



Radio Kaboul:
Ustad Mahwash and Friends

Friday, November 18, 2005, 8 pm
Zellerbach Hall

Ustad Mahwash, *vocals*
Daud Khan Sadozai, *rubab and sarod*
Prabhu Edouard, *tabla and dolak*
Gholam Nejrawi, *zirbaghali*
Khalil Ragheb, *harmonium and voice*
Thierry Legeai, *sound engineer*

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Afghan Ghazal

PART I: MYSTICAL SONGS

	Naghmah / Instrumental prelude
Ustad Sarahang	Soukhteh Del / The broken heart
Ustad Saharang Text: Sofi Ashgari	Dunya / The universe
Masshour Jamal	Baad Az Khoda / After God
	Instrumental: <i>rubab</i> solo
Ustad Mohammad Hashem Text: Saadi	Dar On Nafas / The Breath
Mohammad Hashem Tchehti Text: Vaez Kabouli	Kharabat (Kharabat is the mystical place where Sufis gather for celebrations.)

INTERMISSION

PART II: POPULAR SONGS

	Song by the second voice
	Song by the second voice
Ustad Mohammad Hashem	Tour Setergo / The black eyes
Saher Herati	Dokhtar e Bagh / The girl of the garden
	Instrumental: drum duet
U. Ghassen Afgan Text: A. Bydel	Zindigi / Life

Where no composer is mentioned, the identity of the composer is unknown.

All songs are sung in the Persian language except for Tour Setergo, which is sung in Pashto.

Program is subject to change at the discretion of the artists.

The repertoire “Afghan Ghazal” comprises mystical and popular songs. The Ghazal is both vocal and instrumental, and the vocalist recites verses by such famous poets as Bydel, Saadi, and others. The character of Ghazal is romantic, and the main subject of the poems is love (*ishq*) in all its emotional shades. The beauty of the poems lies also in the ambiguity of the meaning and sense of the verses. The poet leaves it up to the listener to interpret them according to the inner state (*hal*) of his or her heart and be touched by spiritual or physical love.

This emotional excitement and spiritual trance is a part of all Afghan popular music, but is expressed specifically through song. The recited poems also deal with love, even if they are not as sophisticated and subtle as the Ghazal mystical poems. Nevertheless, the simpler language of this secular form does not prevent the poems from evoking their mystical emotion. Not only the strong rhythms but also the naive language sung by unpolished voices is a very efficient tool to move the listener’s heart.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Ustad Mahwash (*vocalist*) is unanimously acknowledged as the greatest female singer of Afghanistan. She studied under the great masters Nabi Gol, Khyal, Sarāhang and Naynawaz. She became popular through her broadcasts on Radio Kaboul, and was named “Artist of the Year” in 1970, before receiving the coveted title of Ustad (Master) in 1977. For the past 12 years she has lived in California and toured throughout the world to promote a better understanding of the music of her country. The BBC granted her the Asia/Pacific Award of World Music in 2003.

Daud Khan (*rubab*) was born in Kaboul in 1955. He studied *rubab* with Ustad Muhammad Umar, who was the most famous *rubab* interpreter of the classical as well as the traditional folklore styles in his country. Knowledge of building, as well as playing, the *rubab* has become rare, and only a few artists continue the tradition of the classical *rubab*, which was mainly represented by Ustad Muhammad Umar in Kaboul. Daud Khan is trying to preserve this authentic style of his master’s school.

Twice the recipient of an Indian Government grant, **Prabhu Edouard** (*tabla, dolak*) studied tabla in Calcutta with Pandit Shankar Ghosh before playing with such great masters as Pandit V. C. Jog, Ustad Sabri Khan, Smt. Purnima Sen or Pandit Girdari Lal Maharaj.

After having studied the *zirbaghali* drum with his father, Ustad Malang, **Gholam Nejrawi** (*zirbaghali*) studied at the Music University of Kaboul, before being hired by Radio Kaboul. He escaped from Afghanistan several years ago to go to Strasbourg with his father, a great percussion master who died a short time after his arrival in France.

An exceptional talent and frequent accompanist for Ustad Mahwash, **Khalil Ragheb** (*harmonium, voice*) started his career as the drummer for one of the most heralded Afghan singers in the world, Ahmad Zahir. Later he moved to Iran and worked in radio and television. Upon arriving in America, Raghed established SS Afghan TV, currently in its eleventh year on the air.