

Qasida



ANA PALMIA

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

Welcome to the Cleveland Museum of Art

The Cleveland Museum of Art's performing arts series brings together thoughtful, fascinating, and beautiful experiences, comprising a concert calendar notable for its boundless multiplicity. This year we look forward to visits from old friends and new, bringing us music from around the globe and spanning many centuries. Here is the place where performance is intended to explore connections of cultures, the heart, the human spirit.

In the galleries

Pharaoh: King of Ancient Egypt
March 13–June 12

Silent Poetry: Masterworks of Chinese Painting
Through April 24

Pyramids & Sphinxes
Through May 24

Ji Yun-Fei: Last Days of Village Wen
Through July 31

Converging Lines: Eva Hesse and Sol LeWitt
April 3–July 31

Jon Pestoni: Some Years
April 23–July 10

The Flowering of the Botanical Print
March 26–July 3

Please **turn off all electronic devices** before entering the performance hall.

Photography and audio/video recording in the performance hall **are prohibited**.

Qasida

Wednesday, March 16, 2016, 7:30 p.m.
Gartner Auditorium, the Cleveland Museum of Art

ENSEMBLE

Rosario Guerrero “La Tremendita,” vocals, musical direction
Mohammad Motamedi, vocals

Salvador Gutiérrez, guitar
Sina Jahanabadi, kamancheh (spike-fiddle)
Pablo Martín Jones, percussion
Habib Meftah Boushehri, percussion
José Manuel Ramos “Oruco,” palmas (clapping)
Abel Arana, palmas (clapping)

Flamenco Biënnale Nederland/Ernestina van de Noort,
musical producer

Ernestina van de Noort, original concept

Flamenco Biënnale Nederland, distribution

A creation of the Dutch Flamenco Biennial in coproduction with the Morgenland Festival Osnabrück

World premiere: Flamenco Biënnale Nederland 2011
www.flamencobiennale.nl

This evening's program will be performed without intermission.

PROGRAM

1. Nana (Lullaby) / Be My Moon – Ghazal by Hafez / Seguiriya

A combination of a popular Andalusian *nana* (lullaby) followed by a *ghazal* of Persian poet and mystic Hafez Shirazí (1310–1337), where the poet asks the beloved “Be my moon, rise up for me.” After the *ghazal*, the piece ends with a *seguiriya*, a *cante jondo* (deep song).

2. O Wild Deer... – Ghazal by Hafez / Petenera

Mohammad Motamedi’s tender interpretation of the Hafez *ghazal* “Where Are You, O Wild Deer?” flows into a *petenera*, a flamenco song that is said to have either Sephardic or even Mexican origins.

3. Tasnif Shooshtari (Love Song) / Fandangos

Mohammad Motamedi sings a *tasnif*, the Persian equivalent of a ballad, which was composed during the 1920s and 1930s. It alternates with the “popular” *fandango*, a free flamenco verse from the region of Huelva in southern Spain.

4. Tiento y Tango / Saghi Nameh (Wine Bearer)

A swaying *tiento* flows into a *tango*, which Rosario Guerrero “La Tremendita” composed using various *rubaiyat* (quatrains) by well-known Persian poets Omar Khayyam (1048–1131) and Rumi (1207–1273) in their Spanish translation. The famous Hafez *ghazal* “The Wine Bearer” fits perfectly in this joyous assemblage:

*O Bearer, bring the wine that brings joy
To increase generosity and let perfection buoy
Give me some, for I have lost my heart....*

5. Romance: Fragua & Bulería / Rubaiyat

Mohammad Motamedi improvises according to his mood and the mood of the hall. He sings *rubaiyat* by Hafez and Omar Khayyam against a festive and upbeat *bulería* rhythm and a text composed by Rosario Guerrero “La Tremendita.” The flamenco introduction of the theme is the *fragua* (blacksmith’s forge), a style native to Triana, the popular neighborhood on the west bank of the Guadalquivir River in Seville where La Tremendita was born.

ABOUT QASIDA

Spanish poet Federico García Lorca described the *cante jondo*—deep flamenco song—as a “rare example of primitive song whose notes contain the naked and horrific emotion of the first oriental civilizations.” A test of Lorca’s words might be the Qasida project, an extraordinary musical encounter between the young Sevillian *cantaora* Rosario “La Tremendita” and her Iranian peer Mohammad Motamedi. “More flamenco than La Tremendita is impossible,” the French newspaper *Le Monde* recently wrote after the presentation of her debut album *A Tiempo* at the Seville Biennial. In Qasida the singer explores the roots of flamenco in the richly varied poetic songs and improvisations of Motamedi, the young rising star of Iranian classical music. Songs of Spanish folk poetry and Persian high art merge into a musical world in which the “Al-Andalus” of old is perhaps briefly revived.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Rosario Guerrero “La Tremendita” (Triana, Seville, Spain 1984)

Flamenca by tradition. A writer by vocation. An artist out of love. Her *jondo* quality is congenital. Her curiosity, acquired. Great grand-daughter of Enriqueta la Pescaera, grand-niece of La Gandinga de Triana, and daughter of José El Tremendo, Rosario caught the singing on the fly and released it from an early age, in fiestas and peñas. Already then her aim was to become a singer, and above all, a lead singer. For this reason, what was known was not sufficient. She believed it was necessary to explore the origins of this expressive discipline and expand on them. So she conducted her own research on flamenco singing, while studying music theory and piano. As she built knowledge, she developed her reputation in the most important competitions (Nacional de Córdoba, Antonio Mairena, La Unión) and she put her singing direction to the service of the most distinguished dancers (Belén Maya, Rocío Molina, Rafaela Carrasco, Andrés Marín). Singing for dance was another subject in her career and she passed with honors. In 2008, after six years collaborating with dance companies, Rosario eventually decided to capitalize on her artistic career: she invested in herself as a solo artist. This is how she definitely displays her most creative side: that of composer. Today La Tremendita offers and directs shows, and contributes her talent to the creativity of artists such as Rocío Molina or Javier Ruibal. Her first album (*A Tiempo*, 2010) was her first great challenge. And it won’t be the only one.

Mohammad Motamedi

Mohammad Motamedi was born in Kâshân (1978), South of Teheran. From a very early age he has been immersed in the flamboyant heritage of Persian music. After having first taught himself how to play the *ney* and how to sing, he began learning Persian traditional singing following the style of Hussein Taher Zadeh under the supervision of Hamid Reza Nourbakhsh. He continued his study with Alireza Lotfi.

Taking inspiration from the classical Persian singing (“Esfahan” style) of illustrious artists such as Tâje Esfahani and Ali Akbar Khân Shahnâzi, the young Iranian prodigy explores the depths of the *radif*—the classical system of Persian music based on 12 musical modes (*dastgah*) made up of 450 modal figures (*gushe*)—pieces of a puzzle that the singer puts together as he pleases to create new musical forms.

Through delicate moving ballads Motamedi juggles between subtle innovations and the centuries-old tradition. He performs with a fine touch and rare skill, and is today’s radiant embodiment of the renewal of Persian traditional music. A singer with exceptional inspiration, Mohammad Motamedi opens up the vast field of Iranian musical creation.

Mohammad Motamedi has cooperated with many ensembles including “The Sun” lead by Maestro Majid Derakhshani, “Sheyda” supervised by Maestro Mohammadreza Lotfi, Iran National Orchestra, and the “Mehr” ensemble which he founded. In 2011 the Dutch Flamenco Biennial approached him and Spanish flamenco singer Rosario “La Tremendita” to create *Qasida*, which has successfully toured in Europe ever since. In 2013 he won the prestigious “Radio

France Musique World Music Award.” Currently Mohammad Motamedi is touring in Iran with Hossein Alizadeh, the famous tar master and longtime musical companion of the legendary Mohammad Reza Shajarian.

A perfect exponent of Persian classical singing from Iran’s younger generation, Motamedi takes the ancient tradition to new heights.

CREDITS

The Qasida tour is produced by:

flamencofestival

with the support of:



UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

Orlando Consort presents live vocal music for Carl Thodor Dreyer's silent film *La Passion de Jeanne d'Arc*

Wednesday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.

Gartner Auditorium

A unique presentation of Carl Theodor Dreyer's 1928 silent film masterpiece *La Passion de Jeanne d'Arc* with a soundscape of choral music from the early 15th century by one of the world's preeminent early-music singing ensembles. \$33-\$45, CMA members \$30-40.

cma.org/orlando

Fanfare Ciocărlia

Wednesday, April 13, 7:30 p.m.

Gartner Auditorium

The Romanian Gypsy brass orchestra with breakneck speed, technical chops, ripping rhythms, and sweet-and-sour horns—a fan favorite of the 2013 Ohio City Stages—returns to Cleveland to make its Gartner Auditorium debut. \$53-\$69, CMA members \$48-62.

cma.org/fanfare

Amir ElSaffar's Rivers of Sound

Friday, April 15, 7:30 p.m.

Gartner Auditorium

New York-based trumpeter, santur player, vocalist, and composer Amir ElSaffar presents *Rivers of Sound*, his new ensemble of 17 musicians from the Middle East and the U.S. Described as “uniquely poised to reconcile jazz and Arabic music without doing either harm” (*The Wire*), ElSaffar has distinguished himself with a mastery of diverse musical traditions, combining Middle Eastern musical languages with jazz and other styles. An expert trumpeter with a classical background, he is an important voice in an age of cross-cultural music making. \$33-\$45, CMA members \$30-40.

cma.org/elsaffar

Performing Arts

cma.org/performingarts

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Ellen Fullman

Thursday-Saturday,
September 24-26, 7:30

Ustatshakirt Plus

Sunday, October 4, 2:00

CIM/CWRU Joint Music Program

Wednesday, October 7, 6:00

Merima Ključo:

The Sarajevo Haggadah

Wednesday, October 28, 7:30

CIM/CWRU Joint Music Program

Wednesday, November 4, 6:00

Calder Quartet

Monday, November 16, 7:30

CIM/CWRU Joint Music Program

Wednesday, December 2, 6:00

James Feddeck

Sunday, December 6, 2:00

CIM/CWRU Joint Music Program

Wednesday, January 6, 6:00

CIM/CWRU Joint Music Program

Wednesday, February 3, 6:00

CIM Organ Studio

Sunday, February 14, 2:00

JACK Quartet

Tuesday-Wednesday,
March 1-2, 7:30

CIM/CWRU Joint Music Program

Wednesday, March 2, 6:00

Dervish

Friday, March 11, 7:30

Qasida

Wednesday, March 16, 7:30

Calder Quartet

Thursday, March 31, 7:30

CIM/CWRU Joint Music Program

Wednesday, April 6, 6:00

Orlando Consort

Wednesday, April 6, 7:30

Fanfare Ciocărlia

Wednesday, April 13, 7:30

Amir ElSaffar's Rivers of Sound

Friday, April 15, 7:30

Tarek Abdallah & Adel Shams El-Din

Wednesday, April 27, 7:30

CIM/CWRU Joint Music Program

Wednesday, May 4, 6:00

Otomo Yoshihide

Monday, May 9, 7:30

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**DEPARTMENT OF
PERFORMING ARTS, MUSIC,
AND FILM**

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Programs are subject to change.

These performances are made possible in part by:

The P. J. McMyler Musical Endowment Fund
The Ernest L. and Louise M. Gartner Fund
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The Frank and Margaret Hyncik Memorial Fund
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TICKETS 1-888-CMA-0033

cma.org/performingarts