

Amos Hoffman - Biography



Tel Aviv based guitarist and oudist Amos Hoffman started playing guitar at the age of 6, and oud a few years later. He studied guitar privately, and attended the prestigious Rubin Academy of Music in Jerusalem. His search for new musical experiences led him first to Amsterdam, and then to New York City, where he played jazz with both established musicians like Dennis Charles, Evelyn Blakey and Juma Santos and other up and coming talents like Jason Lindler, Omer Avital, Sam Newsome, Jay Collins, bassist Avishai Cohen, Jorge Rossi and Duane Eubanks. He also began a more formal study of Middle Eastern music

with Lebanese oud and ney player, Bassam Saba.

In 1998, he recorded his first solo album *The Dreamer* for the Spanish Label, Fresh Sound/New Talent. He has also contributed to numerous other projects, including Ben Wolfe's *13 Sketches* (1997), Jay Collins' *Cross Culture* (1999), Sam Newsome (1999) and bassist Avishai Cohen's *Continuo* (2006), *Colors* (2000) *Devotion* (1999) and *Adama* (1998).

After returning to Israel at the end of 1999, he began to compose the music that would eventually become the tracks on *Na'ama*, released in 2006 on Magda records. On *Na'ama*, Hoffman plays homage to the traditions of classical Arabic music - the *taqasim* (improvisation) and the *maqam* (scales). All 12 tracks are original compositions, inspired by the great Arab composers of the 20th Century.

Further pursuing his passion for combining jazz with Middle Eastern music, his newest work is *Evolution* (RazDaz), a ten track exploration of melodies and rhythms that incorporates compositional and improvisational elements common to both musical genres. His long-time friend and musical associate Avishai Cohen, who plays contrabass, piano and contributes vocals, joins Hoffman on *Evolution*. Rounding out the CD's line up are two of Israel's most prominent musicians - ethnic percussionist Ilan Katchka and flautist Ilan Salem.

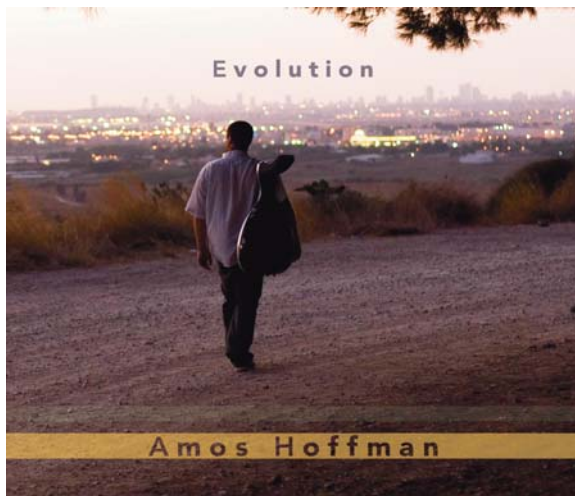
www.amoshoffman.com

www.razdazrecordz.com

For booking information, contact: 972.3.624.0885 or write to management@amoshoffman.com

About Evolution

Oud virtuoso Amos Hoffman's new release *Evolution* is an expressive and breathtaking compilation of original music. Combining Middle Eastern inspired melodies played by oud and flute, and African rhythms played by contrabass and percussion, Hoffman finds common ground and blends into the mix a jazz sensibility that combines the different styles of music, while still keeping the essence of each. With a lineup that includes Avishai Cohen on contrabass, and two of Israel's most prominent musicians - ethnic percussionist Ilan Katchka and flautist Ilan Salem, Hoffman explores new musical territory with the oud, and showcases the instrument in a unique way.



Catalog: SSC4606
Barcode: 016728460620
Released: March 25th, 2008,
Razdaz Records

www.amoshoffman.com
www.razdazrecordz.com

"Truly inspiring stuff... a textured and unpredictable musical statement. I'll take a surprise like that any day of the week"

Mark Saleski, www.blogcritics.org March 25, 2008

"Hoffman brings special depth to his work that catches you off guard and trips you up every time you think you can out think him and know where he's going next. A satisfying set that gives world jazz a new standard to live up to."

Chris Spector, www.midwestrecord.com February 12, 2008

"The rich, sophisticated compositions are performed by a spare group (he's backed by percussion, flute and bass/piano/vocals) that affords his playing plenty of room, and mixes his love of Middle Eastern music and jazz on these compositions...It's good, very good indeed, possibly one of the most successful music fusions recorded".

Chris Nickson, www.allmusic.com March 2, 2008

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Amos Hoffman Discography & Appearances

Amos Hoffman - *Evolution*, Razdaz Records 2008; *Na'ama*, Magda Records 2006;
The Dreamer, Fresh Sound/New Talent 1999

Iris & Ofer Portugali - *Sipur B'hemshech*, Independent Release 2007

Avishai Cohen - *Continuo* 2006, Razdaz Records, *Colors*, 2000; *Devotion*, 1999;
Adama, 1998 Stretch Records,

Alon Farber - *Optimistic View* Fresh Sound/New Talent 2006

Rea Bar Nes - *Remember Forget*, Independent release 2006

3 Cohens - *One*, Independent release 2003

Quartet East - *Yeah!* Independent release 2002

Sam Newsome and Global Unity, Columbia 1999

Jay Collins - *Cross Culture*, Loose Leaf Records 1999

Marya Lawrence - *All the Way Back*, Oxygen Music Works 1998

Ben Wolfe - *13 Sketches*, Mons Records 1997

FESTIVALS AND VENUES

JVC Jazz Festival - Sunset/Sunside Club Paris, 2008

Kirk Lightsey Israel Tour 2008

Red Sea Jazz Festival, Eilat, Israel 1988, 2006, 2007

Jerusalem Jazz Festival 2006, 2007

Caesaria Jazz Festival, Israel 2006, 2007

Papa Noel, Israel Tour 2006

Half Note, Limmasol, Cyprus 2005

Muicha Adnet, Israel Tour 2005

Four Cultures, Lodz Poland 2001 and 2002

Jazz, Blues and Videotape, Tel Aviv 2001, 2004 and 2006

North Sea Jazz Festival, Rotterdam, The Netherlands 2000

Teano Jazz Festival Teano, Italy 2000

Umbria Jazz Festival Perugia, Italy 2000

Litchfield Jazz Festival, Litchfield, Connecticut 1999

Big Sur Jazz Festival, Big Sur, California 1999

San Jose Jazz Festival San Jose, California 1998

Montreal Jazz Montreal, Canada Festival 1999

Pizza Express, London; Birdland, BlueNote, Smalls, NYC Yoshi's, The Baked
Potato Oakland/Los Angeles CA 1999

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Amos Hoffman - Fact Sheet

Artist Name: Amos Hoffman

Musical Style/Genre: Middle Eastern Jazz, Middle Eastern/Jazz Fusion, Bebop Jazz

City of Origin: Tel Aviv

Band member Names and Instruments (recording): Amos Hoffman - Guitar, Oud, Avishai Cohen - bass, piano, vocals, Ilan Katchka - percussion, Ilan Salem - flute (live) Ilan Salem - flute, Gilad Abro - bass and Amir Bresler - drums

Key Points of Interest:

- Released **Evolution** on Razdaz records in March 2008 (US) June 23rd (Europe)
- **Evolution** reached #29 on CMJ's World Music Chart
- Previously released **Na'ama** (Magda 2006) and **The Dreamer** (Fresh Sound/New Talent 1999).
- Builds his own instruments.
- Teaches master classes and workshops for guitar.
- Amos often performs with artists touring Israel, playing everything from Bossa Nova with Maucha Adnet to Latin with Papa Noel.
- **Evolution** combines Middle Eastern inspired melodies played by oud and flute, and African rhythms played by contrabass and percussion, Hoffman finds common ground and blends into the mix a jazz sensibility that combines the different styles of music, while still keeping the essence of each.

Additional Data:

- Contributed oud to numerous other projects, including Ben Wolfe's *13 Sketches*, 1997, Jay Collins' *Cross Culture*, 1999, Sam Newsome 1999 and bassist Avishai Cohen's *Continuo*, 2006, *Colors* 2000 *Devotion*, 1999 and *Adama*, 1998.
- Studied at Mannes College (New School) and played in New York for 8 years with Avishai Cohen, Daniel Friedman, Jason Lindler, Omer Avital, Avi Lebovich, Jay Collins
- The oud is a pear shaped, fretless stringed instrument. It originates in the Middle East, and is the ancestor of the European lute.

Similar Artists:

Yair Dalal or Simon Shaheen mixed with Thelonious Monk and Wes Montgomery

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