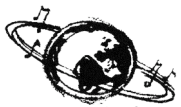


Hasna El Becharia

Blues-Trans Gnawa



"DJAZAIR JOHARA"
2001 Label Bleu/
Indigo



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Blues-trans, gnawa.... Coming from Sahara, Hasna el Becharia's music carry us away in a furious blending of wind of sands, karkabous, ancient traditions, electric guitare and tea with mint.

Coming from the Algerian Sahara, Hasna el Becharia is a woman of freedom, a "never-making concession".

Person having a high colour, she is well known in the south of Algeria, more particularly in Bechar (her native town) where she makes wedding music for more than 30 years. Daughter and gran-daughter of gnawa musicians, she plays popular Saharan traditional songs and personal composition (some call her "gnawa poetess") with acoustic, electric guitars and gumbri (traditional gnawa instrument, usually only played by men).

She arrived in France in January 1999 where she was invited to a festival called "Women of Algeria" (she was, with Souad Massi, one of the two new-comers who emerged from this festival). Hasna decided to stay in Paris because her situation was too difficult in Algeria. In spite of her singing of the Prophet, she disturbs. She is too free, going out alone in the evening despite the curfew, welcoming homeless women and children thrown away thanks to the "Code of the Family" (the Islamic rules which allowed man to do whatever he wants and denied elementary rights to women).

In 2001, at 51 years old she released her very first record –she always refused before, in Algeria- which has been unanimously greeted by the press and the audience. Then she was invited in the most famous French world music festivals (Musiques Méesse of Angoulême, Africolor in Paris, 38 e Rugissants of Grenoble, les Suds of Arles...)

In 2007, tired by several tours, she decided to go back in Algeria to rest and regain strength and inspiration from his country. Day after day, facing the desert, she is composing the first themes of her next album: "*Rani mwali*" (I'm back).



HASNA EL BECHARIA

« DJAZAIR JOHARA »

First and only one record

Released in France on November 23th 2001

Label Bleu/ Indigo

Selected : «Choc de la musique» and by the magazine «Répertoires»

Officially recommended by «Gnaoua music festival of Essaouira» (Marocco)

Hasna is preparing a new album for 2009 : « Rani mwali »

Besides...

She played with the French electronic musician Fred Galliano in a concert at the "Festival de Jazz à Vienne" in August 8th of 1999

She gave a concert at the "Fondation Cartier" in November 2nd of 2000

She was invited by the "Gnaoua Festival of Essaouira" in june 2001 and the concert has been broadcast on TV5, the worldwild channel

She works with the theater/ circus company Salam Toto in a show where horses dance on her music

She was one of the principal invited of the "Beautifull Nights of Ramadan" at the Café de la Danse in Paris, the concert has been broadcast on TV5 and partly recorded by the BBC international

She has been one of the main figures of the 2002 edition of the "Festival Voix de femmes" (women's voices festival) in Bruxelles

Press

An haunting guitar, voices coming « don't know where from », and the rythm which catches you and don't let you down. Hasna el Becharia's music is a kind of stuff that you've never heard before, leads with such a incredible strength. Coming from Bechar (a town of the algerian deep south), Hasna is a woman from the desert, free and without compromising. Because the people were singing loud during her performance, she decided to play the electric guitar. And the result is... amazing.

Magalie Bergès / Mondomix

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