



Mediterranean Music Traditions Classical Arabian Music at Thessaloniki Concert Hall

A virtual musical voyage with the sounds of the orient, from Egypt and Lebanon, is what "En Hordais" Cultural Organization and Thessaloniki's Concert Hall have prepared for us, on Saturday, February 15, in one and only concert that should not be missed: Classical Arabian Music with Lebanon's National

Conservatoire and the Music Ensemble of Cairo's Arabian Music Institute.

Egypt and Lebanon are the two countries that gave birth to the two most important voices of the Arab world: Um Kalthoum and Fairuz. Saturday's concert concentrates on works of classical Arab music tradition from the 16th to the 19th century, highlighting at the same time on the relations with Byzantine church music.

The members of the two ensembles are master musicians and singers, significant representatives of the Arab School, that use mainly Oud, qanun, violin, darabouka and ney.

Among them, singer Ghada Shbeir, qanun player Imane Homsy, ney player Samir Siblini and oud player Charbel Rouhana, have performed before in Thessaloniki, the first two in an event organized last October by "En Hordais" in Thessaloniki's Concert Hall, and the latter as soloist in the International Meeting of Oud, last November in Kalamaria's municipal theater.

The MediMuses project

The concert is an event in the context of MediMuses project, which makes part of the European Union's financing package, under the broad title Euromed Heritage II. It is also financed by the Hellenic Ministry of Culture.

The MediMuses programme targets students of music schools, academies and Universities departments of music, researchers and musicologists, music professors, instruments teachers, music players and composers, radio and television producers, media professionals specialised in music, music critics and, of course, the general public that is going to receive a huge flow of relevant information and events in a period of 36 months.

MediMuses aims to research and recompose the elements of a common Mediterranean musical heritage, specifically the learned or classical music, as it has been preserved in oral tradition, as well as in written sources (primarily manuscript codices of Byzantine Music). It also aims to demonstrate that local national traditions, despite their autonomy and special characteristics, are all part of a common music of the Mediterranean.

The programme's actions include seminars, lectures and classes, international meetings and concerts, scientific symposia, publications and digital productions, exhibitions and multimedia presentations.

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