



# HAMID AJBAR

singer - violinist

[www.hamidajbarmusic.com](http://www.hamidajbarmusic.com)

## CONTACT

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## MUSICAL FORMATION

Hamid Ajbar was born in Chefchaouen, Morocco. He began his musical studies from a very young age, accompanying his father to the local mosque in Rabat, where they were living at the time, where he learnt the basic rules of Quran recitation and chant.

After moving back to Chaouen, he started to attend the weekly gatherings at the Sufi "Zawiyyas", where he came into contact with the spiritual qasidas and muwashahat poems by Sufi masters Ibn Arabi, Shushtari, Harrak etc.

At the age of 12 he began his studies of classical Andalusian chant and violin at the Conservatory of Chaouen, remaining there for six years. He then completed his studies in Tetouan and Rabat, where he graduated with maximum qualifications in the fields of Andalusian and Arab singing, violin, History of Andalusian Music and Repertoire, and the Arab and Andalusian Modes. He won the National prize for Andalusian chant on several occasions.

## PROFESSIONAL CAREER

After completing his studies in Rabat, Hamid Ajbar became a teacher of Higher Level music at the Conservatory of Chaouen. He was also chosen to form part of the National Orchestra of Andalusian Music directed by Mohamed Briouel. During this period he collaborated with the Orchestra Brihi, founded by the great Abdelkrim Raïs, with Mohamed Bajadoub, Aïcha Redouane, Abdelfattah Bennis and others. In 1996 he moved to Granada, where he soon began playing with several artists from the flamenco, Arab and Ancient Music scenes. These include Paco de Lucía, José Mercé, Carmen Linares, El Lebrijano, Emilio Maya, Eduardo Paniagua, and Omar Faruk Tekbilek.

After a few year's break due to personal reasons, he formed his own groups in Granada, including the Arab Flamenco fusion group *CusCus Flamenco* and *Jinnan Al Andalus*, a spiritual music ensemble, travelling extensively with both formations. He also collaborates as solo singer with other musical groups.





# PROJECTS

## CUSCUS FLAMENCO

In the same way that the blend of couscous spices surround us with its exotic fragrance and exquisite flavour, CusCus Flamenco's music fills us with enchantment and mystery, sentiment and spirit. The profundity of the flamenco singing and Arab-Andalusian lyrical poetry in their purest form, accompanied by the beauty and passion of flamenco dance makes for an unforgettable and unique experience. CusCus Flamenco is a cultural encounter where art flows in its maximum capacity, bringing out the best of each tradition through a musical language that has neither barriers nor frontiers.



Based in the beautiful city of Granada, Spain, the group is made up of Moroccan and Spanish musicians, with extensive careers in various formations. They share a desire of exploring the musical traditions of Al-Andalus, namely classical Arab-Andalusian and Flamenco music, which share a common origin, the Iberian Peninsula.

Accompanying Hamid Ajbar and the rest of his musicians are flamenco singer Alberto Funes and guitarist Lolo de la Encarna, from Granada. CusCus Flamenco has worked with flamenco dancers Cristina Aguilera, Eva Manzano, Irene la Seranilla and Irene Rueda.

# Who we are...

CUSCUS FLAMENCO

*featuring...*

Hamid Ajbar - Lead Arab vocals, violin

Alberto Funes - Flamenco singer

Lolo de la Encarna - Guitar

Aziz Samsaoui - Qanun

Fathi Ben Yakoub - Violin

Nouredine Acha - Arab ney

Mouhssine Koraichi - Lute

Fauzia Benedetti - Flute

Khalid Ahaboune - Percussions



*Flamenco dancers who perform with us...*

Irene la Serranilla

Eva Manzano

Irene Rueda

*CusCus Flamenco can play in several formations, starting from a quartet.*

Facebook: CusCus Flamenco - Instagram: cuscusflamenco





# PROJECTS

## JINNAN AL ANDALUS

Jinnan Al Andalus “Gardens of Al Andalus” is a Sufi music formation that draws its inspiration from the vast legacy of spiritual qasidas and muwashahat poems left to us by Sufi masters of Spain, North Africa and the Middle East, including Ibn Arabi, Rabia Al Adawiyya, Shushtari, Harrak, Busayri and others. The repertoire of “Jinnan Al Andalus” is a journey of the spirit that takes us from the famous gardens of the Cordoban Caliphate, Granada and North Africa, to the no less famous gardens of Damascus, including a variety of musical styles, rhythms and maqamat (musical modes) that can be found in each region.



The word “Jinnan” or Gardens, has both an earthly and spiritual meaning, referring to the delightful gardens of Al Andalus and the Orient, as well as a more profound sense, as “Jinnan” can also mean “heart” and “soul.”

“God is beautiful and loves beauty.” With these wonderful words we wish to invite you to travel with us on our spiritual journey through Al Andalus and let you be transported by both the beauty of its melodies and the exalted meanings of the poetry.

*I came to know love the moment I found Your love*

*And I have sealed my heart to all but You*

*Rabia Al Adawiyya b. ca. 714*



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JINNAN AL ANDALUS

*featuring...*

Hamid Ajbar - Lead Arab vocals, violin

Aziz Samsaoui - Qanun

Fathi Ben Yakoub - Violin

Noureddine Acha - Arab ney

Mouhssine Koraichi - Lute

Fauzia Benedetti - Flute

Khalid Ahaboune - Percussions

Mohamed Babli - Mevlevi dance

*Jinnan Al Andalus can work in smaller or larger formations according to the needs of each event.*

Facebook: Hamid Ajbar Música - Instagram: hamidajbarmusic





# FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Ciclo Noches en el Castillo de Santa Catalina, Cadiz, 2015  
Festival Noches de Ramadan, Cordoba, 2015  
Noches Festival International de la Musique Andalouse et Madih, Chaouen, 2015  
Festival Andaloussiyat, Casablanca, 2015  
Festival de Madih Ksar Al Kebir, 2016  
X Alegria Festial Chauen, Marruecos, 2016  
Festival International de la Musique Andalouse, Monastir, Tunisie, 2016  
Festival de Música Antigua de Úbeda y Baeza, 2016  
Fundación Tres Culturas, Seville, 2016  
Festival Islámico de Mertola, Portugal, 2017  
Feria de la Dieta Méditerránea, Tavira, Portugal, 2017  
Anniversary of the Great Mosque of Granada, 2015 -2018  
"Fête du Trône", Moroccan Embassy, Lisbon, Portugal 2016 - 2018  
Festival de Música Antigua Granada, 2017  
Andalucia Solidaria, Cordoba, 2017  
Festival de Música Andalusí, Mijas, 2017  
Jornadas Islámicas de Almonaster la Real, 2017  
Fundación Tres Culturas, Seville 2017  
Gala "A Tile For Seville" Seville Mosque Foundation, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 2018  
Festival Vo'on the Folks, Brendola, Italy, 2018  
Fête de l'Olivier, Geneva, Switzerland, 2018  
I Feria del Libro Hispanoárabe en Granada, 2018  
Anniversary of the Sultanate of Oman, Geneva, Switzerland, 2018  
III Festival Rouhaniyet, Nefta, Tunisia, 2018  
Mérida Fest 2019, Mérida - Yucatan, Mexico  
Mediterranean Music Festival, Zurich, Bern, 2019  
UK Tour, April, 2019  
Festival de Música, Història i Art, Valencia 2019  
XXII Ciclo de Música de las Tres Culturas, Cordoba 2019  
Festival de la Musique Andalouse, Casablanca, 2019  
Festival Noches de Ramadan, Madrid 2019

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