

SONGLINES

MAGAZINE

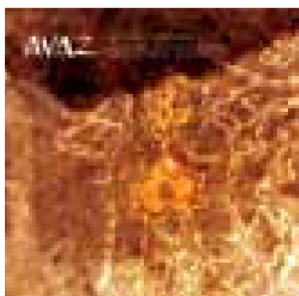
N°105-jan/fev 2015

Keyvan Chemirani Avaz

Innacor Records (57 mins)



*An unexpected twinning of
Iran with Brittany*



Iranian
percussionist
Keyvan
Chemirani leads
an impressive
group, bringing
together Persian mystical poetry and
Breton laments – it's slightly similar
to the Turkish-meets-Occitan concept
of Forabandit. The Persian lyrics
are sung by Keyvan's sister Maryam
Chemirani in a warm, silky voice and
the slightly grittier Breton vocals come
courtesy of Annie Ebrel; they also sing
each other's texts. The instrumental

accompaniments feature Hamid
Khabbazi on *tar* (long-necked lute),
Sylvain Barou on an impressive range
of flutes and Keyvan Chemirani on
percussion. They play a major role:
there are four purely instrumental
tracks and the arrangements are bold
and imaginative throughout.

The musical aesthetic is
predominantly Middle Eastern and
improvisatory sounding. The opening
'Me Am Eus Ur Feunteun/Emad'
sets out the idea clearly with texts in
Breton and Persian. 'Ayrilik Hasretlik'
features some gorgeous *duduk* playing
from Barou, and 'An Teir Rozenn/
Rumi's Vision' goes from Breton dance
to a Persian fantasy and back. The
accompanying booklet is a bit of a
mess, but the instrumental playing on
this album is particularly fine.

SIMON BROUGHTON

TRACK TO TRY *Me Am Eus Ur
Feunteun/Emad*