

RAFIKI JAZZ

‘...the best of British’ (Songlines: Top of the World)



A big group of star musicians and singers from Africa, India, the Middle East, South America and Europe, bound together on a mission to share their *sweeping divine borderless music*.

Rafiki Jazz celebrate the start of this new decade with their 4th album release *Saraba Sufiyana* (Mystic Utopia) which blurs the lines of the sacred & secular to produce a magical and rich visionary songbook, described as a *filmic panoramic beauty, featuring music of the spirit, full of life, dance, emotion and joy!*

Onstage UK-wide and internationally since 2007, here are the voices and stories of inspirational Sufi soul singer Sarah Yaseen, griot singer and kora player Kadialy Kouyate and Egyptian master-musician

Mina Salama, soaring above the band's thrilling cross-continental instrumental mixes. Rafiki Jazz are renowned for their glittering soundscapes where West African kora meets Brazilian berimbau, Arabic oud duels with Indian violin, bansuri and tabla, and at the core, their compelling grooves of hi-life guitar, Caribbean steelpan and deep electric bass.

Live shows will migrate you to distant lands and bring you close to our urban roots in a musical zone full of possibility and promise. #Rafikian songs are powerful and absorbing, drawing on global folk music's archives: they touch down in trance and devotion, shake us up with new languages, and offer sound advice, old news and good news in their social commentaries and heritage tales.

ALBUMS

2019 'Saraba Sufiyana' (KoniCD011) is a live-recorded studio album which has a big & emotional vocal presence in its utopian vision of a musical 4th World & features guest singers Nancy Kerr & Kaitlin Ross.

2017 'Har Dam Sahara' (Riverboat TUGCD1106) is a compelling live-recorded studio album of rich grooves reworking devotional music & texts from South Asian & West African Sufi traditions and Coptic & Hebrew liturgy.

2014 'At Kriol Junction' (KoniCDE010) is a live-recorded studio album of driving cross-continental soundtracks with multi-language texts from the International Declaration of Human Rights & has guest singers & rappers from Iran, Kurdistan, Bangladesh & Zimbabwe.

2009 'More Big Muzik from Over There (KoniCD009) their powerful live-recorded debut studio album mixes up global roots music from original #Rafikians Mim Suleiman, Juldeh Camara, Kadialy Kouyate & Kuda Matimba



ONSTAGE

Sarah Yaseen: Urdu & Punjabi vocals, ektara, percussion

Mina Mikhail Salama: Coptic & Arabic vocals, oud, ney, saz

Kadialy Kouyate: Mandinka & Wolof vocals, kora, sabar

Cath Carr: guitar, steelpan

Tony Koni: bass guitar, sabar

Johnny Ball: tabla, derbuka

Guery Tibirica: berimbau, pandeiro, gumbé

Vijay Venkat: Carnatic violin, bansuri

VIDEOS

RAFIKI JAZZ trailer 2020
vimeo.com/394141733

RAFIKI JAZZ 2020
vimeo.com/389236600

RAFIKI JAZZ LIVE
vimeo.com/339127150

RAFIKI JAZZ AT WORK
vimeo.com/318219043

RAFIKI JAZZ RECORDING
vimeo.com/318228071

PRESS

‘A truly spellbinding performance & my WOMAD 2018 highlight’ (Katharina Herrman E-FESTIVALS)

‘Vital affirming music!’ (Marc Higgins: FATEA)

‘From Sheffield to the World it’s fresh and dynamic and very exciting!’ (Garth Cartwright: SONGLINES)

‘The most diverse band in the UK...excellent Sufi-inspired luxuriant sounds’ (LONDON EVENING STANDARD)

‘An immediate sense of the world united in music’ (Alan Wilkinson: NORTHERN SKY)

‘Rafiki Jazz the best of British! How to do East meets West with subtlety & flair’ (SONGLINES)

‘Brilliant in musicality and transcendent in sound’ (Rhythm Passport at WOMAD)



www.rafkijazz.co.uk