

"Unique, deeply moving music
as familiar as an old friend, but as fresh and
invigorating as a Mediterranean breeze"
Ted Gioia, "History of Jazz"

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

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

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

"Plus qu'un simple spectacle,
Alchemy de Tarik et Julia Banzi 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!" The College Music Society

"They left the stage amid wild applause--
A performance by Tarik & Julia Banzi is a
valuable lesson in musical culture,
and a delightful musical experience!"
Tim Olsen founder/editor of American Lutherie

"They combine elements with the quiet assurance of
skilled alchemists and comes up with
a mix that's aural gold!" Bill Smith, Willamette Week

"Full of musical Gems! An Ageless mix!"
Kip Richardson, The Oregonian

"Intriguing graceful music, sterling improvisations,
world class virtuosos!"
Bob McCullough, Willamette Week.

"Al-Andalus brings linkages to light, drawing elements
together across time and space and
transforming them from memory into sensation.
Listeners find themselves simultaneously in past and
future." Marty Hughley, The Oregonian

"Much of what has been forgotten by Europe is being
brought back by the Banzi's in the sensitive and
evocative music of Al-Andalus" Dick Cline, On Time

"A Quintessentially American musical tapestry"
Marty Hughley, The Oregonian

Institut de Monde Arabe, Paris, France; Smithsonian Museum,
Washington D.C.; Festival des Accordes Pincees, Rabat, Morocco;
Centro Cultural La Torre de Guadarrama, Madrid, Spain; Embassy of
Egypt, Washington D.C.; Murcia Festival de Tres Culturas, Murcia,
Spain; Al-Andalus Festival, Washington D.C.; Womex, Sevilla,
Spain; Toledo School of Translation, Toledo, Spain; International
Oud Festival, Tetuan, Morocco; Al-Andalus to Jerusalem, Los
Angeles, CA; Levantine Festival, Los Angeles, CA; Sala Caracol,
Madrid, Spain; Sevilla Festival del Mediterraneo, Sevilla, Spain;
Embassy of Jordan, Washington, D.C.; Cathedral Park Jazz Festival,
Portland, OR; Guild of American Luthiers, Tacoma, WA; ICA
Folkfest, Victoria Canada; Freer & Sackler Gallery, Washington,
D.C.; Dubrovnik Summer Festival, Dubrovnik, Croatia; Le Flaneries
Musicales d'ete de Reims, Reims France; Split International Summer
Festival, Split, Croatia; Pula Summer Art and Music Festival Roman
Theater, Pula Croatia; Zagreb Summer Festival, Zagreb, Croatia;
Hvar International Music Festival, Hvar, Croatia; Korcula
International Music Festival, Korcula, Croatia; Kispiox International
Music Festival, Kispiox, Canada. Circulo de Bellas Artes, Madrid,
Spain; International Festival of World Music, Getafe, Spain;
Vancouver Folk Music Festival, Vancouver BC Canada; Mission
International Music Festival, Mission BC Canada; Circulo de Bellas
Artes, Madrid, Spain; Festival of World Music Jetafe, Madrid, Spain;
14th International Folk Festival, Dranouter, Belgium; International
Festival of Theatre, Parthanon, Athens, Greece; Lisbon Jazz Festival,
Lisbon, Portugal; Festival International of Theatre, Rome, Italy;
Venice Folk Festival, Venice, Italy; Florance Festival of Popular
Music, Florance, Italy; Perguia Festival of Music, Perugia, Italy;
Rome; Festival of Folk Music, Rome Italy; Plaza de la Albufera,
Segovia, Spain; Tarragona Jazz Festival, Tarragona, Spain; Madrid
Festival of Jazz, Madrid, Spain; Jardines de Vivres, International
Festival of Music & Theatre Valencia, Spain; Las Palmas International
Festival of Jazz, Grand Canary Island, Spain; National Competition of
Folk Music, Guadalajara, Spain;



Tarik & Julia Banzi

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Tarik & Julia divide their time between
Portland, Oregon; Madrid, Spain and
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Tarik & Julia Banzi

Oud Flamenco Guitar

Exquisite music! (El Pais, Spain)



Since first joining hands in 1986, Moroccan-born oudist Tarik Banzi and flamenco guitarist Julia Banzi have been combining the oud & flamenco guitar creating what reviewers have called “a delightful proposition of exquisite music” (El Pais, Madrid, Spain). It was the Banzis who coined the term ‘Contemporary Andalusian’ (©1987) to describe their informed approach to oud & guitar music that melds the past with the present that has been hailed as “a new musical language that unites the East & West” (Aramco World Magazine).



The Banzis present historically informed programs which integrate traditional works of the Andalusí Judeo-Spanish (Ladino), Spanish Andalusian traditions combined with new, contemporary pieces rooted in the Andalusian legacy yet reflective of today’s global soundscape.

Tarik & Julia are both scholars, musician/composers and artists. Multi-instrumentalists, they perform traditional and original music on a myriad of acoustic instruments in addition to the oud, flamenco guitar and banjo, the Banzis performances are further enriched by viola, darbuka (ceramic drum) and the ney (Arabian flute).



The oud (pronounced like “wooded” without the “w”) is the quintessential classical Persian/Arabic musical instrument. It elicits a warm response even from Western musical ears unaccustomed to the intricacy and subtlety of this eleven or twelve-stringed fretless forerunner of the European lute (the word “lute” is actually derived from the Arabic “al-’ud”). It is particularly appropriate for Tarik to showcase the oud because he, like the instrument before him, passed from North Africa to the West via Spain. Tarik also excels as a performer and composer on the banjo, an instrument so often identified as an American original, is in fact of African descent traditionally used in Moroccan music including Andalusian.

The flamenco guitar is a modern descendant of the oud. Over the centuries, flamenco has evolved to signify both a way of life and a folk music of a highly organized and tightly structured nature that combines tradition with improvisation resulting in a genre in which creativity is valued and encouraged; at the same time, strict guidelines to “tradition” must be followed. As a folk-art, the complexity and sophistication of flamenco have been passed down from generation to generation by direct imitation for most of its history.

Tarik Banzi (Multi-instrumentalist), traces his roots back to Al-Andalus, Spain (711-1492). He was born to one of the old Andalusian families in Tetouan, Morocco and grew up immersed in the Andalusian musical tradition. He later lived in Madrid, Spain where he moved in flamenco and jazz music circles with musicians such as Paco de Lucia, Manolo Sanlúcar, Enrique Morente, Jorge Pardo & Carlos Benavent...

Julia Banzi Ph.D (flamenco guitar, viola, percussion) is one of the few female flamenco guitarists worldwide. Julia lived in Andalucia, Spain studying flamenco guitar with some of Spain’s finest guitarists including Manolo Sanlúcar, Isidro Muñoz, Felipe Maya, Juan Maya “Marote,” David Serva & Rafael Morales.



She holds a Doctorate degree in Ethnomusicology from the University of California, Santa Barbara and currently teaches guitar at Reed College.

The Banzis’s background is evident in each performance where they combine rare musical sensitivity, impressive technical competence and a relaxed approach where they easily converse with the audience. The result is a subtle musical unity that engages and fulfills the listener.