



# Arb'a

ITAMAR BOROCHOV

In 2020, at the start of a world-wide pandemic, I returned to Jaffa. I was in my homeland but away from my home, with nothing more than a small suitcase and my trumpet, unable to return to New York for over a year. The world was in turmoil, and I found solace taking a deep dive into the world of traditional Maqamat, devising new ways of adapting it to the trumpet. My main companion for months was a custom-built Monette quarter tone 4-valve instrument, which liberated me to express this music in a powerfully authentic way and brought a sense of freedom in an otherwise locked down existence.

Arba is a compilation of music I composed over these years. A love song, not without pain, but ultimately celebrating an emergence through a time of hopelessness and loss to discover the steady radiance of a life-force within, to accept the simple beauty of existence. It embraces elements which make up my own life path - a musical language which originates from the stirring Middle Eastern sounds which have surrounded me since my childhood by the Mediterranean and traces my journey to the energy-infused streets of New York, studying the teachings of Barry Harris and exploring shared truths of oral traditions across boundaries of genre and nationality on the way.

The musicians I have gathered around me over a period of years understand this organic unity of Eastern and Western elements through a personal emotional connection to the music, bringing their authentic individual voices to the language we have developed together as a group. We have a like-minded approach and aesthetic, using technique not as an end in itself, but as a means to express a story from the heart and soul, to connect and share an experience.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Rob, Rick and Jay for giving their all on this journey; Avri for taking it to the next level and being a constant inspiration; Matt Pierson and Chris Allen for all their dedicated work on this album; Sue Edwards for always being on my side; Dave Douglas and Greenleaf Music for believing in this music; Michael Perez-Cisneros and Kevin Thomas for a magical recording experience; Dave Stapleton and Oli Bentley for hearing the music with their eyes; Omer Avital for the oud and sunglasses; Dave Monette for making a dream come true.

Thank you to my teachers, my parents, and my ancestors. Thank you Hashem.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Itamar". The signature is stylized, with a large, sweeping "I" and a cursive "tamar".







Itamar Borochoy	trumpet, voice, effects
Rob Clearfield	piano, Rhodes, B3 organ
Rick Rosato	double bass
Jay Sawyer	drums, percussion
Avri Borochoy	oud (track 3)

- 1 Abraham (7:10)
- 2 Dirge (7:06)
- 3 Ya Sahbi (6:29)
- 4 What Broke You? (4:44)
- 5 Wabisabi (4:21)
- 6 Bayat Blues (5:01)
- 7 Truth (4:54)
- 8 Who Shall Grant Me Flight (2:14)
- 9 Farewell (6:16)

Total Time: 48:22

All compositions by Itamar Borochoy  
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Executive Producer: Dave Douglas. Producer: Matt Pierson.  
Recorded at Big Orange Sheep, Brooklyn, NY on April 13  
& 14, 2022. Recording engineer: Michael Perez-Cisneros.  
2nd recording engineer: Kevin Thomas. Mixed & mastered  
by Chris Allen. Photography by Dave Stapleton. Design by  
Itamar Borochoy.

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