

IDAN RAICHEL PROJECT

"This one-man Middle East peace accord makes music that is an ambitious celebration of multicultural diversity. The ethnic elements are cleverly rewired with modern grooves to create an ambient journey that thrillingly bridges the traditional and the modern"

THE TIMES (London, UK)

When Israeli keyboardist and composer Idan Raichel was an unknown musician working in a home studio in his parent's basement in a small city near Tel Aviv, fusing Israeli pop music with Middle Eastern, African, Indian and other global sounds, he never anticipated the impact his unique approach would soon have. His experiment resulted in one of the biggest-selling records in Israeli history and propelled him to become a major figure in the international global music scene. On the heels of that explosive rise in popularity, record-breaking sales in Israel and sold-out performances across the globe to rapturous crowds in some of the world's most prestigious venues, he returned to lead **The Idan Raichel Project** for their second international album, *Within My Walls*, which spurred an extensive tour, bringing an expanded lineup of internationally acclaimed musicians to major stages throughout 2009.

Idan's poetic lyrics reflect travels and contemplations; sung in Hebrew, Arabic, Spanish, Cape Verdean Creole and Swahili, the songs address the struggle for personal fulfillment and the true meaning of love in a conflicted and complex world. Idan recorded and co-wrote songs with Colombian singer Marta Gumez, Cape Verdean luminary Mayra Andrade and the silken-voiced Somali of Rwandan and Ugandan heritage. Inspired by the lush, moody strings of Nick Drake, Idan assembled a 24-piece orchestra and worked with Israeli arranger Assaf Dar to transpose his engaging melodies into an orchestral format. Idan also invited some of his favorite musicians, such as Middle Eastern percussionist Zohar Fresco, traditional flute and woodwinds specialist Eyal Sela, Mark Eliyahu on kamancheh (a traditional Persian fiddle), and legendary bassist Alon Nadel to lend their talents to his recorded efforts. The result is deeply moving, overflowing with rich melodies, engaging poetry, stunning vocal performances and intricate arrangements.

Idan's rise to fame was as much a shock to him as it was the skeptical Israeli music industry executives who said his multilingual, cross-cultural fusions would never find mainstream acceptance. Along the way, his fan base has grown to include a wide, multigenerational public of non-Israelis, not to mention a few celebrities such as Green Day producer Rob Cavallo and movie star Natalie Portman. In 2010 Idan also performed in front of President Obama with friend, fan and collaborator India.Arie at the Kennedy Center and was voted "Musical Group of the Decade" by Music 24 TV (Israel's MTV).

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