

Williams College Department of Music



Middle Eastern Music Ensemble

Rami El-Aasser, Nicholas Mangialardi, co-directors

Rami El-Aasser, arranger

Drum: Snippets of Spring I

Muhammad Abd al-Karim
(1911 – 1989, Syria)

Samai Ajam Ushayran

Muhammad Abd al-Wahab
(1902 – 1991, Egypt)

Balad al-Mahbub

Mohammad Nouri
(1929 – 2019, Iran)

Jane Maryam

Turkish/Greek folklore

Kadifeden Kesesi

Lebanese folklore

Ya Ayn Mulayyitayn

Moroccan Gnawa folklore

Berma Soutanbi

Rami El-Aasser arr.

Drum: Part II

Sayyid Darwish
(1892 – 1923, Egypt)

Zuruni

Thursday, May 8, 2025

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

Tala Damra '25 – vocals
Bob Davis – oud
Rami El-Aasser – percussion, vocals
Angy Farhat '26 – percussion, vocals
Emily Gubin '25 – percussion, vocals
Sarah Hartman '25 – violin, vocals
Peter Deegan-Krause '28 – percussion, mandolin, vocals
Harry Letterman '26 – percussion, vocals
Austin Lin '27 – flute, vocals
Nicholas Mangialardi – nay, vocals
Dalilah Montesino '25 – percussion, vocals
Leila Ruser '27 – bass, vocals
Talía Sanders '25 – percussion, vocals
Kiril Temnyi – percussion, vocals

The **Middle Eastern Music Ensemble**, 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.