

Joseph Tawadros *Biography*

b. Cairo, Egypt. 1983

One of the most impressive musicians to emerge in Australia...with a dazzling technique dispensing hair-raising tempos... His writing displays a real depth of emotion...revelling in a zest for life and celebration. – *The Australian*



At just 32 years of age, Joseph Tawadros has established himself as one of the world's leading oud performers and composers. A virtuoso of amazing diversity and sensitivity, Joseph continues to appear in concert halls worldwide, dazzling audiences with his brilliant technique, passionate musicianship and his joyous style of performance.

Always willing to push the boundaries and challenge traditional musical forms and rhythms, his efforts have led him to create unique collaborations. *Truth Seekers, Lovers and Warriors*, his 12th album, follows on from *Storyteller, Rouhani, Visions, Epiphany, Angel, The Prophet: Music Inspired by the Poetry of Kahlil Gibran, The Hour of Separation, Band of Brothers, Concerto of the Greater Sea, Chameleons of the White Shadow* and *Permission to Evaporate* – the last three of which won the Best World Music Album award at the ARIA (Australian Recording Industry Association) Awards in 2012, 2013 and 2014 respectively. This is a rare music industry hat-trick.

A resident of Australia since 1986, Joseph has been responsible for expanding the Oud's familiarity in mainstream western culture and he has also been recognized in the Arab world, being invited to appear on the judging panel of the Damascus International Oud competition in 2009, and taking part in Istanbul's first Oud festival in 2010.

Joseph has toured extensively, head-lining in Europe, America, Asia and the Middle East, and has collaborated with artists such as *Zakir Hussain, Sultan Khan, Béla Fleck, John Abercrombie, John Patitucci, Jack DeJohnette, Richard Bona, Roy Ayers, Joey DeFrancesco, Howard Johnson, Jean-Louis Matinier, Ivry Gitlis, Camerata Salzburg, Christian Lindberg, Neil Finn, Katie Noonan, Richard Tognetti* and the *Australian Chamber*

Orchestra amongst many others. He has also had guest appearances with the Sydney, Adelaide and West Australian Symphony Orchestras.

In 2014 Joseph was nominated for the *Young Australian of the Year* awards and was one of the final 4 in NSW, as well as receiving the *Premier's Medal for Arts and Culture* in the same year.

2015 saw Tawadros tour as guest soloist with Richard Tognetti and the Australian Chamber Orchestra in a shared program of 8 of his original compositions alongside the music of Vivaldi. The same program was also performed with the Academy of Ancient Music in London and Cambridge, making the Joseph the first and only Australian Composer to have his music performed by this prestigious orchestra.

PRESS:

"JOSEPH Tawadros's burgeoning reputation as a major-league player and musical explorer has been well and truly burnished in the crucible of a New York studio. Three successive self-produced, self-composed and self-arranged albums recorded in the Big Apple with A-list American jazzmen have seen the Aussie oud maestro chart new territory with an instrument primarily associated with Arabic music." *Tony Hillier, The Australian*

"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. *Andra Jackson, Sydney Morning Herald*

"IN the hands of a fearless young maestro, oud ceases to be an instrument that's simply synonymous with Middle Eastern music. With a series of increasingly inventive and musically superior albums, Joseph Tawadros has taken the fretless Arabic lute into a brave new world of artistic cross-cultural collaboration and composition." *Tony Hillier, The Australian*

"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." *John Shand Sydney Morning Herald*

LINKS TO OTHER PRESS ARTICLES

<http://www.theguardian.com/music/2015/feb/09/joseph-tawadros-on-why-the-oud-is-not-an-ethnic-instrument>

http://newslocal.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/iphone/homepage.aspx#_article454616b9-fe80-4f77-9af6-2de229c86f80

<http://m.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/inner-west/joseph-tawadros-and-acos-richard-tognetti-set-to-put-the-oud-into-vivaldis-four-seasons/story-fngr8h4f-1227206199710>

VIDEO:

<https://youtu.be/vTVgAo7bbcQ>

Interview with Robbie Buck and solo performance in the studio, ABC Radio National, Sydney.

<https://youtu.be/oE7N1veSgXI>

Interview on the "One Plus One" program with Anne Maria Nicholson ABC TV