

صفاړين
seffarine





photo by Mary Hulskamp

Forging a Fresh Flamenco and Moroccan-Inspired Sound of the Mediterranean







Seffarine takes its name from the ancient metalworking souq in Fes, Morocco, birthplace of vocalist Lamiae Naki, which is famous for the complex rhythms that ring out from the blacksmiths' hammers, a tradition her family continues today. Seffarine's music embraces and extends Morocco's musical collision between Arabic, Iberian and West African cultures, forging original music deeply rooted in the Arab-Andalusi and flamenco music. Naki and co-composer/oud player/flamenco guitarist Nat Hulskamp meld cohesively into their compositions. The diverse instrumentation of their companions, who hail from Iran, Spain and the US, charge the sound with texture and color. Sweeping kamancheh (Persian spike-fiddle) ornamentation plays off gritty bass grooves and sassy flamenco percussion, with Lamiae's fluidly riveting voice at the center, sending up sheets of cascading Andalusi melodies punctuated by the catchy hooks of North African Chaabi, sung in her native Moroccan Arabic.

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photo by Cal Indermaur,
cover by Caleb Gaskins

online:

-  www.seffarine.com
-  seffarine1.bandcamp.com/releases
-  [@seffarinemusic](https://www.facebook.com/seffarinemusic)
-  [Seffarine Music](https://www.youtube.com/SeffarineMusic)
-  [@seffarinemusic](https://www.instagram.com/seffarinemusic)
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Nat Hulskamp
-  info@seffarine.com
attn: Nat Hulskamp

“ an ear-caressing blend of sounds from Spain and North Africa, spiced with a bit of fiery instrumentation and percussion. ”

-Scott Stevens, SoundRoots



“Seffarine's music can melt even the coldest of hearts”

-Chicago Reader

"A treat for the ears"
-Afribuku (Spain)

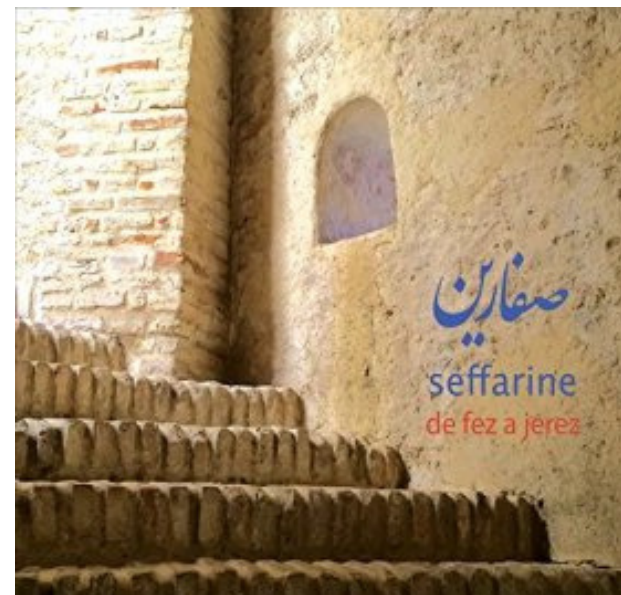


Seffarine in the Press

BP Recommends

by E.E. Bradman

On this gorgeous intersection of Spanish flamenco, Arabic and Andalusian music, Persian classical, and jazz, bass takes a deep back seat to otherworldly vocalist Lamea Naki and outstanding oud player/flamenco guitarist Nat Hulskamp. But the contributions of Damian Erskine (and on three songs, Bill Athens on upright) are undeniable. Erskine, sometimes nimble, sometimes droning, helps songs like "Masari" hang together; on "Awraq" he stays low, putting in just the right runs and muted passages. Likewise, Athens is tasteful but essential on "October" and "Zagharit."



The Best African CDs of 2015

“ Un placer para los oídos
A treat for the ears
-Afribuku (Spain) ”

afribuku
cultura africana contemporánea

Los mejores discos africanos del 2015

por Javier Mantecón

Seffarine, De Fez a Jerez

El norte de África y el sur de Europa están tan conectados culturalmente que obviar este hecho resulta un absurdo de quien no quiere ver. En afribuku no ocultamos nuestra pasión por el flamenco y es que desde hace muchos años que la música andalusí, la marroquí, el flamenco no se mezclan con tanto gusto. Hecho desde el conocimiento profundo de la música de ambas orillas del Estrecho de Gibraltar, nos tenemos que remontar a los experimentos de El Lebrijano con la Orquesta Andalusí de Tánger para encontrar un trabajo tan sólido. La diferencia en este caso es que la iniciativa parte del país magrebí, caso extraño en este tipo de trabajos, en este caso particular grabado en Jerez de la Frontera. Y no hablaremos de música de fusión simplemente porque no la hay. En este caso hablamos de una sola música, de los sonidos del Mediterráneo. Canciones tradicionales árabes y persas se juntan con tangos y bulerías en un cuerpo armónico que no desentona. El dúo, creado por la cantante marroquí Lamiae Naki y el tocador de oud y guitarra flamenca Nat Hulskamp cuentan con las colaboraciones de músicos de la talla de Diego del Morao, La Macanita, Bobak Saheli o Bill Athens. Un placer para los oídos.

Transglobal World Music Chart

DECEMBER 2015



- 1 Bixiga 70** (27) *III Glitterbeat Records*
- 2 Kandia Kouyate** (-7) *Renascence Stern's Music*
- 3 Sam Lee & Friends** (147) *The Fade in Time The Nest Collective*
- 4 Carles Dénia i La Nova Rimaire** (-7) *L'Home Insomne Comboi Records*
- 5 V.A.** (87) *Lost in Mali Riverboat / World Music Network*
- 6 Lura** (-7) *Herança Lusafrika*
- 7 Saba Anglana** (-7) *Ye Katama Hod Felmay*
- 8 Dizu Plaatjies and Friends** (-7) *Ubuntu: The Common String Mountain Records*
- 9 Monsieur Doumani** (16) *Sikoses Monsieur Doumani*
- 10 Vieux Farka Touré & Julia Easterlin** (-7) *Touristes Six Degrees Records*
- 11 Ballaké Sissoko & Vincent Ségala** (137) *Musique de Nuit Nø Format! / Six Degrees Records*
- 12 Seffarine** (-7) *De Fez a Jerez Seffarine Music*
- 13 Mamak Khadem** (-7) *The Road Innova Recordings*
- 14 Youssou N'Dour et le Super Étoile de Dakar** (46) *Fattelliku (Live In Athens 1987) Real World Records*
- 15 L'Attirail** (-7) *La Route Interieure Les Chantiers Sonores*
- 16 Te Vaka** (-7) *Amataga Warm Earth Records*
- 17 Griselda Sanderson** (-7) *Radial Waulk Records*
- 18 Zohar Fresco** (-7) *Tof Miriam Zohar Fresco*
- 19 Cheikh Lô** (76) *Balbalou Chapter Two Records*
- 20 Čači Vorba** (-7) *Šatrika Oriente Musik*

Seffarine's album "De Fez a Jerez" has been included in the top 20 best world music releases by the **Transglobal World Music Charts**, a panel of **43 world music experts from around the world**, along with great artists such as Youssou N'dour, Mamak Khadem and Vieux Farka Toure.



Seffarine in the ancient medina of Fes, Morocco

Members of the TWMC panel (December 2015 vote): Juan Antonio Vázquez (ES), Araceli Tzigane (ES), Ángel Romero (US), Seth Jordan (AU), Tony Hillier (AU), Charlie Crooijmans (NL), Patrik Lindgren (SE), Nigel Wood (IE), Dore Stein (US), Roger Holdsworth (AU), Madan Rao (IN), Gil Medovoy (US), Chris Heim (US), Ciro De Rosa (IT), Scott Stevens (US), Hendrick T.S. Foh (MY), Cliff Furnald (US), Jaïr Tchong (NL), Rob Weisberg (US), Toni Polo (FR/ES), Nicolás Falcoff (AR), Masakazu Kitanaka (JP), Jordi Demésenllà (ES), Rafael Mieses (DO), Luís Rei (PT), Jean Trouillet (DE), Evangeline Kim (US), Willi Klopptek (LU/DE), Betto Arcos (MX/US), Thorsten Bednarz (DE), Alejandro López (ES), Jon Kertzer (US), Ken Stowar (CA), Jiří Moravčík (CZ), Ian Anderson (GB), Mu Qian (CN), Carlos Ferreira (PT), Dubi Lenz (IL), Anna Rzhnevina (RU), Gil Rouvio (IL), Bouna Ndiaye (SN), João Flávio Lima (BR), Kutay Derin Kugay (TR)

Transglobal World Music Charts





Top 10 World Music Albums

Seffarine - De Fez a Jerez Believe it or not, the exotic Mediterranean sounds of Seffarine come from Portland, Oregon. The first album from the duo of Moroccan singer Lamiae Naki and US oud player/flamenco guitarist Nat Hulskamp is an ear-caressing blend of sounds from Spain and north Africa, spiced with a bit of fiery instrumentation and percussion. A very promising debut. -Scott Stevens, SoundRoots

**"a skilled blending
of musical alloys"**

-Willamette Week



"this enchanting album deserves international attention."

-Brett Campbell, Oregon ArtsWatch



Oregon music on record 2015: Worldly and jazzy New CDs of Northwest jazz and global music

by Brett Campbell

Oud player/flamenco guitarist Nat Hulskamp is one of Oregon's most experienced world music stars, playing in various ensembles and venues around town for years. With help from a 2015 Project Grant from Oregon's Regional Arts and Culture Council, Seffarine, his primary duo with Moroccan singer Lamiae Naki, recorded their ten original compositions with famous flamenco musicians Tomasa "La Macanita," percussionist Luís de Periquín, and Diego del Mora (Paco de Lucia's favorite guitarist) in the Jerez, Spain (known for its pervasive Gypsy culture), with further recording sessions in Portland.

Sung in Naki's native Arabic as well as French and Spanish and accompanied by flamenco guitar, oud, Persian kamancheh and sehtar, bass and percussion, the new album soulfully embraces flamenco, Moroccan, Persian, Malagasy, jazz and Brazilian influences, courtesy of Persian multi-instrumentalist Bobak Salehi (Hulskamp's partner in the Portland ensemble Shabava) on kamancheh (spike fiddle), sehtar and tar (lutes) and violin, bassist Damian Erskine, Malagasy percussionist Manavihare Fiaindratovo and Indian tabla player Anil Prasad.

Such an extreme range of diverse voices could easily turn into a contrived multicultural mush, but it all feels seamless and natural, tied together by Naki's plangent vocals and Hulskamp's flamenco flourishes and their original songwriting voice. Fans of groups like the Gipsy Kings, Oregon, or Portland's Al-Andalus will find much to enjoy, and this enchanting album deserves international attention.

“Todos mis ídolos son de Jerez”

Nat Hulskam y Lamiae Naki son los componentes del dúo Seffarine, dos artistas que mezclan la música árabe con el flamenco, la música clásica persa o el jazz americano.

 **BORJA GARCÍA TEJERO** · 3 DE MAYO, 2015 ■ 3 MINUTOS EN LEER

Nat Hulskam y Lamiae Naki son los componentes del dúo Seffarine, dos artistas que mezclan la música árabe con el flamenco, la música clásica persa o el jazz americano. Los estudios de ‘La Bodega’ son el lugar donde están grabando un disco en el que han compartido su talento con artistas como La Macanita, Luis de Periquín, Manuel Macano y Diego del Morao.

Flamenco y música marroquí beben de lo popular. No están tan lejos como pudiera pensarse. Desde hace una semana, se cuece en plena calle Francos un interesante proyecto musical mestizo que funde ambos estilos musicales. Seffarine, dúo formado por la cantante marroquí Lamiae Naki y el guitarrista Nat Hulskamp, prueba a combinar texturas y sonoridades con artistas de la cuna del arte jondo. No en vano, ya son varias las horas de grabación en las que estos talentosos músicos, se encuentran fusionando su música con la aportación de algunos artistas de la ciudad como, Luis de Periquín, La Macanita y su hermanos Manuel Macano y Diego del Morao. En el repertorio musical de Seffarine existen variaciones que van desde el árabe clásico a la música andaluza, unido también al flamenco, la música clásica persa o el jazz americano.

El dúo estará en Jerez hasta el próximo 6 de mayo, una fecha en la que esperan haber terminado con este proyecto musical, que aunque aún no tenga un nombre escogido, la ilusión y pasión puesta en él merecerá la pena de oír.

Seffarine toma su nombre del antiguo centro de trabajo de metalistería en Fes, Marruecos, donde los parientes de Lamiae son reconocidos tradicionalmente como maestros de la metalistería. Desde el siglo nueve se escuchan los complejos ritmos martillados por los herreros del barrio, prueba evidente de las similitudes con el flamenco, ahí está la fragua y el martinete.

“

La dulce voz de Lamiae refleja el sentimiento más puro de la melodía, donde el alma convive en una comunión constante por el amor a la música.

(Lamiae's sweet voice reflects the purest feeling of the melody, where the soul lives in constant communion for the love of music.)

Borja García Tejero,
La Voz del Sur (Spain)

”

Las manos de Nat Hulskam están talladas con el talento y el esfuerzo de un guitarrista que ha tomado clases del mismísimo Diego del Morao, un ídolo para él y del que ha aprendido gran parte de su maestría. La dulce voz de Lamiae refleja el sentimiento más puro de la melodía, donde el alma convive en una comunión constante por el amor a la música...

Recording in Jerez de la Frontera: a collaboration with the greats of flamenco

Jerez, Spain- Seffarine's debut CD, *De Fez a Jerez* ("From Fez to Jerez") was named after Nat and Lamiae's well worn path between the two cities. Fez is the ancient cultural capital of Morocco and Lamiae's home city. Jerez is a town in Andalusia, just across the Straights of Gibraltar, well known for being home to many of the great artists in flamenco music. Nat has done much of his training in Jerez with the flamenco guitar masters of the mostly Gypsy neighborhood, Barrio Santiago.

In 2015, Seffarine was awarded a grant from the Regional Arts and Culture Council to travel to Spain to record their original music in collaboration with living legends of flamenco music, including **Diego del Morao** and **Tomas La Macanita**. After Spanish newspaper *La Voz del Sur* published an article about Seffarine's recording project, word spread through the barrio and some of the living legends of flamenco came to the studio to check out the project. Seeing the solid background and deep respect for the traditions of flamenco, alongside a fresh approach and creative explorations of the common history and musical roots of Morocco and Andalusia, they enthusiastically offered to collaborate with Seffarine.

What followed were several midnight sessions full of creativity, soulful improvisations and collaborations with these artists Nat and Lamiae had listened to and admired for years.



Nat and Diego del Morao in the studio, Jerez, Spain

The record gained Seffarine international acclaim when it placed in **top world music charts around the globe**, including **Afribuku's Top 13 African Releases** and **the Transglobal World Music Charts**, a panel of 43 world music experts from 28 countries. Spanish music critic Javier Mantecón wrote, "made from in-depth knowledge of the music on both banks of the Strait of Gibraltar, we have to go back to El Lebrijano's experiments with the Andalusian Orchestra of Tangier to find such solid work." Apple Music chose one of the tracks, an homage to the late-great flamenco singer Camarón de la Isla, for the **official Apple playlist**, "Inspired by Camarón de la Isla", along with the top artists of flamenco, such as Pepe de Lucia and Tomatito.

De Fez a Jerez continues to receive acclaim internationally which has led to several other recording collaborations in Spain, including flamenco-pop star Sarayma, La Bejazz, a group of flamenco jazz fusion virtuosos from Marchena, Spain, and most recently, recording a Seffarine original with master flamenco guitarist Antonio Rey, who many consider to be the heir apparent to Paco de Lucia's throne.

Credits:

Lamiae Naki, voice	Kendra Carpenter, cello
Nat Hulskamp, guitar and oud	Juan Diego Valencia Vargas, palmas
Diego del Morao, flamenco guitar	Manuel Makano, palmas
Tomas la Macanita, voice	Recorded at La Bodega Studios, Jerez de la Frontera, Spain
Luís de Perikín, percussion	by Josema Pelayo
Damian Erskine, bass	Mixed by Antonio Maldonado, Sevilla, Spain
Bobak Salehi, kamancheh,/sehtar	Mastered by Kiel Bishop, Vancouver, WA
Bill Athens, bass	

**"made from in-depth knowledge of the music on both banks of the Strait of Gibraltar, we have to go back to El Lebrijano's experiments with the Andalusian Orchestra of Tangier to find such solid work."
-Spanish music critic Javier Mantecón, Afribuku**

performances 2022-23

**"The audience was energized
from the first song"**

- Nancy Tieken Lopez, Artistic Director
World Concert, Lake Tahoe



Mar 29 Sala Juglar Lavapíes - Madrid, Spain
Apr 16 Concerts in the Park Series - Las Vegas, NV
May 21 Official showcase - Folk Alliance International - Kansas City, MO
Jul 4 MAPAS - Canary Islands, Spain
Aug 4 Concerts in the Park Series - Portland, OR
Sep 16 Guest Artists in Antonio Rey concerts - Salem, OR
Sep 17 Guest Artists in Antonio Rey concerts - Salem, OR
Sep 23 Lotus Fest - Bloomington, IN
Oct 1 Civic Center Place - Holland, MI
Oct 4 Chicago Word Music Fest - Chicago, IL
Nov 10 Tehama Concert Association - Red Bluff, CA

Dec 16 Andalusian Nights - Newmark Theater, Portland, OR
Feb 2 Myrna Loy Center for the Arts - Helena, MT
Feb 3 Whitefish Theater Co - Whitefish, MT
Feb 5 2 Valleys Stage - Seeley Lake, MT
Feb 6 Outreach - Seeley Lake, MT
Feb 7 Outreach - Seeley Lake, MT
Mar 10 ASU Kerr Cultural Center - Scottsdale, AZ
Mar 11 Green Valley PAC - Green Valley, AZ
Apr 15 Woodstock Arts Festival - Woodstock, GA
Apr 21 The Patricia Reser Center for the Arts - Beaverton, OR

photo: Kirsti Strandberg

Past Performances include:

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“Presenting Seffarine was a tipping point for our series. Their performance drew our largest and most enthusiastic audience to date”

-Patrick Roulette, Director
WWU Global Spice Concert Series,
Bellingham, WA

Broadway Performance Hall | Seattle, WA
MAPAS | Canary Islands, Spain
Chicago World Music Festival | Chicago, IL
Sala Juglar | Madrid, Spain
World Concert - Lake Tahoe, CA
Lotus Festival | Bloomington, IN
Western Washington University | Bellingham, WA
Sprague Theater | Bandon, OR
Ruang Putih | Bandung, Indonesia
The Straw Hut | Bali, Indonesia
Serendipity | Jakarta, Indonesia
Alberta Rose Theatre | Portland, OR
Oregon Shakespeare Fest | Ashland, OR
Holocene | Portland, OR
SXSW Representing Seruni Microphones | Austin, TX
Royal Room | Seattle, WA
Secret Society | Portland, OR
Ashkenaz | Berkeley, CA
Walters Cultural Arts Center - Hillsboro, OR
University of Oregon, Eugene, OR
El Camino College Center for the Arts - Los Angeles, CA
West Charleston/Clark County Libraries - Las Vegas, NV



photo by Mary Hulskamp at Al Menara, Marrakech

“they held my audience captivated both at the engagement activity (which drew three times as many people as I anticipated!) and at their concert.”

Stephanie Wenning, Executive Director,
Del Norte Association for Cultural Awareness



Residencies/Outreach

All of Seffarine's artists have backgrounds in education as well. Please inquire about residencies, workshops and masterclasses offered in Arabic, Persian, jazz, flamenco music and dance. For more information and videos about our outreach programs, visit our Outreach Page: seffarine.com/outreach



Testimonials



“performing artists who understand how to connect and communicate with an audience.” -Patrick Roulette, WWU

"The Global Spice World Music Series at Western Washington University presents music that blends western and non-western musical traditions and explores the fusion of world music with contemporary, classical, jazz, and popular music styles. As a relatively new concert series, we have been steadily building our audience and reputation in the community and region. Presenting Seffarine was a tipping point for our series. Their performance drew our largest and most enthusiastic audience to date and I have received many positive comments from students, faculty colleagues and community members who reached out to thank me for bringing Seffarine to Bellingham. Their music is exciting and beautiful with deep roots in the traditions of Flamenco and Arabic music and their professional performance and stage presence showed their skills as performing artists who understand how to connect and communicate with an audience."

-Patrick Roulette, Director, WWU Global Spice Concert Series, Bellingham, WA

"Seffarine performed their concert program "From Fez to Jerez" to a very enthusiastic and welcoming audience. The program consisted of original compositions, mixed with traditional Arabic and Flamenco arrangements. The performance was described as "Flamenco meets Moroccan and Persian Music", and Seffarine definitely delivers and doesn't disappoint. Lamiae and Nat expertly guided the audience through the program, different languages, and explained the background and origins of the arrangements. Lamiae's powerful, smooth and silky vocals were perfectly suited to the upbeat tunes and slow ballads (not to mention multiple languages!). She was well matched with the equally talented Nat Hulskamp on guitar and oud, and master cajon player, Diego Alvarez, among others in the band. Each musician was a virtuoso and had their chance to shine during the performance. Included in this program was flamenco dancer and percussionist, Manuel Gutierrez, who delivered expert and energetic flamenco dance to accompany the ensemble, and it was icing on the cake! We received terrific feedback from our audience members and they warmly cheered Seffarine at the close of the performance, still wanting more. The evening reminded me of my travels to Morocco and made me long for another trip... it was a very special evening indeed."

Rick F. Christophersen, Director, Center for the Arts at El Camino College, Torrance, CA

"Seffarine is the real deal; they are truly professional and beyond talented. Each musician in the ensemble brings something unique and beautiful, from a lilting vocalist to enchanting instruments to a flamenco dancer and percussionist, they held my audience captivated both at the engagement activity (which drew three times as many people as I anticipated!) and at their concert. I have heard lots of positive feedback in the two days since the show asking to bring them back. On top of all of that, they are a joy to work with; everyone is pleasant, patient, and kind. A presenter's dream."

-Stephanie Wenning, Executive Director, Del Norte Association for Cultural Awareness (DNACA)

"Seffarine opened the World Concert at Lake Tahoe with sensational and beautiful music and dance. The audience was energized from the first song with Persian music and a flamenco dancer that brought joyful cheers from people of all ages. It was a pleasure to work with Nat, from the first planning steps to their performances on the stage and on the nature trail. Seffarine's traditional music expanded our audience's knowledge of culture and history while celebrating community and unity through world music. Months later many audience members are still talking about their powerful performances that touched people's heart and soul."

- Nancy Tieken Lopez, Artistic Director, Trails & Vistas World Concert, Lake Tahoe

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Matt Greenhill, FLi Artists

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Management:

WORLDWIDE

Derek Andrews, Global Cafe
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 www.seffarine.com  seffarine1.bandcamp.com/releases

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photo: Caleb Gaskins

