

Turner Williams Jr. and Derek Monypeny

Dueling

LP / Digital

Dueling is the first meeting of **Turner Williams Jr.** and **Derek Monypeny**, two American pickers of the avant underground known for their deep excursions on the shahi baaja, a 15 string electric keyboard-zither of modern Indo-Japanese origin.

Dueling is a dialectic of twang. Williams hails from the American South and Monypeny from the Southwest. Country fried humid misterioso meets bonedry waveforms stretching skyward. These sessions occurred in Marseille, France on a limestone crest above the Mediterranean, evening and morning in early Spring. Following a long correspondence, Monypeny met Williams at his adopted home under crackling powerlines and looming electrical towers.

Nominally a duo record, this slab presents the dissolve and dialogue of 30 strings blurring into one, suggesting the translucent blur of 60s Cale/Conrad and the randomized grace of Oval tripping over Chet Atkins on a peyote toot with Jerry Reed or Les Paul. Their wide open third-minded automatism honors the history of their instruments with a heavy dose of subversion in Sun City Girl's anti-tradition of respectful disrespect. Who wants to hear a couple of yankee corndogs playing "proper" shahi baaja in 2025?

Dueling marks the spot where sunblind stupor meets porchzorch faceoff and the pupils dilate into gaping maws that drool in stereo.

**See backside for shahi baaja history

Label: Twenty One Eighty Two Recording Company
Catalog #: kHz – 1018
Distro: 2182 / Forced Exposure / Sound Ohm
MSRP: \$28.00 / Wholesale: \$18.00
RELEASE DATE: August 7, 2025

Label/Distro/Press:
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"The sounds here are generated by just strings and effects, but the way he toggles back and forth between known and unknown tongues demonstrates a conceptual mastery that matches his ace technique."

-- Byron Coley, Feeding Tube
Speaking on Williams

"Derek, using tastefully deployed effects and small and patient gestures, dig deep into those thin places where all kinds of inner space visions can flourish."

— Larry Dolman, Blastitude
Speaking on Monypeny

TITLE: ***Dueling***

Artist: Turner Williams Jr. and Derek Monypeny
Format: Ltd Vinyl /500
Genre: Experimental (instrumental)

TRACK LIST:

1. Free Deliverance – 8:17
2. Calanque I – 4:30
3. Space Prophet Dogon – 7:52
4. Pylône Song – 7:15
5. Calanque II – 4:35
6. Radio Gazelle – 8:37

On the Shahi Baaja

by Turner Williams Jr.

Before our modern conception of the machine, the word referred to a structure of thought, a contrivance. Up from Greek & Latin roots to its medieval French definition, the machine was a construction in our minds. Before we built the first device, we had the devise: a plan, an expressed desire. The machines and devices of modernity transform human thought into material reality. Our choices initiate & terminate their processes. Pushing buttons, typing thoughts: interior meets exterior.

A set of buttons on levers pivot in the keyboard that straddles the zither, a flat soundbox crossed with strings. With one hand, the player taps the keys which push the strings into a fretboard, altering their pitches. Meanwhile, the other hand activates the strings by plucking, striking or bowing. Pinching the strings here and there, the button-pushing player builds a melody. The instrument offers a portable interface and a shortcut, a simplification of melodic soundmaking for the amateur, onstage or on the street but also at home, in private. Between the key and the board, we find a string, and also an uncanny intervention - an early artificial gap between human touch and the physics of sound.

