

On the Road to Damascus – Composing with Inspiration from Arabic Music

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Continuous pedagogical and artistic development with the ensemble Blood Sweat Drum 'n' Bass Big Band combined with the writing of compositions and arrangements for DJM ensembles.

Composing the Suite: **“On The Road To Damascus”** played under Aarhus Festival Week 2010 with Essam Rafea (Oud) and Moslem Rahal (Nay) together with **Blood Sweat Drum 'n' Bass Big Band**



Process:

- March - April 2010: Inspirationtrip to Damascus & Istanbul
- May - August 2010: Composing & Arranging
- September 2010: Rehearsals & Concerts
- October 2010 - April 2011: Video editing & sound mixing
- May - June 2011: Cover layout etc.
- July 2011: CD Release

The Suite consists of 6 parts:

- I return to Damascus – see illustration 1
- Sufi – featuring SUFI dance - see illustration 2
- Oud Indigo - electronica - see video on Youtube
- Bluesy Gnaoui – see illustration 3
- The courtyard of Al Azem – slow ballad featuring the Nay-flute
- Traffic Jam up ahead - featuring the Big Band
- I return to Damascus (reprise)

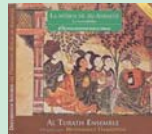


III. 2: Pernille Overø is dancing the “Sufidance” in the tune “Sufi” Samuel Hejslet is playing Electric Wind Instrument (EWI)

III. 1: I Return To Damascus

Lyrics: part of a poem by Nizar Qabbani. Translation: Shareah Taleghani. The song is based on a Usul Semai Rhythm in 10/8 time, here written in 5/4 for jazz-players.

Tonality: F-harmonic minor or “makam hicaz”. Inspiration from “Samai” played by Muhammad Hamadiyih/AI Turath Ensemble.



Full Score
On the Road to Damascus
I: I Return to Damascus
Blood Sweat Drum 'n' Bass

III. 3: Bluesy Gnaoui

A+B+C part: Rhythmical inspiration from Khaled: “Gnaoui”
D part: Semai 10/8 (but written in 5/4 for jazz-players)

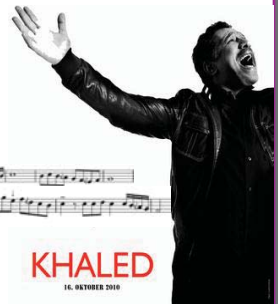
A+C part: Blues-scale (composed on a blues harmonica)

B part: A harmonic minor scale or makam hicaz

D: Scale kind of makam Bayat but with root: “F” instead of “G”

Here the original use in the tune: Zekeayat (root G):

Here used for Bluesy Gnaoui (root F):



Lead Sheet
On the Road to Damascus
IV: Bluesy Gnaoui
Blood Sweat Drum 'n' Bass

Further perspectives:

These tunes have already been used in many different contexts:
“North Sea Big Band” in Oslo Dec. 2010
Combo classes at RAMA
Music course GLOBAL
The “Glomus Orchestra” in Ghana 2011
Future: I am invited to Palestine and Syria to perform the Suite with local orchestras

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For Videos & Sound files visit my website