Qais Essar
Afghan/North Indian Music
Traditional Rabab | Classical
Fusion Music

RELEASERS
Fall 2012 | Zima Afghanistan
Summer 2011 | Amalgamation

Compositions reflect ancient classical ragas deeply rooted in the tradition of Afghan and Indian culture as well as beautifully-improved contemporary musical arrangements of the 21st century.

Fall Release 2012 | Bamiyan Sky
http://soundcloud.com/k-q-essar/bamiyan-sky/s-dpLe0
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZk9HvQ4s-M

About Qais
Qais Essar, talented musician and well experienced live performer, carries on the traditional legacy of classical Afghan instrumentation, as set by Ustad Mohammad Omar- the "Father of the Rabab". Trained extensively in both classical and traditional mediums, Essar has been able to fuse the Rabab with both western and eastern styling, collaborating with many prominent artists and masters, covering the musical spectrum, performing domestically and internationally.

Personal Note
With the Soviet invasion of 1979, disappearances of politically active Afghans were not only a threat, but a reality in the daily lives of those living in Kabul and surrounding regions. My parents fled to Pakistan and shortly thereafter immigrated to Washington DC, where I was born and raised. We moved around a lot and it was ten years before we moved to Arizona. In an effort to retain the integrity of our culture and not “lose our way” my parents sought higher education, worked hard to provide for my brother and me and taught us to respect our Afghan traditions.

Music was and still is my escape and learning to play Rabab, later experimenting with world fusion music, opened my eyes and heart to our family’s homeland. I’m proud to be Afghan American, and am grateful for the life I’ve been given and the freedom we enjoy. My wife and I still have family in Kabul. My journey as an artist, husband and son will have always begun in my Afghanistan.

New York, NY ~ K. Qais Essar, released his second U.S. EP this week entitled Zima Afghanistan. The album marks a culmination of the past year, the trials and triumphs it has brought; personally and professionally. The song Bamiyan Sky is the first cut featured on this album. Bamiyan can be translated as ‘The Place of Shining Light’. Known for its bluest sky and brightest sun, Bamiyan is the largest town in the region of Hazarajat in central Afghanistan.

A CD release tour will begin in Montreal, QC Canada on October 30 when Qais will travel and perform for ten days at a variety of festivals, performing arts theaters and cultural venues. A US CD release party is scheduled in December in his hometown of Phoenix, Arizona.

Zima Afghanistan, produced by Qais Essar and Eric Zang features eight tracks; each one highlighting Essar’s work on the Rabab, an Afghan lute instrument that can be dated back 2500 years. A portion of the proceeds from the album will benefit Women for Afghan Women, a non-profit, grassroots, civil society organization; whose mission is dedicated to securing and protecting the rights of disenfranchised Afghan women and girls in Afghanistan and New York, particularly their freedom to realize their full potential. I want to make a difference.”

About Women for Afghan Women
Women for Afghan Women organization advocates for women’s rights and challenge the norms that underpin gender-based violence wherever opportunities arise to influence attitudes and bring about change.

Zima Afghanistan is available online at www.TheRabab.com.

About the Rabab
The Rabab, an Afghan lute instrument, can be dated back 2500 years, mentioned in countless works of Sufi poetry, having then, and continuing to still ensnare the hearts of its audience, with its charming, and sweet tones, whether used in a classical or folk fashion. The pride of its people, it is carefully crafted from the finest wood, harvested from the mulberry trees native to Afghanistan, goat skin stretched across the top. With 3 core strings, 2 drone strings, and 11-13 sympathetic strings (tuned to the specific raga), struck with a wooden plectrum, the Rabab produces a deep ambient timbre, unrivaled.

"One pluck of a string and it resonates within the hearts of all of our people...It's such a powerful symbol" Qais Essar

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