

NES Ahlam

Nesrine Belmokh
Matthieu Saglio
David Gadea



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ACT 9865-2

- 01 Ahlam 4:47
- 02 You Made It Hard For Me 3:38
- 03 Houzni 4:59
- 04 Bye Bye 4:28
- 05 Allouane 4:55
- 06 Laisse-Moi Entrer 3:19
- 07 The World Is Blue 4:47
- 08 Le Temps 3:42
- 09 Happy NES 3:05
- 10 Prière 3:59

Music composed by Nesrine Belmokh & Matthieu Saglio

Lyrics written by Nesrine Belmokh
except 1 & 5 by Leïla Guinoun

Nesrine Belmokh / voice & cello (on 3 & 7)
Matthieu Saglio / cello & vocals
David Gadea / percussion

Produced by NES

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THE ACT COMPANY

NES can't be tied down to a specific location. Their music is between traditional Arabic and world music, jazz and pop. These three superb musicians originally met in Valencia in Spain.

Percussionist David Gadea is from the region, and was already touring with Flamenco and Jazz greats; Matthieu Saglio is a French cellist "with a thousand tone colours" who has performed in more than 30 countries; the French-Algerian singer/cellist Nesrine Belmokh had worked with legendary conductors such as Lorin Maazel and Daniel Barenboim, and performed with Cirque du Soleil on international tours. Placido Domingo has called Nesrine "an exceptional artist, a wonderful voice."

"Ahlam" means "dream" in Arabic. The long-held wish of the three NES musicians was to make an internationally released album - a dream which has now quite literally come true. The title song also expresses a personal dream of love fulfilled, and of the desire for peace in the world: "There is no beauty without a concept of goodness." (That sentence is a free translation of the title song's refrain.)

All the Arabic lyrics on the album were written by Nesrine's mother, a poet whose main occupation is as a doctor. "We're in touch all the time," explains the singer. "An intergenerational connection like this needs constant feeding and watering!"

Nesrine sings in English, French and Arabic. She can be soft and hypnotic as in "Bye Bye", chansonnesque in "Le Temps" or sing pop songs such as "The World Is Blue" in a duet with herself.

"Music is my exorcism" is the motto of "Bye Bye," music to drive out the demons. And the lyrics: "Spending days and years looking for my identity/ I guess I have to find it within a community," suggests that this trio itself might well represent the community she is

referring to. The astonishingly varied sounds of the classically trained cellist Matthieu Saglio, who also works with loop pedals, and the sometimes fiery, sometimes very delicate percussion by David Gadea constitute the virtuoso flamenco/jazz basis of this band.

NES are not hemmed in by categories or language barriers. Their songs are full of grace and emotion, born and nurtured by the sun in the cultural melting pot of Valencia.

Recorded, mixed and mastered by Nicolas Baillard at Studios La Buissonne, Pernes les Fontaines, France, June 2017. Except cello loops recorded at Cut Records, Valencia, Spain, in January 2017 by Rafa Sánchez. Photos by Nerea Coll.

NES would like to thank:

All the friends, family, our beloved audience, who shared precious time and energy with us... nothing could have been possible without your support. We have you in our hearts. Thank you. Love and peace.



Ahlam احلام

(Arabic lyrics by Leïla Guinoun)

لا تخجلي بشعوري و اشواقني
و فرحي بقروبك
في الليل احساسني غريب

احلم بالسلام و الامل في بستان الحب
لا اكون جميلة بلا إحسان

اعيش زيك سعيد ناسني
الحب و الاحسان و النار باحساسني

احلم بالسلام و الامل في بستان الحب
لا اكون جميلة بلا إحسان

حبيبتك لما التقينا و حكينا
ابعث رسالة في جنة الاشواق

احلم بالسلام و الامل في بستان الحب
لا اكون جميلة بلا إحسان

Dreams

(Translation by Samar Damlakhi)

*Don't be shy of my feelings, of my longings and
of my happiness when you are close to me
During my night, I have a strange feeling*

*I dream of peace and hope in a garden of love
I can't feel beauty without having a kind spirit*

*I live like you, happy to forget
Love, kindness and fire are my feelings*

*I dream of peace and hope in a garden of love
I can't feel beauty without having a kind spirit*

*I fell in love with you since we met and talked to
each other
I send a message from a paradise of nostalgia*

*I dream of peace and hope in a garden of love
I can't feel beauty without having a kind spirit*

You Made It Hard For Me

(Nesrine Belmokh)

I can't wake up in the morning so early baby
this is too crazy
My nights are full of colours and dreams
so you know I still feel dizzy

But I don't want to complain
You made it hard for me

I can't take responsibility for the whole
humanity
yes I know it sounds easy
Each one has his own belief system ingrained
impregnable fortress I'm in chains

But I don't want to complain
You made it hard for me

Please come and help me
slowly, surely and carefully
Please come and help me
to not divide the world between you and me

Yes I fight for integrity
failing to achieve immortality
But I loose on my way a lot of energy
building my path very much consciously

But I don't want to complain
You made it hard for me

If suddenly I have to open a new door
am I ready to forget all my rancor
Life is a cycle, a drama maybe an opera
but somehow its time for me to start a new era

But I don't want to complain
You made it hard for me

Bye Bye

(Nesrine Belmokh)

After few days of loosing time and energy
I realised what causes all my anxiety
A big bloody, scary moon was heading
in front of me

No but think about it
I'm disoriented, lost soul

This is what is happening to me
I'm bored of mediocrity around me
Spending days and years looking for my identity
I guess I have to find it within a community

No but think about it
I'm disoriented
Somehow I create it

This time I recognise that I can't hide behind
any lies neither others composers
'cause music is my exorcism

Allouane ألوان

(Arabic lyrics by Leïla Guinoun)

اني حافلة مرت
رحلة الأحلام
كل الاشياء مغرة
موسيقى الكمان افراح و احزان
و كل ما احب

اشعة الالوان في السماء
و تفتحت اسرار القلوب
كم و كم من فرح و شقاء
السلام و الحب شاهدون
اهلا و سهلا بهم

اني حافلة مرت
رحلة الأحلام
كل الاشياء مغرة
اعاهد الحياة و الابدية و النجوم و الدنيا
ان الحياة فانية و الملائكة حارسة

اشعة الالوان في السماء
و تفتحت اسرار القلوب
كم و كم من فرح و شقاء
السلام و الحب شاهدون
اهلا و سهلا بهم

كم لهم من قرون
حتى طلعت النجوم

Colors

(Translation by Kristine B. Tiphine)

*I am the walking woman who vanishes
The dreamer full of dreams
All is vanity
The sound of the cello, it's my joys and my sorrows
and everything I love*

*The lights in the sky made their appearance
and the secrets of hearts were announced
O so many joys and despairs
both peace and love could declare*

*I am the walking woman who vanishes
The dreamer full of dreams
All is vanity
I swear on the eternity of the stars and the universe
that life is so fragile and evanescent
and that angels give their caring luminescence*

*The lights in the sky made their appearance
and the secrets of hearts were announced
O so many joys and despairs
both peace and love could declare*

*How many centuries do we need for the stars
to sparkle
Welcome to them*

Laisse-Moi Entrer

(Nesrine Belmokh)

Je n'sais pas pourquoi je me fous de toi comme ça
Je n'crois pas que je pense à toi, vraiment parfois
Non je n'sais pas pourquoi je me fous
de toi comme ça
Je n'sens pas que je dois rester par là avec toi

Laisse moi entrer dans tes pensées
Donne moi les clefs de toutes tes idées
Laisse moi rêver que tu pourrais

Etre enfin celui qui peut me faire rester
même si je sais que je ne suis pas facile à dompter
Si le temps me dois un joyeux morceau de vie
je m'arrêterai peut être un moment,
un instant par ici

Laisse moi entrer dans tes pensées
Donne moi les clefs de toutes tes idées
Laisse moi rêver que tu pourrais

M'inciter doucement à t'embrasser
ou lentement tomber dans tes bras
comme une poupée
Oui m'inciter doucement à t'embrasser
ou lentement tomber dans tes bras
comme une poupée

Laisse moi entrer dans tes pensées... (chorus again)

Let Me In

(Translation by Kristine B. Tiphine)

*I don't know why I don't care about you like that
I don't believe that I think of you, sometimes really
No I don't know why I don't care about you like that
I don't feel that I should stay that way with you only*

*Let me enter your opinions
Give me the keys to all your intentions
Let me dream that you could*

*To be at last the one to make me remain
Even though I know I am not easy to tame
If time owes me a cheerful piece of life
Maybe I might stop a moment, an instant here*

*Let me enter your opinions
Give me the keys to all your intentions
Let me dream that you could*

*To be gently encouraged to kiss you
Or slowly falling into your arms like a doll
Yes to be gently encouraged to kiss you
Or slowly falling into your arms like a doll*

*Let me enter your opinions
Give me the keys to all your intentions
Let me dream that you could*

Le Temps

(Nesrine Belmokh)

Le temps, le temps est celui qui se déguise
tantôt juste, tantôt triste
Le temps, le temps est de ceux qui nous enivrent

Et bien non je ne sais plus
et pourtant je croyais
Il semble que c'est écrit
mais tout est faux je le sais

Le destin nous a menti
pour cela je suis partie
Voir si là il est vrai
que ce que l'on sait n'est pas encore dit

Le temps, le temps est celui qui se déguise
tantôt juste, tantôt triste
Le temps, le temps est de ceux qui nous enivrent

Il faudrait que je comprenne
l'intensité de ces regards
l'absurdité de ces remparts
juste pour voir où cela me mène

Finalement quel est ce choix
La beauté bancale des choses
parfois sinueuse, parfois joyeuse

Le temps, le temps est celui... (chorus again)

Time

(Translation by Kristine B. Tiphine)

*Time, time is the one who disguises himself
sometimes right, sometimes sad
Time, time is of those who intoxicate us*

*Well I no longer know
even so I believed
It seems that it is printed
but it is all wrong I know*

*We were cheated by fate
for that reason I went
To see if there it's accurate
that what we know is yet to be said*

*Time, time is the one who disguises himself
sometimes right, sometimes sad
Time, time is of those who intoxicate us*

*I would need to understand
the intensity of these looks
the absurdity of these walls
only to see where that leads me*

*At the end what is the choice
The wobbly beauty of things
sometimes sinuous sometimes joyous*

Time, time is the one... (chorus again)

Prière

(Nesrine Belmokh)

C'est une prière à tous vos Dieux
Prenez le temps et demandez-leur de la douceur

Priez pour vous, pour eux, pour moi
qu'enfin la fureur meure
Priez pour vous, pour eux, pour moi
que l'on puisse dissiper le vertige

Sans finalité, sans destinée
Juste pour cette idée de perdurer

Un peu de paix, de joie, de beauté
dans un monde qui doit s'équilibrer
Un peu de paix, de joie, de beauté
dans un monde qui doit aimer

C'est une prière à tous vos Dieux
Prenez le temps et demandez-leur de la douceur

Prayer

(Translation by Kristine B. Tiphine)

*This is a prayer to all your Gods
Take time to ask them for their kindness*

*Pray for you, for them, for me
that finally the fury disappears
Pray for you, for them, for me
that we can dispel the fear*

*With no purpose, with no destiny
Just the idea of infinity*

*A little peace, joy and beauty
in a world, that must stabilize
A little peace, joy and beauty
in a world that must love more*

*This is a prayer to all your Gods
Take time to ask them for their kindness*

