



Simon Shaheen

with the

William & Mary Middle Eastern Music Ensemble

Saturday, February 16, 2013 • 7:30 pm

Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre • Free and Open to the Public



All concerts by the Middle Eastern Music Ensemble are free and open to the public. We ask that you consider supporting the ensembles' work with a contribution.

Donations Welcome!

The William & Mary Middle Eastern Music Ensemble

Anne Rasmussen, Director
Brett Evans, Ensemble Assistant

And with Special Guest Artist

Simon Shaheen

Program

Tonight's program will be performed without intermission:

Waslah in Maqam Rahat Al-Arwah

Dulab Traditional
Taqaqim on the Qanun

Bintu Karmin Zakariyya Ahmad

Sama'i Huzam Muhammad Abduh Saleh

Jadaka-L-Ghaythu Majdi Al-'Aqli

Ya Ghusna Naqa Traditional



Violin Solo Simon Shaheen

Hayrana Leh Daud Husni
with Maryam Kanna, vocal soloist

Bi Karmil Lou Lou Philmone Wihbi
with Fiona Balestrieri, vocal soloist

Al Qantara Simon Shaheen
'Ud Solo Performance by Simon Shaheen

Arboresque Finale Simon Shaheen



Established in 1994, the Middle Eastern Music Ensemble is a forum for the study and performance of traditional musics from the Middle East and Arab World. The group has hosted numerous scholars and guest artists from a variety of traditions and performs frequently among the William and Mary community and in the mid-Atlantic region.

The James H. Critchfield Endowment for Middle Eastern Studies, the Program in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, and the Department of Music have supported our programs for many years, but **we need your support!**

Tonight we will describe some of the initiatives in the ensemble's future and how you can help us reach our goals. Also, please stay tuned for the imminent release of our CD recording, now in post-production.

For more information: akrasm@wm.edu or bcevans@email.wm.edu or check out our facebook group for news and events. Please visit the website of the Department of Music to find out how you can be a part of Music at William and Mary, <http://www.wm.edu/as/music/support/index.php>

Our Musicians ~~~ * = # of semesters with the MEME

Violin

Brett Evans****
Jonathan Glasser (half-life member)
Suzan Ok*****
Yiming Su*

Qanun

Anne Rasmussen (life member)

Nay

Fiona Balestrieri*****

Percussion

Maryam Kanna**
Ghazi Mahjoub**
Gretchen Nutz*
Paul Zorn*
Fred Norters***
Lailah Irani*

Viola

A.J. Sudy****

***Cello**

Kayla Grant**

***Ud**

Zach Aravich*****
Nadeem Bohsali**
Eamonn Carolan**
John Loughton**

Vocalists

Fiona Balestrieri
Lailah Irani
Maryam Kanna
Ghazi Mahjoub

Away members: Farrokh Namazi,
Torey Jackson, Mary Houser, Eric
Wityk

Simon Shaheen

Simon Shaheen's soaring technique, melodic ingenuity, and unparalleled grace have earned him international acclaim as a virtuoso on the 'oud and violin. A professor of music at the Berklee College of Music and the New England Conservatory in Boston, Shaheen is one of the most significant Arab musicians, performers, and composers of his generation. His work incorporates and reflects a legacy of Arabic music, while it forges ahead to new frontiers, embracing many different styles in the process.

A Palestinian, born in the village of Tarshiha in the Galilee, Shaheen's childhood was steeped in music. His father, Hikmat Shaheen, was a professor of music and a master 'oud player. Shaheen began playing on the 'oud at the age of five, and a year later studying violin at the Conservatory for Western Classical Music in Haifa. After graduating from the Academy of Music in Jerusalem in 1978, Shaheen was appointed its instructor of Arab music, performance, and theory. In 1981, he moved to New York City to complete his graduate studies in performance at the Manhattan School of Music, and pursued music education and musicology at Columbia University.

Beginning in the 1980s, Simon Shaheen and his musician colleagues brought about a renaissance of Arab Traditional Music in the United States that has built in intensity and created ripple effects throughout the Middle East. His contributions to the world of arts were recognized early on, in 1994 when Shaheen was honored with the National Heritage Award at the White House. This is the highest honor bestowed upon international and ethnic artists in the US.

During the 1990s Simon Shaheen released four albums of his own: *Saltanah* (Water Lily Acoustics), *Turath* (GMP), *Taqasim* (LyricHord), and *Simon Shaheen: The Music of Mohamed Abdel Wahab* (Axiom), while also contributing to, *Hallucination Engine* (Island). He has contributed to soundtracks for *The Sheltering Sky* and *Malcolm X*, and he composed the entire soundtrack for the United Nations-sponsored documentary, *For Everyone Everywhere*, a film that celebrated the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Human Rights Charter. His album *Blue Flame* (ARK21, 2001), by his fusion group, Qantara, was nominated for the Grammy Awards. Shaheen has received numerous grants for his work as composer and producer.

In 1997, Simon Shaheen founded the **Annual Arabic Music Retreat**, a weeklong intensive program of Arabic music studies, held on at Mount Holyoke College. The retreat draws participants from the U.S. and abroad, and includes several W&M MEME alumni including, Ryan Greene Roesel, Lillie Gordon, Scott Hertel, Sarah Waller, Tiffany Schoneboom, Zach Aravich, Jeremy Wachsman, Anne Elise Thomas, and Brett Evans, among others. Last year the W&M MEME, with the support of the Critchfield Endowment, awarded two scholarships for W&M students to attend Shaheen's Arabic Music Retreat.

Shaheen's initiatives and accomplishments as educator, producer, performer, and composer are remarkable. While his influence on music and musicians in the United States is unparalleled, he continuously nurtures, sponsors, and mentors musicians from Palestine, Israel, and the Middle East region, bringing promising young people into the profession and showcasing the best artists through concert tours in the international arena. We are truly honored to have Simon Shaheen in residence with our ensemble and are proud to feature him as our guest artist this evening. ... *Anne K. Rasmussen*

The College of William & Mary

MIDDLE EASTERN MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Fall Concert: The Classics

Friday, November 30th, 2012

8:00pm

Ewell Recital Hall



The William & Mary Middle Eastern Music Ensemble

Anne Rasmussen, Director

Brett Evans, Ensemble Assistant

And with Special Guest Artist, Chakib Hilali



Program

Tonight's program will be chosen from the following repertoire:

"Al-Raqs Al-Sharqi," a stylized dance piece from the tradition by Said Mahmud

"Ya Salat iz-Zayn" by Zakariyya Ahmad

*Wish God's blessings on the Prophet! Wish God's blessings on the Prophet! And upon 'Aziza!
Wish God's blessings on the Prophet!*

*Your presence in our gathering is sweet! Our Lord the All-powerful has adorned the gathering, and
our guests the Princes have lit it up!*

We consider them artists, poets, and where did we find them, in the two seas!

Wish God's blessings on the Prophet, and on 'Aziza wish God's blessings

O Praise Singers, (Hey!) Say of 'Aziza that she is the daughter of a Sultan!

Suite of folk songs from the Eastern Mediterranean Arab World featuring the art of *taqasim* (instrumental improvisation) by members of the Ensemble

"Yalli zara'tu-l burtu'an" by Mohammed Abd Al-Wahab

...introduced to the Ensemble by Hanna Khoury, Al Bustan, Philadelphia, PA

To those who planted the oranges: Come on, harvest!

It's time, Come on, harvest! It's time, come on!

We have planted and we have watered and after our hard work we have gained

It is between our hands and for us

Oh God, make the oranges plentiful

How nice it smells within the gardens

How beautiful it looks, with its cheeks showing

Each slice of it is worth a million

Oh God, make the oranges plentiful

Dulab Rast, a traditional prelude in Maqam Rast with *taqasim*.

“Rubayyat Al-Khayyam” by Riyad Al-Sunbati

With verses of poetry of Omar Khayyam (1048-1131) read by Farrokh Namazi
and with her translations read by members of the Ensemble.

Inqilab and Khlass in the mode Raml al-Maya in the tradition of Tlemcen, Algeria

“Hayranah Lih,” a love song by Da’ud Husni

Why are you wavering between hearts? You made my heart melt.

I met your departure from me with obedience. I spent the long nights alone.

Don't you want to have compassion for my heart; why are you torturing it?

You know the heart submits to beauty.

Why is my heart not like yours? I have been imprisoned by your love since the day that I saw you.

My heart, whether you treat it roughly or satisfy it,

is between your hands and submits to your orders.

Only once the heart falls in love and is fulfilled. And my heart, I swear to God, got used to love.

O you who resides in my heart, why are you hurting it?

Be faithful to your lover and don't give him a hard time.

“Al-Qalbi Yi'shaq,” the introduction to a song of Umm Kulthum by Riyadh Al-Sunbati

“Laz Bar,” an Armenian traditional dance based on performance by Richard Hagopian



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Please join us for Winter Concert:

Saturday, February 16, 2013 at the Williamsburg Regional Library Theater

Stay tuned for the imminent release of our CD recording!

*For more information: akrasm@wm.edu or bcevans@email.wm.edu or check out our
facebook group for news and events.*

Our Musicians

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Viola

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Nadeem Bohsali*

Eamonn Carolan*

John Loughton*

Percussion

Torey Jackson*

Maryam Kanna*

Ghazi Mahjoub*

Farrokh Namazi*****

Fred Nortcs**

Christian Northover*

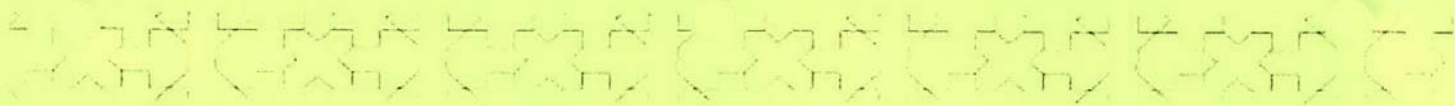
Eric Wityk*

Vocal Soloists

Torey Jackson

Maryam Kanna

Ghazi Mahjoub



The College of William & Mary

MIDDLE EASTERN MUSIC ENSEMBLE

FIRST MEETING Thurs. Aug. 30, 7pm in Ewell 207

(For returning members and interested newcomers. Bring instruments!)

FIRST OFFICIAL REHEARSAL Thurs. Sept. 6, 7pm

Interested in learning to perform music from the Middle East?

Want to learn a new instrument or sing in Arabic and other languages?

MEME seeks 'ud, string, and nay players, percussionists, singers, and other musicians.

COME to our first meeting and get in touch with Anne Rasmussen, director of the ensemble,
at akrasm@wm.edu or visit her office in Ewell 265.

OR contact Brett, student assistant, at bcevans@email.wm.edu