



BAC FOLK ARTS PRESENTS

بروكلين مقام

BROOKLYN MAQAM

ARAB MUSIC FESTIVAL

مهرجان الموسيقى العربية

Brooklyn's Maqam:
Reinventing Arab Music in the Borough

Friday, March 7, 9 -10:30pm

BAM CAFE



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BAC FOLK ARTS PRESENTS

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.

Friday, March 7, 9-10:30pm

BAM Cafe at the Brooklyn Academy of Music
Brooklyn's Maqam: Reinventing Arab Music in the Borough

Program

One borough, two very distinct-sounding Arab music ensembles: Fahim Dandan, the renowned singer whose presence at Arab celebrations in Brooklyn and across the country is virtually required! And the experimental jazzy-Middle Eastern sound of SHUSMO, led by Brooklyn's multi-talented Tareq Abboushi.

FAHIM DANDAN AND BAND

For tonight's program Dandan draws from his repertoire of songs particularly in demand at Arab social celebrations. Dandan's specialty is traditional classic, folk and popular song from the Levant region (Bilad ash-Shams) of the Middle East, including Palestinian *debkat* that get every single banquet hall celebrant on their feet dancing. However, Dandan is also renowned for his interpretation of Egyptian pop songs that pulse with a strong sa'idi beat, and well-loved classical Egyptian song by artists like Said Mekawy and mid-20th century masters such as Oum Koulthoum and Abdel Halim Hafez. In contrast to SHUSMO's acoustic sound, Dandan's line-up highlights a bass-heavy sound marking a contemporary trend at Arab parties.

Fahim Dandan- vocals

Mohamed Kheir- main keyboard

Moneir Subhee- 2nd keyboard

Youssef Youssef- Tabla

SHUSMO

SHUSMO in Arabic means "what's his name." Started in 2000 by ensemble leader Tareq Abboushi, the intent behind SHUSMO's sound was to blend various components of jazz and Arab music, and to present them through powerful grooves. Over the years, as the sound of the band began to mature, other elements came into play including Latin rhythms, counterpoint, and spoken word. Today, each member brings his own background to the compositions, and the result is far beyond the groups' initial goals. Since releasing its first album "One" in February 2005, the quintet has taken part in various festivals: Atlantic Antic Festival, Sounds of the City Festival (NJ PAC), the Jerusalem Festival, Festival du Monde Arabe (Montreal), Sephardic Music Festival (Joe's Pub), and the NextNEXT series at BAM.

Tareq Abboushi- Buzuq, Composer
Lefteris Bournias- Clarinet
Frank Hauch- Bass
Hector Morales- Congas, Cajon
Zafer Tawil- Riq, Durbakkeh, Cymbals

Fahim Dandan

Brooklyn-based Palestinian vocalist Fahim Dandan grew up with exposure to the folk music traditions of Haifa and nearby villages. Dandan's mother was respected for her musical ability and noted for her participation at village weddings. At 16 Dandan began his formal classical music training at the Rubin Music Conservatoire and studied *oud* for 3 years with Sudki Choukry. He then joined his brother's band singing standards from Egyptian classical superstars such as Abdel Halim Hafez and Oum Koulthoum. In 1989, Dandan immigrated to the U.S. and studied Western music theory at Ohio State University before his travels brought him to Brooklyn, where he began singing at parties hosted by Syrian Jewish and Levantine communities and others. Dandan has become a highly sought-after vocalist for Arab weddings and social events, and even Saudi royalty, throughout the U.S. He draws from a repertoire of ceremonial material including *henna* songs sung at the bride's henna ceremony, wedding processions (*zeffat*), as well as *debkah* and dance songs popular throughout the Levant and Egypt. 2003, Dandan recorded a CD of original compositions in Cairo, Egypt. He is looking forward to producing and releasing a second album in the near future.

Tareq Abboushi

Abboushi grew up in Palestine and moved to America at the age of 16. A graduate with honors from William Paterson University with a B.M. in Jazz Piano Performance, he began studying the buzuq at the National Conservatory of Music in Ramallah. He deepened his involvement in Arab music after attending Simon Shaheen's annual Arab music retreat in Massachusetts. Abboushi is now an accomplished *buzuq* player, and also plays the *djembe* and *bendir*. He lectures on Arab music and has performed with a number of groups and musicians including Simon Shaheen, Omar Farouk Tekbilek and Dan Zanes. Abboushi has also composed and performed music for various soundtracks including film *West Bank-Brooklyn*, *Encounter Point*, which won best musical score, 2006 Bend Film Festival, and *Man From Plains*(2007). Abboushi leads the quintet SHUSMO, features original compositions of Middle Eastern/Jazz fusion. www.shusmo.com

Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC), an arts and services organization founded in 1966, is the umbrella for Brooklyn's range of cultural groups and individual artists working in the visual, performing, media, and literary arts. BAC helps Brooklyn's artist population—from the experimental to those preserving and evolving traditions of cultural heritage—create and present their work. BAC ensures that thousands of people throughout Brooklyn have access to a variety of free arts programming each year. Our programs are essential to the livelihoods of thousands of artists, creative professionals, and arts organizations across the borough.

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