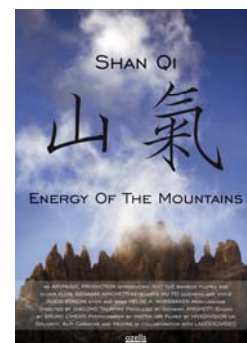


Shan Qi

Energy Of The Mountains



Sensual Sounds in Majestic Surrounds

Italian **producer Giovanni Amighetti** and chinese **flute virtuoso Guo Yue** take their musical energy and inspiration from the world of mountains – the Alps. Together with **Chapman-Stick master Guido Ponzini**, **Guzheng performer and composer Wu Fei** and **Percussion wizard Helge Andreas Norbakken**, these masterminds are the core of an extraordinary project. Playing live, practicing the art of experimental improvisation, that is Shan Qi's forte, which they impressively demonstrate with the sounds and images on their newly released DVD „**Energy of the Mountains**“ (Ozella Music).

Director Giacomo Talamini, director of photography Mattia Gri and sound engineer Bruno Cimenti provide the optimal sound and perfect visuals to put these five individualists from Europe and Asia in the very best of perspectives at the feet of the picturesque Dolomite mountain range.

The magic emanating from the nature of the **South Tirolian mountains** is as breathtaking as the hypnotic compositions intoned by Wu Fei, Guo Yue, Giovanni Amighetti, Guido Ponzini and Helge Norbakken, with the **Three Peaks of Lavaredo**, the Nemesalm and **Sexten Rotwand Mountains** looming in the background

Recorded between September 21st and 30th 2006, Shan Qi literally absorbed the **energy and fascination of the Alps** to get in the mood for their first live concert, which also took place at this time in the Centro Culturale Candiani in Mestre-Venice. „You only really start growing with practice,“ explains Beijing's composer and performer Wu Fei (Fred Frith, John Zorn), who has forever played her way into the hearts of world music fans, especially as a wizard on the Guzheng. She presents an exciting mixture of traditional Chinese elements and a contemporary compositional approach in this DVD documentation recorded in the Palazzo Micoli Toscano, among other locations.

The sounds Guo Yue, also born in **Beijing**, unfurls from his bamboo flute are no less magical. He worked with Peter Gabriel. His bamboo flutes can be heard on the soundtracks of Bertolucci's academy awards-winning film *The Last Emperor* et.al. On the other hand, Norwegian percussionist Helge Norbakken, (Karl Seglem), keyboarder/pianist Giovanni Amighetti and Chapman-Stick and bass player Guido Ponzini stand for the combination of European neo-classic, folklore and world music. It is five individualists presenting themselves before the Three Peaks of Lavaredo and in the Old Town of Pesariis, individualists who nevertheless display a maximum of **magic, extravagance and discipline**. Helge Norbakken demonstrates on every oh-so-unusual drum in his kit (which includes car wheels) an undreamt of finesse and rhythmic precision.

Wu Fei reveals hypnotizing qualities, not only as a Guzheng artist, but also as a singer, and Guo Yue shows how you can become **an integrative part of nature with the sound of a bamboo/jade/silver flute**. „We all love the peace and quiet of the alpine mountains and we could hardly contain our enthusiasm. We tried out things we never tried before“. explains Giovanni Amighetti. „Normally you don't find any Chinese musicians in the Alps, carrying and recording a Guzheng to the heights of the Dolomites was a big challenge for us.“

No less grandiose is the sensual stimulus the DVD exerts on the eyes and ears. **About 90 minutes** (including interviews with Wu Fei), you get to enjoy an optical and audiophile treat distinguished by great serenity, playful enthusiasm and a meditative atmosphere. Divided into 29 chapters, songs like „Ancient Stone“, „Encounters“, „Beats Of The Mountains“, „Red Snow“, „Wind Chimes“ or „Rainstorm Upon The Harbour“, recorded in nature and in the Centro Candiani in Venice, unfold an irresistible appeal.

„**Energy Of The Mountains**“ is like emerging into an almost forgotten world. Like the musicians, you become an integrative part of nature, **hearing the trees breathe and the moss grow**.