

The Arab American Arts Institute Presents the Fifteenth Annual

# Arabic Music Retreat



seven days of intensive classes, workshops,  
and a recital by participants and instructors

August 13-20, 2011

Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA  
[www.simonshaheen.com](http://www.simonshaheen.com)

Arab musician and composer Simon Shaheen invites students, performers, and scholars of Arabic music to the Fifteenth Annual Arabic Music Retreat at Mount Holyoke College. The Retreat is honored to present an accomplished faculty roster including Associate Director Dr. A.J. Racy. This year we welcome back Charbel Rouhana from Lebanon, and are pleased that Georges Lammam will join the faculty. We are also offering a special cultural program for children aged 5-10 who accompany a participating parent.

The Retreat includes seven days of Arabic music instruction in both chamber music and large orchestra performance. The Retreat also offers private lessons and classes in Arabic music theory, analysis, and ear training. The structured format, along with the relaxed academic atmosphere of Mount Holyoke's beautiful rural campus, makes the Retreat an ideal setting for the serious study of Arabic music.

## Classes

Seven days of instruction in Arabic music performance, ear training, theory, and history. Two levels of theory classes, beginners and advanced, will be offered. The Retreat will concentrate on daily group classes in Arabic chamber music, coached by a faculty instructor. These classes will help students experience key elements of Arabic music performance such as musical communication, *maqam* intonation, dynamics, style, and interpretation. Primary instruments of instruction will be: the *'ud* (Arabic lute), violin, *nay* (end-blown reed flute), *qanun* (Arabic zither), *buzuq*, voice, and percussion instruments such as the *riqq* (tambourine), *tablah* (goblet-shaped drum) and *tar* (frame drum). Private lessons will be given every other day.

## Students

Participants should be able to read western music notation, or learn quickly by ear (with the exception of those studying percussion). Advanced and accomplished music students who are interested in Arabic music but are relatively new to its instruments are also encouraged to attend. Participants under 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult family member. If you have any questions, please contact us.

## Instructors

The retreat will feature the following instructors and musicians (subject to change):

**Simon Shaheen**      *Artistic and Executive Director*  
*Performance and Theory*  
*Chamber Music*

An acclaimed Arabic music performer, composer and educator, Shaheen tours worldwide as a soloist and with his ensembles, Qantara, and the Near Eastern Music Ensemble. His recordings (*The Music of Mohamed Abd al-Wahhab*, *Turath*, *Taqasim*, *Saltanah*, *The Two Tenors and Qantara*, and *Blue Flame*) have won him an international reputation as a leading Arab musician of his generation. A master instructor in performance and theory, Shaheen lectures and conducts residencies and workshops at universities around the world.

**Dr. A. J. Racy**      *Associate Director*  
*Nay and Buzuq Performance*  
*Literature and Analysis*  
*Chamber Music*

Professor Racy of the U.C.L.A. Ethnomusicology Department is an inspiring teacher, author, renowned composer and performer. A pioneer in conducting Arabic music ensembles in the U.S., he has inspired a generation of Western and Arab musicians to study and perform the rich musical traditions of the Middle East. Professor Racy performs and lectures internationally on Middle Eastern music. His recordings include *Taqasim*, *Jazayer Plus Ali Jihad Racy*, *Ancient Egypt*, and *Mystical Legacies*. His numerous scholarly publications include the award-winning book, *Making Music in the Arab World: The Culture and Artistry of Tarab* (Cambridge University Press, 2003).

**Charbel Rouhana**      *'Ud Performance*  
*Chamber Music*

An accomplished performer on *'ud*, Charbel earned a BA in performance and an MA in musicology at the Holy Spirit University, Kaslik, Lebanon. He authored a 3-volume book on *'ud* method, and teaches *'ud* at the Kaslik University. In addition to performing throughout the world, Charbel is a highly regarded composer with several recordings, including his latest CD, *Doux Zen*.

## Rima Khcheich

### Vocal Performance

#### Chamber Music

Rima is an instructor of Classical Arabic Singing at the Lebanese National Superior Conservatory of Music in Beirut. A graduate of the Conservatory and the Lebanese American University, Rima has performed as a soloist in live performances throughout Europe, the Middle East and on television. She has toured the U.S. as the featured soloist with Simon Shaheen and his Near Eastern Music Ensemble.

## Georges Lammam

### Violin Performance

#### Chamber Music

Born in Lebanon, Georges is a sought after performer on violin, known for his nuanced interpretation of Arabic instrumental music. He and his brothers Tony and Elias perform extensively in the U.S. and abroad, and have made several recordings including *Dreaming the Diaspora*. Georges has taught at UC Berkeley and currently teaches privately in California.

## Najib Shaheen

### Chamber Music

Trained on the *'ud* by his father Hikmat Shaheen, Najib has been performing in the U.S. for thirty years, working with leading Arab vocalists and the Near Eastern Music Ensemble. Najib is a master *'ud* maker and will present a session on the care and maintenance of *'uds*.

## William Shaheen

### 'Ud and Violin Performance

#### Theory and Chamber Music

After learning the *'ud* from his father Hikmat Shaheen, William studied classical violin at the Rubin Conservatory in Haifa. He gives workshops and performs at Universities in the U.S., and performs with the Near East Music Ensemble. He teaches *'ud* and violin privately in California.

## Jamal Sinno

### Qanun Performance

Lebanese-born Jamal Sinno studied *qanun* at the Lebanese National Conservatory under virtuoso Mohammad Sabsabi. Since moving to the U.S. in 1981, Jamal has performed with leading song stars of the Middle East including George Wassouf and Kazem Al-Sahar. He performs with the *Sharq* Ensemble of Boston and with Simon Shaheen's Near Eastern Music Ensemble.

## Dr. Iman Roushdy Hammady

### Arabic Vocal Diction

A native Arabic speaker from Cairo, Iman has an extensive knowledge of Arabic Literature. She taught Arabic language and diction at Harvard University where she earned her PhD in medical anthropology.

## Michel Merhej

### Percussion Performance

Michel was the principal percussionist with Fairuz and the National Lebanese Radio Orchestra for over 20 years, and has been performing in prestigious Arabic Music ensembles in the Middle East and the U.S. for three decades. He currently plays with the Near Eastern Music Ensemble and teaches percussion in New York.

## Hafez El-Ali Kotain

### Adjunct Percussion Instructor

A native of Syria, Hafez studied with master percussionist Hady Jazan, and won the national Syrian percussion competition five consecutive years. He has performed with Simon Shaheen, Dr. A.J. Racy, George Wassouf and Carol Smaha. He currently teaches percussion in the Philadelphia public schools and at Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture.

## Michael Ibrahim

### Adjunct Nay Instructor

Michael is a sought after performer on *nay*, *mizmar*, *kawala*, and bassoon. He is pursuing a master's degree in conducting at Wayne State University, teaches privately, and conducts the Michigan Arab Orchestra.

## Schedule

### Saturday, August 13, 2011

Arrival after 2PM, Welcome reception and dinner 6PM.

### Sunday - Friday, August 14-19, 2011

Full days of Arabic chamber music (groups will be assigned), private lessons (every other day), lectures, and retreat ensemble rehearsals.

### Friday, August 19, 2011

Recital: An informal concert featuring the chamber groups, the retreat ensemble (all students), as well as a performance by the instructors' ensemble. Retreat students are welcome to invite families and friends to the concert.

### Saturday, August 20, 2011

Group performance class for the entire retreat at 10:30AM. Departure after lunch.

**Location:** Mount Holyoke College is a small liberal arts college in the town of South Hadley in western Massachusetts, providing a quiet and intimate setting for the Retreat. It is conveniently located forty-five minutes from Hartford, CT's Bradley Field Airport, three hours by car from New York, and two hours by car from Boston. Bus service is available to the nearby city of Springfield from Boston and New York. Contact us for a list of van services that can bring you to Mount Holyoke from the Hartford Airport and Springfield Bus Station.

**Accommodations:** We have reserved the double occupancy air-conditioned rooms at the College's Willits-Hallowell Conference Center, set on a picturesque lake. Non-air-conditioned dormitory rooms will also be available on campus. *The Willits-Hallowell rooms will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis with deposits.*

**Meals:** All meals will be provided at the Willits-Hallowell Conference Center, from Saturday's dinner through the second Saturday's lunch. Once again, Najib Shaheen will work with the chefs to provide delicious and healthy Arabic meals in the evenings.

**Other:** We will also be able to use the College's athletic facilities (indoor pool, weight room, tennis courts).

**Children's Program:** We offer a special program for children aged 5-10 who are accompanying a participating parent. Please contact us for more information and fees.

**Fees:** Fees include all classes, meals, and accommodation for the entire Retreat. See last page for details. Deposit of \$100 due by July 1st. Balance of fees due by August 3rd. No refunds will be given after August 5, 2011 in any circumstances. Payment via Paypal available with 3% additional fee. Late registration is subject to availability.

**Scholarships:** We offer a limited number of partial work scholarships, priority will be given to participants who have attended previously. Applications are available on the web site. Application deadline is June 15th.

## Additional Information:

### For more information please contact:

Kay Campbell, Administrative Director  
Arabic Music Retreat  
P.O. Box 296  
Accord, MA 02018-296  
Phone: 617-512-8122  
e-mail: kaycam@aol.com

➤ Join our e-mail list – send a blank e-mail message to:  
[arabicmusicretreat-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:arabicmusicretreat-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

## Registration Form/Questionnaire

**To be filled out by all participants when registering.**

First time participants should send a sample cassette or CD of their playing and/or singing of up to three minutes in length in the instrument they wish to study at the Retreat. This will help in identifying each participant's level and will assist with the class planning process. Returning participants are not required to submit an audition tape.

Name: ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: The above information will be listed in the Retreat Directory to be given to all participants upon arrival, so please indicate if you prefer to be listed differently.*

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ If you are under 18 years old, provide the name and e-mail address of the adult family member who will accompany you to the Retreat: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Telephone Number for Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

*Each participant will focus on a primary instrument during the Retreat for private lessons and Chamber Group sessions.*

What primary instrument do you plan to study at the retreat? Please check only one:

☐ `Ud ☐ Nay ☐ Buzuq ☐ Qanun ☐ Violin ☐ Voice ☐ Percussion ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Due to our very tight schedule, you will need to focus on only one instrument at the Retreat.*

How well do you read musical notation? ☐ not at all ☐ a little ☐ fair ☐ well

How well can you learn music by ear? ☐ slowly ☐ quickly

If you have studied Arabic music, with whom did you study and for how long?

If you have studied Arabic music, list up to three Arabic instrumental and/or vocal music compositions with which you are most familiar as a performer:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

If you have studied Arabic music theory, please check your level in the following areas:

Maqamaat (melodic modes): ☐ beginner ☐ intermediate ☐ advanced

Iqa'aat (rhythmic modes): ☐ beginner ☐ intermediate ☐ advanced

Ashkaal (music forms): ☐ beginner ☐ intermediate ☐ advanced

Besides Arabic music, describe any other music education you have had and for how long:

Are you familiar with the art of Taqasim: (Arabic music improvisation)? If so, please explain.

**Fees and Accommodations:** The Retreat can accept payment by:

- 1) U.S.\$ check made out to Arab American Arts Institute, 2) Paypal – 3% additional fee applies,
- 3) funds wired to our bank. Contact us for details.

**\$ 1,088** - Double Occupancy air-conditioned rooms at the Willits Hallowell Conference Center (assigned on a first-come first-served basis for participants registering with deposits).

**\$ 985** - Single Occupancy non-air-conditioned dormitory rooms on campus.

**\$ 902** - Double Occupancy non-air-conditioned dormitory rooms on campus.

**\$ 779** - Commuter rate (classes and meals only).

Roommates will be assigned by the Retreat; we will attempt to honor all roommate requests

Handicapped? Please indicate here if you have any special accommodation needs.

\_\_\_\_ Meals: please note here if you are pure vegetarian or have food allergies.

\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my deposit of \$100 due by July 1st. Balance of fees due by August 3rd.

\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my payment in full of \$\_\_\_\_ (\$1,088 double occupancy in Willits, \$985 single occupancy in dormitory, \$902 double occupancy in dormitory, \$779 commuter rate).

My housing choice is: \_\_\_\_ Willits Hallowell Double \_\_\_\_ Dormitory Single \_\_\_\_ Dormitory Double \_\_\_\_ Commuter

***No refunds will be given after August 5, 2011 in any circumstance.***

***Late registration is subject to availability.***

Please make your check payable to **Arab American Arts Institute** and mail it with the registration form and audition tape or CD to:

Arab American Arts Institute  
P.O. Box 296  
Accord, MA 02018-296

For more information, please contact Kay Campbell at: 617-512-8122; e-mail: kaycam@aol.com.

Arab Music Retreat  
Arab American Arts Institute  
P.O. Box 296  
Accord, MA 02018-296