

Tarik & Julia Banzi, Al Andalus Ensemble

Genetic Memories

FILE UNDER: World Traditions, World Fusion, Acoustic, Andalusian
www.Andalus.com

An ensemble that focuses on music inspired by Moorish-ruled Spain during the 8th to 15th centuries when Muslims, Jews and Christians peacefully coexisted side by side.

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

"The best example of cultural integration" YA, Madrid, Spain

"These multi-talented, teleportation for the senses" Sorel Klein 'Pop Arts'

Al-Andalus 'Contemporary Andalusian Music Al-Andalus celebrates international understanding, goodwill, & peace through a passionate music presentation: Genetic Memories.

Al-Andalus is an ensemble that, as the name implies, focuses on music inspired by Moorish-ruled Spain during the 8th to 15th centuries when Muslims, Jews & Christians peacefully coexisted side by side in an inspired cultural exchange of the sciences and arts. A graceful and distinctive ensemble sound that straddles continents in its cultural voice and centuries in its array of techniques. Genetic Memories features the music & poetry of Arabic, Ladino (Sephardic Jewish) Spanish & S. Indian cultures with new contemporary compositions. Other CD's by Al-Andalus include "Illumination" & "Vision"

Featured in Al-Andalus are native Moroccan Tarik Banzi (oud, ney, percussion), from S. India, Ranjani Krishnan (vocals in Tamil, Ladino Sephardic Jewish, Urdu, Classical Arabic, Spanish & Hindu) from Peru, Martin Zarzar (percussion), Joe Heinemann (jazz piano) & Julia Banzi (Flamenco guitar).

Highlights of Genetic Memories include Secrets, an ambient-rich lament on solo ney that, once piano, guitar and various hand percussions set up a slowly swirling pulse, soon turns into a mournful melody; Afgano, a traditional song from Afghanistan translated into a slowly limping but stately instrumental number. It epitomizes the entire production's milieu of a darkish opulence and languishing splendor; Yo M'Enamori, an ancient Sephardic tune with a plain but haunting melody sung in the original Ladino language of the Spanish Jews.

Audiences can expect Genetic Memories to combine charismatic and elegant flamenco forms with rich and unusual instrumentation such as the oud (parent of the renaissance lute) the ney (Arabic reed flute) darbuka (ceramic drum) and vocal styles of the far East, India, & Spain, blended with jazz piano. The oud is lifted out of its classical Arabian milieu and successfully integrated into a thoroughly modern yet perfectly suitable setting.

The artists featured on Genetic Memories emanate from strict traditional artistic backgrounds who have mastered the tradition and are now continuing the voyage, exploring and creating new worlds. In a sense architects within the cultures they represent, building a new artistic language that unifies Eastern & Western cultures and generates a work that is rich, layered & socially conscious, expanding the artistic horizons of both experts & novices alike. Further the advancement of international understanding, goodwill & peace by supporting a group that reflects a place and time where Christians, Muslims and Jews lived together for a cultural flourishing: Al-Andalus.

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Distribution

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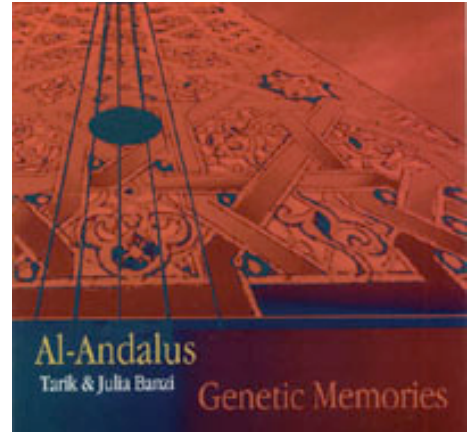
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Tarik & Julia Banzi Al Andalus Ensemble Genetic Memories



Track Listing:

1. Secrets
2. Marrakesh
3. Katrinile
4. Echos
5. Chiaroscuro
6. Yo M'Enamori
7. Portrait of Zahra
8. Afgano
9. Absence
10. Inherited Messenger

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Format CD

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