

# ARIFA

**Ancient musical traditions from the Middle East and Balkans are blended with jazz and contemporary improvised music through a Western frame of mind.**

**Arifa's secret lies in the creative chemistry between its three members. Coming from Romania, Turkey, the Netherlands and Germany their music is just as diverse as their origins, moving from traditional Turkish and Balkan sounds to jazz and contemporary music.**

**Their CD 'Beyond Babylon' was released in 2010, 'Anatolian Alchemy' in 2012 and their third album "Voices from the East" in 2014. They were consecutively awarded the title "best world music release" in the Netherlands to five star reviews as well as receiving international acclaim.**

**Alex Simu (Ro) clarinets**  
**Franz von Chossy (DE) piano**  
**Sjahn During (TR/NL) percussion set**

Arifa was founded in 2010. Since then they have performed in 24 countries worldwide at international festivals and venues such as the Concertgebouw, London Jazz Festival Southbank Centre, Kennedy Art Centre USA, Ethnoport Festival, Jarasum International Jazz Festival, , Jazzahead, Chicago World Music Festival, Amsterdam Roots, Bimhuis, Garana Jazz, Havana Jazz, Istanbul Akbank Festival, Shanghai World Music Festival, de Roma, Barbican's Transcender Festival, Glatt & Verkehrt Festival, BBC Broadcasting House London.

They have collaborated in the past with such amazing artists as Aynur Doğan, Arto Tunçboyacıyan, Theodosii Spassov, the Gypsies of Rajasthan featuring Laka Khan and the Voices from the East featuring musicians from China, Korea, Iran & Bulgaria, that resulted in concerts, recordings and tours.

Although Arifa is based in the Netherlands, this quartet truly matches the spirit of the European Jazz Meeting with its members originally hailing from Romania, Turkey, the Netherlands and Germany.

"A BRIDGE OF SOUNDS BETWEEN THE ORIENT AND OCCIDENT"



Their music is just as diverse as their origins, moving from traditional Turkish and Arabic orient sounds to jazz and classical music. Arifa's inspired arrangements and inventive compositions create an intense, radiant atmosphere. **Jazzahead 2013**



Arifa - Anatolian Alchemy



Arifa - Beyond Babylon



Arifa & Voices From The East



# PRESS

## **Songlines - Feb 2013**

“Arifa strikes gold. This is music that can make you shiver with delight”

## **Volkskrant - Neherlands - Oct '12**

“Words, nor stars, can do this record justice. The only option is to remain in silence. Beyond Babylon, the first album of this exquisite quartet, was already delightful, and Anatolian Alchemy easily exceeds it.”

## **Parool national newspaper, Nov'12**

“Ancient wisdom from the East is reinterpreted through an enlightened Western conceptual framework, resulting in splendid musical alchemy.”

## **Songlines Magazine UK sep 2011**

Arifa combines the musical heritage of Babylon, Istanbul, Bucharest and Amsterdam with electronics and contemporary improvisations. The result transcends the sum of its parts and a journey far into the realm of imagination.

## **Mixed World Music Magazine, 2 Dec 2010**

Beyond Babylon - voted best world music release of 2010  
Made In The Netherlands.

## **Volkskrant - Neherlands, 4 Nov 2010 5 \*\*\*\*\***

In its exquisite beauty this debut album holds up to the level of the best works of Anouar Brahem.

## **Music Center Netherlands 21 sep 2011**

Dutch quartet Arifa is currently one of the most promising Dutch world music ensembles around. Moving between traditional oriental sounds, jazz and improvised music.

## **Mondomix - Jan 2013**

“The alchemical formula of this band resembles of some poetic productions of ECM label”

## **Jazzahead Germany 2013**

“Their music is just as diverse as their origins, moving from traditional Turkish and Arabic orient sounds to jazz and classical music. Arifa’s inspired arrangements and inventive compositions create an intense, radiant atmosphere.”

## **VPRO magazine, Dec '12**

“The music of this unconventional ensemble is not just animated, its thrilling, it’s not obtrusive but intrusive. Arifa was the biggest surprise of the 2010 Dutch Jazz & World Meeting.”

## **Havana Libre, Nov 2012**

It was a special moment for many people to hear such intense and emotional music, equally powerful and so different to the passion that characterises to Cuban works.”

“A BRIDGE OF SOUNDS BETWEEN THE ORIENT AND OCCIDENT”



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