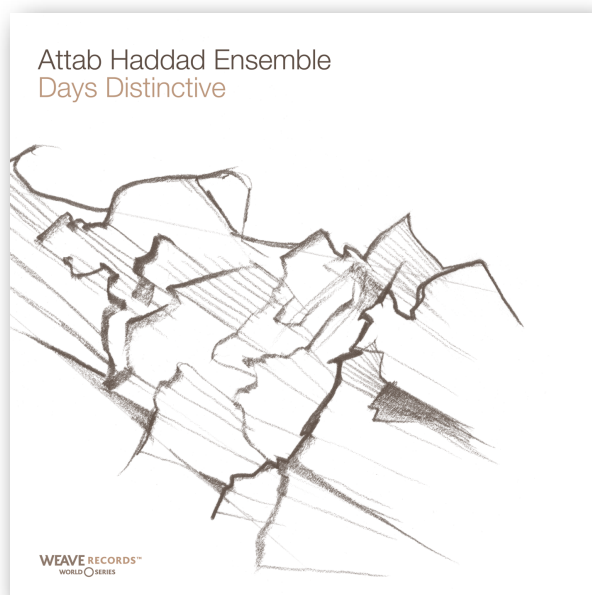


Weave Records World Series



Attab Haddad Ensemble Days Distinctive

Catalogue number: WVR 006

Release date: Jan 30 2012

Retail price: £12.00

Press Information

Drawing on firm roots in both Middle Eastern music and Flamenco, Haddad's compositions take the listener on an instrumental journey through Andalusia and the Middle East, conveying a sonic experience that can only be described as his own.

Haddad's work has featured on BBC Radio 3, Radio 6, Radio Scotland and Resonance FM. He has performed in the UK, Europe, USA, Middle East and India to much acclaim, and has appeared on several Middle Eastern TV Channels. In April 2010 he was the subject of an hour long documentary on Arabic TV Channel AL-Fayhaa that highlighted his innovative new approach to the Oud.

With some of the UK's finest musicians in their respective fields, Haddad's ensemble includes Flautist Philippe Barnes, Cellists Ben Davis and Naomi Wright, Double Bassist Matt Ridley, and Percussionist Vasilis Sarikis.

'Days Distinctive' was written and produced by Haddad. With a strong desire to show the Oud's versatility outside its traditional role, he casts his players across a diverse musical landscape including Flamenco, Jazz, Middle Eastern and Contemporary music, combining these naturally as a modern evolution of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern instrumental music.

Improvisation is of central importance to the ensemble. Against a backdrop of Middle Eastern Maqams (modes) and Flamenco Rhythms, a prevailing Jazz ethos still allows each musician a great deal of freedom. The result is fresh, accessible and will appeal to a very wide musical audience.

Reviews & Quotes: Attab Haddad – *Days Distinctive*

Eyal Hareuveni, All About Jazz

"It is rare to find a musician who, on his debut recording, is already confirming his stature as one of the best ones in his field. London-based/Iraqi-descended oudist Attab Haddad is such a musician, honing his knowledge of the traditional Arabic legacy with oud masters including Iraqi Ahmed Mukhtar and Egyptians Nihad El-Sayed and Nasseer Shamma. He is also a member of violinist Sabina Rakcheyeva's neo-classical ensemble and a founding member of the flamenco-Arabic-Indian group Alcazaba.

But it is his innovative new attitude to the oud that marks him along other great contemporary players such as Anouar Brahem and Rahim Al-Haj, Haddad's complete mastery of the instrument—with a poetic personal musical language and natural sense of openness— organically placing it into new genres such as chamber jazz, flamenco and contemporary music. This comes together with strong and fresh compositions, wise arrangements that leave enough room for all the melodies to blossom, and the wisdom to find the right musicians to enhance Haddad's vibrant musical vision.

This recording features Haddad's quintet, augmented with many guest players. Haddad begins "Awakening" with a beautiful solo that patiently introduces his tight and passionate ensemble, while ornamenting and wisely nurturing his flowing musical ideas. Even though the music relies on an Arabic scale, it has its own sense of swing and new music courtesy of cellist Naomi Wright's exquisite playing. On "Looking at the Wind" and "Por Que? No Se!," Haddad's poetic playing lightly references flamenco music while introducing the theme, and later through the gentle interplay with Wright and flutist Philippe Barnes. The title piece—in both its studio recording and longer live version—is full of drama, adventure and humor, and displays Haddad's skills as a sensitive storyteller in full control of this elaborate tale's ingredients and its progression.

Together with Alcazaba partner, flamenco guitarist Ramon Ruiz, Haddad presents an enchanting playful melody on "Por Tangos," with leisurely yet virtuosic playing. Later, the ensemble revisits Haddad's Alcazaba composition, "Aire Del Oud," with joyful passion. Based on Turkish traditionalism, "Longa-esque" provides an excellent opportunity for Haddad and his ensemble to bridge the original's sophistication with an update of bold rhythmic ideas. Two friends from Rakcheyeva's ensemble—the uniquely expressive leader and pianist Kit Downes— guest on Haddad's "Clock," originally written for that ensemble and, here, emphasizing the timeless quality of the oudist's melodies.

2012 has only begun but Days Distinctive is already a strong contender for this year's list of best releases."

Paul Brazier, The Argus

'Attab Haddad is a virtuoso of the traditional Arabic lute or Oud to which he has brought a revolutionary new approach.'

Diane Pilkington, The Wimbledon Guardian

'His playing of this difficult instrument is impressive .. A wizard'

Lucy Harrison, Institute of Contemporary Interdisciplinary Arts, University of Bath

'Attab Haddad brings a contemporary edge to the age old traditions of the Oud'

Matthew Woodward, Wotton Arts Centre

'The Oud is a traditional Arabic instrument, the breadth and beauty of which is no better illustrated than in the hands of Attab Haddad'

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'A precociously talented musician'

Michael Quinn, Rock Reel

'Deftly Virtuositic'