

# Qotob Trio – album entity (release 6/10/17)



"East meets West, on the crossroads of contemporary jazz and classical music"

In between mainstream pop, rock, jazz, classical, and world music, there is still a lot to discover and experience - like the brand new album **'Entity'** by **Qotob Trio**, to be featured on the label of the Brussels artist collective Choux de Bruxelles (Jaune Toujours, Mec Yek, etc).

Their instrumental debut album, recorded in the trio's rehearsal space, the Auditorium Jacques Altenloh, is cinematic and adventurous. The sound is reminiscent of the intimate, vivid ECM releases by Anouar Brahem, but is also evocative of the exotic Arab jazz of Rabi Abou-Khalil, Dhafer Youssef or Mar Khalifé.

**'Entity'** brings a musical experience to life in which everybody can recognize themselves. Poetic piano notes, an accordion alternating between melancholy and joy and the deep but serene cello provide an exceptional musical journey.

**Qotob Trio** surprises. Frequently, unexpected side routes appear - an indication of how the album reflects the musicians' deepest thoughts and emotions. The music is sincere and above all intimate. Something completely different from what the mainstream media usually presents to the public. It is emotional music that moves the soul and gives the trio the opportunity to combine simplicity, spontaneity and improvisation. That alone is already reason enough to give **'Entity'** a listen.

The album reflects the many challenges of life, defending and embracing sensitivity and beauty in an ever-changing world. The songs of **Qotob Trio** are dedicated to the power of cooperation and dialogue. But at the same time, it's about breaking and pushing boundaries, not least the classic but artificial divide between East (Damascus) and West (Brussels).

Savour the rich emotions in the compositions and the peculiar arrangements the trio brings together on **'Entity'** - as on the title track, of which there is a live-version (shot during a concert in Ancienne Belgique) to be found on the internet. Or *'Epidemic'*, that shows the more cinematic approach of the band. The opening track *'Yara'*, on the other hand, is a rather isolated sanctuary that, just like many other compositions, touches the listener deep in their soul.

**QOTOB TRIO "ENTITY"** (chou 1702) cd/digi-pack - label Choux de Bruxelles - bar code 5420036803591  
Release 6/10/2017 - Benelux distr. Music & Words, UK distr. Discovery Records  
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## About Qotob Trio

Qotob was created, in Damascus, by the Syrian musician Bassel Abou Fakher, as a platform for musicians in world music. Fakher, surrounded by trumpet player Milad Khawam (Exilistan), percussionist Michael Kayat and zither player Maher Khodder, started a series of recordings that lead to the debut 'Damascus' (2015), an album recorded in one of the most conflict-ridden areas in the world. That debut, therefore, was almost fully dedicated to the healing, holy power of music.

Cellist Bassel Abou Fakher moved to Belgium and met new musicians including pianist Jean-Baptiste Delneuve and accordionist Piet Maris. Almost immediately, they established an exceptional musical understanding with new ideas, inspirations and approaches that resulted in **Qotob Trio** and '**Entity**'.

This new album could be considered as a crossroads within the heart of Brussels - the multilingual, multicultural metropolis that is constantly brimming with the most diverse sounds and inspirations.

That, too, exactly reflects the core of the group, with the three band members, all with their own very specific social and musical backgrounds, sharing, exchanging and combining their diverse influences and experiences, together in this new, innovative project.



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