electronic music. At its core, 7 reflects on the pre-scientific, mystical understanding of the world—a perception limited by human biases that place us at the center of existence. The number 7 itself becomes a motif, nodding to both the seven tones of the diatonic scale and the illusions of symmetry we impose on reality.

Conceptually, *7* explores the fragile balance between dialogue and conflict. Through its four tracks, the EP delves into the interplay of cultures, voices, and rhythms, capturing the tension and harmony inherent in human interaction. Singing in both English and Arabic, Xadrex crafts a sonic world where the line between collaboration and confrontation blurs—turning each track into a metaphorical chess game, rich with strategy and stakes.

Musically, *7* is anchored by pulsating electronic rhythms, drawing from drum and bass, breakbeat, and club music, while seamlessly blending them with traditional Arabic rhythms. Husam Abed's oud and frame drum dialogue with Cyril Kaplan's analog synthesizers and intricate electronic percussion, creating a richly textured soundscape. Each track follows its own narrative arc, more akin to cinematic storytelling than conventional song structures.

Listeners might find parallels to the dancefloor urgency of LCD Soundsystem, the politically charged energy of Asian Dub Foundation, or the contemporary oud-driven stylings of artists like BalQeis. Yet Xadrex carves its own path, delivering music that's as danceable as it is thought-provoking—an invitation to move, reflect, and engage with the complexities of our shared world.