

BIO • Babak-o-Doestan

Babak Amiri and his band of musical omnivores perform contemporary songs with elements of jazz, fado, rock ballads and funky bass guitar, all to a rhythm of inspiring poetic lyrics.

Babak-o-Doestan is an Amsterdam based acoustic ensemble of 5 musicians from 3 continents led by singer-guitarist-composer Babak Amiri. With apparent ease they unite multiple styles and moods in their music, using an uncommon but effective combination of instruments. Catchy jazzy themes and Latin vibes are added to the mix of lush melodies and rare chord progressions, creating an open, sparkly sound that is appealing to diverse audiences.

The evening unfolded like an intimate musical concert with friends: emotional, exuberant, then dreamy and unassuming.

C. Verkerk, Het Parool

Longing and melancholy, passion and excitement, and enthusiasm stirring an irresistible urge to dance are all characteristics of this ensemble's music. These elements have their roots in rich, timeless Persian poetry, with all its tributes to wine, universal wisdom and love that inspire the atmosphere and lyrics of each of the songs. The result is heartfelt 'Persian chansons' transmitted through the soulful quality of Amiri's voice.

Babak-o-Doestan has played for enthusiastic audiences at such diverse venues as Paradiso/Amsterdam Roots Festival, Panama, Van Gogh Museum 'Friday Night', at Hessel's Groene Weide on Terschelling Island, and the Utrecht Stadsschouwburg. The band has made two recent appearances on Dutch national television, including one 30 minute special which included the performance of three pieces with interviews in between. Babak-o-Doestan also performs on radio programs such as OBA Live, Concertzender and NTR radio. Past collaborations with Mišo Petrović of Mostar Sevdah Reunion, musician and storyteller Sahand Sahebdivani (NLD/IRN) and jazz pianist Avishai Darash (ISR/FRA) have enriched the band's performance and musical development. Babak-o-Doestan's latest album 'Restless' was listed in the 'Top 10 Albums of the Year' (world music) at Platomania/Concerto and garnered warm reviews from Dutch and German music critics.

Babak Amiri (IRN) – voice/guitar/composition
 Bam Commijs (NLD) – piano
 Heather Leslie (CAN) – cello
 Murat Yatmaz (TUR) – bass guitar
 Minze Koopman (NLD) – percussion

