

# JOSEPH TAWADROS

[www.josephtawadros.com](http://www.josephtawadros.com)

## PRESS QUOTES

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John Shand

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, AUGUST, 2017

**Joseph Tawadros & James Tawadros album review: Live At Abbey Road**

Tawadros has the space and freedom to explore fresh vocabularies for the oud, while the brothers' rapport allows abundant music to bloom from the merest kernel of an idea. Both players have never sounded better, and that's lofty praise, indeed.

[READ FULL REVIEW](#)

Tony Hillier

THE AUSTRALIAN, AUGUST, 2017

**Album review: 'Live At Abbey Road' by Joseph Tawadros with James Tawadros**

Esoteric and largely improvised by Tawadros and his percussionist brother James, the 29-track Live at Abbey Road is one of the more innovative albums in his catalogue. ...he evokes the rapid-strummed resgueados of flamenco with chordal flourishes. In Father, Where Art Thou, raw emotion drips from dagger-like notes... The telepathic musical rapport shared by the brothers is evident in every duet.

[READ FULL REVIEW](#)

John Shand

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, JULY, 2017

**Joseph Tawadros & James Tawadros concert review: Two Blood Brothers**

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[READ FULL REVIEW](#)

Tony Hillier

THE AUSTRALIAN, APRIL, 2016

**Album review: 'World Music' by Joseph Tawadros with James Tawadros**

... a tour de force of an album that reaffirms composing and arranging flair and reveals his capacity to play a staggering array of instruments. World Music underlines the ambiguity that characterises the young maestro's music, blurring boundaries as it crisscrosses predominantly Middle Eastern, Mediterranean and Indian terrain.

[READ FULL REVIEW](#)

John Shand

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, APRIL, 2016

### **Joseph Tawadros concert review: Only eight instruments? He's not trying hard enough**

Certainly Tawadros is not averse to showmanship (witness the pink jacket on Monday's Q&A!), but that tendency was completely overridden by his profound instinct for making music that is a mirror of truth; a bridge between his heart and mind and those of his listeners.

...each time he returned to the oud he produced the finest improvisations I have heard him generate, ever: solos of thrilling intensity, spectacular beauty and unnerving emotion.

[READ FULL REVIEW](#)

Sebastian Skeet

THE MUSIC, APRIL 2016

#### **Album review 'World Music' by Joseph Tawadros**

"This album provides the soundtrack to so many moods and emotional soundscapes."

[READ FULL REVIEW](#)

John Shand

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, MAY 2015

#### **A whole musical world on your doorstep**

Egyptian-born oud player Joseph Tawadros is blessed with one of the most inquisitive musical minds around, evident by just a casual glance at his past collaborations. These have ranged from the Australian Chamber Orchestra to Zakir Hussain, from Neil Finn and Katie Noonan to Jack DeJohnette and Bela Fleck. – [READ FULL REVIEW](#)

Nicole Elphick

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, FEBRUARY 2015

#### **My Secret Sydney: Joseph Tawadros**

Tawadros' innovative approach to the instrument has scored him the ARIA Award for best world music album for three years running. He is currently performing with the Australian Chamber Orchestra in a boundary-pushing series of concerts of Vivaldi's works, as well as compositions from his 2014 record *Permission to Evaporate*. – [READ FULL REVIEW](#)

Michael Dwyer

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, JANUARY 2015

#### **Oud virtuoso Joseph Tawadros adds a bit of spice to the Australian Chamber Orchestra**

Egyptian-born and trained in its classical tradition, Joseph Tawadros heard his first bridge to Europe in Antonio Vivaldi's Violin Concerto in A Minor. It sounded to me like an Arabic folk song, he says. – [READ FULL REVIEW](#)

Ron Cerabona

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, AUGUST 2014

#### **Joseph Tawadros gives Permission to Evaporate**

The title of Joseph Tawadros's 11th album is *Permission to Evaporate*. But Tawadros won't be disappearing any time soon... He says the music has a Middle Eastern background but also elements of jazz and is both joyous and spiritual in nature. – [READ FULL REVIEW](#)

Peter Winkler

THE MUSIC TRUST, JULY 2014

**Permission to Evaporate**

Tawadros was working with a super group that includes Christian McBride, one of the world's leading jazz musicians on double bass, Mike Stern, a premiere jazz-fusion player on electric guitar, Matt McMahon, one of Australia's finest keyboard players and composers on piano and his brilliant brother James Tawadros on req and bendir (Middle-Eastern hand percussion). –

[READ FULL REVIEW](#)

**John Shand****SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, MARCH 2013**

"Joseph Tawadros has a gift for infusing sadness with beauty and vice versa. He writes fragile melodies in which notes hang in the air long enough to ache as well as beguile.

His instrument, the oud, is tailor-made for milking the anguish from a tune. Its cello-like range reaches from sumptuous bass to arcing treble and its fretless nature allows for sighs and cries in the movement between notes. His brothers playing had charm and imagination, soloing on req, achieving an improbable range of sonic possibilities."

**Arne Sjostedt****SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, MARCH 2013****Oud player keeps good company**

He is in one of the most privileged positions of his career. Having been nominated nine times, Joseph Tawadros finally won his first ARIA award last year – for Best New World Music Album. Concerto of The Greater Sea was a collaboration with the accomplished Richard Tognetti and the Australia Chamber Orchestra. – [READ FULL REVIEW](#)

**John Shand****SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, APRIL 2013****Oud to joy**

The last time Joseph Tawadros recorded in New York, it was with the cream of the world's jazz musicians. This time he has assembled elite players from the shadowlands between genres. In advance, one might have puzzled over how a banjo or an organ would blend with the Arabian-night exoticism of Tawadros' oud and the pops, hums and sizzles of his brother James' Arabic percussion. But Australia's leading player of this fretless lute knew what he was about. – [READ FULL REVIEW](#)

**Arne Sjostedt****SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, MARCH 2013****Chameleons of the White Shadow**

Gathering a veritable bucket list of musicians, 2012 ARIA award-winner (best world music album) Joseph Tawadros's latest release is a kaleidoscopic journey into the Middle East, with a few more surprising destinations thrown in. With the inclusion of renowned banjo player Bela Fleck, the gifted Hammond organ playing of Joey DeFrancesco and Richard Bona's bass – the result is a successful interplay, and often joyous push-pull between elements. – [READ FULL REVIEW](#)

**John Shand**

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**Andra Jackson**

**SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, OCTOBER 2012**

**From ancient strings, a new mood for the oud**

The origins of the oud lie in the ancient Arabic world but the music Joseph Tawadros conjures from it is forging a new music frontier. The virtuoso Sydney musician has transformed the way the fretless, round-backed string instrument is viewed, taking it out of its traditional Middle Eastern setting and into the realms of classical music and jazz. "I can improvise in a traditional style and play traditional music," Tawadros says, "but I chose to bring something a little different and new to the oud." – [READ FULL REVIEW](#)