

Tarik Banzi of the Al-Andalus Ensemble

Vision

FILE UNDER: WORLD MUSIC; INSTRUMENTAL
www.Andalus.com

The oud, quintessential classical Arabic music instrument is explored in VISION, a series of solo improvisations, duets, quartets and innovative use of both acoustic and electric oud pieces.

Tarik Banzi was born in Morocco and grew up immersed in the Andalusian tradition. He is a Koch recording artist, artistic director of contemporary Andalusian Al-Andalus Ensemble with recordings Illumination & Genetic Memories.

Tarik introduced the darbuka and oud into the contemporary flamenco sound through recordings with Paco de Lucia, Manolo Sanlucar, Enrique Morente, Jorge Pardo & Carles Benavent Tarik's list of students include the Panneagua brothers & Fain Duenas and Vicente Molina who went on to form the group Radio Tarifa.

VISION explores the oud (pronounced like "woood" without the "w"), the quintessential classical Arabic musical instrument. VISION elicits a warm response even from Western musical ears unaccustomed to the intricacy and subtlety of this ten or eleven-stringed Middle Eastern 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.

VISION has taken the spirit of improvisation in some unique directions. Most startling to those familiar with Arab music will be Tarik's innovative use of an electric oud on several tracks. The sound is quite unique and illustrates perfectly his desire to push the boundaries of the traditional. VISION'S unique musical creations for the oud beautifully illustrate his contemporary approach to music, an approach which places greatest emphasis on innovation within tradition.

Most important of all, VISION is passionate music, intent on creating soft, lovely, haunting melodies. "Music has always been a way of connecting to a spiritual center and creating beauty," is how Tarik explains his purpose behind VISION. He has succeeded admirably. After listening to this CD, I think you will agree with me that VISION uses the oud to create a beautiful, warm, subtle, and profoundly meditative music.

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Track Listing:

1. Intimacy
2. Tangier
3. Enigma
4. Maristan
5. Vision
6. Hamama
7. Samarkand
8. Dawn
9. Prayer
10. Exodus

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