



Alon Farber Hagiga

Yossi Zwecker ©

About The Band

Hagiga means “celebration” in Hebrew and in our music we celebrate the cultural divergence of our Israeli heritage. **Hagiga** is inspired by the variety of musical flavors and colors of the “Israeli soundtrack”. Our compositions cross musical genres and are influenced by Swing, Moroccan, Funk, Israeli folk and Brazilian backgrounds.

The music of Hagiga spans the divide between meticulously written scores and freely-roaming adventures. We perform arrangements for three multi-horn players and a rhythm section - and, occasionally, a vocalist – but we also leave a lot of space for free interaction on stage. That means we never know exactly what is coming up next. This combination is what makes our music so exciting - beautiful rich arrangements spiced up with an unrestrained spirit.

Alon Farber Hagiga was founded in 2001 and has since then released four albums. The first two were released by **Fresh Sound Records** (Barcelona) and the third one was released by **QTF** (Berlin). In September 2021 Hagiga's new album "Reflecting on Freedom" was released on one of the leading jazz labels in the world, "**Origin Record**" (Seattle). The album received very enthusiastic responses. **Robert Ratajczak** from "**Long Play**" (Budapest) wrote: "Alon Farber Hagiga has his own recognizable style and sound, which is the work of his creative and gifted giant musical fantasy of the leader. Excellent album!"

Hagiga has performed at local and international jazz festivals and venues, including the Paris Jazz Festival, Copenhagen Jazz festival,

Red Sea Jazz Festivals (twice), Jerusalem International Jazz Festival (twice) OCT-LOFT Festival (Shenzen, China) and many more.

[LINK TO BIO](#)

Alon Farber, leader of "Hagiga", claims to be influenced a lot by the writing and playing of prolific trumpeter and composer Dave **Douglas**, whom the sextet has recently started collaboration with.

Dave is known for the stylistic breadth of his work, the lyricism and wide-ranging curiosity of his music.

Dave has released over 60 albums as a leader and more than 500 published works. Adding a trumpet is interesting in terms of orchestration for "Hagiga" Dave's unique contributions to improvised music allows the sextet to move freely between World music, Swing, Free Jazz and Israeli music.

Alon Farber, the band leader, studied Jazz composition at Berklee College of Music, Boston, and is a recipient of the Israeli Prime Minister's Award for Jazz Composers (2016) and the Wayne Shorter Award for Composers (1998). He is one of the founders of the "Israeli Jazz Orchestra" in which he plays lead saxophone, and also serves as associate arranger and composer.

"Alon Farber Hagiga has been at the forefront of that miraculous envelope pushing curve of Israeli Jazz for some years now" ([Barry Davis – jazz writer, Jerusalem Post, former Downbeat contributor. From liner notes to the album "Reflecting on freedom"](#))

Hagiga is:

Alon Farber- Soprano and Alto Saxes

Yehonatan Cohen- Tenor Sax, Flute, Clarinet

Oded Meir- Trombone

Katia Toobool- Piano

Assaf Hakimi- Bass

Roy Oliel- Drums

Sarai Zak-Levi – Vocal (optional)

No other way to put it: The Alon Farber Hagiga Sextet is a fantastic find!"

[\(Jay Deshpande, allaboutjazz.com\)](#)

Reflecting on Freedom

We are proud to present our new album "Reflecting on Freedom"

Out of linear notes for the record by **Barry Davis**, Jazz writer, Jerusalem Post, former Downbeat contributor:

"The Israeli jazz scene is one of the most vibrant around. It is something of a quirk of nature that a little country in the heart of the Middle East, with more than its fair share of existential issues, should constantly churn out jazz artists and combos of such quality and with such an adventurous spirit.

Alon Farber Hagiga has been at the forefront of that miraculous envelope pushing curve for some years now. The group has chalked up almost two decades of intermittent recording and gigging, with Farber a mainstay as various personnel have come and go...

There is, indeed, an abundance of cultural references across the nine cuts, from a spread of global sectors but, at the end of the day, this is an Israeli band. Then again, that almost amounts to the same thing. The predominant specific "Israeliness" about the charts is that they are all the product of the verified cultural melting pot that is the Middle Eastern country. Twenty years, four records and hundreds of gigs down the line, Hagiga seems to be going from strength to strength, lineup shifts notwithstanding. Reflecting on Freedom - which, incidentally, feeds off saxist Eddie Harris's 1960s standard Freedom Jazz Dance – is a high octane burner fired by a dynamic big band feel...

That, in a nutshell, is very much what this album and Alon Farber Hagiga are about. There is an alluring go-with-the-flow air about this outing, which stretches into Moroccan domains, bluesy Middle Eastern spices and plenty of nods to the time-honored jazz idiom. Sounds succinctly Israeli to me.

ALON.FARBER Hagiga

Reflecting on Freedom



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Media



[Alon Farber Hagiga's Photos Gallery](#)

"This is one of the finer groups that the Fresh Sound label has produced... let it be known that Farber and his musicians have incredible empathy and their own voice. They are NOT copycats, nor sound like anyone else"

Nathan Halaway Jazzreview.com

