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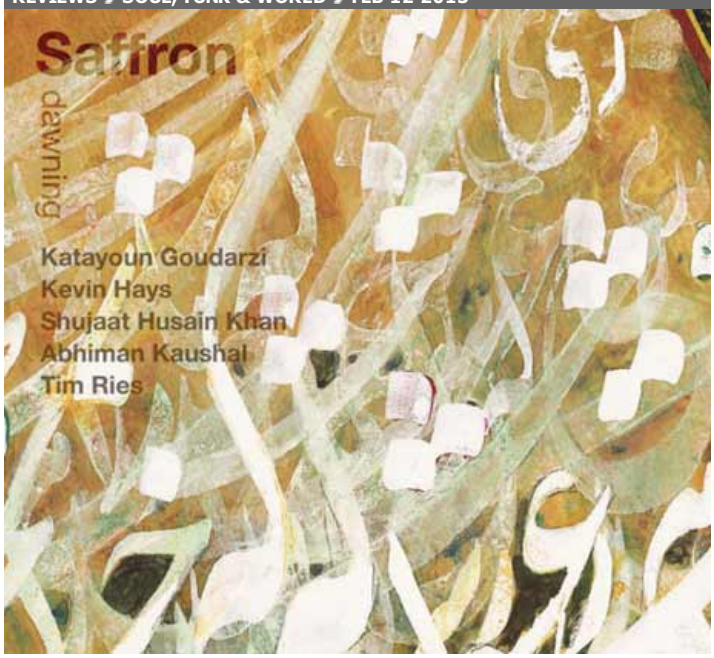
Saffron Dawning



By Ryan B. Patrick

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Within the small space of seven tracks, Saffron put forth a passionate exploration of Persian and Indian philosophies. The five-member collective (vocalist Katayoun Goudarzi, pianist Kevin Hays, percussionist Abhiman Kaushal and accomplished sitarist Shujaat Husain Khan) leverage the poetry of 13th-century Persian Muslim poet/philosopher Rumi in a respectful fashion via impressionistic musical backing and vocal interpretations. The result is *Dawning*, an immersive and contemplative aural experience. Within the short run time, the sitar-/table-/sax-driven record is best listened to holistically, which isn't to say that each individual track lacks impact on its own. But experienced as a whole, *Dawning* reveals itself with Goudarzi's measured interpretation of Rumi's texts, a genuine master class in sitar and an overall palliative energy that illuminates a rich and textured reverence for Persian and Indian poetics. (Palmetto)

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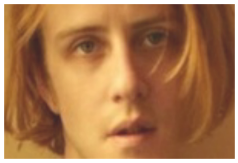
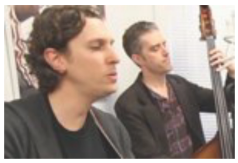


Christopher Owens Moves on from Girls



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