



fatoum

Berber songs

Fatoum **voice, guitar, compositions**
Constantin Vanheli **guitar, bouzouki**
Néjib Farjallah **tar & derbouka**
Malika El Barkani **bass, bendir, vocals**
Housseem Ben El Khadi **flute, ney**



CD 'Tarawin' [2014]



www.fatoum.net

Born in a North Moroccan mountain village perched on the Great Rift, Fatoum spent the first five years of her life in her Berber community – locally known as Amazighe – whose people are deeply attached to the rhythms of their land.

At the beginning of the 1980s came the winds of exile, and her family migrated to Brussels. From that moment on – maybe it was linked to being uprooted, to questions of identity? – her passion for music and live arts would never leave her.

From 1997, having finished her theatre studies, she starts to compose songs, in her mother tongue and in French, that bring together remembered fragments of her former life in the Rif region. And endeavors, through her hybrid musical inspiration, to bring these two banks of her cultural river together.

Like a distorting mirror held up to today's melting pot societies, her repertoire reinvents the traditional feminine melodies, with a strong emphasis on the breath, that have been handed down by women in her native community through oral tradition over thousands of years.

Between two river banks and two languages, such is Fatoum, full of resonance and poetry, and full of encounters, too. Such is the world she invites us to share.

'Tarawin'- 'springs' in the plural - is composed from an original musical universe. Fatoum gets right down close to the authenticity of her roots and gives free rein to a creation that melds her passion for Amazighe song with the original tempos of sub-Saharan Africa and European harmonies.

Press

Her voice is deep, sensual and piercing at the same time. Her voice is unique, different from the voices of all the other female singers we are accustomed to hearing. Fatoum's voice is part and parcel of her personality. It is the witness, if you will, of our moods. When you listen to her sing, it is simply sublime.

Magreb Canada Express

Fatoum is inspired mainly by Izran "oral Poetry", which is one of the most important aspects of Rif culture. Girls working in the fields or washing clothes in the river sing Izran songs spontaneously, without any preparation. The songs help them to overcome hard times and difficult conditions, not noticing the time that passes when they are overburdened with work. At other times, Izran are also a way to express their happiness and celebrate events.

The album is composed of nine songs which go deep into Amazigh traditions, particularly from the Rif region. Every single song on this album will take you on an unforgettable journey back to old times when we used to live in small communities (Tribes) in the Rif mountains.

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