

Single: 'The Time Is Ripe'
Recording Artist: Island Seeds
Released by: Home for Cooperation
Release date: 21/06/2020
Publicist: Louvana Records



Island Seeds

Shares track/video 'The Time Is Ripe' when the call for collaboration in Cyprus resonates islandwide

[Listen to 'The Time Is Ripe' Here First Privately](#)
[Watch the Music Video - out on 21 June](#)



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Life in Cyprus where strict lockdown measures have blocked all checkpoint crossings between Greek-speaking and Turkish-speaking Cypriots, the island's two largest populations, for the first time since the historic crossing point openings in 2003, saw a supergroup of the island's musicians join forces. The result is a song that drives the message home that no amount of divisive politics will stop the two communities from re-uniting. Recorded by **Island Seeds**, a collective of nearly 40 musicians from across the divide, '**The Time Is Ripe**' sees the troupe of artists sing their invitation to the world of united cooperation manifested.

The song's music and trilingual lyrics in English, Cypriot-Greek and Cypriot-Turkish were written by songwriter **Lefteris Moutzīs**, musician/poet **Vassilis Philippou** and poet **Gürgengç Korkmazel**, while Andreas Trachonitis of Studio eleven63 in Nicosia mixed and mastered the

song. The release comes with a music video created by Antonis PoulIAS depicting scenes of the Island Seeds artists recording their parts both at Studio eleven63 and from their homes in Cyprus, Germany, the UK, Greece, Canada and the United States. The Island Seeds collective sprouted from the music scene promoted through the United by Sounds programme by **Home For Cooperation**, a community centre situated in the demilitarized UN Buffer Zone in the island's capital which has been divided for over forty years. Promoting nights such as Thursday Lives, Rooftop Thursdays and the Home Café Concerts, Home for Cooperation hosts performances involving musicians from both communities. It has not only been the meeting point for multiple Cypriot artists, but has prompted venues throughout the island to programme musicians from both sides of the divide. In fact, these very artists are part of a new generation of emerging Cypriot artists that view their music scene and its innate excitement surrounding co-creation as a response to what is known as the 'Cyprus Problem'. Recently celebrating its ninth anniversary, Home For Cooperation is dedicated to peacebuilding and intercultural exchange, and is the embodiment of intercommunal collaboration.



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Moumtzis, who has been acting as the project coordinator for the community centre's music programmes, used his own experiences of hosting collaborations between artists of the two communities as lyrical inspiration. The lockdown all the more elevated his desire for unity and the importance of human interaction: *"The title conveys that after all these years of pain, the time is ripe to heal this collective wound and come together as humans to coexist and co-create"*. Korkmazel adds, *"To speed up the process of knocking down the wall and to strengthen the bond between the communities we first need to mix! We need to write poems, sing songs, drink and eat together, dance, make love."*

The song is a fresh take on Cyprus' musical landscape: traditional celebratory dance rhythms meet funky grooves, spoken-word folk poetry interlace with soulful vocal runs, and

quarter-tone saz hooks ride through electric guitar comps. With a multitude of genres having been promoted at Home for Cooperation's events, the Island Seeds artists each bring their own touch to 'The Time Is Ripe' – whether that be revitalised Cypriot folk practices, jazzy synth solos, or psychedelic rock riffs. They are an amalgamation that mirrors Cyprus' present-day music culture: open-minded, eclectic, and not bound in purist agendas. Many Island Seeds artists similarly reflect the number of ethnic communities such as musicians of Palestinian, Lebanese and Armenian descent that have long comprised Cyprus' identity.

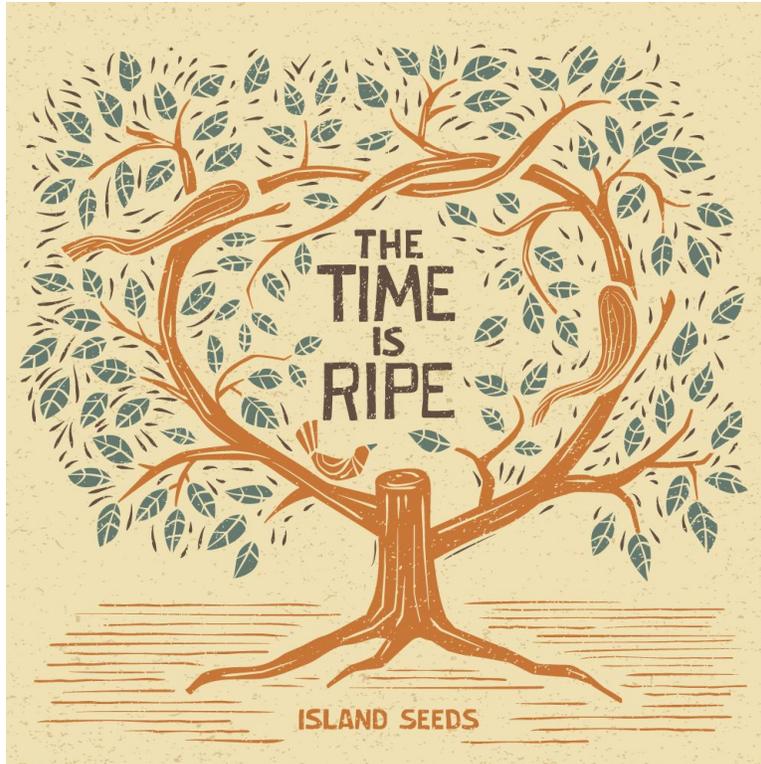


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"For me, one of the most beautiful feelings is for people to express their love through art together - whether they know each other or not! With the lyrics and music that I have written, I want to turn each person's gaze towards nature, where it's much more apparent that the symbiosis of all creatures is harmonious, both within joy and within pain. "Let us learn from the trees: Spread our branches out and within our embrace, people will make peace," states Vassilis Philippou.

In the end, 'The Time Is Ripe' champions synergy between Cyprus' communities, just as their musical and cultural tradition has embodied throughout the island's history. The lyrics lay out their proposition in simple terms: *Let's bring our voices together*. No theatrical aggression; no babbling academia. Just a warm-hearted celebration of harmony and co-creation.

[Listen to the track](#) | [Watch 'The Time Is Ripe' music video](#)



The Time Is Ripe Artwork / High Resolution Image [Here](#)

'The Time Is Ripe' released by Home For Cooperation is able to be heard through the support and sponsorship of: The Embassy of Ireland in Cyprus, Active Citizens Fund/EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021, Embassy of Poland in Cyprus, Embassy of the United Kingdom of the Netherlands in Cyprus, Embassy of Sweden in Cyprus, Embassy of Switzerland in Cyprus, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Cyprus, Embassy of Italy in Cyprus.

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The Island Seeds collective:

Andreas Panteli - keyboards (of [Fuzz Bus](#))

[Antonia Charalambous](#) - vocals

Antonis Antoniou - tzouras (of [Monsieur Doumani](#), [Trio Tekke](#))

Bulut Akbilek - drums (of [Mental Soup](#))

[Cahit Kutrafali](#) - electric bass (of [Mighty Sugarcane](#))

Charalampos Panteli - lute, saz (of [Santouto](#))

[Demetris Mesimeris](#) - vocals

Demetris Yiasemides - trombone (of [Monsieur Doumani](#))

Ed Sezener - vocals, guitar (of [Mental Soup](#))

[Eleonora Roussou](#) - flute

Ermis Michael - guitar (of [Fuzz Bus](#), [Amalgamation Project](#), [Chunky Funky](#))

[Ezgi Akgürge](#)n - vocals

Fehim Taşarkan - vocals (of [Mental Soup](#))

Freideriki Tombazou - vocals (of [Anemourio](#))

[George Karpasitis](#) - guitar

[Gül Sev](#) - vocals

[Inal Bilsel](#) - synthesizers

Jessica Jenkins - vocals

[Lefteris Moumtzis](#) - producer, electric bass, vocals, percussion, acoustic guitar (of [Freedom Candlemaker](#), [Fuzz Bus](#), [Trio Tekke](#))

[Marios Nicolaides](#) - vocals, acoustic guitar (of [Marios Nicolaides Trio](#))

Marios Takoushis - piano, synthesizers (of [Mighty Sugarcane](#), [Takoushis Karapatakis Project](#))

[Náma Dama](#) - vocals

Nasia Trachonitou - vocals

Nicole Ardanitou - vocals (of [Nabuma](#))

Panagiotis Tsappis - ney

Panayiotis Georgiou - vocals (of [Arcadian Child](#))

[Paris Paraschos](#) - vocals

Savvas Lagou - violin

Stelios Xydias - drums (of [Fuzz Bus](#), [Mighty Sugarcane](#))

[Táltsie](#) - vocals

[Theophano Papachristou](#) - vocals

Ulaş Öğüç - drums (of [The Great Flood](#), [Lütfiye Özipek](#))

Umut Boyoğlu - speech

Vassilis Philippou - voice, percussion (of [Larva](#), Sol Aurorae)

[Wave](#) - vocals, acoustic guitar

Zara Der Arakelian - vocals

[Zeyn Mroueh](#) - vocals