

« Il y a ici quelques merveilleuses chansons à découvrir et à redécouvrir, en particulier la dernière de la série, 'Do you love me?' de la famille libanaise Bendaly, qui reçoit un traitement minimaliste empreint de désir par le duo. »

"There are some wonderful songs to discover and rediscover here, not least the set closer 'Do you love me?' by the Lebanese Bendaly Family, which is given a yearningly minimalist treatment by the duo."

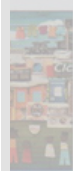


aneously composed, the re potently concise, with torical roots that are not h any complacency. 'E' example of subversive s the teasingly playful hythm is somehow iented as it is fluent. strong release on the t label, whose fine e keeps growing in
 (evin Le Gendre

f Gutman tt with el Loueke ong

Records/Bandcamp
 DL) ★★★

an Levitt (b), Lionel Loueke (g),
) and Ofri Nehemya (d).
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Hard on the heels of Levitt's lustrous collaboration with guitarist Tal Tsuf Harim, comes this fferent coalition. Where

with such themes and in he bounces with his own West African schtik to bring a vibrant dance to the song, pushing pianist Mor to pick up the rhythm with a strong right hand.

By contrast, the title track waltz has all the romantic sweep of a Pat Metheny song, with Loueke subtly balanced by Levitt's understated bass. The bass grows richer on the darker brew of 'Myriad' with Mor's keys to the fore again, as they are on the gentle pulse of 'Song of the Sea', replete with shifting brush work from Nehemya.

There's no grand ambition here of cultural fusion: simply two citizens of music playing with joy, respect and the widest of smiles. Savour sweetly.

Andy Robson

Madeleine & Salomon Eastern Spring

Tzig'art TZIG220930 (CD, DL) ★★★★★

Clotilde Rullaude (v, f), Alexandre Saada (p, v)

and Jean-Paul Gonnod (elec, fx).
 Rec. 21-22 February 2022



Madeleine & Salomon – aka vocalist and flutist Clotilde Rullaude (middle name: Madeleine) and pianist Alexandre Saada (middle name: Salomon) – released their first album, *A Woman's Journey*, in 2016. That was an exploration of the 'rebellious repertoire' of female American singers, from Josephine Baker to Janis Joplin.

The duo's second album, *Eastern Spring* – with its titular nod to the Arab Spring – revisits the militant pop of the Mediterranean basin of the 1960s and 70s. The arrangements are stripped back and sparse, the better to lay bare the themes of 'Life-Death-Love' – that 'mystical trinity' – largely explored here in French and English. There's 'Lili Twil' by Les Frères Megri from Morocco; 'De l'Orient à Orion' by KR Nagati from Tunisia; 'Ma Fatsh Leah' by Al Massrieen from Egypt; 'Layil' by Shalom Hanoach from Israel; and the Iranian 'pop hymn' 'Komakam Kon', which is combined with US Beat poet Allen Ginsberg's epic 1956 work *Howl*.

There are some wonderful songs to discover and rediscover here, not least the set closer, 'Do You Love Me?', by the Lebanese Bendaly Family, which is given a yearningly minimalist treatment by the duo.

Robert Shore