

kabul workshop

TRIGANA



trigana
...trigana

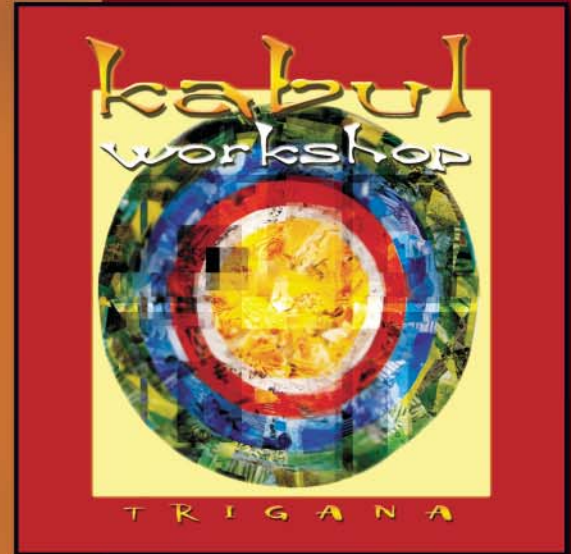
Heavily influenced by afghan and indian music, the electro-world of Kabul Workshop differentiates itself from the electro-asian scene by its originality and the quality of its compositions. Kabul Workshop is a workshop of musical research where the resulting melodies are a direct expression of the state of mind of their creators; a bridge between their different cultures.

When Franceso and Khaled met in 1998, the intellectual and spiritual complicity that united them nourished their artistic collaboration. The idea of creating a musical research workshop was born naturally as a way of expression to unite their different ethnicity. The musical works resulting from this first opus reveal themselves to be an outlet of expression of the emotions felt as exiles.

Much cultivated in the UK where it reflects the state of interbreeding of british society, the fusion of electronic and traditional music doesn't always end up with exciting musical projects, the southern sounds often used as spice for background noise without much relief.

Coming from a classical background, Khaled Arman and Francesco Russo escaped, by definition, this "sound plunderers" class: their origin (Afghan for the former and Neapolitan for the latter), their artistic journey, their curiosity nourish their Kabul Workshop compositions, electronic extension of the musicians projects. Far from being the fruit of an odd fusion, the tracks created by this sound research workshop put technology at the service of melody, of a composition work.

The machine carries the breath of traditional instruments and voices; flexible, it allows the pair to extend their field of expression in an artistic language thousands of years old. It is as a barge which allows the listener to glide from track to track. As Talvin Singh or Nitin Sawhney, Khaled Arman and Francesco Russo are some kind of boatmen.



album info

...album information

artist: **KABUL WORKSHOP**

title: **TRIGANA**

item #: **861052** format: **CD**

label: **TINDER RECORDS**

file under:

WORLD/France/ELECTRONIC



track listing

...track listing

01. **TRIGANA** 3:50
02. **HAÏULA** 4:47
03. **ZEUS** 4:52
04. **SPECCHIO** 6:04
05. **DANCE** 4:37
06. **MY LAND** 4:13
07. **TRIGANA remix** 6:55

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song descriptions

"Trigana" expresses the association of the same words: tri for three in English, and gana for three in Indian. It's a kind of musical triptych colored by oriental music, occidental music and new technologies.

"Trigana," the triptych, evokes the calm and conviviality of an afghan bar, the musicality of Persia and India and the violence and agitation of the Occident.

"Haiula" seems to be a sort of cyber-robot which breaks down the "little criminal from Baghdad" by imposing its truth, philosophy and its irrevocable strength. The sweetness of the human voice, which glides along, reminds us just how much dialogue allows us to advance, like a force that joins rather than separates.

The wise words of Bedel, poet, humanist and mystic of the 17th century inspire **"Zeus."** It is the invocation of the spiritual elevation of man toward both personal and shared well being. According to Francesco, songs were needed to break the cycle of instrumental compositions. The voice of Massoud, like a sweet song of hope, lifts us to a universe of tolerance and understanding.

Then there is **"Specchio,"** again inspired by Bedel, born of an afternoon of experimentation during the war in Kosovo. The painful memories revealed by that period in history have marked several of the musicians. The fire and blood, the philosophy and humanity confront each other. Hope is reborn in the rubble.

"Dance" is a call to the dance. To abandon the mental for the physical, whilst maintaining a united melody. On stage, the percussion instruments are placed up front. The public enters into a trance along with the title.

"My Land" refers to the universality of the planet, to their land everywhere. All of the musicians are exiles: whatever the reason for their exile, they reveal their origins in their melodies. Their dream is to be able to perform on all the world's stages, in a world of peace!

band members

Francesco Russo

Francesco was born in Naples in 1966 and began to play piano when he was 7 years old. He had his first live experience at 13 while he played analogic keyboards in a rock band. Then he began to study electronic and also jazz and all its forms. He went to the Summers Clinics of Berkeley College (Boston) that take place during the Jazz festival "Umbria" of Perugia. He played in several groups of jazz, pop, fusion or reggae in Italy, then went to London and finally landed in Paris in 1995. There, he met musicians from all cultures, horizons and continents; he added new colors to his musical universe and his compositions are the fruit of this rich background. Nowadays, he explores the unlimited possibilities offered by new technologies, without forgetting his melodic roots and his deep attachment to human beings.

Khaled Arman

Khaled Arman signs a part of his instrumentation. As a musician, a composer and an improviser, his route gave him a double musical formation, issued from afghan and indian tradition on the one hand, and occidental on the other hand. First prize of the Concours International de Guitare de Radio France (Paris), he composes in the field of acoustic and electronic. For Kabul Workshop, he has developed the technic to play rubab at a high level of perfection. The intrumentist plays the rubab with an bow, as it was at its origins...

Massoud Raonaq

Massoud was born in Kabul in 1969. He discovered tablas in Afghanistan, then improved his music in France where he was exiled very young. He gives a high importance to the spiritual dimension of music and works on psychophony. Now, he plays for several formations like Shams and Kabul Workshop, in which he is the singer.

Shyamal Maïtra

Shyamal Maïtra was born in Calcutta and, thanks the classical indian music education he received, quickly became skilled in tablas and in all traditional rhythmical complexities. In 1978, he settled in France and opened his mind to occidental forms (Jazz, Rock). From then, he has multiplied the encounters with all kinds of musicians and he always recreates his own sound universe surrounding himself with numerous and unusual percussions. He has tried all kinds of experiments (World, Rock, Contemporary Music) without ever renouncing his original culture. He regularly appears on stage with several formations as: Gong, Mashu, Didier Levallet, Peter Gabriel, Brian Eno, Hector Zazou, Khaled, DJ Cam, Faya Dub, Percussion Art Trio, Suns of Arqa, Mother Tongues duo, Philippe Kadosch...

