



BAC FOLK ARTS PRESENTS

بروكلين مقام

BROOKLYN MAQAM

ARAB MUSIC FESTIVAL

مهرجان الموسيقى العربية

Oud-Off I: Oud and Qahwa

Wednesday, March 5, 7 - 9pm

NAJEEB'S PLACE



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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.

Wednesday, March 5, 7 - 9pm

Najeeb's Place

Oud-Off I: Oud and Qahwa

The "Oudman" Najeeb Shaheen and his featured guest oudist Dimitri Mikelis improvise on and explain the revered stringed instrument of Arab music, the oud. Sip an Arabic coffee with cardamom (*qahawa arbiyya*) while listening.

Najeeb Shaheen

Raised near Haifa, Najeeb Shaheen was trained on the *oud* by his father, the late Hikmat Shaheen. As a child, he and his brother Simon Shaheen were deeply influenced by the weekly regional broadcasts on Egyptian Radio's "Voice of the Arabs," which featured renowned classical concert singers like Oum Koulthoum, singing live full length concerts. As a Palestinian émigré, residing in New York for the past thirty years, Najeeb "The Oudman" has become known as a master *oud* maker and restorer. He plays with leading Arab vocalists and the Near Eastern Music Ensemble, lead by his brother Simon. Najeeb is also the proprietor of Najeeb's Place, a popular Levantine eatery and café on Graham Ave. in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

<http://www.oudman.com/>

Dimitri Mikelis

As Najeeb Shaheen's special guest tonight, Mikelis will introduce fundamental musical elements commonly applied in three major musical theory systems of the eastern Mediterranean. (Byzantine, Turkish, and Arabic.) He is also appearing with *Zikrayat* at Joe's Pub on March 20th for Brooklyn Maqam.

From Athens, Greece, Mikelis is both an 'ud and piano performer. He holds a B.M from Berklee College of Music in jazz studies (2003), a Masters in Jazz Performance from the William Paterson University, NJ (2006) and a Diploma in traditional harmony & counterpoint, from the Central Conservatory of Athens, Greece (1999). Since 2000, Mikelis has been studying Arab music with his mentor Simon Shaheen. Mikelis' 'ud playing interprets Arab idioms with Turkish styling and Greek influences. While still in Greece, he toured as sideman with Sokratis Malamas, Melina Kana, and Savinna Yannatou and also toured Europe and the US playing a wide range of music such as Latin, Blues, Rembetiko, Turkish, Arab with groups such as the Romeiko Ensemble at a World Music institute performance. As a virtuoso 'ud player, Mikelis has participated on many recordings including *Zikrayat's Live at Lotus* (2006), *Mitz's New Work* (2007) and most recently on the soundtrack for the feature film *Jimmy Carter: Man From the Plains*.