

INESS MEZEL

Iness Mezel, singer & composer, was born in Paris (France) of a Berber(*) father and a French-Italian mother. She has developed a musical identity firmly rooted in her three cultures and composes a music which transcends boundaries. After classic musical studies (singing, piano) she went on to learn jazz improvisation, classical-contemporary, African and Berber singing. Her universe is a close interdependence between social belonging and musical expression, a strong bond between the social and the musical.

Her music is like a spark that flies when her personal feeling of what it means to be "Berber" comes into contact with the harmonies and rhythms she has woven into her repertoire. Her musical approach stems from the need to create links between cultures and her sources of inspiration are not only to be found in Berber music. Her research is nourished by inventive journeys with the aim, inspired by afro jazz & Berber, of creating her own style.

This means broadening the basic Berber music by opening up the harmonic space (usually pentatonic in traditional Berber music) in which the melodies make child's play of the major and minor or modal modes, thus giving her music a touch of jazz or blues' unusual phrasing and by writing songs with a very polyrhythmic conception in her arrangements.

She expresses her genuine gift for the stage through a dynamic and energetic style. Her voice has a rare and bewitching tone, powerful in Berber blues or delicately sensual in a capella or melodious songs.

Iness Mezel writes poetry, which wends its way like the wind, silent, yet remarkably intense. (Lyric themes : imagination, friendship, a people's sense of responsibility towards its memory, its language, its destiny, freedom.)

In Progress : a new album. Iness Mezel is currently composing new songs she will be singing in several languages (Tamazight, French, English).

(*)The Berbers or "Imazighen" (kabyles, touaregs, rifains, schleuh) are natives of North Africa and their culture (language and writing) is the oldest culture in North Africa.

"There is... and will be forever! these free spirits who do not allow themselves to be manipulated, either by the pull of material goods or seductive minds, but who stake their being on looking at life in a fresh and original way, resisting, always holding out against, standing up to. Impertinent, no?" **Iness Mezel**