

3'AIN

File under Worldwide Jazz with an Arabic twist

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 the Swana region (South West Asia and North Africa).

More or less 13 years ago, Yamen left Syria to 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 which is said to be difficult to pronounce for western people. As it 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 Swana region.

With their distinctive sound, they released their first EP on the **Choux de Bruxelles** label in May 2020, in full Covid lockdown. The subsequent full album, '**Sea of Stories**' has been released in the Spring of 2023 and has received international acclaim in the press. Spring of 2026, they release a new studio recorded album with a first single 'Oufiti' on 27/3.



3'Ain in the Press:

UK VIBE (★★★★) *There's an out-of-reach and enigmatic quality to Sea of Stories which keeps you drawing back into its music. A dream-like visual sensibility and the warmth of its harmonies give the music a physicality which virtually lives and breathes.*

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.*

TRUTH & LIES (9,5/10) *Sometimes, perfection can arise out of the stirring together of contrasting genres and 'Sea Of Stories' by the Syrian / Belgian trio 3'Ain is one such success.*

DA MUSIC *Een ontmoeting van oosterse melancholie, westerse zeemansliedren en universele jazzklanken.*

JAZZ'HALO *Een overwegend melancholische soundtrack met indrukwekkende filmische accenten. Alsof ze de desolaatheid van het bestaan verklanken in een roes van dromerige visioenen.*

JAZZ JOURNAL *The global roots of 3'Ain converge in a crossover project that straddles European styles and Middle Eastern music – joining together influences from Belgium and trumpeter Yamen Martini's native Syria.*

JAZZMANIA *Avec ce « Sea of Stories » rédempteur, les danseurs se lamenteront aux sons d'un tango désolant et se trémousseront sur des valse tristes.*

JAZZ&MO *Van het beste dat er sinds Sexual Healing uit Oostende kwam"*

JAZZQUES: *"C'est cela qui est intéressant avec ce groupe, c'est ce mélange subtil d'ingrédients venus des quatre coins de la Méditerranée.*

JAZZWIZE *It's an engaging mix of Arabic-inflected melody, accordion-based Musette, Tango and improv.*

KNACK FOCUS: *Ze combineren de weemoed van de piano du pauvre met de geur van de Levant.*

LINEA TRAD *Attraverso sette nuove composizioni, i 3'Ain Continuano il loro viaggio radicato nel jazz attraverso le immagini musicali sceniche della Siria Bizantina e del Levante, utilizzando la loro configurazione strumentale acustica per portare gli ascoltatori con sé nel loro cammino.*

MIXEDWORLD MUSIC *Het valt niet mee om deze bijzondere muziek ergens in te delen. 3'Ain bewandelt hetzelfde schemergebied als het onvolprezen Amerikaanse Tin Hat (Trio), met allerlei raakvlakken zoals klassiek, musette, jazz en een (in dit geval) heel klein pietsie folk, maar toch vooral heel eigenzinnig.*

MOORS MAGAZINE *Onweerstaanbare wereldfusie, multiculturele muziek die laat horen dat waar werelden bij elkaar komen de wereld meteen een stukje rijker en mooier wordt. Muziek om een bijzonder goed humeur van te krijgen.*

OHRENSCHMAUCH *Von jazzeigen Klängen über orientalische Motive zu Anspielungen auf Tango.*

SELECTED GOOSEBUMPS *There is a breath of a breeze, a spicy taste of the East and the hardness of coastal stones scattered here and there.*