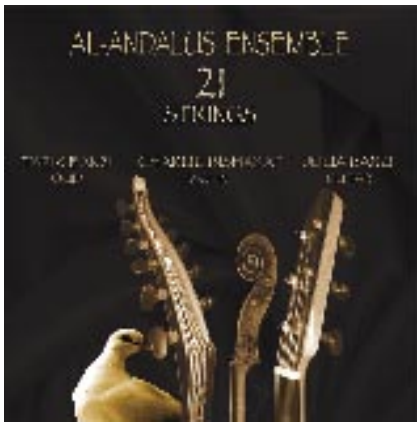


# AL-ANDALUS ENSEMBLE "21 STRINGS"

Tarík Banzí  
Oud

Charlie Bisharat  
Violín

Julía Banzí  
Guitar



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

Led by oudist Tarik Banzi, the Al-Andalus Ensemble is internationally known for a creative fusion which etches a fine line between the exquisite and raw, the passionate and powerful, integrating instruments and musicians from Africa (Tarik is Moroccan American), Europe (Julia is European American) and Asia (Charlie is Palestinian-American) while treating the listener to a confluence of the best of the East and West. These sophisticated artists with extraordinary breadth and creativity soulfully merge classical, jazz and contemporary music with musical traditions from the Middle East, North Africa and Europe. Thus embodying the new vision of America as a modern society that embraces its cosmopolitan cultural heritage.

Charting new terrain with Grammy Award winning violinist, Charlie Bisharat, this 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. For festival settings, the Al-Andalus Ensemble expands with additions of modern Andalusian dance as well as trumpet, vocals, piano, bass and drums for a vital, energetic and absolutely beautiful experience

"Unique, deeply moving music--a development as fruitful as Astor Piazzolla's when he shocked the Argentinean establishment with his "Nuevo Tango"  
-Ted Gioia, author "History of Jazz"

- |                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| 1. Afgano            | 9:53   |
| 2. Taktokah          | 6:51   |
| 3. Martil            | 8:57   |
| 4. Baghdad           | 8:40   |
| 5. Song of the Water | 6:08   |
| 6. Granadina         | 7:24   |
| 7. Jinete            | 6:52   |
| 8. Confluence        | 5:29   |
| 9. Labyrinth         | 6:31   |
| Total Length         | 1 Hour |

B.M.I. ALA CD 196  
Release Date: March 28, 2009

"Like the exquisite architecture and gardens of the Alhambra, this image of cultural harmony is a vision of paradise on earth"  
-Stephen Hill

"Plus qu'un simple spectacle, c'est une traversée musicale et une invitation au voyage"  
-Institut du Monde Arabe. Paris, France



Al-Andalus Productions  
www.Andalus.com  
www.Sonicbids.com/Andalus  
www.CDBaby.com/all/andalus  
+001.503.230.2379  
music@andalus.com

The core of the Al-Andalus Ensemble is comprised of the married couple Tarik and Julia who make their home between Morocco and the USA. Similar to the Renaissance that inspires them, they are scholars, musicians and artists. Their lives reflect their commitment to create peaceful understanding between the East and the West. They present historically informed performances of Andalusian works and also create new compositions, rooted in the Andalusian legacy.

Historically, Al-Andalus refers to Spain from 711-1492 AD. During these eight centuries, Andalusian Spain witnessed a cultural melding between Africa, the East and the West, as well as among Christians,

Muslims & Jews. An outstanding model of inclusion and tolerance, Al-Andalus was renowned for the synergy of diverse cultures that resulted in remarkable artistic, scientific and cultural enlightenments. The period of Al-Andalus produced profound and far-reaching consequences, setting the stage for the European Renaissance. It provides an exemplary historical model to rise above modern-day conflicts and challenges. The Al-Andalus Ensemble locates its creative impetus in the rebirth of Al-Andalus in today's cultural landscape.

Delicately attuned to one another the Al-Andalus Ensemble has pursued a singular artistic vision reminding us that the intricate interplay of diverse voices is the geography of cultural harmony. Far from the scholarly approach of Early Music or the traditionalism of much World Music, this collaboration yields a vigorous new hybrid: a contemporary World-chamber ensemble 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.

"Sounds simultaneously foreign and familiar, different styles working so beautifully together!" -The National; Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates



www.Andalus.com



**TARIK BANZI** (Oudist, Composer) traces his roots back to Al-Andalus, Spain. He was born to one of the old Andalusian families in Tetuan, Morocco and grew up immersed in the Andalusian musical tradition. Tarik has collaborated with flamenco and Jazz masters such as **Paco de Lucia, Manolo Sanlucar, Enrique Morente** and **Jorge Pardo** where Tarik introduced mainstays to modern flamenco such as the darbuka (clay or metal drum) and Udu (clay pot drum). Tarik's students Fain Duenas and Vicente Molina went on to form the **Grammy** nominated World music group **Radio Tarifa**. Tarik's diversity can be seen in the works of Classical, Jazz, Folk, New Age, Rock and World Music artists from Billy Oskay (**Nightnoise**), **Guadalquivir, La Trinca, Tijeritas, Michael Shreive** and **Graham Leer (Carlos Santana), Dan Crary, Carolyn Cruso, Lief Sorby, Magical Strings, Paul Winter, John Doan, Oregon Repertory Singers** and **Enrique Valdivieso**. Tarik is an accomplished visual artist who completed his Doctoral studies in Fine Arts at the Complutense University of Madrid, Spain His artwork is included in collections throughout the world.



**CHARLIE BISHARAT** (Violinist) His work has graced the albums of such pop phenoms as **Alanis Morissette, The Rolling Stones, Jane's Addiction,** and **Aerosmith**. His diversity can be heard on the works of Jazz and World Music artists **Strunz & Farah, Don Grusin,** and **Oscar Castro-Neves**. His accomplishments have been featured in scores of soundtracks from **Swordfish, Texas Rangers, Steal Big Steal Little** to on-screen performances of **Austin Powers Gold Member, The Drew Carey Show** and Friends. A **Grammy Award** winning performer, Mr. Bisharat has toured the world time and again with Jazz and New Age groups as varied as **Shadowfax, Kitaro, Yanni** and **John Tesh**. He has composed and produced tracks for record-setting album projects as well. His range of styles has led him from pop to jazz to classical, where he is often heard subbing with the **Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra** and the **Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra**. A published author, Charlie has written and recorded the jazz improvisational book and CD **Beyond Classical Violin** for Cherry Lane Music. His works for small ensembles range from the original opus *Lying In Wait* by the all-female quartet Cello, to string arrangements for rock guitarist **Andy Summers of The Police**. Charlie continues to travel the globe performing in concert and recording with some of the most accomplished musicians of our day.

**JULIA BANZI** (Ph.D) (guitarist, ethnomusicologist) The world of guitar boasts few women who ignite the sound of the guitar, and in the flamenco culture, even fewer still. Julia lived in Spain for over a decade where she specialized in flamenco and established herself as one of a very few female flamenco guitarists worldwide. In Andalucia, and later at Madrid's **Amor de Dios** studios, Julia worked accompanying notable dance instructors such as **Ciro, La Tate & Manolete** and studied with some of Spain's finest guitarists including **Manolo Sanlucar, Isidro Muñoz, David Serva, Felipe Maya** and **Juan Maya "Marote."** Her passion for flamenco led her to explore its roots. She went on to complete her doctorate in Ethnomusicology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her work reflects her many years of living, studying and performing throughout the world. She teaches guitar at Reed College and Lewis & Clark College.



### Discography

2009 "21 Strings"  
 2006 "Alchemy"  
 2004 "Vision"  
 2000 "Genetic Memories"  
 1998 "Illumination"  
 1992 "Liman: ForWhom?"

"Music with a message!" -On Time  
 "The best example of cultural integration" -YA, Madrid, Spain  
 "A delightful proposition of exquisite music" -El Pais, Madrid Spain  
 "Intriguing graceful music, sterling improvisations, world class virtuosos. -Willamette Week  
 "Tarik & Julia Banzi create a new musical language that unites the East & West" -Aramco World Magazine  
 "Music & musicianship that took our breath away!" -The American College Music Society

### Past Performances

International Festival of World Music. 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; Syracuse University. Syracuse, New York; Cathedral Park Jazz Festival. Portland, Oregon 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 Bellas 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; Vancouver Folk Music Festival. Vancouver BC, Canada; Mission International Music Festival. Mission BC, Canada; University of Virginia, Charlottesville, North Carolina USA; 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.