



BAC FOLK ARTS PRESENTS

بروكلين مقام

BROOKLYN MAQAM

ARAB MUSIC FESTIVAL

مهرجان الموسيقى العربية

Roundtable: Arab Music Traditions
and their History in Brooklyn

Sunday, March 9, 2 - 4pm

BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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BROOKLYN MAQAM
ARAB MUSIC FESTIVAL

Ahlan wa Sahlan! Welcome to **Brooklyn Maqam Arab Music Festival** featuring local musicians, bands, and dancers presenting Arab musical traditions from Egypt, Yemen, Israel, Tunisia, Palestine, Iraq, Morocco, Syria, Lebanon, and Sudan. *Maqam* is the Arabic word referring to the patterns of musical notes, based on a quarter note system, that form the building blocks of traditional Arab music. Join **BAC Folk Arts** throughout March 2008 for **Brooklyn Maqam** concerts, symposia, and workshops featuring local musicians specializing in Arab folk traditions, classical forms, and contemporary arrangements. Entry to all events is FREE of charge and all events are open to the public.

Sunday, March 9, 2- 4p.m.

Brooklyn Historical Society

Roundtable: Arab Music Traditions and Their History in Brooklyn

A panel of music scholars and local Arab community representatives discuss the history and relevance of Brooklyn's ever-evolving Arab music traditions.

Roundtable Participants

Anne K. Rasmussen

Moderating the Brooklyn Maqam Arab music history roundtable today is Anne K. Rasmussen, associate professor of music and ethnomusicology in the Department of Music at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia where she also directs a Middle Eastern Music Ensemble. She received the Ph.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles, and her BA and ME from Northwestern University and the University of Denver respectively. Rasmussen has produced four compact disc recordings, including *The Music of Arab-Americans*, which features vital recordings and liner note information pertinent to Brooklyn Maqam. Rasmussen co-edited a book with Kip Lornell entitled *Musics of Multicultural America* (Schirmer 1997) and has written several articles, chapters, and reviews. Her current research concerns Islamic musical arts in Indonesia and female reciters of the Qur'ân. Anne has been involved in studying, teaching and performing Middle Eastern music since 1985 in conjunction with her studies at the University of California at Los Angeles with Ali Jihad Racy and for her fieldwork among Arab Americans in communities across the country. She is primarily a player of the 'ud, but is also a capable vocalist and performer of violin, percussion, accordion, and qanun.

Ray Rashid

Ray Rashid owns Rashid Music on Court Street. Established in 1934 by his father Albert Rashid in Detroit, Michigan, Rashid Sales Company is the oldest and largest exclusive distributor of Arabic music in North America. The first retail store was opened on East

28th Street in New York City. The year 1947 saw the initial work on the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel. The Arabic Market was located on Washington Street on the Manhattan side of

the Tunnel. With the urban renewal in the area, the merchants were forced to move and settled on lower Atlantic Avenue which had a large Arabic community with three major churches and a mosque. Albert opened a second retail store at 191 Atlantic Ave. in 1947. As pioneers in the different fields of Arabic music, Albert Rashid's sons, Stanley and Raymond carried on the business. Rashid Sales Company still maintains its retail store in Brooklyn at 155 Court Street, with Ray serving as the "go-to" guy for all the latest and best in Arab music from around the world. A landmark, known by musicians and artists, it attracts thousands of enthusiasts from around the world every year.

Ahmad Hisry

Ahmad Hisry emigrated from Syria to Brooklyn 40 years ago and he has become a local historian of the Atlantic Ave. Arab community.

Dr. Ahmad Jaber

Dr. Ahmad Jaber is a co-founder and the current president of the Arab American Association in Bay Ridge. The Association is one of our cultural partners for Brooklyn Maqam. It was founded in May 2001 to address the social and cultural needs of Brooklyn's 122,000-member, diverse Arab population. Born in Palestine, Dr. Jaber is a graduate of the University of Mosul in Iraq. He immigrated to New York in 1974 and is now a senior attending physician in the obstetrics and gynecology department at Lutheran Medical Center in Brooklyn.

Samuel Thomas

Receiving two degrees from Berklee College of Music, Samuel Thomas is currently a Ph.D candidate in Ethnomusicology at the City University of New York. His work includes North African musical traditions, Arab music, Jewish music research and jazz, rock and American popular music. He is founder and executive director of JATM (Jewish Awareness Through Music) and bandleader of Asefa, an ensemble devoted to contemporary approaches to composition, improvisation, and fusion drawn from Sephardic and worldwide Jewish musics.

Phaedra (Dr. Phyllis Saretta)

Phaedra (Dr. Phyllis Saretta) is a well-known and respected dance artist and was one of the most sought-after instructors and practitioners of Middle Eastern Dance in the U. S. and abroad, from the late 1960's-1990's. As a principal soloist with the Ibrahim Farrah Near East Dance Group, she has appeared at major concert halls including Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center. Phaedra was a Staff Writer for "Arabesque," A Journal of Middle Eastern Dance and Culture." She holds a doctorate in Egyptology and Archaeology of the Ancient Near East and is a Staff Lecturer at The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Special thanks to Brooklyn Historical Society, and especially to Kate Fermoile, for hosting **Brooklyn Maqam** today.