

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*)

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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 inhabits. 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.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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 de l’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 Briouel. Atlan opened the 2003 Fès Festival with Goran Bregovic’s oratorio *Reconciliation*.

The Women’s Hadra Ensemble of Taroudant offers a unique music and dance presentation from the ancient women’s tribal tradition of the Taroudant region. In contrast to Sheikhs and mixed musical ensembles, exclusively female groups, called *La’abat* (derived from the Arabic root “to play”—“la’aba”), sing and dance during afternoon parties organized for other women. As members of the Houariyat tribe in the Taroudant region in southern Morocco, the Roudaniyates (literally, the women from Taroudant), celebrate life’s joys in song and dance with finesse and, sometimes, satire. Their earthy and authentic sung poetry covers a range of subjects universal to the human condition: love and life’s various trials and tribulations. The intention of this music is to honor and celebrate life.



Members of The Women’s Hadra Ensemble of Taroudant

Like the great African *griot* or praise singer’s tradition, the Ensemble traditionally performs at important events that mark the cycles of life. An important aspect of this tradition is singing praises to the region’s Islamic saints and mystical songs in praise of the Divine. It is this more sacred side of their art—where the sweeping percussive rhythms and the sounds of the *nakous* compete with the poetic beauty of the songs—that the Roudaniyates will present for the *Spirit of Fès* tour. They accompany themselves with a lute-like instrument and various forms of percussion. Their simplicity, their authenticity, and their sense of humor have charmed audiences in France, Germany, Holland, Belgium, and Spain. The Ensemble was featured at the Fès Festival in 2003, and the current tour marks the group’s US debut.

The Anointed Jackson Sisters, representing the African-American Gospel tradition, were founded by the late Evangelist Bertha Jackson, better known as “Mamma.” Natives of North Carolina, they belong to a family that is steeped in traditional Gospel and are the daughters of Pastor Carlton Jackson, Senior.

As the Anointed Jackson Sisters, they have performed in many festivals and on the traditional Gospel circuit, including the famous Bobby Jones Gospel Explosion and the New Orleans Jazz Heritage Festival (2001 and 2002). The Sisters remain one of the highlights of the New Orleans Festival’s Gospel programs. Their music, while rooted in traditional Gospel, is inspired by the African-American styles of jazz and rhythm and blues. The seven Jackson Sisters are accompanied by musicians on guitar, bass, keyboard, and drums. In 2003, the group performed twice at the Fès Festival—at a free concert attended by more than 30,000 people for the “Festival in the City” program in the main square inside the old walled city, and on the main stage on the closing night of the Fès Festival of World Sacred Music.

Jamey Haddad, a Lebanese-American, is regarded as one of the foremost world music and jazz percussionists in the United States. As an associate professor at Boston’s Berklee School of Music, Haddad balances the mentoring of promising young students with a demanding US and international performing

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 Hittadshut 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 Saleh 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 co-existence 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.



World-class performers from every corner of the globe have a home at Zellerbach Hall, thanks to the continued support of HEAR MUSIC. Dedicated to helping people discover all the great music beyond the Top 40, HEAR MUSIC is the sponsor of *World Stage* series performances by some of the world's most innovative performing artists: Cesaria Evora; The Fès Festival: *The Spirit of Fès* Tour; Baaba Maal; and ¡Cubanismo!.

Through stores in Berkeley, Palo Alto, Santa Monica, and Seattle, and the website www.hearmusic.com, HEAR MUSIC provides its customers with service from knowledgeable and friendly staff; stores featuring approximately 60 listening stations, where customers

listen to albums while reading reviews and descriptions provided by HEAR MUSIC's editorial staff; and special series like "Hear Discoveries," which showcase emerging artists. In 1999, HEAR MUSIC joined Starbucks to enhance the discovery of music in their coffeehouses worldwide, carefully choosing music for the playlists from jazz, blues, folk, and other favorite genres.

Cal Performances applauds HEAR MUSIC for its commitment to the discovery and exploration of great music. We extend our gratitude to HEAR MUSIC for its support of Cal Performances and invite audience members to discover their next favorite record in Zellerbach Hall.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Jungli Billi Productions, based in New York City, initiates, develops, and produces multi-disciplinary 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,
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Jungli Billi Productions, *contextual materials*
(Terrance Grace, *director*; Zeyba Rahman,
producer)

Zeyba Rahman and Terrance Grace,
program notes

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*Visit Cal Performances on the Internet
for a sneak preview of the program notes!
Complete program descriptions, biographies, and notes
are available on-line one week prior to each event.*

www.calperfs.berkeley.edu