CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

The Spirit of Fès
From My Soul to Your Soul, the Art of Transmission

Saturday, March 20, 8 pm, 2004
Zellerbach Hall

PROGRAM

Film
Sawt-e-Sarmad: The Sound That Intoxicates Man

Invocation
Yacoub Hussein (Palestine) and Gabriel Meyer (Israel)

Andalusian Jewish Tradition
Françoise Atlan (Algeria), vocals
Jamey Haddad (USA), percussion; Farid El Foulahi (Morocco), oud

Islamic Tradition
The Women’s Hadra Ensemble of Taroudant (Morocco)

INTERMISSION

Percussion Solo
Jamey Haddad

Gospel
The Anointed Jackson Sisters (USA)
Barbara, Carlann, Catrina, Catharina, Doris, Maria, and Pam Jackson, vocals
Ronald Fredricks, guitar; Murle Hinton, bass
Edwin Mitchell, keyboard; Antonio Jackson, drums

Produced by
Fès Festival of World Sacred Music, Morocco
and
Columbia Artists Management, LLC
(Jean-Jacques Cesbron, personal direction)

This performance of The Spirit of Fès is sponsored, in part, by Hear Music.

Additional support has been provided by the Friends of Cal Performances.
Cal Performances thanks the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation,
The Wallace Foundation, and the Zellerbach Family Foundation for their generous support.
The Spirit of Fès tour has been developed as part of the international programs of the Fès Festival of World Sacred Music held in Morocco and its “Rencontres de Fès Colloquium,” whose permanent theme is “Giving a Soul to Globalization.” Its mission is to transport the message of peace beyond Morocco in order to broaden the dialogue begun in Fès about art, culture, and spirituality as a humane response to pressing global issues. The organization believes sacred music has the ability to transcend barriers, transporting us to a plane of universal connectedness that ultimately reminds us of our common humanity.

In 2001, the United Nations honored the Festival as one of seven events in the world that are the “Unsung Heroes of Dialogue,” having reached across the “divide” to the “other.” The international programs nurture this core value of the Festival and Colloquium through a series of concerts, discussions, and workshops in collaboration with like-minded organizations worldwide, engaging artists, scholars, spiritual leaders, politicians, business people, grass roots activists, and a cross-generational public in long-term dialogue and shared experience. The organization aspires to highlight common beliefs and values among worldwide communities to increase understanding and create bridges between peoples.

The Film
Sawt-e-Sarmad (“the sound that intoxicates man”), according to Sufi tradition, is abstract by nature. Its vibrations exist on another level—too fine to be seen or heard. This work is a visual and aural interpretation of this space, which—for many—remains undefined. Music is the one universal language that every human inhabitant. It requires no interpretation, and yet its simplicity of spirit and importance to the soul is often overlooked by its definition in terms of genre: pop… world… classical… jazz, etc. At its essence, music is the first and most precious act of nature. For man, it is the path to the Divine.

Like the medieval medina, or ancient quarter, of Fès, music is a journey through a labyrinth of color and texture, with winding paths that abruptly end with the sudden and miraculous opening of the beginning. The film, directed by Terrance Grace, was filmed at the Fès Festival and Colloquium in June 2003, and will open each Spirit of Fès concert.

Members of The Women’s Hadra Ensemble of Taroudant

Françoise Atlan is considered to have one of the most beautiful voices devoted to the repertoire of the Mediterranean region. Of Algerian-Jewish descent, she has won the hearts of audiences around the world and is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the Prix de la Villa Médicis Hors les Murs, Grand Prix of the Académie Charles Cros, the Diapason d’Or (several times), and the Choc du Monde de la Musique. Her work ranges from the Sephardic Jewish tradition of North Africa to ancient troubadour laments and Arab-Andalusian compositions. Atlan’s performances at the Fès Festival in Morocco have been received with great enthusiasm, and she has been featured as a soloist with the Arab-Andalusian orchestra of Mohamed Brouiell. Atlan opened the 2003 Fès Festival with Goran Bregovic’s oratorio Reconciliation.

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About the Artists

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 ABOUT THE ARTISTS

schedule. He collaborates regularly with vocalist Betty Buckley, Brazil’s Assad Brothers, the Paul Winter Consort, Dave Liebman, Trichy Sankaran, Steve Shehan, and Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel, among others. Haddad is deeply committed to the spirit of the Fès Festival and its mission of creating peace through musical events and thought-provoking interdisciplinary dialogue.

Farid El Foulahi was born in Morocco and is considered one of the finest oud players of the younger generation. He is the protege of oud maestro Driss El Maloumi and is known for his soulful interpretations in the Andalusian musical tradition. For the Spirit of Fès tour, Farid will collaborate with percussionist Jamey Haddad and accompany vocalist Françoise Atlan. The tour marks his US debut.

Gabriel Meyer was born in Argentina and is the son of the influential Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer. A true creative soul, after living a year in the Sinai Desert, he published two books of poetry, traveled to Israel and founded the Metatron Ritual Theater Collective, and created “The Hebrew Holyday Gatherings” through Hitchdashul Pnei Israel for the Renewal and Resacralization of Israel. Meyer is also the co-founder and director of the Sulha Peace Project for the Reconciliation and Healing of the Children of Abraham. Sulha (the Arabic and Hebrew word for “reconciliation”) involves gathering Jews and Palestinian Muslims in the Holy Land for several days each year to reaffirm the bonds of a common humanity. The fourth annual “Days of Sulha” will take place in the Holy Land August 17-19, 2004.

Yacoub Hussein, the son of revered Sufi Sheikh Abu Salech el Refai who represents the Refai Sufi Order of Palestine, has been schooled in the Islamic mystical tradition’s recitations of sacred texts. He is deeply committed to peace-building work and frequently collaborates with artists from the spiritual traditions, especially those from the Jewish faith. Yacoub and his father have toured the United States with Gabriel Meyer to promote peace through song and prayer in churches, mosques, and synagogues, including The Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders at the United Nations in 2000.

Spirit of Fès, Inc., North America (producer) was founded in 2002 as a non-profit, non-political, cultural, and educational organization in order to extend the mission of the Fès Festival and Colloquium to North America. Through dialogue and cultural programming, the organization encourages a respect for the plurality and uniqueness of all cultures. At its core, Spirit of Fès, Inc. seeks to build a global citizenship through the peaceful coexistence of communities bound together by common goals and aspirations. Spirit of Fès, Inc. actively seeks out partnerships and collaborations with other like-minded not-for-profit institutions. For more information, see www.spiritoffes.com.

Fès Festival of World Sacred Music (Fès, Morocco) was launched shortly after the Persian Gulf War in an attempt to reach a better understanding between people from all faiths through the most universal means of expression—music. In 2001, the United Nations honored the Festival as one of seven events in the world that are the “Unsung Heroes of Dialogue” reaching across the “divide” to the “other.” The Rencontres de Fès Colloquium, with the permanent theme of “Giving a Soul to Globalization,” is the Festival’s second program, which addresses critical global issues. The Colloquium invites multidisciplinary participants to offer reflections and bear witness to the paths their lives have taken, their spiritual resources, and, through examples of their actions, propose real possibilities for peace to forge a stronger future. The “Festival in the City,” the Festival’s third program, offers free cultural programs for all ages in the ancient walled city—or medina—of Fès. It is a celebration of the arts and the spirit of the people of Fès. The international program The Spirit of Fès marks the fourth element of the Festival’s programming. For more information, see www.fesfestival.com.
ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Jungli Billi Productions, based in New York City, initiates, develops, and produces multidisciplinary arts projects—film, television, theater, music, and dialogue—with educational and cultural organizations and artists in North America and around the world that share common values. Producing partners have included The Asia Society, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the World Faiths Development Dialogue at Canterbury Cathedral in England, The World Millennium Peace Summit for Spiritual and Religious Leaders at the United Nations, and the Fès Festival of World Sacred Music. The recently completed film Sawt-e-Sarmad: The Sound That Intoxicates Man contextualizes the Spirit of Fès US national tour. For more information, see www.junglibilli.com.

Zeyba Rahman, artistic director
Terrance Grace, stage director/film director
Jean Jacques Cesbron and Zeyba Rahman, tour producers
Jungli Billi Productions, contextual materials
(Terrance Grace, director; Zeyba Rahman, producer)
Zeyba Rahman and Terrance Grace, program notes

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Shawn King, technical director
George Cruze, company manager
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Values and Ethics, World Bank

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And all our friends who have made this tour possible.

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