

News

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Cal Poly Arab Music Ensemble to Perform June 3

SAN LUIS OBISPO –The Cal Poly Arab Music Ensemble will perform traditional and contemporary music and dance from the Eastern Mediterranean and larger Middle East, with special guest artists, at 8 p.m. Friday, June 3, in the Spanos Theatre on campus.

The ensemble will perform vocal and instrumental selections from the Ottoman era up to the present by some of the most popular composers and performers of Arab art and popular music. The program will include songs of the Lebanese superstar singer Fairouz composed by two generations of Rahbani composers—the Rahbani Brothers and Ziad Rahbani—as well as contemporary renditions of folksongs from Egypt and Tunisia.

The program will also feature music from the shared music culture of the larger region, including classic pieces from Turkey and Iran, as well as folkdances directed by San Luis Obispo dance instructors Saundra Sarrouf and Jenna Mitchell especially for this performance.

Guest artists on the program will include San Francisco-based Guilnard Moufarrej, on qanun. Los Angeles-based Bahram Osqueezadeh will perform on santur with Amir Abbas Etemadzadeh on tombak/zarb in a special extended set of Iranian/Persian classical music.

The 35-member ensemble is under the direction of Music Department faculty member Kenneth S. Habib, a composer and performer whose doctorate is in ethnomusicology with specializations in the Middle East and American popular music.

Tickets are \$10 for the public and \$8 for seniors and students. They are on sale at the Performing Arts Ticket Office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call SLO-ARTS (805-756-2787).

The concert is sponsored by the Cal Poly Music Department, College of Liberal Arts and Instructionally Related Activities program. For more information, call the Music Department at 805-756-2406.

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