

Ibrahim Maalouf - Kalthoum (2015)

Written by bluesever

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1.Introduction 00:03:54 2.Overture I 00:04:46 3.Overture II 00:03:33 4.Movement I 00:06:14 5.Movement II 00:07:26 6.Movement III 00:15:20 7.Movement IV 00:10:14
Ibrahim Maalouf (trumpet, flugelhorn) Mark Turner (saxophone) Frank Woeste (piano) Larry Grenadier (double bass) Clarence Penn (drums)

My first and only encounter with Ibrahim Maalouf in person took place some years ago on a snowy evening in Glasgow during the Celtic Connections festival. Helping out backstage for his gig we discovered that because of the snow he would only arrive from the airport minutes before the start of the gig. Then we discovered that only his guitarist was with him – the rest of the band was still snowed in at Amsterdam airport. When he finally arrived, he just took it all in his stride, and the two musicians went on stage and stormed through an hour of great improvised music – and seemed to enjoy it enormously.

What that that taught me was that despite some occasional forays into pop music and other genres, this is a musician with the very best of jazz skills and credentials.

Maalouf was born in Lebanon, but grew up in Paris. He comes from a musical family, and his father was the inventor of the micro-tonal four-valve trumpet. That's what makes it possible to play Arab quarter-tones on the trumpet, and what gives all his music such a distinctive sound. He is a prolific performer and composer and has worked with a string of pop, electro, world and jazz musicians.

His own albums though are usually firmly in the “world jazz” tray, and these two are no exception. The two albums – both tributes in homage to women - are however subtly different.

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Kalthoum is a suite dedicated to the Egyptian diva Oum Kalthoum, and built around one of her greatest songs Alf Leila Wa Leila (The thousand and one nights). --- Peter Slavid, londonjazznews.com

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