



**Marsh Dondurma – Neighborhood  
(Shchuna) Booklet translation**

Fifteen people set out on a fascinating journey, a journey that is musical, personal and, above all, human. Some of them know each other, most of them don't. The path is unmarked and the destination is unknown, but they are driven by the enthusiasm and vision of one person –the band leader. This is the story of **Marsh Dondurma** and its five years of work to date.

This journey takes us to unexpected places – from Kibbutz Dan in the far north of Israel, to Mitzpeh Ramon in the desert area of the south, from Serbia to Montreal, from street corner shows in front of a handful of people to concerts with audiences of hundreds and thousands. On the way we meet people and musical influences, we meet each other and we meet ourselves.

The first question people ask us, after inquiring about the meaning of our name (a deliberate mispronunciation of **Maras Dondurma**, a Turkish ice-cream) is: *what kind of music do you play?*

We're having a hard time defining it ourselves. Chinese philosopher Lao Tse writes that Dao, the road, cannot be described in words. The road and the journey are boundless and therefore indefinable, and in many ways therein lays their beauty.

And so is our music - a result of that wonderful journey started by Dotan Yogev, to which each of the band members brings his or her influences and personal approach. By working together, attentively and harmoniously, the band's unique voice is created.

The album opens with *Your Yemenite Side*, a love song by Gal Dahan.

*A Major Version* and *Violence against Women*, written by Udi Raz, are full of African influences. In *A Major Version* new percussion appears in our band, Dotan plays the *shekere* - a gourd wrapped in a beaded net - and Noa strikes a beer bottle. *Violence Against Women* protests against this terrible phenomenon. It's an Afrobeat piece, a genre originating in Nigeria and closely related to protest against social injustice and oppression.

*Tosha Baritosh*, by Aviran Ben Na'im, is a funk piece dedicated to Anton Falko and his baritone sax. In *Ossim Sameach* Aviran takes us deep into the Cuban groove, and even gets us singing.

*Underground Čoček*, by Goran Bregović, is an exciting gypsy piece which takes us back to our powerful encounter with gypsy music during the Guca trumpet festival in Serbia ,in the summer of 2006.

*Knafayim(Wings)* was written by Idan Raveh. This lyrical piece takes off towards its end with a jungle beat played by the drummers, behind Udi's sousaphone solo.

The origins of the *nigun* (melody) we call *Ismail Comes to the Mountain* remain uncertain. Idan, who brought it to the band, knows it as one of the *nigunim* sung on Mount Meiron during the traditional pilgrimage on the Jewish holiday of Lag Ba'omer. The celebrations on Mount Meiron, which brought together Jewish people of many different communities, also attracted local Arabs, making it a place of fascinating cultural encounters between different musical traditions, from the east and from the west.

*Nahaf*, written by Arnon de Botton, is inspired by the music of the "Barefoot Diva" of Cape Verde, singer Cesária Évora.

Luigi's Walk was born during an improvised jam between Jacob Gorensteyn and Noa Segal. Jacob dedicated it to Noa's beloved dog, and his walk takes us down to one of our deepest musical roots, the New Orleans brass band tradition.

*My Neighborhood*, the second piece Jacob contributed to this album, is also the title track. After all, we live here, in our Jerusalemite neighborhood, between Gaza and Berlin\*, and between Istanbul and New Orleans, with all our influences and friends around us.

How do you make such a diverse variety into a unified musical experience?

Just as a person has different faces, yet still he or she are one and the same person, the different styles, instruments and rhythms have been woven into the social fabric of the band. With our hearts open, with patience and with lots of love, this collective work has been created.

We are proud to present you our third album, another milestone in our musical journey, and we hope you will enjoy it as much as we have enjoyed making it.

Danny

\*A well known street corner in Jerusalem - Gaza St. corner of Rabbi Berlin St.

**Trumpets**

Aviran Ben Na'im

Eli Preminger

Idan Raveh

**Saxophones**

Tal Gur – Alto

Jacob Gorensteyn – Soprano

Gal Dahan – Tenor

Danny Leibovitch– Tenor

Anton Falko – Baritone

**Trombones**

Arnon de Botton

Luisa Salomon

**Snare & Percussion**

Adiel Goldman

Dotan Yogev

Noa Segal

**Sousaphone**

Udi Raz

Idan Raveh – Darbuka on 6

Gal Dahan – Moroccan Castanets

**Daul & Percussion**

Yair Reuveni Salzman

1. Your Yemenite side. Comp. Gal Dahan. Arr. Jacob Gorensteyn
2. A major version – Udi Raz
3. My Neighborhood – Jacob Gorensteyn
4. Tosha Baritoshah – Aviran Ben Na'im
5. Knafayim – Idan Raveh
6. Ismail (Nigun Miron) – traditional. Arr. Idan Raveh
7. Underground Cocek – Goran Bregovic
8. Ossim Sameach – Aviran Ben Na'im
9. Violence against women – Udi Raz
10. Nahef – Arnon de Botton
11. Luigi's walk - Jacob Gorensteyn

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Recording engineer and mix by Uri Wertheim (mixmonster)

Studio engineers: Miki Borenstien, Mark Berkovich

Editing: Jacob Gorensteyn Mastering: Tali Katz

Manufacturing & Distribution: Hatav Hashmini

Photos: Noga Cohen Alloro Group photo: Gilad Bar Shalev, Guy Goldman

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