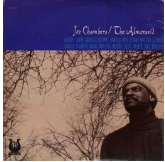


Joe Chambers - The Almoravid (1974)

Written by bluesever

Thursday, 17 February 2011 10:21 - Last Updated Tuesday, 09 December 2014 21:46

Joe Chambers - The Almoravid (1974)



1. *The Almoravid*
2. *Early Minor*
3. *Gazelle Suite* [play](#)
4. *Catta*
5. *Nedina*
6. *Jihad*

Joe Chambers, drums
Cedar Walton, piano, elp
Richard Davis, el bs
Omar Clay, David Friedman, Doug Hawthorne, marimba, perc
Ray Mantilla, congas, perc
on 1, 3, 4, 6 (recorded 1971, 1973)

Joe Chambers, drums
Woody Shaw, tp
Garnett Brown, tb
Harold Vick, fl, ts
George Cables, el p
Cecil McBee, bs
on 2, 5 (recorded 1971)

This album features the work of two different ensembles recorded over a three-year period. The first is dominated by percussion: Chambers' powerful and relentless drumming, layered on with marimbas, latin percussion and electric (or acoustic) piano. These are studies in rhythm and groove. While at times veering to Latin, the songs by this group could just as easily find a home next to the work of "classical" experimentalists Steve Reich or Phillip Glass. The second is a more traditional ensemble with horns featuring the great Woody Shaw and Harold Vick, and

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here the group explores harmony. The presence of George Cables on electric piano updates the sound from being mere rehash of the 1960s classic Blue Note sound.

Chambers' spiritual inspiration here seems in several places taken from Islam. "Jihad" is explained in this context in the liner notes: "It also connotes converting through persuasion or a rite by which one conquers one's own wavering spirit."

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