Tinariwen - Amadjar (2019)



1.Tenere Maloulat (feat. Warren Ellis) 03:42 2.Zawal (feat. Warren Ellis, Noura Mint Seymali, Jeiche Ould Chighaly) 04:04 3.Amalouna (feat. Noura Mint Seymali, Stephen O'Malley) 04:01 4.Taqkal Tarha (feat. Micah Nelson) 03:59 5.Anina 03:43 6.Madjam Mahilkamen 03:47 7.Takount (feat. Noura Mint Seymali) 03:11 8.Iklam Dglour (feat. Warren Ellis, Rodolphe Burger) 04:35 9.Kel Tinawen (feat. Cass McCombs) 03:57 10.Itous Ohar (feat. Cass McCombs) 04:19 11.Mhadjar Yassouf Idjan (feat. Warren Ellis) 04:22 12.Wartilla (feat. Warren Ellis, Stephen O'Malley) 05:36 13.Lalla 04:56 Ibrahim Ag Alhabib - lead vocals, lead guitars Abdallah Ag Alhousseyni - lead vocals, lead guitar Alhassane Ag - Touhami lead vocals and lead guitar Eyadou Ag Leche - bass, electric guitar, acoustic guitar, background vocals Elaga Ag Hamid - guitars, background vocals, claps Said Ag Ayad - djembe, calebasse, derbouka background vocals, claps, acoustic rhythm guitar Amar Chaoui - additional percussion Lala and Aicha - background vocals Rodolphe Burger - guitar Warren Ellis - violin, loops Cass McCombs - guitar, vocals and acoustic guitar Noura Mint Seymali - vocals and ardîn Micah Neslon - charango, mandolin Stephen O'Malley - guitar Jeiche Ould Chighaly - guitar

There is a hazy expansiveness to Tuareg band Tinariwen's music that recalls the desert setting in which it was created. Fuzzy guitars are rhythmically picked over undulating rhythms and gravelly baritone vocals; it is almost as if you can hear a sand-laden breeze passing between the mics as the band record.

For their ninth album, the nine-piece group took inspiration from that desert breeze as they rehearsed and wrote their music in the Moroccan Sahara en route to recording in Mauritania. The result is an impressionistic record full of references to "becoming the son of gazelles / who grew up in the meanderings of the desert," on opener Tenere Maloulat, "golden sand glittering in the light of the moon" on Amalouna, and "the burning sun, sparks spouting from its entrails" on Zawal. It is an imaginative music that places the listener entirely within the nomadic Tinariwen universe, regardless of where you are listening.

Amadjar features a host of impressive guests, including Bad Seeds co-founder Warren Ellis looping a plaintive violin line on Mhadjar Yassouf Idjan and bowing with distorted reverb on the clattering Iklam Dglour, while guitarist Cass McCombs provides a floating falsetto melody and oneiric spoken word for Kel Tinawen. But the true artistry comes from the deft interplay between the younger and long-serving members of Tinawiren: percussionist Said Ag Ayad's polyrhythms with bassist Eyadou Ag Leche, the joyous choral backing vocals from all members, and, crucially, the weather-worn delivery of founding lead singer Ibrahim Ag Alhabib tying each composition together.

This is a band that has been in existence, in one form or another, since 1979. Never resorting to cliche, they continue to be just as inspired by the universal themes of love, politics and nature as they always have been. Their musical delivery is just as heartfelt and forceful for it. ---Ammar Kalia, theguardian.com

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