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## Naïssam Jalal Healing Rituals

Les Couleurs du Son



Syrian-French flautist Naïssam Jalal has been somewhat overlooked as a composer and

bandleader, but with this album – her ninth! – hopefully that will change. *Healing Rituals* is Jalal's paean to the therapeutic and healing abilities of music, with each of its eight pieces a 'ritual' dedicated to a power of nature: wind, sun, hills, rivers, ground, forests, moon and mist. It's a gem.

Flutes and voice lead a quartet with cello, double bass and drum kit, a classy chamber ensemble that allows for beautiful harmonies while avoiding dense chords. The compositions occupy the worlds of jazz and classical without sitting

fully in either, and Jalal uses that inbetweenness to introduce many other soundworlds. She is clearly a passionate scholar of many flute traditions, and their influence seeps through the whole album as she channels the Fula *tambin*, Hindustani *bansuri*, Ethiopian *washint* and Irish low-whistle as well as the European classical concert flute and the Arabic *ney* of her own formal education. It's all given a thoughtful, sensitive and playful treatment where energy flows freely without ever boiling over.

This is music that defies categories, instead breathing free like the nature of its inspiration – Naïssam Jalal's skills as a musician and composer are hard to ignore.

JIM HICKSON

TRACK TO TRY *Rituel du Soleil*

## Magali Sare & Manel Fortià reTORNAR

Segell Microscopi



If you worry that a voice and a double bass might be too

traditional Minorcan 'Roseret', and the quietly dramatic Brazilian 'Modinha', hammering the bow against the strings for percussion (on the traditional Portuguese 'Senhora do Almortão'), adding flamenco-style handclaps (as on the opening 'Tornar'), or using echo to turn Sare's already heavenly voice into

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