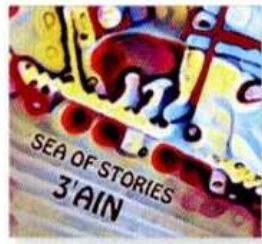


3'AIN



Sea Of Stories

(CHOUX DE BRUXELLES) www.facebook.com/3ain3/



Named after the eighteenth letter of the Arabic alphabet, 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. Which is just as well for, like their self-titled debut EP from 2020, *Sea Of Stories* is all too brief, clocking in at a mere thirty-four minutes.

That's a shame as the mellow double bass of Otto Kint, absorbing accordion of Piet Maris, and impassioned trumpet and flugelhorn playing of band leader Yamen Martini work together so cohesively that a more extensive set would have been welcomed. That said, from the slightly discordant opening of 'Schuimkop' through to the dramatic interplay of 'Perron 0', the music demands such attention as to make time slip away.

In between these pensive pieces is a set of beautiful, trumpet-led melodies that veer from the plaintive 'Meeting Issues' to the joyous romp of 'Tango Soleil Du Nord', whilst the atmospheric 'Scrambled Ensor' finds all three making hefty contributions to an emotional marrying of Argentine tango and Arabic influences. The remaining pieces are similarly atmospheric and absorbing, packed as they are with dramatic flourishes and a brooding quality that will have you entranced.

Simon Rowland