



# زهار

## ZHAR TRIO

# ORIENTAL POEMS

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## MUSICAL & POETIC JOURNEY

“The tales tell us the story of a magical spring at the heart of a great fire...” The flames lick the words, caress the notes, and the magic happens. No rugged reliefs, no tumultuous torrents, no dark gorges... only the light of a gentle, calm, slow music, almost introverted. Music inspired by the Orient that calls for thought, reflection, and travel. (*Jef Fleury, Quotidien Jurassien*)

*Listen to*  
[ZHAR TRIO - Poèmes d'Orient](#)

# SYNOPSIS

A selection among the most beautiful texts of poets from the Oriental world set to music and song by ZHAR (Julien Monti and Olivier Nussbaum). For this creation, they collaborated with the outstanding Egyptian musician Ihab Radwan and the voice of the renowned Swiss actor Claude Thébert. Music and poetry intertwine with sensitivity and finesse, sharing with the audience the beauty of this Eastern culture in a spirit of openness, sharing, and tolerance. Created in the spring of 2023, and after several concerts in Switzerland and France that were met with great success by delighted audiences (see testimonials), ZHAR Trio is recording a CD of the "Poems of the Orient" repertoire and will embark on a promotional tour for the album in autumn 2025. Original music by Olivier Nussbaum and Julien Monti  
Conception by Julien Monti, Olivier Nussbaum, Ihab Radwan

## Original music Conception

Olivier Nussbaum and Julien Monti  
Julien Monti, Olivier Nussbaum, Ihab Radwan

## ARTISTS

**Julien Monti**

Composition, transverse flute: bass flute and double bass, fujara

**Olivier Nussbaum**

Composition, archiluth, ukulele bass

**Ihab Radwan**

Singing, oud

**Claude Thébert**

Voice off

## TECHNICIANS

**Joran Hegi**

Light creation



# ZHAR

**Z'har means "Chance" in Berber. A sound, a wish that has become "Zhar": travel, sand, sun, night in the tent, walking in the incessant step of sheep, camels and sacred cows. The horizon is vast, the silence is populated with music. Zhar Trio, that's all...**

...and legendary hospitality, openness to the other, are expressed through the welcome of other artists, sharing with the public, sources of inspiration.

Twenty years of journey, connivance and music, a dozen creations in common: Julien Monti and Olivier Nussbaum continue experimentation and miscegenation, artistic disciplines, instruments, cultures. Julien - quarter-tone transverse flute, bass and double bass flute also plays the bansuri (Indian flute), the fujara (Slovak shepherds' flute). Olivier - sarode (instrument from northern India), oud (Arab lute) still adds the strings of the archiluth - to resonate in concert with his accomplice. Since 2022 they have been welcoming Ihab Radwan - singing and oud (Arabic lute) to form a new trio, meeting between East and West. The compositions and improvisations of the three musicians mix the spicy flavors of the East (North African, Indian, Arab-Persian music), with the aromatic herbs of the West.

Gourmet musicians have been sharing their feast for a few years: Khaled Arman (Afghanistan), Kamal Hors (Morocco), Noredine El Mradti (Morocco), Redouane Haribe (Morocco), Ken Zuckerman (United States), Claude Gastaldin (France), Sylvain Fournier (Switzerland), Luca Carangelo (Switzerland).

Zhar offers a journey to an elsewhere with broken borders, rich in unexpected encounters, improbable discoveries and true emotions.



Julien Monti  
Multiflûtes

ZHAR

Olivier Nussbaum  
Archiluth

# Poèmes d'orient

## ORIENT - OCCIDENT

### A CREATION IN MUSIC AND POETRY

Musical and poetic journey to an elsewhere with broken borders, rich in unexpected encounters, improbable discoveries and true emotions. For this creation, they take you to discover a choice of the most beautiful poems in the Arab world. Luck (Z'har in Berber...) allowed them to meet the extraordinary Egyptian musician Ihab Radwan during their various artistic wanderings. The obvious is not made to wait and the desire to share, to mix cultures in an idea of openness and tolerance is immediately revealed. Each of the three musicians, with his career and his experience, his travels and his readings, deeply feels the need to tell stories, both with words and with sounds and music. Poetry in Eastern culture is a true literary treasure, resulting from oral but also written transmission, which has crossed the centuries from antiquity to the present day. It offers us a vast horizon of deep and refined feelings whose subtlety touches the heart and delights the mind. Drawing on this infinite wealth is an extraordinary source of inspiration and invited the three musicians to share it. The compositions and improvisations of the three musicians mix the spicy flavors of the East (North African, Indian, Arab-Persian music), with the aromatic herbs of the West.

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#### **Mahmoud Darwish (Palestine 1941-2008)**

*"One day I will sit on the sidewalk, the foreigner's sidewalk. I was not a daffodil, although defending my image. In the mirrors. Have you ever been there abroad?"*

*Five centuries passed and finished, and our rupture remains there, unsuccessful and between us the letters, always, and the wars have not changed the gardens of my Grenada.*

*Some days I go through his moons and I rub my desire with a lemon. Enlace-moi that I am reborn from the scents of a sun, a river on your shoulders, and feet that scratch in the evening and it sheds tears of milk at the night of the poem..."*

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From the different texts chosen, the two composers wrote music and shaped atmospheres inspired by the spirit of each text. They wanted to transpose the different feelings and emotions of the poems into sounds and music to create the dynamics and dramaturgy of the show. The texts are sung or recited by Ihab Radwan in the author's original language. A translation recorded by Claude Thébert and broadcast in voice-over, punctuates the musical moments and is the common thread of the show. Zhar is the meeting between the West and the East, in a spirit of openness, sharing and tolerance.

# Important events

- 2013**                      **Premiere at the Théâtre du Concert in Neuchâtel and tour in Switzerland, guest Khaled Arman (Afghanistan)**
- 2014**                      **Premiere at the Theater of the Concert "Zzhr 4tet", recording live from the first Zzhr CD and Swiss tour, guest Khaled Arman (Afghanistan)**
- 2014 - 2018**              **Various concerts in Switzerland**
- 2019**                      **Collaboration between the Zhar and Nafas collectives (musicians Moroccans) concerts in Switzerland**
- 2019 - 2020**              **Zhar Duo, various concerts in Switzerland**
- 2020**                      **Creation between the Zhar and Nafas collectives of the show "The curious power of fables". Postponed representation in 2021 because of the Covid-19 epidemic**
- 2021 - 2022**              **Zhar Duo, various concerts in Switzerland**
- 2023**                      **Creation of Oriental Poems at the Tarantula Theatre and concerts in Switzerland and France with Ihab Radwan**
- 2024-2025**              **Zhar Trio, Oriental Poems concerts in Switzerland and France**
- 2026**                      **Zhar Trio, Oriental Poems concerts in France and tour Belgium**



# Testimonials

30.4.2023 - St-Aubin

Weird, weird,  
This breath of the flute  
That takes me beyond words.  
And now I sing in Arabic  
With a beating heart  
In unison with the world.  
Transported, jostled, turned upside down,  
By three musicians  
Who open all wide  
The gates of Heaven  
Weird, weird...

Michelle

4.5.2023 - Delémont

Very beautiful moments "Resonances III, poems of the East". A beautiful expressive journey, sweet and wrapped in sensuality... The words dressed in poetry, vibrated, reasoned and resonated, arousing strong emotions crossing the whole body.... to the surface of the skin .... The voices spoken or sung, carried us to colorful elsewhere .... Finally, the rich musical creations with various shades and rhythms have often suspended my breath, recalling memories of Life or Death... The complicity between the musicians has made me happy as well as their singularity, their expressiveness set with gold and silver... Thank you again for these intense moments....

Monique Marie Juliette Probst

4.5.2023 - Delémont

You offered us an incredible nugget, a colorful intimate journey of music and lyrics as beautiful as they are intriguing, and more magical again through benevolence and the friendship that unites three exceptional musicians. Thank you with all my heart.

Catherine Lachat

4.5.2023 - Delémont

Thank you for the magnificent humanist parenthsis... what a joy to listen to you and to see you so complicit... The journey entered through the most beautiful door, that of the heart! A big thank you to all!

Misou

4.5.2023 - Delémont

ZHAR is a very successful show, a bewitching journey with a thousand oriental flavors. The three musicians-poets tell, in words as well as in notes, share in all sincerity, without ever over-playing, thus leaving room for the most subtle timbres, to silence as well. A special moment...

Alain Tissot, compositeur et batteur

30.4.2023 - St-Aubin

What a discovery... I expected a very sonorous and probably poetic event and that's what fed all my sensations that evening. Julien and his companions offered us a real show with their various instruments, oud, archiluth, bass ukulele and incredible flutes by their exoticism, their size and their sounds. Each musician offered us the best of his instruments, it was agile, just, so pleasant. Yes, I may exaggerate but very little then because the readings of poetic texts associated with this musical creation enchanted me deeply. ...and this pleasure comes back to me intact just by writing these few lines. Thank you very much to ZHAR, I will be back!

Jean-Baptiste Vial

28.4.2023 - St-Aubin

Music full of poetry, breaths, assumed fragilities, sublimated by the obvious complicity between these three musicians who know how to create an intimate space, conducive to introspection, dream, inspiration.

Michel Faragalli, guitariste, compositeur

4.5.2023 - Delémont

ZHAR takes us on a mystical journey, notes with oriental flavors distilled with finesse by a complicit and surprising trio, a delicious moment that I appreciated with greed.

Philippe Z, musicien, éducateur

**More testimonials on Zhar's website!**

# Les musiciens

## Julien Monti

*composer - transverse flutes - double bass flutes - ethnic flutes*



A breath... of flute, music, passion takes Julien Monti from interpretation to improvisation, composition, creation. He puts on many shows, collaborates with a multitude of musicians and writes for various formations ranging from duo to orchestra as well as for theater, dance, cinema, short films and documentaries. With his transverse flutes, his wide range of flutes from around the world and the atmospheres with which his travels permeate him, he expresses a multitude of colors, sounds that lead him to share his music with other musicians in both traditional and modern music.

## Olivier Nussbaum *composer - archiluth*



Throughout his musical career, Olivier Nussbaum has already had the opportunity to collaborate with several jazz formations ranging from duo to big band and more than twenty multimedia creations. Whether in Switzerland or abroad (France, Italy, Belgium, Germany, Austria, England, Poland, Canada, Cuba, Colombia), on stage or in the studio, he had the pleasure of playing alongside exceptional musicians. Since 2013 he has been passionate about sarod and Hindustani music (northern India). He is fortunate to be able to study the complexity and depth of this art with Ken Zuckerman, a disciple for more than thirty years of the master and sarodist Ali Akbar Khan and with Partho Sarothy the most recognized disciple of Ravi Shankar.

## Ihab Radwan

*composer - oud - singing*



Ihab Radwan studied classical music at the Cairo Conservatory from the age of 5 years old . After a brilliant musical career in Egypt, he moved to France. Soloist and composer, he collaborated with Hugues de Courson, as artistic director and oudist in the Mozart l'Egyptien project, a CD sold 3 million copies worldwide. He works with Michel Godard, Anne Pacey, Ricardo Ribeiro, Nataša Mirkovic, Jarrod Cagwin, Guillemette Laurens, Toine Thys, Monica Passos, Helsinki Baroque Orchestra, the Paris Chamber Orchestra and many other inspiring artists around the world.

# Technicien lumière

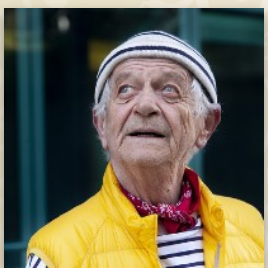
**Joran Hegi** *Light manager*



Director for fifteen years at the Théâtre du Passage in Neuchâtel. Joran Hegi founded the company Idée FX. His specialty: stage pyrotechnics. Indoor fireworks, jets of flames, sheaves of sparks and explosions no longer have any secrets for this 35-year-old Neuchâtel. Joran Hegi embarked on this adventure to satisfy his curiosity. There are many opportunities in the field of stage pyrotechnics. For more than 20 years, Joran has forged a solid experience as a director in the theater, opera and in many other performing arts projects.

# Collaboration

**Claude Thébert** *voix off*



Born in 1947, Claude Thébert trained as an actor at the Grotowsky School. He became a permanent actor at the Théâtre Populaire Romand in the 1970s. Until 1985, he participated in more than 40 shows played in Switzerland, France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Tunisia and Mexico, playing in both classical and contemporary plays. He moved to Geneva in 1985 and worked as an independent actor, playing in Switzerland, France and Belgium with many directors. He founded the Théâtre du Sentier with Anne-Marie Delbart and Gilles Lambert in 1993. Since 1998, he has given public readings in the street, cafes, bookstores, libraries, art galleries, museums, schools, theaters, cellars, parks, etc.

Claude Thébert passed away on November 22, 2025, at the age of 78. Zhar Trio was in the middle of a tour with *Poèmes d'Orient*. Our thoughts were with him every evening during the performances.

For more information on the various past and future projects of ZHAR, you can consult the websites below :

**ZHAR website**  
**Youtube channel**  
**Facebook**

[www.zhar.ch](http://www.zhar.ch)  
[Zhar Youtube](#)  
[Zhar Facebook](#)

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