

His sound comes from a deep understanding of the Multiphonics, sound effects, and percussive playing, in which he blends with his compositions influenced by Arabic, Jazz and World Music. Faris has a unique approach of blending classical arabic poetry meters into his improvisation and composition, in which his new released album "Tripolarity" contains fresh and innovative rhythms that derives from his poems.

Thaer Bader is an oud player from Palestine; a graduate of the Jerusalem academy of Music and Dance. He started playing the oud at a very young age and is now currently enrolled at Berklee College of Music where he is continuing his studies in Western and Eastern music under the supervision of professor Simon Shaheen and pursuing a degree in Music Production and Engineering focusing in Acoustics and Electronics and Post production, plus working as a full time as a live sound engineer at Bergsten company. Thaer has participated in international events at prestigious venues and alongside world-renowned musicians, such as Itzhak Perlman where he was chosen through a competition to teach classical Arab music to international students of Western string music and at the UCLA masters teaching program, where he gave oud master classes to the students creating cultural bridges between Arabic music and western society

Turkish born and raised, **Bengisu Gokce** is a multi-genre violinist and singer known for combining Turkish roots with Eastern-European and Middle-Eastern traditions.

As a professionally renowned performer, Gokce's versatile playing has led her to share the stage with several music icons including Mark O'Connor, Tigran Hamasyan, Aynur Dogan, Shreya Goshal, Toninho Horta, Shankar Mahadevan, Simon Shaheen, Amal Murkus, and Pablo Ziegler to name a few. Throughout her career she has performed in various distinguished venues such as Lincoln Center (NY), Boston Symphony Hall, American Repertory Theatre, MFA Boston, Massachusetts State House, Roulette Intermedium (NY), Shapeshifter Lab (NY) and Monte Carlo Salle Garnier (Monaco).

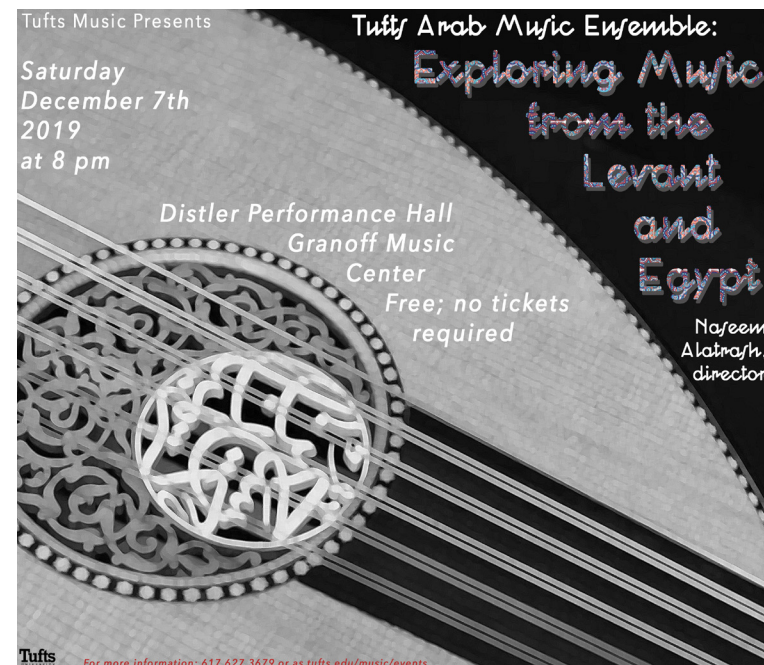
A multi-award winning, Gokce is a classically trained violinist and a performance alumna of Mersin University State Conservatory in Turkey and 'Hanns Eisler' School of Music in Berlin, Germany. Most recently, Gokce has graduated from Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA.

Originally from Tehran, Afarin Nazarijou, has studied music since the age of 5. She has a BA and MFA from Tehran University and is currently a masters student at NEC.

She has performed with Dariush Talaei, Mahsa Vahdat, Siamak Jahangiri, and Negar Kharkan and has participated in the Oslo World Music Festival, Ethno Sweden, Forde World Music Festival, and Visa for Music Morocco

Alber Baseel is a hand percussionist from Bethlehem, Palestine. He is a sixth semester Performance major at Berklee College of Music. After graduating from Bethlehem University, Alber was on staff as a percussion teacher at Sounds of Palestine, a childhood music and social development program, as well as a workshop leader for the international music program Musicians Without Borders. A student of Edward Said Conservatory, Alber began his music education in the Classical Arabic tradition, where he learned what would become his principal instruments: Darbuka and Riq. While those instruments remain at the center of his discipline, his style has expanded to include Latin and African percussion. Throughout his career as a musician Alber has enjoyed extensive travel performing throughout Europe, Northern Africa, the United States and South America.

Department of Music Presents



Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 8:00 p.m.
Distler Performance Hall

*Perry & Marty Granoff Music Center
20 Talbot Avenue, Tufts University
Medford, Massachusetts*

Exploring Music from the Levant and Egypt

Tufts Arab Music Ensemble; Naseem Alatrash, director

Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 8:00 p.m.

Distler Performance Hall

Granoff Music Center, Tufts University

PROGRAM

<i>Touta</i>	Farid al-Atrash (Syria)
Hijaz Medley	(Syrian Folk)
<i>Hal Asmar Ellon</i>	Sabah (Lebanon)
<i>Ah Ya Zayn</i>	Fares Ishaq, nay
<i>Ya Asbeqat Alwardi</i>	Zaki Nassif (Lebanon)
<i>Raqsat Aljamal</i>	Farid al-Atrash (Syria, Egypt)
<i>Imta Hata'raf</i>	Asmahan (Syria, Egypt) Lyrics: Mamoun Alshennawi Composer: Mohamed Alqasabji
<i>Nattarouna Ktir</i>	Fairuz (Lebanon) Composer: Ziad Rahbani
<i>Hkaye</i>	Amal Murcus (Palestine) Composed: Salem Darweesh
<i>Oudak Rannan</i>	Fairuz (Lebanon) Composer: Ziad Rahbani

Tufts Arab Music Ensemble

Eiman Anwar, Julia Asfour, Saccio Ali, Daniel Atik, Titapa Chaikyakiturajai,
Alexandra Cohen, Ludwig Cox, Spencer Dai, Samsam Dirie, Kendall Duboc, Yasmin Farah,
Conor A. Friedmann, Nadya Ghanem, Emily Goldstein, Amel Hassan, You M. Hu,
Ishfer Ishfer, Ani Iyengar, Ayoub Khadar, Rabia Rabia, Alyssa Rose, Wasif Sami,
Visnavy Vickneswaran, Abdi D. Wakene, Si Kun Wang, Ezgi Yazici, **voice**
Briana McGowan, **trumpet**; Carol Kycia, **violin**; Jonathan Finger, **percussion and clarinet**
Jonathan Ataria, **oud**; Jonathan Assaad, **piano**

Guest artists: Marianne Layousse, **vocals**; Thaer Bader, **oud**; Faris Ishaq, **nay**;
Bengisu Gokce, **violin**; Alber Baseel, **percussion**; Afarin Nazarijou, **qanun**;
Naseem Alatrash, director

GUEST BIOGRAPHIES

Palestinian cellist **Naseem Alatrash** was born on October 4, 1991. His performance on cello is creative, untraditional, and unique. Alatrash is an accomplished classically trained musician who is also deeply rooted in the Arabic musical tradition and yet influenced by jazz and other contemporary styles. He has earned a reputation for fearlessly broadening the horizons of the cello on the world stage by using it in untraditional settings. Currently, tours with renowned jazz pianist Danilo Perez's band "The Global Messengers", as well as touring with oud virtuoso Simon Shaheen and Amir Elsaaff's Rivers of Sound orchestra. After studying at The Edward Said National Conservatory of Music in Palestine, he completed a college preparation program in Germany. Alatrash later was the first Arab ever to be awarded a full presidential merit-based scholarship to attend the prestigious Berklee College of Music, in Boston, Massachusetts, where he went on to achieve the highest honors in cello performance. Later he received a master's degree in cello performance at the Global Jazz Institute at Berklee College of Music as well as a post-master's fellowship degree. A soloist, recording musician, chamber musician, composer, and teacher, Alatrash continues his global performance career. As an educator, Alatrash has been a teaching artist at the Boston-based Josiah Quincy El Sistema-inspired Orchestra Program since 2014. He has taught cello improvisation workshops/Arabic music around the world, at such institutions as the Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan and the Fedu Jazz Institute in the Dominican Republic.

As a performer, Alatrash has appeared at numerous international festivals, including the Newport Jazz Festival, the Dominican Republic Jazz Festival, Abu Dhabi Music Festival, Lebanon's Zouk Mikael International Festival, the Nancy Jazz Festival, Lebanon's Beit Aldeen Festival, Aix-en-Provence Festival, and Jerash Festival. He has performed at such notable venues as the Kennedy Center, the Lincoln Center, the Lincoln Theater, Wigmore Hall, Koerner Hall, UCLA's Schoenberg Hall, University of Michigan Ann Arbor Music Series, NYU Abu Dhabi Arts Center, the Royal Opera of Oman, The Royal Albert Hall, and Amsterdam's Concertgebouw. He has performed alongside world-renowned musicians, including Ron Carter, Roger Waters, Terri Lyne Carrington, Eugene Friesen, Kenny Aronoff, Rami Jaffee, Luis Conte, Javier Limon, Jorge Drexler, Alejandro Sanz, Scott Page of Pink Floyd, Carmine Rojas of David Bowie, Mike Garson of David Bowie, and many others.

Alatrash has received international acclaim from media around the world, including The National and Al Arabiya, for his musical arrangement of the Beatles song "Drive My Car." As a collaboration with Public Radio International's radio show The World and the Berklee College of Music, he arranged/adapted the Beatles song with an Arabic twist. PRI's The World released the song on the day that the driving ban on Saudi women ended, as a way to celebrate the occasion.

From traditional Levantine folk to American Indie-Pop, **Marianne Layousse** draws upon her stylistic diversity as an artist in the new wave of contemporary Arab music. A Palestinian, born and raised in Nazareth, Marianne's work blends various cultural influences from her artistic journey. She is currently pursuing a degree in music therapy at the renowned Berklee College of Music, believing that music can be utilized as a tool for healing in war-torn countries.

A Palestinian Nay Master, Composer, and Music Therapist, **Faris Ishaq** is known for his mastery of the ancient flutes "Nay", and despite its simple form, he is on a mission to unlock its maximum potential. Faris is a Graduate from "Global Jazz" Master program at Berklee College of Music, and there he was able to incorporate the flute to adapt to the challenging and diverse environment of the program. His contemporary performance approach speaks of a wide range of vocabulary and techniques, in which he gained by playing Jazz and Indian Classical Music.