

UCSB DEPARTMENT of MUSIC

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UCSB MIDDLE EAST ENSEMBLE PRESENTS SPRING CONCERT

UCSB Middle East Ensemble features Armenian, Turkish, and Persian music, plus much more

SANTA BARBARA, April 26, 2016—The UCSB Middle East Ensemble will present their annual spring concert on Saturday, May 21, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall on the UCSB campus.

The ensemble will present a great variety of music and dance from throughout the Middle East, featuring an extended set of Armenian music and dance, including 3 songs by the renowned blind oud player, Udi Hrant (1901-1978) and another set by the minstrel Gusan (*ashugh*) Sheram (1857-1938). The ensemble will also present two Jewish Sabbath songs from Baghdad and Yemen, a classical Turkish instrumental composition, famous songs by the superstar singers Fairouz (Lebanese, b.1935) and Umm Kulthum (Egyptian, c.1904-1975), and a Persian song composed and performed by Santa Barbara-based Javid-John Mosadeghi.

As always, the Ensemble's Dance Company will perform a wonderful variety of dances, including dances from Armenian, Egyptian, Lebanese, and Nubian cultures. The director of the ensemble's dance company, Cris! Basimah, will conclude the performance with a rousing multi-sectional solo dance.

Scott Marcus, Founder & Director
Sue Rudnicki, Director of the Ensemble's percussion section
Cris! Basimah, Director of the Ensemble's Dance Company

UCSB Middle East Ensemble. Saturday, May 21, 2016. 7:30 p.m. UCSB Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall. Tickets: general admission (\$15), non-UCSB students with ID (\$10), UCSB students with ID (\$5), children under 12 (FREE). Tickets may be purchased at the door, at the AS Ticket Office window (UCEN Room 1535, across from Corwin Pavilion), online at www.music.ucsb.edu, or by calling the AS Ticket Office at (805) 893-2064.

About the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music

From an institution that began life dedicated to training the next generation of music educators, to what is now a fully established research and professional graduate program, graduates of the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music have distinguished themselves both nationally and internationally. Many have gone on to teaching, either privately or in outstanding secondary school positions, and in more recent years, graduates have joined the faculties of major colleges and universities in the United States and abroad. A number have become widely recognized and published scholars; some are now prize-winning and frequently performed composers, while others are writing for television and film. Alumni are also establishing fine reputations as conductors of orchestras, opera, and choruses. Graduates of the instrumental programs have gone on to solo and orchestral careers with leading orchestras, and our singers can be heard in opera companies around the world.

With over 200 events presented annually, the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music offers something for every music lover. The department boasts 26 unique performing ensembles, each with a quarterly concert calendar. Chamber music, large ensembles, opera, contemporary groups, world music, and jazz ensembles make up the department's rich performance calendar, along with lectures, master classes, and presentations from the ethnomusicology, musicology, theory, and composition programs. For a complete listing of

performances and lectures for the quarter, please visit the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music website, at www.music.ucsb.edu.

For additional information, photos, or to request an interview with an artist, please contact Adriane Hill at ahill@music.ucsb.edu or (805) 893-3230. To sign up for the Department of Music's newsletter, please [click here](#). Follow the Department of Music on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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