



**OFRI ELIAZ**  
***Ya Salio de la Mar:***  
***Ladino Songs***  
**(NMC)**

**O**fri Eliaz is one of the reasons for an increasing awareness of the Ladino culture (Ladino is the medieval dialect of Spanish spoken by the Sephardim) among the general public. Events throughout Israel are taking place to encourage artistic and creative work in Ladino in order to preserve the heritage and folklore.

On *Ya Salio de la Mar* Eliaz does just that, providing 12 melodious tracks of Ladino songs. She masterfully interprets traditional material and ancient prayers.

In addition to her extraordinary, almost operatic voice, she is backed by a melange of traditional and modern instruments, including oud, flute, clarinet, trumpet, percussion, keyboard, violin, and guitars. Among her back-up players is Omar Faruk Tekbilek, the internationally acclaimed musician.

Eliaz includes a number of Judeo-Spanish wedding songs, including the title track. And her renditions of the traditional Hebrew prayers "*Hamavdil*" and "*Yigdal*" are specially worth mentioning.