

fROOTS

fROOTS 60



Nawal

NAWAL

Aman Nawali KWE01307

Gentle, undulating, understatedly soulful, downright gorgeous music from a traditionally rooted singer-songwriter who was born in the Comoros islands and later grew up in France. Accompanied by her own *gambusi* (the little Arabic lute that travelled down the east coast of Africa and seems related to both the Malagasy *kabosy* and West African *ngoni* – not just in form but the way it's said to be possessed by spirits) and guitar, we're told that she was the first Comorian woman to ever perform on the public stage with an instrument. That story itself hints at the inner strength within her songs and performance.



Her regular trio stretch the music out to other places, with American *mbira* player, percussionist and singer Melissa Cara Rigoli and Idrissa Mlanao on bass and vocals, and there are also judiciously used guests throughout including France-based Malagasy guitarist Solo Razafindrakoto and chorus vocalists. The self-produced album is strong on subtle textures, particularly tracks like the striking *Kweli II* (Truth) with muted frame drums and breathy Sufi chanting.

I have to say that this is an album which gets its soft hooks in slowly. It has been in my possession since the early summer and as time has gone on I have returned to it more and more. That, I suspect, is the mark of a record that's going to become a long-term favourite.

www.nawali.com

Ian Anderson

forwards!

(in all directions)



The seal of quality! The ten best new albums on the fRoots player this month. Some are so hot off the press that they aren't even reviewed yet, but you can listen to tracks on **fRoots Radio** at www.frootsmag.com



NAWAL

Aman

(Nawali)

www.nawali.com

Soulful music from the Comoros Islands.



YASMIN LEVY

Mano Suave

(World Village)

www.worldvillagemusic.com

Back to her Ladino roots; pan-Med band.



ORCHESTRA BAOBAB

Made In Dakar

(World Circuit)

www.worldcircuit.co.uk

Senegal's veterans return in fine form.



BANDADRIATICA

Contagio

(Finisterre)

www.finisterre.it

Pan-Adriatic roots with brass and jazz.



MODDATHIR ABOUL Wafa

Toola

(Nesma)

www.nesma.es

Oud master with fab Egyptian orchestra.



VARIOUS ARTISTS

Hardcore English

(EFDSS)

www.efdss.org

State-of-the-art English ceilidh tune set.



ENSEMBLE GAGUIK MOURADIAN

Goussan (Accords Croisés)

www.accords-croises.com

Music of a modern Armenian troubadour.



HABIB KOITE & BAMADA

Afriki

(Cumbancha)

www.cumbancha.com

Malian favourite breaks a lengthy absence.



BIG JOE WILLIAMS

Baby Please Don't Go

(SPV Blue Label)

www.spv.de

Classic urban country blues, '30s-'50s.



LO SIRONG

Everyday

(Trees Music & Art)

www.treesmusic.com

Taiwanese roots singer songwriter.

GO! our choice of the month's live events...



THE IMAGINED VILLAGE

Touring

11th-27th November: see back cover

www.imaginedvillage.com



ORCHESTRA BAOBAB

Jazz Café, London

18th-20th November: see

www.jazzcafe.co.uk