

## Avishai Cohen - Aurora (2009)

Written by bluesever

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01. *Morenika* 02. *Interluce in C Sharp Minor* 03. *El Hatzipor* 04. *Leolam* [play](#) 05. *Winter Song* 06. *Its Been So Long* 07. *Alon Basela* 08. *Still* 09. *Shir Preda* 10. *Aurora* [play](#)  
11. *Alfonsina Y El Mar* 12. *Noches Noches, La Luz*

Personnel: Avishai Cohen (Vocals ,acoustic and electric bass and piano); Karen Malka (Vocals); Amos Hoffman (Oud); Itamar Douari (Percussion).

More than once, someone has incorrectly assumed that bassist Avishai Cohen and trumpeter Avishai Cohen are the same person. It is easy to understand why one could make that mistake; in addition to having the same name, both of them are jazz musicians who grew up in Israel and moved to New York City in the '90s (the bassist ended up moving back to Israel). But they're definitely two different people, and the Avishai Cohen on *Aurora* is the bassist, not the trumpeter. *Aurora* finds this Avishai Cohen not only playing acoustic and electric bass, but also playing acoustic piano and electric keyboards and singing. In fact, he does a great deal of singing on this 2008 recording -- which will come as a surprise to those who think of Cohen as strictly an instrumentalist. *Aurora* is by no means an easy album to categorize; at the risk of oversimplifying things, one possible description could be "world jazz meets post-bop meets adult alternative." Jazz is a prominent ingredient on *Aurora*, but so are pop/rock and world music -- and Cohen gets a lot of inspiration from Middle Eastern, North African, and Spanish music. He sings in four different languages -- Hebrew, English, Ladino (the language of Spain's Sephardic Jews), and Spanish -- on an album that is dominated by original material but also contains some traditional Jewish songs. But as unpredictable as this 53-minute CD is, *Aurora* has a certain continuity. Cohen sounds like he knows exactly what he's doing, and he has sympathetic support that includes Amos Hoffman on oud (a traditional Middle Eastern lute) and Karen Malka on vocals (although Cohen is the main vocalist). This album obviously wasn't designed with jazz purists in mind, but listeners who have eclectic tastes will realize that *Aurora* is a valuable addition to Cohen's catalog. --- Alex Henderson, allmusic.com

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