

Williams College Department of Music



Middle Eastern Music Ensemble

Rami El Aasser, Nicholas Mangialardi, co-directors

Ibrahim al-Aryan (Egypt)
(1892 – 1953)

Samai Bayati

Umar al-Batsh (Syria)
(1885 – 1950)

Qultu Lamma Ghaba Anni

Muhammad Abd al-Wahhab (Egypt)
(1902 – 1991)

Zayna

Greek-Egyptian heritage

Apo Xeno Topo / Ya Banat Iskandariyya

Syrian heritage

Hal-Asmar al-Lun

Rami El-Aasser, arranger

Percussion Solo

Rahbani Brothers (Lebanon)

Zuruni

Thursday, May 4, 2023

7:30 p.m.

*Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
Williamstown, Massachusetts*

*Please turn off cell phones.
No photography or recording is permitted.*

Middle Eastern Music Ensemble

Bob Davis – oud
Rami El-Aasser – percussion, voice
Ammar Eltigani '24 – percussion
Joel Nicholas '23 – piano
Nicholas Mangialardi – nay, voice
Asha Myers – percussion
Gautam Ramasamy '26 – percussion
Talia Sanders '25 – percussion
Matt Shareshian '25 – percussion
Chenyang Sun '23 – cello
Lour Yasin '23 – voice, percussion

The **Middle Eastern Music Ensemble**, newly sponsored by the Williams College Department of Music, explores vocal and instrumental traditions rooted in centuries of musical practice. The group meets weekly to play repertoire that spans a wide geographic, historical, and cultural terrain including folk, classical, and popular styles from around the Middle East.

Ensemble members learn maqamat (modes) and iqa'at (rhythms), the musical systems shared among musical traditions of the region.

Translations

Qultu Lamma Ghaba Anni

قُلْتُ لَمَّا غَابَ عَنِّي نَوْرُ مَرَاكَ المُصُون	I said, when I could no longer see your virtuous light
شَفَّنِي وَاللَّهِ سَقَمٌ فِيهِ قَدْ ذُقْتُ الْمُنُون	I was weakened by an illness and tasted the fate of death
وَعْيُونِي مِنْ نَحْيِي جَارِيَاتُ كَالْعُيُون	From all my weeping, my eyes burst tears like a spring
وَجُفُونِي مَا كَفَّاهَا مَا جَرَى حَتَّى جُفُون	And my eyes did not stop until they had run out
هَامَ قَلْبِي زَادَ وَجْدِي فَمَتَى وَصَلَكَ يَكُون	My heart loves, my passion burns, so when will I meet you?
غَابَ عَنِ عَيْنِي ضِيَاهَا يَا قَمَرَ دَارِي الْعُيُون	I no longer see her light, O moon, beware of her eyes

Hal-Asmar al-Lun

هَالَأَسْمَرُ اللَّوْنُ هَالَأَسْمَرَانِي	This dark one, this tan-skinned beauty
تَعْبَانِ يَا قَلْبَ خِيَوْهَوَاكْ أَهْ رِمَانِي	Your love has worn out my heart and taken me
يَا بُو عَيُونِ وَسَا عَ حَطِيتْ بِقَلْبِي وَجَاع	You, with the wide eyes, I put my heart out, but it hurts
بِعْطِيكَ سَبْعَ أَرْبَاعِ خِيَوْ مِنْ الْعَيْنِ رَاسْمَالِي	I give you seven quarters of all that I have
يَا بُو قَلْبِ فِضَّةٍ عَلَى أَيشِ هَالْبَغْضَةِ	O you with the heart of silver, what is this scorn?
بِعْطِيكَ لِتَرْضَى خِيَوْ مِنْ الْعَيْنِ رَاسْمَالِي	I would give you all that I have just to please you

Zuruni

زُورُونِي كُلَّ سَنَةٍ مَرَّةً حَرَامَ تَنْسُونِي بِالْمَرَّةِ	Visit me once a year, shame if you all forget me
يَا خَوْفِي وَالْهَوَا نَظْرَةً تِيْجِي وَتَرْوُحَ بِالْمَرَّةِ	O my fear, love is but a glance at once coming and going
حَبِيبِي فَرَقْتِكَ مَرَّةً حَرَامَ تَنْسُونَا بِالْمَرَّةِ	Being apart is bitter, my love, shame if you all forget me
حَرَامَ (زُورُونِي) حَرَامَ (تَنْسُونِي) حَرَامَ تَنْسُونِي بِالْمَرَّةِ	A shame (visit me), a shame (forget me) a shame if you all forget me