



MIND HEART SPIRIT : DESERT BRIDGES

INDIA, SWITZERLAND, EGYPT, USA, MOROCCO



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October 2010 - October 2012

A MUSICAL AND VISUAL ENCOUNTER IN THE DESERTS OF EGYPT, RAJAHSTAN AND MOROCCO

Cheo Jeffery Allen Solder, USA: Poetry, Saxophones, Flutes

Anna Grichting, Switzerland: Vocals and Lyrics

Jon Sass, Austria, USA: Tuba

Hakim Raquib, USA: Photography

ENCOUNTERS AND PERFORMANCES WITH MUSICIANS

FESTIVAL DATES AND WEBSITES

EGYPT: Characters of Egypt. 29-31 October 2010

<http://www.charactersofegypt.com/>

INDIA: Rajasthan International Folk Festival. 21-25 October 2010

<http://www.jodhpurfolkfestival.org/>

INDIA: Nagaur Music Festival: A Divine Dialogue. 17-19 February 2011

<http://nagaurfestival.org/helpdesk.htm>

MOROCCO: Rendezvous de la Musique, Morocco March 2011

<http://www.rendezvous-de-la-musique.com>

THE PROJECT

The project proposes encounters between western trained improvisational musicians with folk musicians from India, Egypt and Morocco, beginning with the music festival in Jodhpur (October 20-25, 2010), continuing to the festival in Fustat Wadi El Gemal (October 29-31, 2010) and to the Moroccan festival (March 2011). The project is led by poet/musician Cheo Jeffery Allen Solder in collaboration with the vocalist Anna Grichting. Cheo will compose poetic prose and poetry to be translated into both Hindi and Arabic for performance in each country.

The work and music will focus on common spiritual elements that all people share, universal love, praise and prayer, the multi-cultural music unit will combine the various elements into a fully integrated and cohesive whole that will be improvisational in nature, musically speaking, while retaining elements of all three cultures.

The Rajasthan, Bedouin and Moroccan Cultures represent rich, varied and ancient forms of music that are based on very similar spiritual and cultural roots. Both people have, to a large degree, sprung from the same African roots at different times in the distant past. Similarly, the nature of improvised western music, often termed "Jazz", has at its heart, the African influence as well. It has been noted by many musicians and scholars that both Indian and Bedouin folk music are very much improvisational in nature. The result of this exciting collaboration will be a series of concerts in India, Egypt Morocco and Europe. It is also part of the plan to record the collaboration and release a CD of the words and music.

OUTPUTS

PERFORMANCES

The musicians will eventually all perform together in the different festivals and other venues in Egypt, India and Morocco. A tour to Switzerland and possibly the US is also planned for the year 2001-2012.

MUSICAL RECORDINGS

The performances will be recorded and a CD will be released with a selection of pieces from the different performances and festivals. Funding permitting, it is also planned to record some musical pieces in a recording studio.

BOOK

A major part of this project will be the composition of written poetic impressions by Cheo Jeffery Allen Solder and photographic images produced by photographer: Hakim Raquib.

Kassahun Chicole, owner of Africa World Press (www.africaworldpressbooks.com), has agreed to take on the task of publishing a very high quality limited edition book and an open edition book that chronicles the events and experiences and images of this fantastic journey of music and culture and spirit.



Cheo Jeffery Allen Solder

**Poet, Writer, Playwright, Musician
Mind, Heart, Spirit: Streams**

Born in Los Angeles, California, Cheo Jeffery Allen Solder is a poet, writer, playwright and musician. After a twenty-year hiatus from the creative scene, he began writing and playing again four years ago. At present, Cheo plays the Tenor and Soprano Saxophone, the C and Alto Flute, Percussion and the Kalimba. Regarding his poetry, he terms his work: Mind, Heart, Spirit: Streams. Mind has to do with things political, Heart has to do with matters of love and emotion and Spirit relates to our Creator and our connections to one another. Streams conveys the way the words come to him, in a hot rush of consciousness. His main concern is to impart the knowledge and wisdom he has gained from extensive world travel and a long and actively lived life to a younger generation. When asked to describe himself, he simply stated that he is "just another brother from the 'Hood'".

Cheo has performed as a poet/musician all over the New England area in recent years.

Since coming to Geneva, Cheo has formed a musical group, "ArcoBalano" and with the assistance of his new musical family, he has begun performing his poetry set to totally improvised music. Most recently, they appeared at the New Year's Music in Gstaad, organized by Caroline Murat. Additionally, Cheo was invited to perform in Berlin at a German government sponsored event exploring the impact of Barak Obama's election as the President of the United States.

He is currently working on a CD, "HisStory", of his poetry and music to be released in September, 2010 by Synchronvision Records. He appeared as a featured artist on Brian Jackson's recently released CD, "More Than Music", also on Synchronvision Records. One of his books, "One4DeBrovaahs", is being published later this year by Africa World Press and he will also have one of his theatre pieces, "One4DeBrovaahs" staged in Geneva (directed by Guylaine Dumas Klaus Corsini) and in New York (directed by Oz Scott, produced by Woodie King Jr.) very soon.

Websites:

www.myspace.com/cheojefferyallensolder

<http://synchronvisionrecords.bandcamp.com/album/cheo-jeffery-allen-solder-mind-heart-spirit-his-story-more-tracks-coming>

<http://www.america-reloaded.de/engl/veranstaltung4.html>

Radio Interview: <http://www.radiocite.ch/page-147-39-9.html>



Anna Grichting

Architect-Urbanist-Musician Bordermeetings

Dr. Anna Grichting is an architect, urbanist and musician and holds a Doctor of Design from Harvard University. Born in Switzerland, brought up in England and Ireland, Anna Grichting's first musical encounters were with Celtic music. Back in Switzerland, she followed a classical musical training as well as workshops in jazz and blues singing. From her English pop and Irish Celtic influences, she turned to rhythm & blues with her group the "Mad Hatters" who played venues from 1985-1990. During this time, she was also a member of the French music-hall troupe called the "Batignolles" where she interpreted songs by Mistinguette. She formed a jazz group called "Songs Trio", with pianist Michel Bastet and trombonist Jean-Jacques Pedretti and played in duo with the female pianist and composer Ariane Besson. In the recent years, she has revived her interest in folk music, especially Indian, Pakistani and Celtic music, also exploring the world of improvised jazz and new technologies. She produced and performed with "Border Meetings", a musical project she developed around the concept of borders, limits and divided cities like Belfast, Nicosia, Beirut and Berlin; a project which included Martin Schütz on cello, Lucas Niggli on drums and Jean-Jacques Pedretti on trombone. With Pedretti, they also founded "Sufi Moon", an encounter between alphorns and Qawwali music centered on the theme of the Moon. With "Sufi Moon" they toured Switzerland and Pakistan and played in the Sufi Shrine of Baba Farid in Pakpatten for the Urs of the Sufi Saint, and also released a CD with the musicians Sher Miandad Khan, Warisali Baloo Khan and Robert Morgenthaler.

More recently, she composed music for a spatial sound system - sound architecture with 24 speakers - entitled Mouthpiece I, II, III and IV, inspired by her work on the Cyprus Green Line. This was performed at Harvard University with a live musician playing music from both the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot Cultures.

Anna Grichting is presently collaborating and performing with Cheo Jeffery Allen Solder, a poet and musician from Los Angeles, on a project of desert culture and music.

CD Recordings:

Border Meetings, Altri Suoni, June 2000.

Sufi Moon, Planisphere, 2002.

Websites

Sufi Moon:

http://www.bordermeetings.com/SUFI_MOON/SUFI_MOON_WELCOME.html

Border Meetings. www.bordermeetings.com



John Sass

Tuba

Jon Sass, born in New York City, is widely recognized as a true GROOVE MASTER as well as arguably the most innovative and versatile tuba player alive today. With his truly unique and soulfully penetrating sound, Jon's career has made a tremendous impact on the Jazz, Classical as well as the world of Brass. His music reflects a rainbow of creativity in his first highly acclaimed solo CD "Sassified". Jon feels at home in several music genres and has performed in both Jazz and Classical productions such as Wind Symphonies, Big Bands, and other formations. Currently Jon is working as a unique solo performer who plays and composes his own music. Earlier in his career, he started giving seminars as an American Cultural Representative in countries such as Russia and Japan and continues to be in high demand worldwide for his creativity concepts. Current projects include a corporate seminar called "Corporate Groove" as well as a new interactive children's program and workshop with a character called Sassy the Tuba.

For more info on current programs and ensembles see Jon's website and blog at

www.jonsass.com



Hakim Raquib

Photographer

Hakim Photography Studio, owned and operated for 38 years in Boston, MA. Client list: Polaroid Corporation, Boston Globe Magazine, Bay State Banner, Boston Magazine, Travel Magazine, Stepz Magazine, Houghton Mifflin, Xerox and Ginn Publishers, Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance, Massachusetts Transit Authority, Mass Port Authority, Partners Health Care Providers, Dimock Health Care, Annual Reports, Museum of the National Center for African American , Museum of African American History, Museum of Fine Arts, Oxfam America , WGBH, Boston Urban Arts Institute at Mass College of Art, Wentworth Institute, Northeastern University and Boston University. The photographic images that Hakim provides have been used in variety of publications: brochures, annual reports, catalogues, editorial, advertising, documentary, point of purchase billboards, and exhibitions. In addition, Hakim has served as an educational consultant for Urban Arts Inc, Wentworth Institute and New Mission High School. In collaboration with the aforementioned, he developed workshops and instructed Inner city high school students in the media art. He currently holds an Artist Residency at Northeastern University's AAMARPP.

After 37 years of Photography, Hakim has a large body of work from his travels around the world, as well as locally. His goal is to consolidate the work into publications, exhibitions and to continue providing his clients with high quality state of the art service, while pursuing a Fine Art career, "Exhibiting Visual Artist". Currently Mr. Raquib's work is on permanent display at "The AAMARP Gallery" 76 Atherton Street Jamaica Plain MA. 02130.

Website: <http://web.me.com/hakimphotography/portfolio/home.html>

CONTACT INFORMATION

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LINKS TO THE ARTISTS

CHEO JEFFERY ALLEN SOLDER

www.myspace.com/cheojefferyallensolder

Listen to: Saint Alice, Requiem, Echoes of Eden

<http://www.america-reloaded.de/engl/veranstaltung4-backup.html>

Listen to: Opening: Requiem

<http://synchronovisionrecords.bandcamp.com/album/cheo-jeffery-allen-solder-mind-heart-spirit-his-story-more-tracks-coming>

Listen to: Lay me down, Magic and other wondrous things

http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100000971908920&v=app_2347471856#!/notes/cheo-jeffery-allen-solder/my-god-by-god/109564292418599

Read: My God, By God

ANNA GRICHTING

<http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/sufimoon>

http://www.bordermeetings.com/SUFI_MOON/SUFI_MOON_WELCOME.html

<http://vimeo.com/13449666>

Anna Grichting and Cheo Solder. Video of the America Reloaded Series in Berlin.

JON SASS

www.jonsass.com

http://www.jonsass.com/sassified_tracks.html

<http://www.jonsass.com/videos.html>

Watch: Live at Porgy & Bess Jazz Club, Vienna

HAKIM RAQUIB

<http://web.me.com/hakimphotography/portfolio/home.html>

http://web.me.com/hakimphotography/night_symphony/WELCOME.html

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www.africaworldpressbooks.com