



BAC FOLK ARTS PRESENTS

بروكلين مقام

BROOKLYN MAQAM

ARAB MUSIC FESTIVAL

مهرجان الموسيقى العربية

Sawt al-Mar'a: Voice of the Women

Saturday, March 16, 3-5pm

Kingsborough Community College



Use the American Express® card
at Brooklyn Maqam Venues.



THE MARY
DUKE BIDDLE
FOUNDATION



NEW YORK
STATE MUSIC
FUND

BAISLEY
POWELL ELEBASH
FUND





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.

Thursday, March 16, 3-5pm

Kingsborough Community College, Leon M. Goldstein Performing Arts Center

Sawt al-Mar'a: Voice of the Woman

“*Sawt al-Mar'a: Voice of the Woman*,” is a program of **Brooklyn Maqam Arab Music Festival**, presented by the Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC), featuring local musicians, bands, and dancers presenting Arab music 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 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. Today’s program, “*Sawt al-Mar'a: Voice of the Woman*,” presents three widely acclaimed vocalists and composers, whose repertoires are steeped in Arab music traditions.

Gaida Hinnawi

Gaida Hinnawi is a vocalist and composer working at the intersection of the New York Arab and improvised music scenes. Her compositions draw at once on classical Arabic song, Syrian folk traditions, and free improvisations that expand on traditional Arabic *maqams* (modes). An acclaimed singer from an early age, Gaida was raised in Damascus and later lived in Kuwait, Paris, and Detroit, where she received classical voice training at Wayne State University. Now settled in New York, Gaida works with artists such as Amir ElSaffar, Brahim Fribgane, and Tareq Abboushi. She is a member of other New York based Arab music ensembles, including Ayyoub, Zikrayat, and Tarab. www.myspace.com/gaidamusic

Shoshana “Sham’eh” Tubi

Shoshana “Sham’eh” Tubi, a long-time Brooklyn resident, was born in Sana’a, the capital of Yemen. At a young age she learned the wedding songs and dances of the Jewish women of Sana’a, eventually becoming an expert in this tradition. Tubi moved to Israel and then New York to study music professionally, yet on return trips to Sana’a she continued her life’s mission of collecting and learning Yemeni song and dance. Singing in Arabic, Hebrew, Yiddish and Ladino, she performs various genres including wedding songs, lullabies, and religious music. Called upon to perform at weddings in New York,

Israel and Yemen, her knowledge of Yemeni Jewish wedding songs is unparalleled in the world.

Malika Zarra

Malika Zarra was born in Morocco and raised in France, where she studied clarinet and voice. In 2004 she moved to New York City to develop her rich and eclectic style, drawing on gospel, funk and Sub-Saharan African influences, but always referencing Moroccan roots music. Zarra sings in Moroccan Arabic, French and English, blending Moroccan Berber, Gnawa and Shaabi traditions with jazz vocals and phrasing.

www.malikazarra.com

Program Order

Malika Zarra

Opening today's program, Malika, with her ensemble, will sing a range of her own compositions as well as some traditional Moroccan songs including a Berber taxi, sung by a young woman as a call to her lover and Issawa's Woman, inspired by North African women's poetry. Other songs on today's program are "6 April" and "Mchina Jina," which features a Chaabi rhythm.

Shoshana (Sham'eh) Tubi

Shoshana, accompanied by her ensemble, will sing classic wedding songs of the women of Sana'a, the capital of Yemen. These songs were composed and sung by women for women-only audiences. The songs express the beauty of the bride, the solemn moment of the wedding, love, sorrow, envy, and even politics. These songs were sung by two professional women singers at weddings and other ritual occasions.

Gaida Hinnawi

Gaida, with her ensemble, closes our program with her compositions expressing themes of love, longing, and care. Writing in the tradition of Arabic songs that express the pain generated from missing loved ones who have immigrated to other lands, Hinnawi also works off of the poetry genre called Adab Elmahjar, (expatriate literature), which includes poems expressing longing for the homeland. For example, the song "Salam Min Dimashq" is based on a poem Gaida recently wrote, and begins "Greetings from Damascus, greetings from a loving heart..." The improvised music is based on Maqam Bayat with several modulations to different *maqamat* such as Sika and Rast. The song begins with non-rhythmic *Mawal*, and then extends over rhythms that change from *Maqsum* to *wahda*.

ABOUT BROOKLYN ARTS COUNCIL (BAC)

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.

Brooklyn Maqam Arab Music Festival is made possible with major support from American Express, Baisley Powell Elebash Fund, The Mary Duke Biddle Foundation, New York State Music Fund established by the New York Attorney General at Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, and National Endowment for the Arts. BAC Folk Arts is sponsored by Con Edison. Additional support is provided by New York State Council on the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York City Council and its Brooklyn Delegation.