

# NEWS



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## **NASER MUSA PERFORMS IN SUNNYVALE MARCH 26**

### **Musical journey through the Arab world features Bay Area musicians, dancer**

SUNNYVALE, Calif. – Virtuoso *oud* player and Arabic vocalist Naser Musa will take listeners on a musical journey through the Arab world, with a concert at Sunnyvale Theatre, Saturday, March 26, at 8 p.m., as part of the City's Evenings of Cultural Arts concert series.

Musa's show will feature music from many different Arab countries, including Egypt, Iraq and Jordan, performed on traditional Arabic instruments, along with stories about the traditions and cultures represented. It will also include original songs he scored and performed for the award-winning soundtrack to MacGillivray Freeman's IMAX film *Arabia 3D*.

Musa is a nationally recognized Middle Eastern music scholar, performer and peace activist who makes his home in Southern California. His music combines Arabic *maqams*, melodic structures or series of phrases based on Arabic scales, with Western elements in order to present a style of Arabic music that can be easily understood and appreciated by the Western listener. A Jordanian of Palestinian decent, he started

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playing the *oud*, a Middle Eastern lute, and studying Arabic music at an early age while living in Amman, Jordan. He moved to the United States in 1982.

A frequent studio musician, Musa has performed on numerous movie soundtracks, including *The Passion of the Christ*, *Body of Lies* and *Zohan*, and has recorded with pop stars including Shakira, Beyoncé and Michael Sembello. He has performed at such prestigious venues as Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Hollywood Bowl, Chicago's Symphony Hall and the United Nations, where he performed his award-winning song "Salam" at the UN's 60th anniversary celebration.

Musa will be joined onstage in Sunnyvale by some of the Bay Area's top Middle Eastern musicians and local guest dancer, Alcina.

Lebanese-born violinist and vocalist Georges Lammam is the second of three brothers who are all professional musicians. He directs the Georges Lammam Ensemble and is well-known as a soloist throughout the Middle East and U.S. and also performs with the world music groups Ancient Future and Shabaz.

Kuwaiti-born percussionist Loay Dahbour performs on the *doumbek* (Arabic tabla) and other Arabic percussion instruments. Dahbour performs with the Georges Lammam Ensemble and the jazz band Sababa, as well as teaching Arabic rhythms for musicians and dancers.

Syrian-born percussionist Faisal Zedan performs on the *riqq* (an Arabic tambourine), *tar* (frame drum) and *derbakki* (goblet drum). Zedan directs the traditional Arabic music group Ajyal, and also performs with the groups Kan Zaman, Stellamara and Eliyaju & Qadim.

Sunnyvale Recreation's own popular belly dance teacher, Alcina, will accompany several songs. Alcina performs several nights a week as house dancer at Menara Moroccan Restaurant in San Jose. She previously danced at restaurant venues in San Francisco and Campbell and has appeared at numerous festivals throughout Northern California.

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The intimate Sunnyvale Theatre is located at the Community Center, 550 E. Remington Drive, between El Camino Real and Sunnyvale-Saratoga Road. General admission tickets are \$28. Discount tickets for students and seniors are \$22. Single subscriptions start at \$80. All Evenings of Cultural Arts programs are Saturdays at 8 p.m. Group discounts are available. For tickets, call the Sunnyvale Theatre Box Office at (408) 733-6611. The box office is open Monday – Friday, 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., and two hours prior to shows. For additional information, call the Sunnyvale Theatre Administrative Office at (408) 730-7725, TDD (408) 730-7501, or visit *Arts.inSunnyvale.com* on the Web.

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