

TARIK & JULIA BANZI

AL-ANDALUS ENSEMBLE

“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 exploring a creative fusion that etches a fine line between the exquisite and raw, the passionate and powerful. Listeners enjoy a confluence of the best of the East and West while the ensemble’s sophisticated artists soulfully merge classical, jazz and contemporary music with musical traditions from the Middle East, North Africa and Europe. Al-Andalus’s repertoire and artistic philosophy embodies a new sonic vision embracing our global cultural heritage.

Charting new terrain with Grammy-winning violinist, Charlie Bisharat, this contemporary World-chamber trio of oud, violin and guitar gracefully moves between the classical and the modern. By subtly interweaving tradition and sophisticated innovation to create an intricate musical tapestry that they perform with freshness and originality, Al-Andalus Ensemble has earned 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”

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

The Al-Andalus Ensemble takes its name from a medieval story of peace: Between 711 and 1492, Spain witnessed the cultural synthesis of Africa, the East and the West, and of Muslims, Jews and Christians. The era and region in which these groups so peacefully co-existed is known as “Al Andalus.” An outstanding model of tolerance and multiculturalism, Al-Andalus produced remarkable artistic, scientific and cultural enlightenments that set the stage for the European Renaissance. The music, song and dance that inform the Al-Andalus Ensemble’s repertoire serve as artifacts of this peaceful society, acting as outstanding examples for the resolution of modern-day conflicts and challenges. The Al-Andalus Ensemble draws creative impetus from the rebirth of Al-Andalus in today’s cultural landscape.

The Al-Andalus Ensemble pursues a singular artistic vision which reminds 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 generates a dynamic, new hybrid: a contemporary World-chamber ensemble that skillfully creates new and original music, retaining the essential soul and spirit of its Arab, North African and European heritage.

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



Al-Andalus Ensemble
www.Andalus.com
www.Sonicbids.com/Andalus
+001.503.230.2379
music@andalus.com
Spain-Morocco-USA

www.ANDALUS.COM



AL-ANDALUS ENSEMBLE, ARTISTS

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** and has introduced cornerstones of modern flamenco such as the darbuka (clay or metal drum) and Udu (clay pot drum). Tarik's musical versatility can be heard in the works of Classical, Jazz, Folk, New Age, Rock and World Music artists such as **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's students Fain Duenas and Vicente Molina went on to form the Grammy-nominated World music group **Radio Tarifa**. 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 artists as **Alanis Morissette, The Rolling Stones, Jane's Addiction,** and **Aerosmith**. He can be heard on the works of Jazz and World Music artists **Strunz & Farah, Don Grusin,** and **Oscar Castro-Neves**. His expertise has been featured on the big screen in soundtracks such as **Swordfish, Texas Rangers, Steal Big Steal Little** and on the small screen on **The Drew Carey Show** and **Friends**. A **Grammy-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, and he is often heard subbing with the **Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra** and the **Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra**. A published author as well, 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 time.

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 the 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 in an academic context, and she completed 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**.



EMILY MILES (Voice) is one of Portland's up-and-coming young singers. She grew up in Seattle, and later spent time living and studying in the Canary Islands, Cuba and the Dominican Republic. She graduated from Lewis & Clark College where she completed research on the Cuban hip-hop movement and the music of the Farmworker Movement, two projects that deepened her understanding of music as a powerful tool of social change, organization and cultural dignity. Emily brings a distinctly North American element to the Al-Andalus Ensemble, adding American roots and blues influences to the group's already multicultural repertoire.

LAURA DUBROCA (Modern Andalusian Dance) Born in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates to French ex-patriot parents, Laura has lived in Venezuela, Qatar, Indonesia and France, taking diverse cultural influences from each of the countries she has called home. She began classical ballet studies at an early age and later discovered her love of flamenco. She has studied flamenco dance with **Manolo Marin, Milagros Menjibar, Carmen Ledesma** and **Rafael Campallo** in the **Fundación Cristina Heeren de Arte Flamenco** in Sevilla and with **Manuela Ríos, Adela Campallo, Juana Amaya, Pastora Galvan,** and **Angeles Gabaldon**. She lives in Madrid, Spain where she is a regular performer in the flamenco peñas **La Perla de Cadiz, Asociación Cultural Antigua Sevilla, Espacio Temporal, Agua Fresca** and in concerts with international harpist **Meko**.





AL-ANDALUS ENSEMBLE, ARTISTS

ANTHONY JONES (Drums) Anthony is considered one of the best young drummers on the West Coast. He is the younger brother of the bandleader **Eldon “T” Jones**. They come from a very talented musical family. In high school he also won numerous awards playing the trumpet. The Oregonian has praised “the fluidly funky authority of Anthony Jones” describing him as “surely one of the best young drummers in the Northwest” (The Oregonian).



GAVIN BONDY (Trumpet) Gavin is a native of Portland, OR and is best known for his work as premier trumpeter for **Pink Martini**. His versatility and love of music has allowed him to work with bands and orchestras in a great variety of genres including classical, rock, country, funk, American folk, big band, salsa, free jazz, mariachi, and Middle-Eastern music. In between **Pink Martini** shows, he writes, arranges, and performs with the group he founded, the **Shanghai Woolies**, a band of renegade rock musicians who play hot jazz.

Concert and Festival Formations (2-9 artists)

Tarik Banzi (Morocco): oud, ney, darbuka, banjo, vocals.

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

Laura Dubroka (France-Spain-UAE) Flamenco & Andalusian Dance.

Gavin Bondy (USA) trumpet

Razgui Boujeama (Morocco-Canada) ney, kamanja, vocals

Charlie Bisharat (Palestine): violin.

Emily Miles (USA) voice

Anthony Jones (USA) drums

Jorge Pardo (Spain) flute, saxophone

Erskin (USA) bass



BOOKING

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“Tarik & Julia Banzi create a new musical language that unites the East & West”
-Aramco World Magazine.

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

“An outstanding presentation! Music & musicianship that took our breath away!”
-American College Music Society.

“The best example of cultural integration” -YA, Madrid, Spain.

“Music with a message!” -On Time.

“Intriguing graceful music, sterling improvisations, world class virtuosos”
-Willamette Week.

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; 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; 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; 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 Flaneries 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.

