

# CARAVAN I I

JULIAN SCHNEEMANN & FRIENDS



Just Listen  
Records

## **Liner Notes Nederlands**

'Caravan II': deel 2 van onze reis!

Twee jaar geleden begonnen we, met zijn vieren: Jawa Manla is een groot Syrisch talent op de oed, die toen nog maar net in Nederland woonde. Met haar diepe roots in de Arabische muziek zingt ze op haar instrument. Emmy Storms, fenomeen op de viool, won prijzen in de klassieke muziek, maar reist ook ieder jaar naar Ierland om daar meester te worden van de volksmuziek. Wat ze ook speelt, je voelt altijd haar enorme passie. Mijn muzikale broeder Jeroen Batterink stelde, om de juiste 'sound' te vinden, een totaal nieuwe drumset samen uit percussie instrumenten van over de hele wereld en maakte zijn eigen drumstokken van 'chopsticks' en oud schoenleer. Op ons eerste album (Caravan) presenteerden we onze eigen muziek, die grenzenloos beweegt door klassieke muziek, jazz en verschillende culturen.

Nu, twee jaar later, reizen we verder en is het tijd voor deel 2. Bij ons aangeslo-

ten hebben zich 3 geweldige zangers. Madhu Lalbahadoersing heeft Hindostaanse roots, Shishani Vranckx Namibische en Wasim Arslan Syrische. Ze hebben ieder een totaal andere achtergrond en stemgeluid, maar alle drie hebben ze een grote muzikaliteit en de kwaliteit om je mee te nemen naar hun eigen wereld. Samen met hen werkte ik aan nieuwe muziek. De grote uitdaging hierin was: hoe geef je ieder de ruimte om zichzelf te zijn, maar breng je de groep ook samen tot één geheel?

Op het album zingt ieder van de zangers een eigen lied, maar in de latere tracks komen ze meer en meer samen. Teksten schreven ze zelf, in het Hindostaans, Oshiwambo en Arabisch, en de samenwerking inspireerde mij tot het schrijven van muziek die ik zonder hun invloeden nooit had kunnen verzinnen. Voor ieder van ons is dit een unieke en leerzame ervaring geweest en ik denk dat het album op zijn minst een mooie opname is van onze zoektocht!

Het album is live opgenomen, met publiek, want het was voor ons belangrijker de energie van de muziek vast te leggen dan te streven naar perfectie. Je hoort al onze prachten en gebreken, ook door het geweldige werk van opnameleider Jared. Wat wij in de muziek probeerden, deed hij met klank: door ons en de microfoons zorgvuldig te plaatsen in de ruimte, creëerde hij voor al onze klankkleuren de ruimte om elkaar op de opname niet in de weg te zitten, maar juist te versterken.

Reis met ons mee in 'Caravan II'!



## Liner Notes English

'Caravan II': part 2 of our journey! Two years ago we took off, just four of us back then: Jawa Manla is a great Syrian talent of the oud, who at that time lived only two years in the Netherlands. With her deep roots in the Arabic music tradition, she sings with her instrument. Emmy Storms, a phenomenon on the violin, has won prizes in classical music, but also travels to Ireland every year to become a master of folk music. Whatever she plays, you always feel her passion. My brother in music Jeroen Batterink assembled his own drum set out of percussion instruments from all over the world and made his own drum sticks from 'chopsticks' and old shoe leather, just to find the right sound for the band. On our first album (Caravan), we presented our own music, freely meandering through classical music, jazz and different cultures.

Now, two years later, we travel onwards for part 2. For this, we are joined by three amazing singers. Mad-

hu Lalbahadoersing has Indian-Surinamese roots, Shishani Vranckx Namibian and Wasim Arslan Syrian. They each have a totally different background and voice, but all three possess a great musicality and the ability to take you to their own, other world. Together with them, I worked on new music. The big challenge here was: how do you give each of us the opportunity to be him or herself, while at the same time bringing the group together as one?

On the album, all three singers have their own song, but in later tracks they come together more and more. Lyrics were written by them, in Hindi, Oshiwambo and Arabic, and the collaboration inspired me to write music that i would never have written without their influence. For all of us, this was a unique and enriching experience and I think the album is at least a beautiful document of our quest together!

The album was recorded live with an audience, because for us, it was more

important to record the energy of the music than to strive for perfection. You can hear all our beauty but also our vulnerabilities, also because of the amazing work by recording engineer Jared. The thing we tried in our music, he did with sound: by carefully placing us and the microphones in the room, he created space for all our sounds and colours to not be in each other's way, but instead support each other.

Travel with us in 'Caravan II'!





## **Julian Schneemann**

Julian Schneemann (1992) was raised by classical musicians, educated by jazz masters and surrounded by popular culture. Working with musicians from all over the globe, he learned from all kinds of cultures, like Arabic, African, South American and Indian. All these influences have been formative for his musical identity and in his imaginative piano playing and composing, Julian likes to exploit this diversity.

In 2011, Julian won the composition prize “Op weg naar het Nieuwjaarsconcert”. He studied jazz piano at the Conservatory of Amsterdam and graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2015, and in that same year released his debut album Roundabout. The album, described by Allaboutjazz.com as “An integral, coherent artistic statement” brought the worlds of classical, jazz and pop music together into a single story, and was internationally well-acclaimed. In 2016, Julian released the album FLY with the ensemble Ikarai, which tells the story of Icarus in

sound. FLY was described as “A journey I can recommend to anyone” by Dutch TV-host Tijnl Beckand.

Besides his activities as a pianist and composer in his own groups, Julian is also working as a pianist, keyboard player, arranger and composer for other bands and ensembles. He plays piano and keyboards with pop artists such as GOSTO and Angelo Boltini. He worked for among others the Netherlands Wind Ensemble and Amsterdam Sinfonietta, for whom he wrote countless arrangements in different styles, ranging from classical, to world music and pop. Several of his compositions were played by the NBE at their famous annual New Year's Concerts, broadcasted live on TV from the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. In 2018 Julian received a commission from the Grachtenfestival and premiered the resulting composition, Ode to Tomorrow at the festival.

Currently, Julian's main focus is on his project Caravan: A journey through the worlds of classical, jazz and folk. Since the start of the project

in 2017, the group has played at the great stages in the Netherlands, like the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Paradiso, De Doelen and the Bimhuis, and festivals like the Grachtenfestival and November Music. The group played live on national TV and performed their music on radio several times. Their debut album Caravan was well received and described as: “World fusion at its best - melancholic, uplifting, adventurous, exciting and above all breathtakingly beautiful”. In 2019, three very special singers with Namibian, Indian and Syrian roots will join the caravan, and the new children's theater show Caravan will be staged, in cooperation with Oorkaan.

## **Shishani Vranckx**

Shishani is a talented singer-song-writer loved for her smooth and powerful voice. Her roots are Namibian and Belgian in origin, but she grew up mainly in the Netherlands. In her work she brings these worlds together. Her vocal style has been influenced by Afro-American and African music traditions, giving her a truly unique sound. Her music is comforting and has a thread of strong social consciousness running through it.

Her song "Minority" garnered two nominations at the Namibian Annual Music Awards (2012). She has also been credited with a host of awards, both locally and internationally including winner of "Last Band Standing" (Namibia, 2012) & singer-songwriter competition "Mooie Noten" (Netherlands, 2013). She was a finalist in the prestigious Radio France International Discovery Awards (2014).

A year later, Shishani joined forces with Sjahin During (percussionist & producer) and together created "Namibian Tales", an acoustic quartet diving into the musical traditions of

Namibia. In 2016, the quartet won Best World Music Album from Netherlands with their debut album "Itaala" and they have been touring internationally since. In June 2017, the group traveled to the Kalahari desert to collaborate with four women from the San ("Bushmen") community in Namibia. Their collaborative album "Kalahari Encounters" also won Best World Music Album from Netherlands 2017.

During her career, Shishani has performed internationally at events such as: Africa Festival in Wurzburg (Germany), Glastonbury Festival (UK), Lake of Stars (Malawi), Roots Open Air Festival (Netherlands) and in numerous other countries including France, Czech Republic, Poland, Ireland, Greece, Italy, India, Morocco, Jordan, Kenya, South Africa, and her home countries, Netherlands, Belgium and Namibia.

In her work as an anthropologist (BA) & musicologist (MA) she has specialised in contemporary urban Namibian music. She has written on this topic for the Bloomsbury Encyclopedia of Contemporary Music of

the World, Music in Africa, and most recently the book *The Changing Faces of Aawambo Music Arts* was launched. Together with the Namibian Tales quartet, Shishani is collaborating with UNESCO and the Museums Association of Namibia on safeguarding cultural heritage through archiving and producing new music in collaboration with San communities in Namibia.

Shishani means 'crown' in Oshiwambo, one of Namibia's native languages.

### **Wasim Arslan**

This young musician, with a voice as a nightingale and a sensitive soul, has been through the dark side of life, he experienced and survived a lot during the war in Aleppo, Syria. In 2015, Wasim safely reached the Netherlands to start a new life. During his asylum procedure he joined DELITELABS, a non-profit school, where he did a course in entrepreneurship. Duncan Stutterheim, owner of Amsterdam tower and founder of ID&T, was a member of the jury and offered the group an office space in Amsterdam Tower. That is how "Daff" came to life.

Daff (the fusion artspace), is a project that aimed to connect Syrian talents with Dutch and international ones; talents including music, art and food. Later on, with five other international musicians, we formed "Sarsaria" a band focused on Oriental Traditional Dance Music and they performed on stage in several events such as; BeyondFestival, Magneet Festival, Landjuweel and NoordPark Festival. After all what I went through, I feels a sense of responsibility to represent my home country Syria, and to give my music and talent a bigger role in uniting people and building bridges at a time of war and division.

### **Madhu Lalbahadoersing**

Madhu Lalbahadoersing is a Dutch Indian singer who was born in 1986 in the Netherlands. She was introduced to music from an early age, taught by her grandfather and parents and regularly sang in temples and religious festivals. From the age of 13 she started to take vocal lessons which gave her the opportunity to explore different music styles such as Indian

classical, semiclassical, Bollywood and popmusic. After becoming a performing artist in the Bollywood scene of Holland and Surinam, she decided to focus on Indian classical music and started her Bachelor studies in the Indian department in the conservatory of Rotterdam in the year 2013 under the guidance of the legendary bansuri player Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia. In her third year, under recommendation of Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia, Madhu was awarded a scholarship to study in the Sangeet Research Academy in Kolkata where she studied vocals under teachings of Omkar Dadarkar (Gwalior Gharana), under observance of Pt. Ulhas Kashalkar. Madhu appeared in radio stations such as AmorFM, Vahon, Trishul, SunriseFM, Virus Radio 4 and Rapar and television programs such as Ohm, Vrije geluiden, Hum Tum, Born to be a star and recently was invited to perform at the first ZeeTV event in Holland; after which she was invited by the CEO of ZeeTV Europe to perform in England during a meet and greet show of the cast of ZeeTV's hit serial Gangaa

together with Sachin Kumar (SaRe-GaMaPa finalist 2016). Madhu has had the honour to perform two times for former queen Beatrix of Holland and she's worked with singers as Abhijeet Bhattacharya, Kumar Sanu and Babul Supriyo. She's recorded backing vocals for composer/ music director/ lyricist Ravindra Jain together with Indian Idols 2 finalist Ravi Tripathi. Madhu has performed in the Netherlands, Surinam, Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, England and was awarded with the following awards: > Most Talented Award (2012) > Best Indian Female Voice Award (2014).

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**Producers**

C. Jared Sacks, Jonas C. Sacks

**Label manager**

Sjoerd Vriesema

**Recording engineer**

C. Jared Sacks

**Mastering engineer**

Tom Caulfield

**Cover an inlay**

Roman Strijbos

**Photography and design**

Jonas C. Sacks

**Recording location**

MCO, Hilversum the Netherlands

**Recording date**

May 3rd, 2019

**Microphones**

Bruel&Kjaer 4006, Schoeps, AKG

**A/D Converter**

DSD256 Horus, Merging Technologies

**Amplifiers**

Van Medevoort, Holland

**Cables**

van den Hul

**Mixing board**

Rens Heijnis, custom design

**Editing software**

Pyramix, Merging Technologies

**Mastering room speakers**

Grimm LSI

**Just Listen Records thanks:**

Floor van der Holst, Ted Brady, Brian

Moura, Bill Dodd





## About Just Listen Records

Just Listen is the in-house recordlabel of NativeDSD Music and started in 2015 with the first release of *8 Ensembles in 1 Bit* - giving 8 groups of artists the chance to discover the DSD 256 Stereo & DSD 256 Multichannel recording technology.

The only two rules when recording these albums were: 1) everything occurs in 1 take, and 2) no editing or post production filtering or mixing will be applied. This created a concert-like performance within the recording studio, playing together and balanced on set. This approach has been the norm for the productions that have occurred since.

Recent releases on Just Listen Records include DSD 256 Stereo & DSD 256 Multichannel albums *The Contemporary Fortepiano* with the Rembrandt Frerichs Trio, *The Sweetest Sound* with Angelo Verploegen, *Side by Side* with singer Laura Polence, *Changing Landscapes* with the duo of pianist Philipp Ruttgers and viola and quintone player Oene van Geel, and *First Meeting* performed by the Harmen Fraanje Trio with special guest Fredrik Ljungkvist (also available in Stereo DSD 512).

## **About NativeDSD Music**

NativeDSD.com is a platform that specializes in offering high-resolution recordings made by labels around the world. NativeDSD provides listeners a top quality resource for DSD, DXD and Analog-to-DSD Music in Stereo & Multichannel configurations, directly from record labels and engineers making these recordings. Getting you as close to the actual performance as possible.

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# C A R A V A N I I

JULIAN SCHNEEMANN & FRIENDS



Timon of Turkey

Nda Manguluka

Banke Bahaarein



The Guardian of Jasmin



Ode to Tomorrow

Program 98



Zindagi

Babel

Air in D

Tuyeni



Day by Day