PRESS KIT 2026



SHEMS BENDALI

NEW ALBUM · OUT NOW

Casbah Qassioun

Retro-futuristic jazz between the Maghreb and the Middle East

"A total and captivating project, squarely in the tradition of Arab futurism, through which music questions, unsettles and imagines."

TSF JAZZ

shemsbendali.com

Photo: Nadia Tarra

Biography

A French-Algerian trumpeter based in Switzerland, Shems Bendali creates narrative, deeply felt music rooted in jazz and Algerian musical traditions. Leading his quintet, he has shaped a personal language in which memory and imagination answer one another.

With Casbah Qassioun, his third album, he invents a science-fiction universe set between the Maghreb and the Middle East, inspired by the aesthetics of futuristic comics: a sonic lore that serves as the backdrop for compositions by turns intimate and contemplative. Singer Climène Zarkan and oud player Amine Mraihi join the quintet on a track with Arab-Andalusian colours.

Between the West where he lives and the Maghreb he comes from, he refuses to choose: his plural identity becomes a space for creation. In 2026, he received the Leenaards Foundation Cultural Grant in recognition of his innovative and universalist artistic approach.

NEW ALBUM

Casbah Qassioun

LIVE VIDEOS

Bled Runner
Live · YouTube

Échos de la Casbah
Live · YouTube

[All videos on the YouTube channel →]

LINE-UP

Shems Bendali	trumpet, compositions
Arthur Donnot	tenor saxophone
Andrew Audiger	piano, Rhodes, synth
Yves Marcotte	double bass
Nathan Vandenbulcke	drums

Guests: Climène Zarkan (vocals), Amine Mraihi (oud)





What the press says

"A total and captivating project, squarely in the tradition of Arab futurism, through which music questions, unsettles and imagines."

TSF JAZZ

"You are very quickly enchanted by his bewitching, enveloping melodies, which invite surrender and contemplation. Fine work, and an artist to watch."

JAZZ MAGAZINE — Félix Marciano

"Shems Bendali's new record builds bridges between worlds."

RTS — Ivor Malherbe

"A vibrant symbol of an identity at peace."

LE TEMPS — Juliette de Banes Gardonne

"Everything is perfectly executed, and each musician makes an essential contribution to the leader's musical vision without ever overdoing it."

CULTURE JAZZ

"A jazz that plays with traditions while also claiming the heritage of the Arab-Andalusian era."

MUSICOLOGIE.ORG

AIRED ON TSF Jazz FIP RTS Couleur 3 Canal Algérie

Key dates

PAST · 2026

07.05.2026	Les Jumeaux, Lausanne
05.06.2026	Les Athénéennes, Geneva
27.08.2026	Scène Ella Fitzgerald, Geneva

UPCOMING · 2027

05.02.2027	Scène nationale d'Alençon
01.04.2027	Théâtre Alexandre III, Cannes
22–24.04.2027	jazzahead! showcase, Bremen
20.05.2027	New Morning, Paris

Live: quintet, or with oud & vocal guests

Set length: 60–90 min

Contacts

BOOKING FRANCE
fanny@vif-tour.com

BOOKING SWITZERLAND & INTERNATIONAL
booking@shemsbendali.com

WEBSITE & SOCIALS

Official website · Instagram · TikTok · Facebook · YouTube · Bandcamp · Spotify