



FREE LIVE STREAM CONCERT

at Tryon Fine Arts Center

Arabic & Appalachian Fusion

July 24th, 7:30pm

River Guerguerian

Adib Chebli

Bob & Amy Buckingham

Carson Moore

Program:

Prelude- in honor of our partners in Jordan, Petra National Trust:

Mwal Al-Hawa - موال الهوى

River - dombra, Adib - oud, vocals, Bob - fiddle

1 - Blackberry Blossom - زهر التوت

River - dombra, Adib - oud, Amy - guitar, Bob - fiddle, Carson - banjo

2 - Aziza - عزيزة

River - dombra, Adib - oud

3 - Sugar Hill - تل السكر

Amy - banjo & singing, Bob - fiddle & singing, Carson - mandolin

4 - Shalabiyya Girl - البنت الشلبية

River - dombra, Adib - oud, Amy - mandolin, Bob - guitar, Carson - banjo

5 - Dear Old Dixie - الجنوب العزيز

Amy - guitar, Bob - mandolin, Carson - banjo

6 - Ya Mirsal el Maraseel - يا مرسال المراسيل - Hey Postman

River - frame drum, Adib - oud

7 - Long Steel Rail - سكة الحديد الطويلة

River- riq/tambourine, Adib - oud, Amy - guitar & singing, Bob- banjo & singing, Carson - cello

8 - Lamma Bada Yatathana- لما بدأ يتثنى - When She Started to Dance

River - frame drum, Adib - oud & singing, Amy - singing

9 - Elzic's Farewell - وداع الركي

Amy - banjo, Bob - fiddle, Carson - cello

10 - Leylit Hobb - مقدمة ليلة حب - A Night of Love

River - doumbek, Adib - oud

11 - Ground Speed - السرعة الأرضية

Amy - guitar, Bob - mandolin, Carson - banjo

12 - Rain, So That Our Crops May Grow - شتني يا دنبي

River - doumbek, Adib - oud, Amy - guitar, Bob - mandolin, Carson - banjo

Mwal Al-Hawa - موال الهوى - One of the old traditional songs from the fifties of the last century, Jordanians sang and still sing it at weddings and occasions. A Jordanian artist sang it for the first time on stage in 1976.

Blackberry Blossom - زهر التوت - is a tune made by Fiddling Arthur Smith of central Tennessee. It was first recorded in the 1930's and has since become a bluegrass standard.

Aziza - عزيزة - was written for a 1954 movie of the same name. It is in the maqam of Kurd, in the key of D. Music by Mohammad Abdel Wahab (Egypt).

Sugar Hill - تل السكر - was first recorded by the Sweet Brother of Southwest Virginia in 1927. The version we play is quite different from theirs as the folk process has been hard at work in the ensuing years. The subject has morphed and taken on a somewhat saucier tone.

Shalabiyya Girl - البنت الشلبية - in Nahawend D is a traditional song played throughout the middle East, in many countries and cultures. Fayrouz sings, among others. The title is "The Girl From Shalab," which is the town of Silves in southern Portugal.

Dear Old Dixie - الجنوب العزيز - was first recorded in the bluegrass style by Earl Scruggs. Snuffy Jenkins said he learned Dear Old Dixie from the singing of brothers Ransom and Chance Barnett from Polk County NC. Old timers in the community felt that the Barnett brothers learned Dear Old Dixie from Medicine show performers that visited Polk County.

Ya Mirsal el Maraseel - يا مرسال المراسيل - "Hey Postman," in Biyati D, is a 1964 song performed by Fairouz, with music by Philimone Wehbi. This song is about a woman asking the postman to carry a handkerchief that she has sewn to the one she loves who lives in the nearby village.

Long Steel Rail - سكة الحديد الطويلة - belongs to the family of songs and tunes in the "500 Miles, Reuben" family of songs depicting not only the coming of the trains but early availability of faster travel over wide ranging areas. The verses often float between the differing variants. This tune is known in modern bluegrass by Rueben or Train 45, both are fast banjo instrumentals.

Lamma Bada Yatathanna - لما بدا يتثنى - "When She Started to Dance" - in Nahawend D is a song of the Mouwash-shaHat, which is a style of poems and songs that are attributed to Andalusia in Spain. This particular song has been performed by Fayrouz, Sabah Fakhri, and many others, going back to recordings from the very early part of the 20th century.

Elzic's Farewell was popularized by David French Carpenter, born June 7, 1899 in Clay County, West Virginia. A noted WV mountaineer Old time fiddle player, he is listed by the Library of Congress as a musician on two sound recordings: Elzic's Farewell, Kanawha, 1976; and Old-time music from Clay County, WV. Stories are mixed about the origins of this song... it may be that Civil War Veteran Harvey Elswick composed this song as his mother's deathbed request.

Intro to Leylit Hobb - مقدمة ليلة حب - "A Night of Love" - this piece dates to 1973 and was written by Mohammad Abdel Wahab as an intro to a song by the legendary Oum Kulthum. It modulates between several maqamat.

Ground Speed - السرعة الأرضية - is an original tune by Earl Scruggs, who was, among other things, a pilot of small planes. The title refers to the speed of a plane on the ground or taxiing on the runway.

Rain - شتني يا دنياي - this Fayrouz tune is in maqam Hejaz, with music by the Rahbani Brothers. This song is a festive dabkeh dance song asking for rain for the crops.

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Artist Bios

River Guerguerian has been inspiring audiences with his ecstatic and versatile percussion for over 30 years. River's devotion and attention to the vibrant life of the drum reverberate through the mind and soul of the listener.

River was born in Montreal to Armenian/Middle Eastern parents and began his journey into music in 1974. He received a Bachelor of Music degree from The Manhattan School of Music Conservatory in 1989 with the school's award for Most Outstanding Percussionist.

River plays across a remarkable span of musical genres and traditions, both obscure and mainstream. His patient research and unrelenting passion have allowed him to develop a personal and masterful sound from Old World frame drums, Middle Eastern, Indian, Western, African and Afro-Cuban percussion instruments and more. His compositions have been commissioned for and performed by chamber ensembles, universities, modern dance companies, and international music festivals.

As a highly regarded studio musician, River has recorded on over 250 albums and film soundtracks, including the John Cage documentary film, "I Have Nothing to Say and I Am Saying It." Over the span of his prolific career, he has performed and/ or recorded with such groups as the BBC Symphony Orchestra, New Music Consort, Omar Faruk Tekbilek, Tibetan Singing Bowl Ensemble, Paul Winter Consort, Talujon Percussion Ensemble, Lizz Wright, Chuck Berry, Sophie B. Hawkins, Tan Dun, and Ziggy Marley and The Gipsy Kings. He often engineers his own percussion tracks for artists at his studio.

A respected music educator, River is Music Director of the Odyssey Community School. You can hear his lyrical style with his world jazz trio Free Planet Radio, and other ensembles he curates. River is the Artistic Director of Asheville Rhythm, which produces the Asheville Percussion Festival, now in its eighth year.

Adib Chebli is an oud musician and an engineer. He was born in Lebanon and grew up in the US. Adib is formally trained on the classical guitar and self-taught on the oud. Adib played oud in the music band 'Sahar' which performed middle eastern music throughout the southeastern states in the 90's and 2000's. He now performs on the oud at his church and lectures on middle eastern music. He also holds workshops on innovation and creativity. Adib was an inaugural and active member of the Carolina Classical Guitar Society. He currently lives in Greenville, SC.

Bob and Amy Buckingham have been with PacJAM almost from the start. These two have made traditional - yet original - music together for decades, creating such an impact in the genre that they are archived in the Digital Library of Appalachia. They both play and teach fiddle, guitar, banjo, mandolin and upright bass. Bob teaches at the John Campbell Folk School and also teaches private lessons in Greenville. Amy has been an assistant for Mars Hill's Old Time Music Week for over 15 years and is now co-director there. As a duo they specialize in wide variety of songs featuring close harmonies as well as dance tunes. Bob and Amy have an Old Time band called The Blue Ridge Rounders, and they play at many venues throughout the Southeast. Amy is fiddler in The BattleAxe Band, a female Old Time band. Both Bob and Amy are featured on several albums.

Carson Moore began assisting Phil Jenkins (Snuffy Jenkin's nephew) in teaching banjo at PacJAM in 2017, and began teaching in the program himself in 2018. Carson has played cello since age 3, studying with Furman University's Christopher Hutton since age 9 & has studied & taught a variety of West African instruments. A full-scholarship recipient to Bela Fleck's 2019 banjo camp, his primary teacher is Kristin Scott Benson of the Grascals. He studies jazz banjo and mandolin at the Greenville Fine Arts Center - the first student to be admitted to the program on those instruments.