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Naissam Jalal - The Quest Of The Invisible At Savoy Theater In Helsinki



Courtesy Maarit Kytöharju



BY ANTHONY SHAW
February 26, 2022
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Naissam Jalal -The Quest of the Invisible
Savoy Theater
Helsinki, Finland
February 22, 2022

Naissam Jalal was everything this audience needed on a very snowy February evening in downtown Helsinki. Not only had the concert already been postponed for two years, but it happened to coincide with the second major snowstorm in as many weeks, dumping 15 inches of snow across the city, bringing this normally very snow-savvy city near to gridlock.

However, despite the challenge of midwinter travel, the prospect of a truly class act of international crossover ethnic jazz tempted over 300 listeners into the city's grand Savoy Theater to savor sounds from as far away as one might wish on a chilly Scandinavian night—from the Middle East and North Africa. Jalal and her colleagues, pianist [Leonardo Montana](#) and bassist [Claude Tchamitchian](#), all hail nowadays from France, but Jalal had spent several years in her youth in Syria and in Egypt studying their musics. Hence she set the tone for the ethnic theme with her performance and compositions. However, before those years of study in Damascus and Cairo, Jalal had also spent time in the French educational system obtaining her certificate in classical flute in Paris. Since her return to Europe she has maintained her presence in both traditions with multiple projects with artists ranging from [Tony Allen](#) to [Fatoumata Diawara](#)

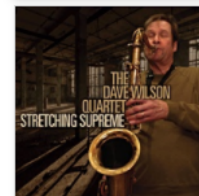


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