

## ALI AKBAR MORADI – ULAS OZDEMIR

This musical project is a collaboration between Iranian musician Ali Akbar Moradi and Ulas Ozdemir of Turkey. The project presents the musical traditions of the very similar Ahl-e Haqq and Alevi-Bektashi belief systems, as well as Turkish, Kurdish and Iranian folk music in a colorful and energetic mix. The project has been conceived in a spirit of unity and brotherhood between two different peoples within the context of their common mystical music, played on the tanbur and baglama, instruments considered sacred in both Ahl-e Haqq and Alevi-Bektashi music.

### Ali Akbar Moradi

Ali Akbar Moradi, born in 1957 in Guran, is the leading tanbur player from Kurdistan, Iran. He is also a composer, teacher, and highly acclaimed master of the tanbur repertoire. Encouraged by his father and grandfather, he began to study the tanbur at the age of seven. He studied with masters, Sayyed Hachem, Sayyed Mirza Khafashyan, Sayyed Mahmoud Alevi, Darvishi, Allahmouradi Hamedi, and Sayyed Vali Hosseyni with whom he learned the mastery of the instrument and the Kurdish repertoire. At the age of 15, he founded his first tanbur ensemble and began his touring career. By the age of 30, he had completed learning the entire 72 maqams (modes) of the Kurdish tanbur repertoire. He has toured the world with Shahram Nazeri and Kayhan Kalhor amongst others, as a soloist, and with his sons. He teaches tanbur in Kermanshah and in Tehran.

#### Selected Discography:

- Ali Akbar Moradi - Pejman Hadadi "Fire of Passion / Kurdish Tanbur Music of Iran" (2000, 7/8 Music)
- Ali Akbar Moradi - Parvin Namazi "Kurdaneh" (2001, Keresmeh)
- Ali Akbar Moradi - Pejman Hadadi "Whisper" (2002, Quartertone)
- Ali Akbar Moradi "Kurdish music from Iran / Mystical Odes and Secular Music" (2002, Inedit)
- Ali Akbar Moradi "THE RITUAL 72 MAQAMS OF YARSAN" (2003, Inedit) – 4 CD set.
- Ali Akbar Moradi - Kayhan Kalhor "In the Mirror of The Sky" (2004, World Village)
- Ali Akbar Moradi - Ulas Ozdemir "The Companion" (2008, Hermes Records)

### Ulas Ozdemir

Ulas Ozdemir, born 1976 in Maras in southeast Anatolia (Turkey). Completed primary, middle and high school in Maraş. He graduated from Yildiz Technical University Art and Design Faculty, Department of Ethnomusicology. During his high school years, he began collecting folk music with his father in Maraş province, which has a rich folk music tradition. During the same years, he began publishing articles on music. He has now published articles in many magazines, newspapers and internet sites. He has participated in a variety of concerts in Turkey and abroad, as well as world music festivals such as the San Francisco, Sfinks and Brosella festivals. Performing on the traditional instruments of Alevi-Bektashi music, the *dede sazi* and *ruzba*, Ozdemir also has composed film scores and written arrangements that employ a broad array of instruments, with references to various music cultures in his country. Since 1997, Ulas Ozdemir has worked for Kalan Muzik as producer and production director.

#### Discography:

- Ulas Ozdemir "UMMANDA / Maras Sinemilli Deyişleri" (1998, Kalan Muzik)
- Ulas Ozdemir - Mare Nostrum "O da Beni Seviyor" (Soundtrack) (2001, Kalan Muzik)
- Asker Türküleri (Compilation) (2003, Kalan Muzik)
- Gül Türküleri (Compilation) (2003, Kalan Muzik)
- Dertli Divani – "HASBIHÂL" (Producer, Arranger) (2005, Kalan Muzik)
- Kayhan Kalhor, Erdal Erzindan, Ulas Ozdemir "The Wind" (2006, ECM)
- Ali Akbar Moradi - Ulas Ozdemir "The Companion" (2008, Hermes Records)