3'AIN

File under File under World, Jazz Fusion, Acoustic, Arabic, Meditative

3'Ain is a trio in which **Yamen Martini** (trumpet) **Otto Kint** (upright bass) and **Piet Maris** (accordion) join forces: they bring a unique blend of worldwide jazz with influences from Arab music.

More or less 13 years ago, Yamen left Syria tot arrive in Belgium in 2015, where he met Piet. After collaborating on music for a theatre play, Piet invited Yamen to join **Jaune Toujours** as a guest musician, as you can hear on their album **Europeana**. In the summer of 2019, Otto joined them, giving birth to **3'Ain**.

The band name is based on the eighteenth letter of the Arabic alphabet, ع, a vowel that is often represented as '3' in chat and SMS conversations and in transliteration as 'ain. **3'Ain** seemed an appropriate name for a trio playing contemporary and worldwide jazz with influences from the Arab world.

With their distinctive sound, they released their first EP on the own **Choux de Bruxelles** label in 2020. The subsequent full album, '**Sea of Stories'** has been released in 2023 and just before the Summer of 2026 they have released the new album '**Unland**' with '**Oufti'** as the first single.







Press quotes 'Unland'

JAZZVIEWS (★★★1/2) *You are instantly transported to distant lands, wrapped in a sound world that is both unfamiliar and intriguing*

JAZZWISE (★★★1/2) *The group creates a mysterious and downbeat mood, allowing melodic motifs to slowly unfurl over beatless soundscapes and drawing listeners into their gentle pace*

UK VIBE (★★★) *Refusing to wave the flag of either Western jazz or Eastern tradition, but rather to wander the fluid margins between them*

Press quotes 'Sea of Stories':

LE SOIR (★★★★) *Une trompette, un accordéon, une basse et voilà des histoires en pleine mer. Une musique teintée d'orientalisme et de tango mais ancrée en Belgique, les titres le montrent, imprégnée de l'ambiance des lieux où elle a été composée, comme Ostende pour Scrambled Ensor. Ce trio nous raconte des histoires envoûtantes qu'on a envie de se faire narrer encore et encore*

INMUSIC (★★★★) *Arabische Melodien treffen auf Musette-artige Akkordeonklänge und Contemporary Jazz*

RNR (★★★★) *The Syrian-Belgian trio's blend of Western and Eastern sounds is as immersive a set of contemporary jazz as you'll hear this year*

JAZZTHETIK (★★★★) *Ihre überwiegend nachdenkliche Kammermusik bewegt sich zwischen sensibler Melancholie und Melodieseligkeit, grift Walzer und Tango auf und gefällt in ihrer Unbestimmtheit zwischen folkloristischer Anmutung und der Offenheit des Jazz*

SONGLINES (★★★) *The trio have recorded a set of impressive instrumentals that match jazz with echoes of the global influences*