

andrew stoltz - digital audio

jeremy bleich - oud

eftah (open) is the fruit of twelve months of careful development of composition, form, improvisation and electronic manipulation sourced and sampled from the oud, an ancient arabic lute. The music is - in aesthetic, an extension of traditional forms incorporating sufi chant and taqsim as well as modern developments in playing and avant electronica.

The oud is used as the main sound source (w/ some voice and clapping added). The instrument is recorded in complete performance and sampled as individual sound and then manipulated digitally to create the final recordings. Samples of the oud are layered and effected to design sound environments ranging from ambient sheets to harsh percussive attacks.

This music began as a collaboration between Andrew Stoltz and Jeremy Bleich for an art installation but changed shape when the duo was invited to perform at the NWEAMO international electronic music festival (www.nweamo.org). NWEAMO was held in Mexico City, Portland, OR and San Diego, CA. eftah was also invited to perform at the High Mayhem experimental music festival (www.highmayhem.org) in Santa Fe, NM. The focus was then shifted to produce a full length recording which was completed in the fall. In addition to collaborative pieces, there are also 3 short songs included - solo oud pieces recorded using various techniques.

eftah is currently looking for a record label and or distribution for the disk. Please feel free to contact us if you would be interested in releasing and or distributing this unique music.

"eftah was the one work on the program that seemed to fulfill the NWEAMO mission of uniting the avant garde with popular music. jeremy bleich nimbly performed a series of ralph-towner-esque licks on the oud, which were processed and accompanied by stoltz's laptop, at times laying down a thick modal carpet of sustained tones, at others gentle ripples of processed notes...."

– Christian Hertzog for sandiego.com

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