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## YEMEN, AFRICA, ISRAEL

by Guy Tene



After the renewed flourishing of the ethnic music and sounds in the Israeli Rock and Indie scenes, it seems that there is a slight withdrawal in favour of the new cool electronic sounds. **Gulaza** takes us back to the warm sounds of our natural geographic space with lots of talent, proportion and inspiration.

**Igal Mizrahi** (Yaman Ensemble, Debka Fantasia) on vocals, **Ian Aylon** (Guitarras Argentinas) on Guitar, Cellist **Hilla Epstein** (Tel Aviv Soloists Ensemble), and **Ben Aylon** (Black Guru) on percussion and Djeli N'goni. This wonderful group of musicians created five tracks the focuses on blending Yemenite and African music together. **Nir Averbuch** is in charge of the mix and superb sound in this celebration of colours.

"I don't want that cheater  
You will never bury me!  
If he were made of solid gold  
I'd still avert my eyes from him."

Please don't let the word "celebration" get you wrong, cause this is not an album that brings out the rhythmic potential of these two genres. **Al'chaiba** (The Cheater) for example, the opening for the album is beautiful but melancholic. You can hear the Western and classical sound of the cello perfectly connects with Igal's interesting and Arabic vocals.

The Yemenite women song - **Salam Ya'lbint**, continues Gulaza's long respiratory motif: Everything is mild and thrilled, as far as possible from the trending world music style and so close to the scent of the earth - sandy or rocky, miles away from here. It also seems like its thousand of years ago.

On **Pisaila** (Edge of the Stream), you can notice a big change. Suddenly I can recognise Ian Aylon's South-American and Latin influences that gently steal the spotlight in elusive ways as the stream itself. Slowly the western sound has more presence in front of the hot, sun-burned lyrics and vocals. **Ayini Bakat** brings me a lot of pure joy as well.

**Ganantani** (which is not the famous song by singer Zion Golan, but an original by Gulaza) is spread straight into the listeners ears, and as you can understand, the harmony and respect between the musicians and instruments have made this tune my favourite of this wonderful EP. Go ahead and take off to this crazy journey.