



meïkhâneh

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IN THE PRESS

IN ENGLISH :

INSIDE WORLD MUSIC (20 avril 2014)

Meikhaneh – La maison de l'ivresse Self-Release. France's Meikhaneh produces intriguing music inspired by Central Asia, the Mediterranean, and the Middle East. The group incorporates a little Central Asian throat-singing on « Jaran tsagaan aduu. » Maria Laurent's sweet vocals and her stately morin khuur (horse-head fiddle) combines to form a unique blend of vocal and instrumental music. Maria is joined by Johanni Curtet on guitar, dombra, various chants, as well as Milad Pasta on tombak, daf, and udu drum.

The music is more French inspired with wistful melodies and breezy vocals on « Mellekdal » and a more somber tone on « La fille qui tourne dans une piece blanche. » « O leite e o pao » contains more of a flamenco or Portuguese flair. The final track, « Talyn theme, » is an improvisational masterpiece with glorious instrumentation and enigmatic vocals that are sweet, sincere, and traditional. Meikhaneh is a group based in France, but their repertoire originates from other world regions.

At any rate, Meikhaneh knows how to make an album that is entertaining, memorable, and highly-recommended. (Matthew Forss)

TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH :

TRAD MAGAZINE (N°145 September / October 2012)

TT Portugal, Mongolia, Hungary and Iran are the main destinations offered by this young trio from Rennes. In « The House of Intoxication » they invite us to discover a beautiful fusion between the voice of Maria Laurent, the traveling guitar and overtone singing of Johanni Curtet, accompanied by the warm percussions of Milad Pasta. Their music makes us travel in an unusual and friendly world of sounds for a ride beyond the borders in time as well as in space. (Gérard Viel)

RADIO CAMPUS RENNES (April 2012)

We know all the clichés that « World Music » can contain. Here, you can easily forget them all. A blend of various traditions offered to our ears for a truly surprising result. It is a musical breeding of a rare intensity.

TV RENNES (Marsh 2012)

Captivating music, blend of Mongolian singing and Iranian rhythms, with a voice that sounds like an invitation to travel.

YouTube Interview and live tracks: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3i305llhxx4>

ETHNOTEMPOS (February 2012)

A trio intoxicated with traveling sounds.

OUEST - FRANCE (January 2012)

A moment of happiness...



Meïkhâneh + invité © D.R. Ouest-France

MEÏKHÂNEH

World music trio – Rennes (Brittany, France) Trio or with guest

Meïkhâneh sounds like a train, like a riding horse, like footsteps around the world. A promenade through hybrid and surprising landscapes made of different traditional music influences, in which the three musicians are involved. The voices are reminiscent of Fado, Bulgarian singing and Mongolian overtone singing. The colourful Guitar and Kazakh Dombra lute evoke Central Asia, Africa and so on. The Iranian percussions Tombak and Daf, and the Udu drum bring a soft and deep touch. The rhythms of speech in different languages are also brought together. The lyrics are in Portuguese, Mongolian, Hungarian, Persian and also in imaginary languages.

Meïkhâneh is a word from Persian poetry, that means «Wine House» or «House of intoxication». It's also the name of our first EP: «La maison de l'ivresse» in french.

Maria Laurent

Vocals, morin khuur (Horse Fiddle),
tovshuur (mongolian lute)

Johanni Curtet

Khöömij (overtone singing), acoustic
guitar, dombra (kazakh lute), kalangou
(talking drum), backing vocals

Milad Pasta

Tombak, daf (Iranian percussions), udu
drum, tambourine, metal percussions,
backing vocals

Meïkhâneh already performed in FRANCE at: Les Suds festival - Arles, Etonnants Voyageurs festival - Saint-Malo, Le Rêve de l'Aborigène festival - Airvault, Centre Mandapa - Paris, Etonnants Romantiques Festival - Combourg, Théâtre des Jacobins - Dinan, Convergences Culturelles Festival - Rennes, Roulements de tambour, Festival - Rennes, Espace Pont-Morineau - La Roche sur Yon, C.P.F.I. - Le Mans, Le Gamounet CMDT63 - St.-Bonnet-près-Riom, Le Sablier - Rennes, Le Coquelicot – Fougères. **In SWITZERLAND at:** La Distillerie Art House - Bulle

CONCERTS 2014 - 2015 IN FRANCE

- 27 SEPTEMBER 2014 **Centre Mandapa**, Paris (13^e)
20H00 – RÉSERVATION : 01 45 89 01 60
- 3-4 OCTOBER 2014 **Alternatiba** - Lille (59)
SEVERAL CONCERTS – ENTRÉE LIBRE
- 12 OCTOBER 2014 **Jocker's Pub** - Angers (49)
18H30 – RÉSERVATION : 02 49 87 11 12
- 18 OCTOBER 2014 **Les Saulnières** - Le Mans (72)
OPENNING OF SUSHEELA RAMAN
20H30 – RÉSERVATION : 02 43 14 55 15
- 27 NOVEMBER 2014 **Péniche Anako** – Paris (19^e)
20H30 – RÉSERVATION : 09 53 14 90 68
- 7 MARCH 2015 **Le Forum** – Nivillac (56)
OPENNING OF TITI ROBIN TRIO
20H30 – RÉSERVATION : 02 99 90 82 82

RESIDENCE PROJECTS 2014 - 2015

In 2014-2015, Meïkhâneh has several producers and sponsors: La Péniche Spectacle (Rennes), le Pôle Sud (Chartres-de-Bretagne) and Le Forum (Nivillac).

- 27-31 OCTOBER 2014 **Pôle Sud** – Chartres de Bretagne (35)
Residence on Lighting Design with Jacky Jarry and Sound Mix with Antoine Pinçon. 1/2.
Public Presentation, october the 1st « DÉJEUNER SUR SCÈNE » 12:30 – (duration 1H) – INFOS : 02 99 77 13 20
- 2-6 MARS MARCH 2015 **Le Forum** – Nivillac (56)
Residence on Lighting Design with Jacky Jarry and Sound Mix with Antoine Pinçon. 2/2.

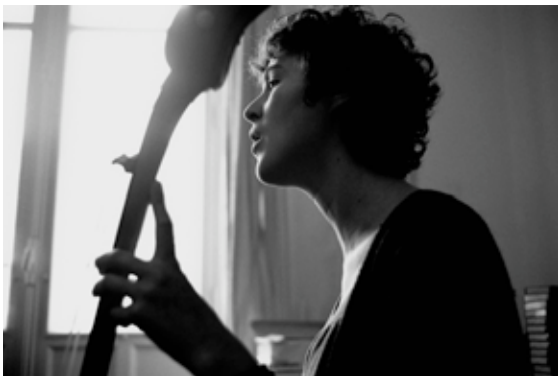
LA MAISON DE L'IVRESSE

The House of Intoxication

First EP (6 songs) Released in February 2012

Recorded in May 2011, in *La Fonderie* (Le Mans – France), with the support of *La Fonderie* (www.lafonderie.fr)

Recorded, mixed and mastered by Hervé De Caro, *Music – Avenue* (<http://music-avenue.fr>).



MEÏKHÂNEH + GUEST

WITH UUGANBAATAR TSEND - OCHIR

Meïkhâneh finds inspiring to meet musicians from different influences and to play with them. In April 2011, **Meïkhâneh** met **Uugan**, a brilliant Mongolian double bass player, during a creation residency in Switzerland (at *La Distillerie Art House* in Bulle). That was the beginning of a close collaboration that still continues. Every year we meet again and make new songs together, mixing our musical worlds.

Uugan plays in several bands and projects, including Egschiglen, a famous Mongolian traditional ensemble from

Germany, with whom he plays all around the world since fifteen years.

His music is rooted in the Mongolian tradition (imitation of the horse and camel steps, Long Songs...), in European classical music, and in personal creations and innovations.

He plays on an Ikh Khuur (horse head double bass), that he made. His instrument is like his music: a mix of tradition and modernity.



© Fabien Guillotin - 2011

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© D.R.

See La Distillerie Art House's website, in the « archives », « Les gardiens du vent »:
www.ladistillerie.ch.

MUSICIANS' BIOGRAPHIES



Maria Laurent studied flute and traverso at the Conservatoire in Rennes. She earned a Master in Musicology and DUMI Diploma at the University of Rennes II. In 2004 she founded the vocal ensemble Portotrio whose repertoire consists of world polyglot songs arranged for voices and percussions. In this trio she experimented with various vocal timbre and techniques, such as full voice from the East music, Oriental timbre from Judeo-Spanish songs or the lyrical voice, and acquired fluency in foreign language pronunciation. Influenced by fado, blues, American folk and Bjork, she explores different vocal textures, with invented language, Bulgarian or English, telling strange and incomprehensible stories.

References: Stevie Wonder's backing vocals (Zénith Nantes), Opening of Chet Nuneta, Festival Off Avignon.

Discography

© Portotrio - *Portotrio* CD / Independent / Ed. 2007, Les Cris de Vénus, Rennes

© Portotrio - *Oi Siunta* CD / Independent / Ed. 2012, Les Cris de Vénus, Rennes



Musician and overtone singer, **Johanni Curtet** is also Doctor in ethnomusicology at the University of Rennes II. He teaches overtone singing for different structures: University of Rennes II, Cité de la Musique, Théâtre de la Ville...

His research focuses on overtone singing techniques and khöömij learning through oral transmission in Mongolia. Several scholarships (Egide, Boulanger Foundation, Aires Culturelles, French Society for Ethnomusicology) allow him to travel in Mongolia learning the mongolian language and culture. First trained by Trâm Quang Hai, his traditional learning started with Tserendavaa in the steppes, and Odsuren at the University of Arts and Culture, Ulaanbaatar. Artistic Director of Routes Nomades, he produces Mongolian traditional music tours since 2006, and performed with his master Tserendavaa on many gigs. He participated in the first editions of Voix du Sahel in Cameroon and Chad (a transsaharian project initiated by Culturesfrance) alongside Camel Zekri and Yacouba Moumouni. In 2010, at the request of the National Commission of Mongolia to UNESCO, he was involved in the registration of Mongolian overtone singing on the

Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

References: Les Escales Festival, Les Orientales Festival, Le Rêve de l'Aborigène Festival, Classica-Evora-Portugal, Musée des Arts Asiatiques in Nice, Palais des Congrès et de la Culture du Mans...

Discography:

© *Xöömij overtone singing from Mongolia*: 1 CD, 1 DVD / Ed. 2008, Buda Records (Universal)



Milad Pasta is a self-taught Iranian percussionist. He plays the Tombak, Daf and Udu drum. Djamshid and Keyvan Chemirani were among his mentors. He founded and chaired the Nomad Association for several years, and has created various intercultural events. In collaboration with the Théâtre de la Ville, he has organized « the Four Paths », a series of meetings with Iranian musicians, filmmakers and photographers. In the bands with which he plays, he experimented with the rhythms of different musical traditions, new techniques of playing on traditional instruments and the relationship between language and rhythm. In 2010, he joined the Portotrio ensemble where Maria Laurent sings. This band of female voices and percussions allows him to explore a sober and refined playing. He teaches Tombak at the C.P.F.I., Le Mans.

References: Opening of Chet Nuneta.

Discography

© Portotrio - *Oi Siunta* / Independent / Ed. 2012, Les Cris de Vénus, Rennes



Guest Musician in “Meikhâneh meets Uugan”



Uuganbaatar Tsend-Ochir

Uuganbaatar grew up near the Gobi desert in Dalandzadgad, Mongolia. During his youth, interested in traditional music, he comes into contact with nomads who make him discover the richness of Mongolian culture. He began playing music by himself and later joined the theatre of the southern-Gobi province where he perfected his mastery of Ikh Khuur (Mongolian two-strings double-bass) with professional musicians. After several years of touring across the Gobi, he enrolled at the University of Arts and Culture, Ulaanbaatar, where he became a teacher. He worked alongside the national orchestra of the capital city. He currently resides in Germany.

International tours with the Egschiglen ensemble since 15 years (Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, France, Spain, Turkey, Tunisia, Armenia, Mongolia, China, Korea, etc.) **References** : WOMAD Reading, WOMEX Essen, Rencontres Polyphoniques de Calvi, Dreamtime Festival Berlin, Festival International de Musique Sacrée Abbaye de Sylvanès, Masala Festival Hanovre, Stimmen Festival Berne, Mystic Music Festival Istanbul, Rainforest World Music Festival...

Discography with Egschiglen :

- © Egschiglen, *Sounds of Mongolia* / Arc Music EUCD 1652 / Ed. 2001, Arc Music
- © Egschiglen, *Zazal* / Heaven and Hearth HE10 / Ed. 2004, Heaven and Hearth
- © *The Musical Silk Road* / Accords Croisés, AC 102 / extract from *Egschiglen, Zazal*, Heaven and Earth HE10, 2004 / Ed. 2004, Accords Croisés
- © *Gereg* / Heaven and Hearth HE 17 / Ed. 2007, Heaven and Hearth-Verlag



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