

Mp3 Pablo Rub©n Maldonado - Almanjayar



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A fusion of flamenco, Latin, Tango, Jazz piano from this Spanish Gypsy, a ground-breaking artist and charismatic performer, and one of the most sought-after Flamenco musicians of his generation. 9 MP3 Songs in this album (46:20) ! Related styles: WORLD: Flamenco, JAZZ: Piano Jazz People who are interested in Herbie Hancock Bebo Valds Chano Domnguez should consider this download. Details: Born into a Gypsy family of flamenco artists in Granada, Spain including Pepe Albaicin, Mario Maya, Jos Carmona, and Antonio Cujn, founder of the Zambra, Pablo Rubn Maldonado took an unusual route when he chose to study the piano at the Conservatory of Music in Granada. Since then he has collaborated with and composed for artists and companies such as Pura Pasin with Cristbal Reyes, Madre Coraje with La Tati, the New Spanish Ballet, Antonio and Manuel Reyes, Juan Andrs Maya, and Rafaela Carrasco. In 2007 Pablo was presented with the award for Best Composition for Dance celebrated in the Teatro Albeniz, Madrid. Almanjayar is Pablo's first album recorded in 2004 and was acclaimed by the critics. He accompanies singing as if he were plucking the strings of a guitar El Pas His themes are eminently rhythmic; bulera, alegre, jaleos, tangos, surge from the piano grounded in traditional flamenco with fascinating jazz influences Alma 100 In 2006 Pablo and his group performed in Washington for the Gala Hispanic Theatres flamenco festival. Paula Durbin of the Washington Post wrote 'Almanjyar': Flamenco With a Jazz Pulse "The guitar might be the instrument most associated with flamenco, but the piano took center stage Friday and Saturday at the start of GALA Hispanic Theatre's second annual flamenco festival with Pablo Rubn Maldonado's "Almanjyar." The Granada-born classical pianist's fusion of Spanish Gypsy tradition and jazz is hardly new, but Maldonado's contemporary compositions take it to a new level. The engaging performer played superbly, as did percussionist Moiss Natenzon and bassist Jorge Luis Cerrato Mndez, although the flamenco root was at times elusive. Fortunately, singer Ismael Fernndez and

dancer Jose Manuel Flores Macas provided a steadier connection to the Gypsy source. Fernandez, perhaps the program's most charismatic performer, overlaid jazz harmonics with an edgy but authentic flamenco style. Flores Macas, impeccably schooled in the form's strictly accented rhythmic phrases, adapted well to the pulsations of jazz, relying on upper-body fluidity in the opening "Cautivo de Mi Destino," whose configurations limited the footwork that is usually the meat of a dancer's interpretation. But he gave an explosive display in "Invocacin," a composition quoting more explicitly from flamenco. Flores Macas returned in "Anhelos de Tus Besos," a joyous finale that showcased the entire ensemble to stunning effect. In a memorable sequence, Maldonado's tinkling high notes played off the dancer's rhythms. Later, Flores Macas stamped his cadences "a palo seco," that is, accompanied only by the clapping of the other four men. This was flamenco distilled to its essence, sober and enthralling." The music critic Srajan Ebaen wrote. "Chano Domnguez accorded the piano a firm place in the Flamenco firmament by adapting its playing style to the modal and rhythmic demands of a genre dominated by vocals, guitar, dance and percussion. He single-handedly transformed the piano into a celebrated and respected Flamenco tool par excellence. Pianists Dorantes and Diego Amador have successfully followed in Chano's footsteps and now there's Pablo Rubn Maldonado with Almanjayar. Maldonado is also a poet, writing his own lyrics for the vocal tracks that accompany his keyboard at times. Instrumentation is sparse, with Miguel Fernandez 'Cheyenne' on cajon, congas and various other percussion; Jos Bermdez 'El Lince' on palmas; Francisco Lucas Bustos on tablas; Sunny White on violin; and Ismael Fernandez, Rosario Jimnez 'La Cata' and Maria Romero on vocals. Ever since Camaron de la Isla incorporated a full orchestra into certain of his songs (and originally much to the chagrin of purists), symphonic elements have continued to make inroads into Flamenco's language. There'd be a string quartet appearing with guitarist Rafael Riqueni or a fully developed symphonic suite for solo guitar by way of Vicente Amigo's stunning Poeta. Needless to say, piano as solo instrument continues this symphonic tradition. It allows exploration of chordal progressions that differ from how a guitarist would approach it. Because Flamenco is excessively rhythmic and based on complex patterns called compas, a pianist working this metier must also use his keyboard as one large percussive instrument just as Cuban players do. Unlike Dominguez who crisscrosses between Latin, Jazz and Flamenco often in the same number, Almanjayar is a piano suite that explores the forms of buleras, solas, alegras, tanguillos and tangos assisted by staccato percussion and hoarse vocal interludes. Powerful chordal syncopations often entirely replace the melodic

lyricism for which piano is revered in classical circles. Carefully aimed dissonances inject dark shadows into the fiery, driven, vigorously hammered salvos of both hands. "Me quedo en Grana" then steps out of the Flamenco puro vein as a bulesalsa, a Latin hybrid that incorporates Salsa rhythms and here also Jazz scatting and Cuban-style backup chorus. It's a hard-hitting high-energy romp that shows the lighter side of Flamenco before we return again into the world often called the Blues of Spain. Think of Almanjayar as sophisticated modern Flamenco where guitar is replaced by a piano. Recording choices emphasize the piano's metallic aspects to invoke less woody warmth and more immediate transient harmonics for an overall thinner but very fast and highly dynamic sound. Piano lovers who haven't tread these Flamenco paths before will be quite surprised by how their singing instrument transforms its entire gestalt. Audiophile meanwhile will find the violently percussive, high-impact style quite challenging on their system. Yes, Almanjayar is a very solid addition to the genre."

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