



Tarik & Julia Banzi: Al-Andalus Ensemble 2010 PROGRAM OFFERINGS

“A delightful proposition of exquisite music” -El Pais, Madrid, Spain
Winners of the *Peoples Grammy Award* for “Best World Music Song of 2009” JPFolks

I. Tarik & Julia Banzi The core of the Al-Andalus Ensemble is the married couple Tarik and Julia Banzi performing on the oud, flamenco guitar, ney, darbuka. Skillfully creating new and original music, retaining the essential soul and spirit of the Arab, North African and European sources while fearlessly exploring new territory, they have initiated a new movement in andalusian music.

Number of Performers: 2

“Unique, deeply moving music--a development as fruitful as Astor Piazzolla’s
when he shocked the Argentinean establishment with his “Nuevo Tango” Ted Gioia (www.TedGioia.com).

II. Al-Andalus Trio with Voice

Tarik Banzi (Morocco): oud, ney, percussion Emily Miles (USA) voice

Julia Banzi (USA): flamenco guitar, scholarly presentations.

Featuring the “soulful vocals of Emily Miles with music sung in Spanish, Arabic, English and Turkish.

Dark and breathy, occasionally erupting with raw power, she was well-matched to the strings both in tone and duende” (Oregonian)

III. “21 Strings” Oud, Violin, Guitar and (optional) Dance (Performance) Contemporary World-chamber trio of oud, violin and guitar moves with grace between the classical and the modern, subtly weaving tradition with sophisticated innovation into an energetic musical tapestry performed with a freshness and originality that has earned the Al-Andalus Ensemble a devoted international audience. Add to the trio modern Andalusian/Flamenco dance for a majestic, elegant performance. (Number of Performers: 3-4).

Tarik Banzi (Morocco): oud, ney, percussion

Julia Banzi (USA): flamenco guitar, scholarly presentations.

Charlie Bisharat (USA-Palestine) violin

Laura Dubroca (Spain): Flamenco and Andalusian dance (Optional).

IV. “Festival Al-Andalus” For festival settings, the Ensemble expands with additions of trumpet, vocals, piano, bass, drums and modern Andalusian dance for a vital, energetic and absolutely beautiful experience!

(Number of Performers: 5-10).

Tarik Banzi (Morocco): oud, ney, percussion

Charlie Bisharat (USA-Palestine) violin

Laura Dubroca (Spain): flamenco & andalusian dance.

Julia Banzi (USA): flamenco guitar, scholarly.

Emily Miles (USA) voice

Gavin Bondy (USA) trumpeter (Pink Martini)

Anthony Jones (USA) drumset (N’Touch)

Martin Zarzar (USA, Peru) drumset (Pink Martini)

Razgui (Morocco- USA): voice, ney, kamenja, percussion.

Jorge Pardo (Spain) flute and saxophone (Paco de Lucia)

Joe Heinemann (USA) (Classical/Jazz Piano)

Erskin (USA) bass

V. ANDALUSIAN LEGACIES (Performance)

The group Al-Andalus is able to faithfully present the music and dance of ancient Arabic & Spanish cultures--with native performers. The Andalusian tradition was born in southern Spain where the Arabs ruled for nearly eight centuries from 711 to 1492. This program begins with Ancestral instruments & music, improvised Islamic poetry accapella and Classical Arabic, Sephardic & Spanish/Flamenco music & dance of the 10-16 centuries. *Andalusian Legacies* demonstrates the impact of that period on the contemporary music of Spain. Al-Andalus performs Classical Arab and traditional Spanish Flamenco repertoires and end with contemporary works, melodic and rhythmic improvisations blending both traditions. *Andalusian Legacies* is a creative journey that mirrors cross-cultural communication exploring what we carry inside ourselves our voyage & in assimilating ourselves on our return. Subtly uniting sound and movement, the old and new are entwined, captivating the audience with its colorful beauty and intensity. (Number of Performers: 5).

Tarik Banzi (Morocco): oud, ney, percussion

Julia Banzi (USA): flamenco guitar, scholarly presentations.

Emily Miles (USA)

Laura Dubroca (Spain): flamenco & andalusian dance.

Razgui Boujemaa (Morocco-based in USA): Violin, voice, percussion, ney.

Laura Dubroca (Spain): flamenco & andalusian dance.



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EDUCATIONAL

II. “Journey from Baghdad to Cordoba” Trio of Oud, Dance and Guitar (Educational performance) Especially designed for Young Audiences and uniquely relevant in today's world, this performance jewel offers a different view of Middle Eastern cultures, showing the rich threads that weave Middle Eastern, North African, Hispanic and American culture into a vibrant, cultural tapestry. A highly educational and interactive program of music and dance that counters negative and distorted stereotypes of Arabs. Student audiences learn about Arab contributions to Western civilization and historic achievements of Arab culture.

Duration: 40-60 minutes (as per schools discretion).

Number of Performers: 3

Tarik Banzi (Morocco): oud, ney, percussion, vocals.

Laura Ozinuka (USA) or Laura Dubroca (Spain): flamenco & andalusian dance.

Julia Banzi (USA): flamenco guitar, viola, percussion .

Al-Andalus Ensemble Scholarly Lectures, Workshops and Residencies

ANDALUSIAN WOMAN’S ENSEMBLES: SEVEN CENTURIES OF SILENCE

Scholarly lecture combined with video & slides presented by Julia Banzi (Ph.D. Ethnomusicology)

While the historical record is rich with mention of women Andalusian musicians of the 9th-13th centuries CE, there is a notable scholarly void documenting the existence and significance of Andalusian women’s ensembles during the seven centuries that followed. What became of these female musicians and their traditions? Did they cease to exist? Were they collectively forgotten or simply deemed unworthy of remembrance? This presentation is the first to document the phenomenon of female ensembles and explores factors that have contributed to their persistence over the centuries. It explores how both recent and older Iberian memories continue to influence the dynamics of collective assembly, leading us to reconceptualize intersections of history, memory, music, religion, gender and identity.

Length of time: 30-60 minutes (lecture, video, slides, question & answer period)

Especially appropriate for International Women’s Month

Rhythm and Spirit (Workshop)

From our heartbeat to the manner in which we speak and walk, rhythm is often seen as the great unifier in the world. Gain an understanding in the very different ways in which rhythm is perceived and functions in different cultures far and wide. Hands on!

Length of time: 2 hours.

The Arab Roots of Flamenco (Workshop)

An overview of Flamenco from guitar & cante (singing) to dance and their relation to Arabic music. The basic *compas* and main branches of flamenco are explored and compared/contrasted with the Arab musical culture.

Length of Time: 2 hours



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For Children and Young Adults

Programs for children and young adults (K-12), part of the nationwide *Young Audiences*© roster.

Journey From Baghdad to Córdoba (Award winning program for children and young adults)

“The students were absolutely INTRIGUED throughout—This was far and away the best production for Young Audiences that I have ever seen!” (Teacher, James John Elementary)

A highly educational and interactive program offered for K - 12 students that is uniquely relevant in today's world, enabling students to experience different cultures through an interactive experience of music and dance. This performance jewel offers a different view of Middle Eastern cultures, showing the rich threads that weave Middle Eastern, North African, Hispanic and American culture into a vibrant, cultural tapestry. History and cultures come alive as students learn the language of the fan and see the magic of a shawl in action! Students are invited to create rhythms with the darbuka drum, do palmas (flamenco hand-clapping), interact with the performers with jaleo (shouts of encouragement), and join in a lively group rumba dance. California ArtsBridge 1st place Award
Appropriate for all ages and in particular PK-12.

Length of Time: 45 minutes Program website: www.OudGuitar.com

May be combined with a pre--performance lecture demonstration of 15-30 minutes.

Al-Andalus Ensemble Members

Strings & Things

Tarik Banzi (Morocco-USA) Oud, ney, percussion, voice.

Charlie Bisharat (USA-Palestine): Violin.

Julia Banzi (USA) Flamenco guitar, percussion, scholarly presentations.

Razgui Boujemaa (Morocco-USA): Violin, voice, percussion, ney.

Billy Oskay (USA): Violin.

Dance

Laura Dubroca (France-Spain) Flamenco & Andalusian Dance.

Maria Jose-Franco (Spain) Flamenco & Andalusian Dance.

Laura Ozinuka and Diana LoVerso (USA, Educational programs only) Flamenco & Andalusian Dance.

Voice

Emily Miles (USA) Voice.

Trumpet

Gavin Bondy (USA) Trumpet.

Drum set

Anthony Jones (USA) Drumset.

Martin Zarzar (USA) Drumset.

Flute –Saxophone

Jorge Pardo (Spain)

Piano

Joe Heinemann (USA) (Classical/Jazz Piano).