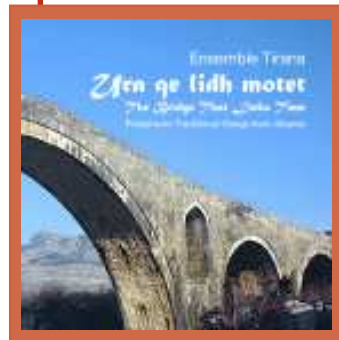


ENSEMBLE TIRANA

The Ensemble Tirana is a virtuoso ensemble that revives the rich and unjustly - unknown repertoire of Albanian polyphony in an honest and respectful way. The ensemble was founded in 1994 and performed at several renowned European festivals.



fact sheet

POLYPHONY

Ensemble Tirana mainly sing a capella, with a sparse accompaniment on traditional instruments like the flute and the two-stringed *cifteli*. The polyphony of the group resembles other similar styles from South-East Europe, especially those from Bulgaria, made famous by the female choir 'Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares'.

The music has its own, pronounced characteristics as well. The three- and four-part polyphonies are rich, emotional songs which are among the most beautiful in Europe. Some of the songs sound like a lament, dripping with life's suffering, which is not surprising to those who know the history of this small Balkan country.

The South-Albanian polyphonic music sounds modern and old at the same time. It probably goes back two thousand years. It is strictly an oral tradition, transmitting the songs from generation to generation during many centuries.

LAMENTS AND EROTIC SONGS

In Albania, each region has its own musical style with its own musical and vocal colour. The themes, the content and the lyrical development are very important for the Albanian polyphonic chants. The lyrical singing is the basis for the performing artists.

However, the repertoire not only consists of laments. There are erotic stories too, 'adjusted' by official censorship during the totalitarian regime. Luckily the original lyrics are not lost as they were kept alive in family-circles and sung at festivities.

In addition, the repertoire includes epic and historical chants. Those are situated in the seventeenth century and were an expression of the resistance against the Ottoman occupation of the country.

The cd *The Bridge That links Time* contains some songs by the Arbëreshë as well. *Arberia* was the name of Albania in the fifteenth century and Arbëreshë was the name of the people at that time. After the Ottoman invasion some of them moved to the other side of the Adriatic Sea into what is now Italian territory. During the five centuries they have been living there, they held onto their language, rites, Orthodox religion, customs, songs, etc.

QUOTE

In an interview with the Dutch online magazine MixedWorldMusic bariton Sula explains: 'The repertoire of most Albanian groups is tied closely to the region of origin of the band. The members of Ensemble Tirana hail from different areas, to begin with. Some of us have an education in singing. That is why we can sing different styles with diverse techniques, thus demonstrating the many-sidedness of the music.'

- Nazo Celaj: tenor
- Hyso Xhaferaj: tenor
- Dionis Delia: tenor
- Edmond Lila: tenor
- Luan Sula: bariton
- Ervin Kastrati: bass-bariton

Artist • Ensemble Tirana
title • Ura Qe Lidh Motet. The Bridge That Links Time
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format • CD/digipack
booklet • 10 pag. Engels
country • Albanië
genre • world music/
polyfonie
price • full price

contact

band web • ensembletirana.com
bookings • info@link-kultuurburo.be

tracklisting

1. Ditet e beharit - Spring days 02:39
2. Hanko! 05:23
3. Na leu dielli - The sun rises 03:36
4. Mora rrugen per Janina - Travelling to Janina 04:13
5. C'me grise shpirtin - You drive me crazy 02:41
6. Ti me je si nje gonxhe - You are like a flower bud 03:13
7. Kenga e Ago Ymerit - Song for Ago Ymer 05:07
8. Kendon bylbyli - The nightingale song 02:35
9. Ju Pampore qe shkoni - O ye boats that go away 04:19
10. Vajta diku, vajta - I'm so happy with her 03:57
11. Ti je vete pranvera - You are the spring yourself 02:53
12. Mbece more shoke, mbece - A tragic end in the war 03:51
13. Moj bukuri magjike - O magical beauty 04:37
14. Potpourri Korcare - Potpourri of Korca 04:13



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