

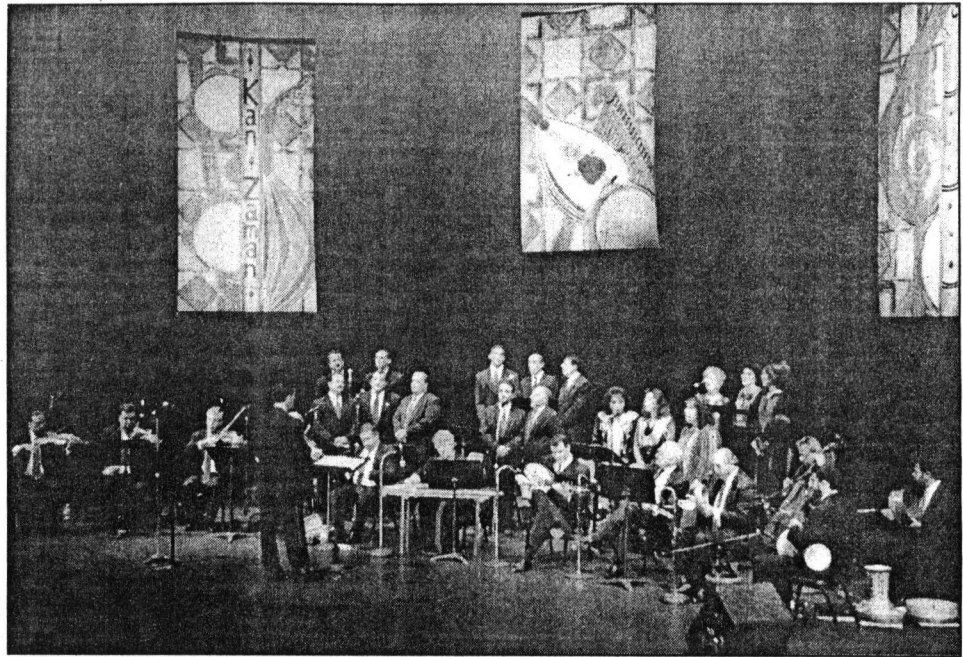
ART & ENTERTAINMENT

WITH DROPS OF HONEY.....AT THE GETTY

LOS ANGELES- Surely everyone knows the taste of honey. The thing about honey is that it will taste better, or at least different depending on the texture. Otherwise, it's just concentrated sweetness, not much different from say..concentrated sugar, satisfying only for the first few moments as you get your sugar rush. But with pure natural honey, the taste lingers. The sweetness changes with every mouthful, yet remains that unmistakable taste of ..honey. But sometimes, honey comes in different forms like honey for the ears.

On Saturday February 2, and Sunday February 3, the famous Getty Museum in Los Angeles, (or just the Getty for people in the know) had the Arabic music group The Kan Zaman Community Ensemble present a couple performances at its Harold M. Williams Auditorium as part of the Getty's Sounds of LA concert series, which is held annually and is designed to explore LA's varied musical geography, and celebrate the works of master musicians. Considering that the Los Angeles area is home to more than 400,000 Arab Americans, it was thoughtful and appropriate to highlight

Arabic music, especially in light of the 9/11 events. Kan Zaman's 14 piece orchestra and 21 member chorus was selected based on the high standards of its musicians and artistic director (which are all volunteers except for the event's featured artists), and its unique repertoire.



Both concerts were distinguished by the ensemble's synchronicity, and fluid unspoken communication between its musicians and vocalists due in large part to its artistic director, Mr. Wael Kakish. Mr. Kakish, who is very mild mannered on and off the stage, attributes his love for the music that he conducts Kan Zaman in to his childhood in Jordan. He fondly recounts his experience as a kid in Jordan as he traveled through the rural country side with his father, and marveled at the many different music and dance variations that he encountered.

Kan Zaman (i.e. once upon a time in Arabic) delighted its audience with its genre of music which concentrates on what is considered as the classic Arabic music, mainly heralding back from the 50's, 60's and 70's. The group's featured musicians included a violin virtuoso, Mr. George Hamdan who amazed the crowd with his 'pizzicato', wherein he played a melody on the strings of his violin, and then proceeded to pluck the violin's stings to produce an accompanying melody. Also, impressive was the groups 'oud' player, Afif Taian. Oud is the precursor to the current western guitar, and is still extensively played in all Arabic music compositions. Mr. Taian took the crowd by surprise as he let his fingers loose on his Oud, and demonstrated both the instrument's versatility, as well as his own mastery of it. Woroud Milad Antabil, the featured artist vocalist perhaps was best fit to truly remind the crowd of the concert's name 'With Drops Of Honey'. Woroud's vocal prowess mesmerized the crowd as she smoothly wrapped her vocal chords around their hearts and elevated them with her clear strong voice to a place where the experience and the Kan Zaman sounds were truly drops of honey..for the soul.

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