

# Gilad Atzmon

and The Orient House Ensemble

## REFUGE

Enja Records

released: October 1<sup>st</sup> 2007

*When I founded the Orient House Ensemble, I had just a few tunes in mind, but I also had a great belief. I was sure that music was capable of bringing people together*

*Eight years later, I must admit that I may have got it wrong. Peace has never looked so far away.*

*The world is becoming more and more hostile. Yet, we, have done something, a thing that has very little cosmic significance. We have learned to sing together. We didn't plan to learn, we didn't educate ourselves. It just grew on us. Over the years our personal fears faded away. Our insecurities melted down. Without realising it, our music made it into a language with some very personal shapes and colours.*

**Music has become our refuge.** Gilad Atzmon

**Refuge** is the latest album from renowned world-bop saxophonist, composer and band leader Gilad Atzmon. Drawing on jazz, electronica, Arabic music and the urban sounds of the 21st century it's a potent brew taking the listener to a space beyonds words. Arguably Atzmon's most powerful album it is less overtly political than 2005's **musiK** or his recent **Artie Fishel** project, but like 2003's **Exile** still packs an explosive punch.

Shifting seamlessly from beautiful jazz-noir and catchy world gooves to hard-blowing heavy metal bebop, **Refuge** offers music for the heart, soul and head. It also marks the return of Atzmon's **Orient House Ensemble** featuring long term partners **Frank Harrison** piano, keys and electronics, **Yaron Stavi** double and electric bass, **Asaf Sirkis** drums and **Atzmon** himself on saxophones and electronics. The band's genuine empathy and powerful interplay allows them to explore new structures as well as play Atzmon's expressive music with the intensity and verve which is at the heart of the best jazz. Hard-hitting but deeply thoughtful, this is the sound of a band running headlong into the future.

The **Refuge Tour** starts in Brighton on **Sept 7<sup>th</sup>** and takes in over 30 dates including *Derby, Manchester, Swansea, St Ives, Bristol, Nottingham, Norwich, Oxford and London.* **Full tour dates are attached.**



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"We're lucky Gilad Atzmon is around.' **Robert Wyatt**

## **Notes for editors**

A BBC award winning saxophonist, composer and band leader Gilad Atzmon was born in Israel in 1963 and had his musical training at the Rubin Academy of Music, Jerusalem (Composition and Jazz) A multi-instrumentalist he plays Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Baritone Saxes, Clarinet, Sol, Zurna and Flutes.

Coming to the UK in 1994, Atzmon recovered an interest in playing the music of the Middle East, North Africa and Eastern Europe that had been in the back of his mind for years. He founded the Orient House Ensemble in London and started re-defining his own roots in the light of political reality. Since then the Orient House Ensemble has toured all over the world. The Orient House Ensemble includes Asaf Sirkis on Drums, Yaron Stavi on Bass and Frank Harrison on keys.

Until 1994 Atzmon was a producer-arranger for various Israeli dance and rock projects, performing in Europe and the USA playing ethnic Jewish soul music. Highly involved in the Israeli musical scene he recorded for 'Ofra Haza' , Yeuda Poliker and many others. He also toured with Memphis Slim and supported many international jazz names such as Jack De Johnette, Michel Petrucciani, Richie Byrache and many others. As a member of the Blockheads, Gilad has also recorded and performed with the likes of Ian Dury, Robbie Williams, Sinéad O'Connor and Paul McCartney. Gilad has recorded as well with Robert Wyatt, the Waters Boys and many others.

A prolific and often controversial writer, Atzmon's essays are widely published and his novels '*Guide to the perplexed*' and '*My One And Only Love*' have been translated into 24 languages. Over the years Gilad Atzmon's music has moved more and more towards a cultural hybrid. As a bandleader and reed player he has been amazing his listeners with his powerful personal style that combines great bebop artistry and Middle-Eastern roots in a sophisticated, sometimes ironical manner. Influenced by Coltrane's powerful approach on the sax, Gilad's live performances are simply breathtaking and often overwhelming.

"Atzmon is an astonishing musician with a seemingly effortless ability to demolish and rebuild any old tune he chooses to play."- **TIME OUT**

"A formidable improvisational array...a local jazz giant steadily drawing himself up to his full height...a blast of fresh air in the UK"-John Fordham, **The Guardian**

"Atzmon sends his soprano sax and clarinet soaring over complex rhythms from all points of the globe with a poetry that never forfeits control." **London Metro**

"Audiences are clearly bowled over with Atzmon's whirlwind approach ... dynamic, charismatic and ... exasperating!" **Jazz UK**

## **Gilad Atzmon and the Orient House Ensemble REFUGE Tour 2007**

**Gilad Atzmon** saxophones and electronics, **Frank Harrison** piano, keys and electronics, **Yaron Stavi** acoustic and electric bass and **Asaf Sirkis** drums

<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Tel</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>£</b>
Fri 7 Sept	Brighton Jazz Club, Brighton	01273 647100	8:00pm	£14/£12 Conc
Fri 15 Sept	B2007 Festival, Brentwood Theatre	01277 200305	8:00pm	£12.50
Mon 17 Sept	North Devon Jazz, Appledore	01237 474822	8:45pm	Free entry
Tue 18 Sept	St Ives Jazz Club	01736 796082	8:00pm	£10/£6 Conc
Sat 22 Sept	Taliesin Arts Centre, Swansea	01792 602060	7:30pm	£10/£8 Conc
Sun 23 Sept	Alexander's, Chester	01244 340005	7:30pm	£10/£8 adv
Thur 27 Sept	Cliff's Pavilion, Southend-on-Sea	01702 351135	8:30pm	£7/£5
Fri 28 Sept	Sheffield Jazz Club, Millenium Hall	0114 276 7093	8:00pm	£10/£7/£2
Sat 29 Sept	The Huntsman Tavern, Salisbury	07960 021459	7:30pm	£12/£10 adv
Sun 30 Sept	The White Swan, Stratford Upon Avon	01789 298607	8:00pm	£6
Tues 2 Oct	Brook Theatre, Chatham	01634 338338	8:00pm	£9.50/£8.50
Sun 7 Oct	Colchester Arts Centre	01206 500900	8:00pm	£12/£10
Tues 9 Oct	Rawtenstall Rhythm Station	0161 796 0275	8:30pm	£9
Wed 10 Oct	Derby Jazz Club	01332 341066	8:30pm	£8/£4
Fri 12 Oct	Wakefield Jazz Club	01977 680542	7:00pm	£12/£10
Sat 13 Oct	Taylor John's House, Coventry	024 7655 9958	9:30pm	£10
Sun 14 Oct	Colstan Hall Bar, Bristol	0117 922 3686	8:00pm	£10/£8/£5
Thur 18 Oct	Matt and Phreds, Manchester	0161 831 7002	10:00pm	£5
Fri 19 Oct	Matt and Phreds, Manchester	0161 831 7002	10:00pm	£5
Sat 20 Oct	Whitby World Music Festival	0845 3732760	Early	From £22
Sun 21 Oct	The Britannia Boat Club, Nottingham	07968 173208	7:30pm	£7.50/£5.00
Wed 24 Oct	Hastings Jazz Club	0870 145 1133	8:15pm	£tbc
Sat 27 Oct	Sherborne Jazz Club	07904 007 869	8:00pm	£12/£8/£6
Thur 22 Nov	The Venue, Leeds College of Music	0113 222 3434	7:30pm	£10/8
Wed 28 Nov	Norwich Arts Centre	01603 660352	8:00pm	£10/£8
Thurs 29 Nov	Pizza Express Jazz Club, Soho	020 7734 3220	7.45pm	£15
Fri 30 Nov	Pizza Express Jazz Club, Soho	020 7734 3220	7.45pm	£20
Sat 1 Dec	Pizza Express Jazz Club, Soho	020 7734 3220	7.45pm	£20
-Sun 2 Dec	Pizza Express Jazz Club, Soho	020 7734 3220	7.45pm	£20
Sat 8 Dec	OCM @ Wesley Memorial Church, Oxford	0870 750 0659	7:00pm	£13.50/£9