



something for all women, not just for me. I refuse to be silenced like women in Iran, who see my videos and tell me ‘Thank you!’”

*‘When I sing, I dream of Tehran/my arrows stand steady and aimed/As the lashes of my eyes/to fire for our freedom,’* run the Farsi lyrics of ‘Zan Bezan’ (Women, Sing), a

powerful new track featuring an anonymous female percussionist based in Iran, and accompanied by a ‘statement film’ that sees female performers in neon chadors dancing choreographed fury. Less successful, perhaps, is the cheesy desert-set video for ‘Injah’, a darkly upbeat number co-written with *Zan* producer Uri Brauner Kinrot; its message of freedom is strong, regardless.

*Zan*, then, delves deeper into the story that began with *Naz*. It’s a better, more nuanced album, ranging from traditional lullabies to songs with lyrics by the poet Rumi to club floor fillers lent texture by baglamas, percussion and the input of Iranians anonymous and/or credited under pseudonyms such as ‘Raman Loveworld’ (“I know it is dangerous to work on this project,” the latter, who found Liraz’s videos on Instagram, has

said. “But we are just normal people”). Liraz has kept in touch with most of the Iranian musicians. She’s met some in the flesh, in Europe. “I was onstage at the Roskilde Festival when I saw a man rushing down to the front of the crowd waving a giant flag. I thought maybe it was a flag for Palestine, which I

respect,” she offers, reassuringly. “Then I saw it was an Iranian flag, and the man holding it...”

A pause. “Maybe we’d met before. Maybe we hadn’t. There were so many Skype calls where I didn’t see anyone for hours. But I had the opportunity afterwards to hug him, and I did.”

“The team of Iranian musicians are like my family now. One of them just got married and I participated on FaceTime. We wanted the album to sound like it was recorded underground, and with the WAVs arriving over the internet, it does. I wanted to tell stories, and I wanted to work with musicians in Iran.” Liraz’s eyes flash.

“Mission accomplished,” she says. ♦

+ **ALBUM** *Zan* was a *Top of the World* review in the last issue

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