

The Ph.D./D.M.A. Programs in Music

October 30, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

Baisley Powell Elebash Recital Hall

THE
GRADUATE
CENTER
CITY UNIVERSITY
OF NEW YORK

New York Andalus Ensemble

Dr. Samuel R. Thomas, Artistic Director

Vocals, Oud, Nai, Bendir

Choir:

Prosper Lankry

Fatiha Makloufi

Dalia Kandiyoti

Judy Gelman Meyers

Sjimon den Hollander

Ola Galal

Natalie Haziza

Gail August

Musicians:

Eylem Basaldi (violin)

Nadav Remez (mandolin)

Dror Shahaf (darbuka)

Eric Platz (riqq, darbuka)

Moshe Weidenfeld (piano)

Jonathan David (qanun)

Megumi Saruhashi (violin)

Yoshie Fruchter (oud)

Jenny Ho (frame drum)

Daniel Ori (acoustic bass)

Alon Nechustan (accordion)

Dancer: Nicole Macotsis Hefny

1. **Tushia – Instrumental Piece in “Hidjaz al-Mashriqi”**
2. **‘Et Dodim**
3. **Ya Qalbi**
4. **Dror Yiqra**
5. **Sidi Habibi**
6. **El Rey Ke Muncho Madruga**
7. **Ester Mi Bien**
8. **Zarani al Mahbub**
9. **Ana Mali Fiyash / Adon ‘Olam**

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Notes on the Program

The New York Andalus Ensemble is an ensemble dedicated to performing and sharing aspects of the illustrious musical traditions of the *Maghreb* – Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia. The Maghreb is the inheritor of centuries of cultural efflorescence stemming from the Golden Age of al-Andalus. This region of Iberia, which encompasses the southern part of modern-day Spain and Portugal, was the capital of the Islamic West. During the Golden Age, music, poetry, art, mathematics, philosophy, fashion, and so many more humanistic expressions were cultivated and refined. The different ethnic and religious groups involved in this world of cultural expression left a legacy of cooperation, tolerance, and a reverence for humanity that endures to this very day.

Please visit us at: **www.NewYorkAndalusEnsemble.com** for more information about the ensemble, to join our mailing list for upcoming performances, and for ways to support ensemble operations, guests, and programming with your tax-deductible donations.

We would like to thank our sponsors, the Foundation for Iberian Music, the Music Programs at the Graduate Center—City University of New York, the Institute for Sephardic Studies, and the Middle Eastern—Middle Eastern American Center (MEMEAC), American Sephardi Federation, and our friends the Algerian American Association of New York, Brooklyn Arts Council, Brooklyn Music School, Nahmias et Fils, Tagine Dining, and JAMs (Jewish Awareness through Music).

For extended program notes of tonight's performance, including texts and translations and to sign up for a FREE audio download of tonight's performance, click "CUNY F14" on the ensemble homepage.

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Translations

‘Et Dodim

Refrain: It’s the time of courting, oh bride! Come to my garden!
The vine is flowering. My pomegranate is blossoming.

The rain is over, winter has passed,
Come on, my beloved! Our passion is strong!
Let’s go out into the field! Let’s sleep in the desert!
There I will give my love, to you, oh treasure of my eye.

You are beautiful and gracious; your teeth are white as snow,
Milk and honey are under your tongue,
Please come out and see, by the trails of your sheep,
Let me hear your voice! Show me your appearance!

I went down, oh gazelle, to tend my sheep in the gardens,
To look at your beauty, your eyes are like doves,
I took out my knife, to cut myself roses,
I set me a table, and poured my wine.

Many waters will not, be able to extinguish,
My love, at night it does not calm down,
From the day that you disappeared, I presented my supplications,
If I ever forget you, may my right hand forget me.

Ya Qalbi

Oh, my heart, let this pass, don’t listen to what they say
He who is patient will get through
Relief will come soon to the servant from his Lord
Sadness and solace both come from God

I’ll be patient with these tribulations until God brings ease
The terms are set; God’s rule is inevitable
I’ll be patient with my circumstances and sadness won’t last forever
This is life: it takes us up and down
Relief will come soon to the servant from his Lord
Sadness and solace both come from God

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Dror Yiqra

He will proclaim freedom for all his children
And will keep you as the apple of his eye
Pleasant is your name and will not be destroyed
Repose and rest on the Sabbath day.

Seek my sanctuary and my home.
Give me a sign of deliverance.
Plant a vine in my vineyard.
Look to my people, hear their laments.

Tread the wine-press in Basra,
And in Babylon that city of might
Crush my enemies in anger and fury.
On the day when I cry, hear my voice.

Plant, Oh God, in the mountain waste
Fir and acacia, myrtle and elm
Give those who teach and those who obey
Abundance peace, like the flow of a river.

Know wisdom, that your soul may live,
And it shall be a diadem for your brow.
Keep the commandment of your Holy One
Observe the Sabbath, your sacred day.

Sidi Habibi

I broke my heart in Casablanca.
Come on! Come on! My beloved... where is he?

He took away the light of day. Such is my fate!
Even the rose seems to be yearning.
I am possessed and insane because of this mutual desire.

My master of love (that's him!)
Lover of mine (that's him!)
My gazelle, why did he forget me?

Come to me! Come to me! Come to me eagerly!
Kohl has made my eyes fragile. I am torn by my desire.

I am sick, I am so sick. Ailment has befallen me.
This is a test from my beloved. Let him come and question me!

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El Rey Que Mucho Madruga

Very early in the morning, the king went to the queen's quarter.
He found the queen, combing her hair.
Combing her hair, with a golden comb.
Looking at her beauty, with a mirror in her hand.
Praising the All-High, for having created her so beautifully.
"I have two sons by you, and two by the king; four altogether.
The king's sons sleep separate, and yours sleep at my side.
The king's sons eat separate, and yours eat at my table.
The king's sons go to war, and yours go for walks.
The king's sons ride a mule, and yours ride a horse.
The king's sons wear silk, and yours wear gold and pearls embroidery."
When she turned her face, she found the king by her side.
"Pardon me, pardon me, my lord the king! I was just dreaming."
"At the break of dawn I will dress you with new clothes and a red collar."

Ester Mi Bien

Ester my love, let us built a Holy House
With the help of heaven, and of the One who said "I am (the Lord your God)"
Moshe went up to heaven, without food and water,
He brought down the two tablets, on which it said "I am (the Lord your God)"
Act like Abram, our beloved, who was circumcised at the age of ninety.
Act like Isaac, our beloved, who offered his throat to be slaughtered.
Act like Jacob, our beloved, from who the twelve tribes descended.

Zarani al Mahbub

My beloved came to me in the gardens of myrtle
So pour the wine and fill my cup!

I told him, you are the dearest of all people
Come close to your lover, there's nothing wrong with it!

His mouth is desirable, fragrant like a pure soul
He conquers what he desires. Who could do him wrong?

I told him, you have such beauty, and such elegant taste
Your eyes are bright, there is dew on your cheeks

How much longer will be our separation, the fulfillment of our promise?
I became deprived for you sake, abandoned by all people.

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Ana Mali Fiyash

I don't worry, it is out of my hands
Why worry about my sustenance? The Creator will provide!
There is only one God and no one beside Him!

I'm but a servant of my Lord, He who has great power
To transform all difficulty into ease
While I am only a weak servant,
My Master can accomplish all!

I am not bothered, as faithfully
My Master will take care of everything
My Lord, please look after me
As I am but created from a mere seed

He proclaims who will be, to be
And He, praised be He, provides consciousness
Only He decides for His creation
What will become of it.

From the darkness of the womb,
I emerged to a display of riches
He nourished me with sustenance and pleasures
I came without clothing, but He covered and protected me.

Adon Olam

Lord of the universe who reigned, before the birth of anything.
When by His will all things were made, then was His name proclaimed King.
And when all things shall cease to be, He alone will reign in awe.
He was, He is, and He shall be, glorious for evermore.
He is One, there is none else, alone, unique, beyond compare.
Without beginning, without end; His might, His rule are everywhere.
Without compare, unchanging He, whose thoughts infinity pervade.
Without associate, complete, in might supreme He is arrayed.
He is my God, my living hope. the Rock on whom I will rely.
My banner, and my safe retreat, my cup, my portion when I cry.
Into His hand my soul I place, when I wake and when I sleep,
God is with me, I shall not fear, body and soul from harm He'll keep.
When I sleep and when awake, my spirit in His hand I place,
And with my soul my body too, God is with me, in all His grace.