

AL ANDALUS ENSEMBLE

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Unique, deeply moving music--a development as fruitful as Astor Piazzolla's -Ted Gioia, author "History of Jazz"

VOX Pop Award "Best Contemporary Classical Album of 2010"

"A delightful proposition of exquisite music" -El Pais, Madrid, Spain

Winners of the Peoples Grammy Award for "Best World Music Song of 2009" JPFolks



The Al Andalus Ensemble presents an intricately woven tapestry of sound and sight: audiences enjoy music and dance from around the world performed from a contemporary Andalusian perspective. The ensemble is internationally known for its innovative fusion of Middle Eastern, North African, European and American traditions, which it represents through world, jazz, flamenco and classical music. The group's spectrum of work includes original Nuevo-Andalusian and jazz pieces to stirring renditions of American spirituals to thrilling, improvised percussion solos played on traditional clay drums, and much more.

The Al Andalus Ensemble takes its name from medieval southern Spain, during a time when Jews, Muslims and Christians lived together in peace and cooperatively made great advances in the arts and sciences. The name "Al Andalus" was given to this time of cultural tolerance and innovation in Spain, and the Al Andalus Ensemble embodies Al Andalus era's values in its composition and performance, celebrating international understanding, goodwill and peace through a passionate music presentation.

Tarik Banzi (Oud, percussion, composer) was born in Morocco and traces his roots back to medieval Al Andalus, Spain. Tarik has collaborated with Flamenco, jazz and contemporary masters such as Paco de Lucia, Manolo Sanlucar and Enrique Morente. He introduced the darbuka and udu drums to modern flamenco music; they are now cornerstones of the movement.

Charlie Bisharat (violin) is a Grammy-winning violinist of Shadowfax. His wide range of styles has led him from pop to jazz to classical, and you can hear his work on the recordings of many widely-known artists (such as Aerosmith, Elton John, the Rolling Stones) or subbing for the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra.



Jorge Pardo (saxophone, flute) is among the elite group of jazz figures from Spain with an international following. Introduced to the world of professional flamenco at the hands of Paco de Lucia, has developed a new hybrid genre between jazz and flamenco. In addition to his work with the Paco de Lucia Sextet, Jorge has collaborated with nearly every major figure in the world of flamenco as well as stars from other genres, including Chick Corea and Astrud Gilberto.

Julia Banzi (Guitarist, Ph.D. Ethnomusicology) is one of the world's few flamenco guitarists. Julia lived in Spain for over a decade, where she specialized in flamenco and studied with some of Spain's finest guitarists, including Manolo Sanlucar, Isidro Muñoz, David Serva, Felipe Maya and Juan Maya "Marote." She earned her Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology at the University of California, Santa Barbara.





Emily Miles (voice) is a multi-lingual vocalist with roots in American gospel, folk rock and jazz. The Oregonian describes her voice as full of “duende.” With Al Andalus, Emily sings a wide range of music, from medieval Ladino and Arabic love songs to American spirituals and Garcia Lorca poetry.

Laura Dubroca (modern Andalusian dance) was born in Abu Dhabi to Basque parents. She has lived in Venezuela, Qatar, Indonesia, Spain and France, absorbing cultural influences from each of the countries she has called home. She has studied flamenco dance with industry greats and currently lives in Bangkok, Thailand.

Anthony Jones (drums) has been described as “surely one of the best young drummers in the Northwest” by The Oregonian.

Gavin Bondy (trumpet) is best known for his work as premier trumpeter with internationally-known Pink Martini and his hot jazz group the Shanghai Woolies.

Martin Zarzar (bass, percussion) was born in Lima, Peru and is a core member of Pink Martini.

Discography

2009 “21 Strings	2006 “Alchemy”
2004 “Vision”	2000 “Genetic Memories”
1998 “Illumination”	1992 “Liman: For Whom?”

Select Past Performances

Dewan Filharmonik Petronas, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Museum Rietberg, Zurich, Switzerland; Virginia Military Institute, USA; Vancouver Folk Music Festival, British Columbia, Canada; Mission Folk Music Festival, British Columbia, Canada; Las Rozas, Madrid, Spain; International Festival of the Oud. Tetuan, Morocco; International Center for Performance Studies, Tangier, Morocco; Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Voices of Reconciliation. Portland, Oregon USA; Veranos de la Villa. Madrid, Spain; XII Ciclo Musica de las Tres Culturas. Cordoba, Spain; Festival du Monde Arabe de Montreal. Quebec, Canada; International Festival of Arab Music. Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; American Legation Museum. Tangier, Morocco; Guild of American Luthiers. Tacoma, Washington, USA; Centro Cultural La Torre De Guadarrama. Madrid, Spain; Handelsbeurs. Gent, Belgium; Institut du Monde Arabe. Paris, France; Parkstad Limburg Stadium. East of Limburg, Belgium; Centro Cultural La Torre de Guadarrama, Spain; Egyptian Embassy. Madrid, Spain; National Building Museum, Freer-Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Museum. Washington. DC; Toledo School of Translation. Toledo, Spain; Circulo de Bel-las Artes. Madrid, Spain; Festival del Mediterraneo. Seville, Spain; Festival des Cordes Pincées de Rabat. Rabat, Morocco; Embassy of Egypt. Madrid, Spain; Festival de Tres Culturas. Murcia, Spain; Al-Andalus Festival. Washington, DC; Al-Andalus to Jerusalem: Levantine Festival. Ford Amphitheatre. Los Angeles, California; Embassy of Jordan. Washington, DC; ICA Folkfest. Victoria BC, Canada; International Festival of World Music. Getafe, Spain; Dubrovnik 49th Summer Festival. Dubrovnik, Croatia; LeS Flâneries Musicales d’été de Reims. Reims, France; Split International Summer Festival. Split, Croatia; Pula Summer Art and Music Festival Roman Theater. Pula, Croatia; Kispiox International Music Festival. Kispiox, Canada; Zagreb Summer Festival. Zagreb, Croatia; Hvar International Music Festival. Hvar, Croatia; Korcula International Music Festival. Korcula, Croatia.

Al-Andalus Ensemble

Contemporary Andalusian Music

Booking Inquiries: Miriam Medina

E-mail: music@andalus.com

Telephone: 001.503.230.2379

Web: www.Andalus.com

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