

The Arab American Arts Institute
Presents the Twenty-Seventh Annual

Arabic Music Retreat

seven days of intensive classes, workshops,
and performances by participants and instructors

August 12-19, 2023

Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA, USA

<https://arabicmusicretreat.org>



Simon Shaheen and the Arabic Music Retreat faculty invite students, performers, and scholars of Arabic music to the Twenty Seventh Annual Arabic Music Retreat at Mount Holyoke College.

The Retreat includes seven days of Arabic music instruction and in chamber group 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, including 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. 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 is a professor at Berklee College of Music. He conducts residencies and workshops at universities around the world. <https://www.facebook.com/SimonShaheenOfficial>

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 three-volume book on *`ud* method, and teaches *`ud* at Kaslik University. In addition to performing around the world, Charbel is a highly regarded composer with several recordings, including his latest CD, *Doux Zen*. http://www.forwardmusic.net/charbel_rouhana_official_page.html

Abeer Nehme

*Vocal Performance
Chamber Music*

Abeer is a prominent Lebanese singer and musicologist who performs classical and modern Arabic as well as western styles. She earned her BA from Holy Spirit University, Kaslik Lebanon where she studied voice and qanun. Abeer is a sought-after performer who has appeared at prestigious global concert venues as well as international festivals including Jerash, Baalbeck, and the Fez International Festival of World Sacred Music. She created and appeared in *Ethnofolio*, an award-winning documentary series about global music cultures. Her latest album is titled *Bi Sahara*. <https://paddlefish-gardenia-m8nk.squarespace.com/>

Najib Shaheen

`Ud Performance

Najib began performing `ud with his father Hikmat Shaheen orchestra in Haifa at the age of 12. He performed with Hanan, as well as with the Near Eastern Music Ensemble and Qantara. He teaches `ud privately and is a master `ud maker. He will present a class on the care and maintenance of `uds. www.oudman.com.

Layth Sidiq

Violin Performance

Theory and Chamber Music

Born in Baghdad and raised in Jordan, Layth studied at the National Conservatory in Amman, Berklee College of Music, and with Simon Shaheen. He is the Artistic Director of the New York Arab Orchestra. His CD *Son of Tigris* bridges Iraqi music and jazz. <https://www.laythsidiqmusic.com/>

Michael Jbrahim

Nay Performance

Chamber Music

Michael Ibrahim is a multi-instrumental performer on Arabic wind instruments such as nay and mizmar, as well as `ud. He founded, directs, and conducts the Detroit-based National Arab Orchestra. He also teaches, leads ensembles, and lectures on Arab music, privately and in the classroom, at university and grade school levels. <https://araborchestra.org/meet-the-team/>

Wanees Zarour

Buzuq, `Ud, Violin Performance

Chamber Music

Born in Ramallah, Wanees has a Master's Degree in Jazz Composition from DePaul University. A composer, educator and performer, Wanees trained in both Western and Middle Eastern musical traditions. He directs the Middle East Music Ensemble at the University of Chicago, the Wanees Zarour Ensemble and East Loop, and co-directs the Chicago Immigrant Orchestra with guitarist Fareed Haque. His newest album is "Quarter to Midnight". <https://waneeszarour.com/>

Firas Zreik

Qanun Performance

Born in Haifa, Firas is a graduate of Berklee College of Music, with bachelor's degrees in Performance and Jazz Composition. He has performed and recorded with master musicians such as Simon Shaheen, Bassam Saba, Roger Waters, and Shankar Mahadevan. He teaches privately and presents workshops online. <https://www.firaszreik.com>

Dr. Iman Roushdy Hammady

Arabic Diction

Iman is a native speaker of Arabic, and was born in Cairo/Egypt. She has an extensive knowledge of Arabic Literature and film. She earned her PhD in Medical Anthropology and Middle Eastern Studies from Harvard University. Iman is versed in Classical and Modern Standard Arabic, in addition to a number of Arabic dialects and other foreign languages, and performs multi-lingual (simultaneous) translations, film subtitles, and script adaptations.

Tareq Rantisi

Percussion Performance

A native of Jerusalem, Tareq is a graduate of Berklee College of Music, with expertise in Middle Eastern, jazz and other world styles. He has performed with leading artists including Simon Shaheen, Paul Winter, Glen Velez, and Bassam Saba. www.tareqrantisi.com

Karim Nagi

Percussion Performance

Karim is a native Egyptian percussionist and teaching artist based in Chicago who performs and teaches worldwide. His 2022 album *Huzam* features his original compositions. He serves on the Board of Directors of Chamber Music America. <https://www.karimnagi.com>

Schedule

Saturday, August 12, 2023

Arrival after 2PM, Dinner and welcome reception 6:30PM.

Sunday - Friday, August 12-18, 2023

Full days of ear-training, theory, Arabic chamber music (groups will be assigned), private lessons (every other day), and lectures.

Friday, August 18, 2023

Recital: An informal concert featuring the participant chamber groups, and the Retreat Faculty.

Saturday, August 19, 2023

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 forty-five minutes by car 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 cities of Springfield and Amherst from Boston and New York. Uber and Lyft are available for local rides.

Accommodations: We have reserved the double occupancy air-conditioned rooms at the College's Willits-Hallowell Conference Center. Non-air-conditioned dormitory rooms will also be available. *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.

Covid Policy: Masks will be required during some events. Other measures such as proof of vaccination and prior testing may be required. See the website for our detailed policy, which is subject to change. All participants must agree to abide by the Retreat's Covid policy.

Fees: Fees include all classes, activities, meals, and accommodation for the entire Retreat. See last page for details. Deposit of \$100 due by June 1st. Balance of fees due by July 15, 2023. No refunds will be given after July 25, 2023, in any circumstances. 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 1, 2023.

Additional Information:

For more information please contact:

Kay Campbell, Administrative Director
Arabic Music Retreat
P.O. Box 412
Jefferson, Maine 04348
Phone: 617-512-8122

website: <https://arabicmusicretreat.org>

Email: arabicmusicretreat@gmail.com

To join our email list: arabicmusicretreat@gmail.com

Join our facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/51924008930/>

Registration Form/Questionnaire

To be filled out by all participants when registering. You can e-mail your registration form and audition to: arabicmusicretreat@gmail.com You can also register online at our website: <https://arabicmusicretreat.org>

To pay using credit card, visit: <https://arabicmusicretreat.org/2023-fees-and-payment-links/>

First time participants should send a recording (mp3 or YouTube link) 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 recording.

Name: Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____

Address:

Phone:

Cell Phone:

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: _____

Covid-19 Policy: Please read the Retreat's Covid-19 policy at our website: <https://arabicmusicretreat.org/covid-2023>

I agree to abide by the Retreat's Covid-19 policy - Please check here : I agree

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 circle 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

Have you studied western music theory? not at all basic knowledge strong knowledge

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'at (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 or money order made out to Arab American Arts Institute, 2) Credit card via our website:

<https://arabicmusicretreat.org/2023-fees-and-payment-links/>

\$ 1,369 - Double Occupancy air-conditioned rooms at the Willits Hallowell Conference Center (assigned on a first-come first-served basis for participants registering with deposits; fee is per person)

\$ 1,202 - Single Occupancy non-air-conditioned dormitory room on campus.

\$ 1,103 - Double Occupancy non-air-conditioned dormitory room on campus. (fee is per person)

\$ 997 - Commuter rate (classes, lunches and dinners 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, lactose or gluten intolerant or have other food allergies.

___ Enclosed is my deposit of \$100 due by June 1, 2023; balance of fees due by July 15, 2023

___ Enclosed is my payment in full of \$___ (\$1,369 double occupancy in Willits, \$1,202 single occupancy in dormitory, \$1,103 double occupancy in dormitory, \$997 commuter rate).

My housing choice is: ___ Willits Hallowell Double ___ Dormitory Single ___ Dormitory Double ___ Commuter

**No refunds will be given after July 25, 2023 in any circumstance.
Late registration is subject to availability.**

If registering by mail, please make your check payable to **Arab American Arts Institute** and mail it with the registration form and audition recording to:

Arabic Music Retreat
Arab American Arts Institute
P.O. 412
Jefferson, Maine 04348

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

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