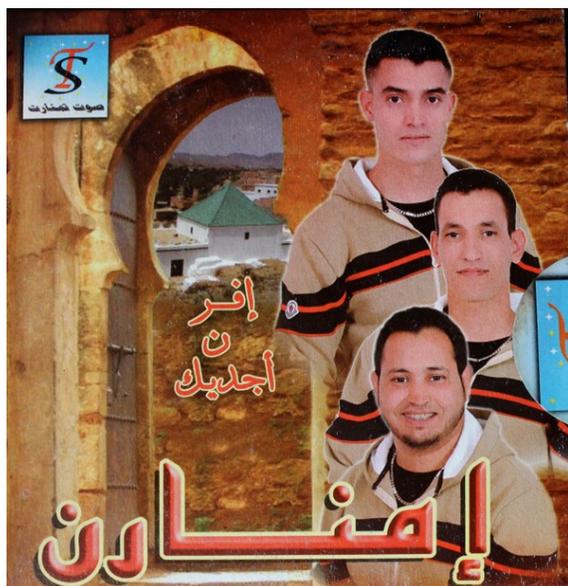


## DUTTY ARTZ & SOOT TO RELEASE AN ALBUM OF BEAUTIFUL SPACEY BANJO MUSIC FROM BERBER MOROCCO!



### Imanaren – Imanaren (Ltd. edition CD & digital)

**Imanaren** is the Tamazight word for the three stars of Orion's belt. And there is something of summer nights in the songs the young group has recorded: a softness, a buzzing, a yearning. The music is extraordinary—various styles of Berber music from south Morocco blended together in a distinctly contemporary way, with spacey banjo lines and haunting group vocals. It's sung in Tashelhit, one of the several major dialects of Tamazight and the group's mother tongue. The lyrics are timely – as bandleader and songwriter **Hassan Wargui** says, “about love and revolution” - but the songs themselves have a timeless quality. Non-Berbers will not listen to it, says Hassan, because they don't understand. Then, thinking about it, he laughs, “But we all listen to music in English, and we don't understand that either!” (Listing his favorite groups, Hassan cites Moroccan musicians from the tumultuous 1970s, then Shakira, Celine Dion, Eminem, and Akon.) He's quick to stress that this is not party music (like Oudaden). He sees himself in the lineage of 70s and 80s Moroccan Berber bands such as Archach and Izenzaren, who dared to use music as a platform to speak to their contemporary reality.

Earlier this year, I spent 2 months in Morocco, working on an art-research project called **Beyond Digital**. In April I found a special CD at a hijab-and-music stand Casablanca's medina. After hearing me ask for several little-known Berber bands, the shopowner pulled out a D.I.Y. CD that wasn't on display. **Imanaren**. He played one track – reverb-hazed banjo over a FruityLoops backbeat in 5. Incredible. This June we were able to contact Imanaren's bandleader, Hassan Wargui. Wargui is from the Berber village of **Issafn** in south Morocco, but moved to Casablanca for work. We clicked, and he ended up joining in the Beyond Digital project. In September we returned to stage a free outdoor concert in Tangiers with Hassan and my band Nettle. -*Jace Clayton (DJ Rupture)*



**Dutty Artz & Soot** are making Imanaren's music available internationally for the first time (indeed, the CD had extremely limited distribution outside of south Morocco). The six-song CD comes straight from Hassan's self-published run; the digital version maintains the original artwork and adds a song performed live at Beyond Digital headquarters in Casablanca, featured in the project's Behind-the-Scenes video: <http://youtu.be/obWUN0HMNBY>.

**Juan Alcon Duran** and **Maggie Schmitt** of the Beyond Digital crew have produced an Imanaren videoclip, filmed in Casablanca and Issafn, using “Taldrar N Lawlia”: <http://youtu.be/Golo465qpfo>

#### Imanaren - Imanaren

1. Taldrar N Lawlia (Flowering of the Wise)
  2. Ajddige (The Rose)
  3. Ayyiss Bo Tdlal (The Jeweled Horse)
  4. Boulkyber (Big Man)
  5. Assmoun (Companions)
  6. Izrfan (Rights)
  7. Rriy (Split Opinions): live @ Beyond Digital HQ in Casablanca
- total running time: 46:21

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[duttyartz.com](http://duttyartz.com) | [beyond-digital.org](http://beyond-digital.org)