

## **We share the alchemy of good music**

Netherlands-Palestinian NO Blues band managed combine folk, blues and Arabic music in a breathtaking dialogue cultures. Will also feature at the festival Colours of Ostrava.

Members of the group NO Blues, in that act virtuoso Arab lute player oud Haytham Safia and Sudan drummer Osama Maleegi say arabicana its original genre. So wittily expressed Harmonic Americans with connections melodies rhythms and Near East. About his mission speaks Dutch band members, guitarist and singer Ad van Meurs and Bassist Anne-Maarten van Heuvelen.

### **LN Have you ever negative reactions of any party because in music you promote Arab or Islamic influences and associate the "Western" music?**

Van Heuvelen: not propagate Arab or Islamic inspiration more than the West. Half of the band is an Arab, half is not. We are Catholic, Protestant and Jewish background. If anything, We promote a way together learn to get along with different temperaments and create something. It is not always easy to accept otherness and work with difference, but it pays to try for it.

Van Meurs: In the beginning I he was worried that people will our music uniting with all the ýchodně-Western hysteria. But it turned that listeners feel our music comfortably perceive comfort in it. NO Blues brings message about hope.

### **LN song The River Wild have donated "Victims of war violence Currently sad time. " Believe that music has the power to fight against violence?**

Van Heuvelen: We can say that the very Music can express political or religious opinion. But we are not a political or religious band in the sense that We have tried to "sell" the audience idea or opinion. It is not possible simply because they themselves We have so many different ideals and ideas! But each of our album see text that refers political issues and kulturnímodlišnostem. Adoufám it alone the sound of the band speaks about what it is and the world: tavicímtyglíkem cultures.

Van Meurs: NO Blues seek political stance, but not before They do not run it. We are artists from different places of the world and share Alchemy good music.

### **LN In the Czech Republic have performed several times. You tumultuous acclaim They must be harvested at the festival Blues Alive 2007, and 2010. Do you remember to this performance?**

Van Meurs: It was great. I remember a very relaxed atmosphere Blues Alive and audience not biased against our crossing genres, but very open. Zaujalamě ancient atmosphere festival where people come together enjoy a nice time.

Van Heuvelen: During gig Drummer for Blues Alive 2007 kicked membrane on the bass drum. Our manager then the rest of performances kneeling in front of the drum and tried to repair the membrane using adhesive tapes and paper. Drummer kept playing and I think nobody The crash in the audience noticed. On point it was stressful, but with hindsight fun. In the Czech Republic we play well, we positive response.

**LN You have a different program for smaller events and for large podium festivals?**

Van Meurs: program changes constantly, but not depending on the number spectators.

Van Heuvelen: WITH NO blues We have released five albums and repertoire. We have about fifty songs of which we choose. The biggest difference between large and small stage is However, in the deployment. Numerous audience sends us tremendous energy, which changes the charge songs.

**LN your fifth album Kind of NO Blues differs from previous recordings. You recruited members contemporary classical music, jazz, recitation, Dutch and Iraqi poetry. Plan to continue experiments**

**or return the original mix of folk, blues, country and Arab music?**

Van Heuvelen: The fifth album is really different from anything we did earlier. After four albums We felt it was right time to move along a path. It is good try to redefine the band so as to move forward. Just write songs to sixth album, which should be released in October, but still we do not know where it is going. It's an exciting process.

Van Meurs: Kind of NO Blues featured closing certain circle, ending ten years of creation Music. I feel that we now they could go back again to their own foundations. We'll see where our music swings open.

**LN What was it like working on board with so many guests, members Metropole Orkest, the Quartet Quinetique or Bill Barrett of the band Hazmat Modine?**

Van Heuvelen Because basic Members NO Blues have played many concerts, the band forever keep its own sound and feeling. Bill Barrett is my friend and We performed together. Not only virtuoso harmonica player, but interesting person with an infectious sense of humor. Playing with Quartet Quinetique and hudebníkyz Metropole Orkest, one of the best orchestras in the world, it was a real pleasure because the band it brought something new. Especially if we could play with them on concerts. It was like a taking pleasant moments with family and still come to visit good friends. We are really sorry that we can not Always travel as of fifteen ensemble.

Van Meurs: It was a great experience. Filled with opportunity at a time when we needed to find side parting. But now again we feel as a band, as five kids towards.

**LN it seem ten years of existence as twinkle, or as long time?**

Van Heuvelen: Everything musician touches on privacy, while changing his music. Becomes of you dad, grandfather, uncle, of homeless změnítevmajitele house. From my perspective, a lot things improved. When we started playing, we did not know what made us really climbs. Now we know who we are and what we can create.

Van Meurs: It went terribly quickly. NO Blues extend my Mind, I learned that music is can be almost anything when it you can carve. We are all They realize that NO Blues pose a unique project with a unique sound that would not be rebuild, if we stopped. I believe that in some way We in today's music and politics Spectrum needed. We build Bridges!