

ADEL SALAMEH

(Palestine)

Palestinian oud player and composer, Adel Salameh was born in Nablus, Palestine, in 1966. He started performing as a soloist while still living in the Arab World, but immigrated to Europe in 1990. He quickly established a reputation as one of the finest performers of the oud. He has performed in more than thirty countries including Japan, Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Africa, and numerous countries in North Africa and Europe. When performing as a soloist or with musicians from a variety of musical backgrounds, Adel believes that music is an excellent tool to build bridges between various cultures. In an effort to tackle these cultural barriers, he has worked with Turkish, Spanish, Indian, French, English, Israeli and jazz musicians. Adel has worked with Womad/Real World for six years and performed at the most prestigious concert halls in Europe. These include Royal Festival Hall, Barbican Centre in London, Concertgebouw, Royal Tropical Institute, Paradiso in Amsterdam, Theatre d' Single (Antwerpen) Belgium, Institute of the Arab World in Paris, The Opera House and the Auditorium in Lyon. He has also performed at many festivals throughout the World. He has been described as the ambassador of Arab music in the West.

Naziha Azzouz was born in Algeria and moved to France at the age of 12. She started singing the old Andalucian music at a very early age and performed in Algeria, France, Morocco, the United Kingdom, and Canada. In 1998 Naziha first met Adel to study Arabic music, i.e. the music of the Orient, which has nothing to do with North African music. Since that time, Naziha and Adel have worked together and recorded 2 CDs, Nuzha & Kanza. Last year they toured all over the United Kingdom, Europe, and Morocco. Naziha has also worked with medieval groups. The French newspaper, Le Monde, has described her voice as, "This is no ordinary voice. This voice is coming from Paradise." Naziha and Adel have toured Europe to promote their most recent CD, Kanza. In this tour they performed in France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Ireland and Belgium.

A new CD is about to be released on enja records – Rissala in late 2006.