



Kan Zaman Performs Spectacular Arabic Concert at the Getty Museum

It was labeled their first "Sounds of LA 2002" performance. Kan Zaman community ensemble performed with their celebrated 35-member ensemble in a concert of traditional, folk, and classical music from the Arab world for two consecutive days on February 2 and 3, 2002 at the Harold M. Williams Auditorium of the Getty Museum.

The musical event included traditional Middle Eastern instruments such as the kaman, 'ud, qanun and nay. **Wael Kakish** was the artistic director and Murshid Khabaz, Kan Zaman's stage manager.

The program included "wasla" in "maqam" Hijazker Kurd followed by a taqsim on the qanun featuring Samer Farah and ends with two muwashshahat by Omar al Batsch; "Rij'it Layali Zaman dore, written by iconic Lebanese singer Fairuz telling that "the good old days have come back;" wasla in maqam Nahawand; wasla in mawam Bayyati; "Jayibli Salam," Fairuz's song in maqam Bayyati singing "A bird from the garden delivered your greetings to me;" "Hadiyat al'eid," an instrumental piece composed by Mohamed Abdel Wahab. After the intermission, the group went on playing "Lamma Bada," a muwashshat in maqam Nahawand believed to have been composed by the Egyptian Al Sheikh Abdel Rahim al Masloub in the "Andaluci" style; followed by popular songs from Syria and Lebanon; "Ghannili Shwai, Shwai" written by umm Kalthum, queen of Arab-language music; followed by a medley of Egyptian and Jordanian folk songs.

When asked about his musical background, director Kakish said, "My interest in music stems largely from my

own background. I come from where lyrics combine to read a certain form of poetry that has three to four lines.

Founded in 1994 in Los Angeles, Kan Zaman is an independent non-profit organization in Southern California, comprised of volunteer musicians, singers and staff from diverse backgrounds to educate the public about the Arabic music and culture. The ensemble performs in various cultural events, and has performed in major universities in the area, the Los Angeles convention center, public television and cable recordings, as well as various museums and international festivals. Kan Zaman has often collaborated or been sponsored by other organizations, artists, and student associations. In addition to muwashshahat, the group also performs songs of major artists of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries such as Muhammad 'Uthman, Sayyid Darwish, M. Abdel Wahab, Umm Kalthum, Farid Al Atrash, Asmahan, Fairuz and many others. The group also performs traditional folk songs from Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Egypt, Iraq, and the Arabian Gulf.

The ensemble has been given high praise in the press and several of its musicians have been featured in local Arabic and American newspaper and magazine articles. The ensemble is very proud to have received several awards for its outstanding contribution to the diversity of art and culture in Southern California.

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