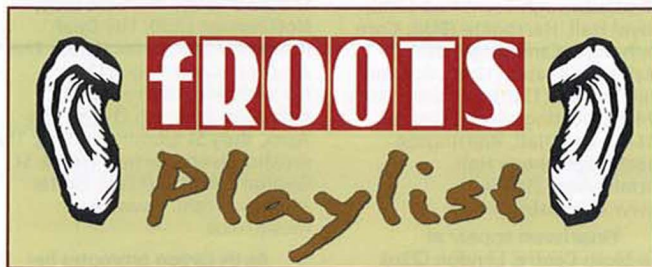


fROOTS

NOV/DEC 2012 Nos. 353/354



The seal of quality! Our favourite new albums on the fRoots player this month. Some are so hot off the press that they aren't even reviewed yet, but you can listen to tracks on fRoots Radio at www.podwireless.com



FAWZY AL-AIEDY
Radio Bagdad

(Institut Du Monde Arabe)
www.imarabe.org
Iraqi multi-instrumentalist stretches out.

FAWZY AL-AIEDY

Radio Bagdad Institute du Monde Arabe
321.094

Folk-rock from Iraq with Arabic traditional and Western classical knobs on. Fawzy Al-Aiedy is a



bit of a musical institution, a prolific Baghdad-born 60-something singer who settled in Paris in the early '70s (and has been resident in Strasbourg for the last few years). As well as singing in a voice that mixes the light and the guttural, he plays oud, oboe and cor anglais (yep, cor anglais) and is here accompanied by a mix of Arabic and Western musicians (playing guitars, bass, drums, flute, percussion, bagpipes, accordion and violin) on a set of mostly original songs dedicated to the youth of the Arab Spring. This is melting-pot music of the most considered and attractive kind. Moving from swinging French-flavoured pieces such as *Leyla* (with

David Venitucci's accordion to the fore), through the low slung lode of *Ya Habibi* to a distinctive take on *Nassam Alayna Al Hawa*, the exile's lament made famous by the legendary Fairuz. And then suddenly there'll be a touch of oboe or a swooping oriental violin line and some Middle Eastern call-and-response vocals. The Institut du Monde Arabe label is usually a mark of quality and here Al-Aiedy and co-producer/engineer Serge Glanzberg have done a fine job in coralling all of these disparate influences into a highly satisfying whole.

www.fawzy-music.com/

Jamie Renton