



## PRESS RELEASE ORIENTAL LANDSCAPES

6 February 2018

The second Dutch Edition of Oriental Landscapes will take place from 13 to 25 June 2018 in five cities across the Netherlands. Concerts, workshops and lectures in Amsterdam (Bimhuis, UvA and Amstelkerk), Utrecht (Tivoli Vredenburg), The Hague (Nieuwe Regentes and Korzo Theater), Rotterdam (Podium Grounds, Belvedere Verhalenhuis) and Leiden (Rijksmuseum van Oudheden) will bring contemporary oriental music to audiences in all 5 cities.

Oriental Landscapes is a festival unique of its kind. There, contemporary Oriental music is presented as a trend targeted to enhance the link between masters of classical Oriental music traditions with a new generation of artists and composers. The festival offers a series of international Oriental music concerts and conferences. It introduces a global musical space bringing East and West into an artistic dialogue. We plan a yearly recurrence of the event with different topics related to the Maqam world. In our first edition we emphasized Syria mainly. The edition of 2018 will extend to other cultures such as Greece, Iran, and Turkey. We will also continue highlighting the role of Syria since it is one of the lands, which always embraced and connected the cultures of the Orient

The festival will feature Dutch renowned artists such as Calefax, Matangi Quartet, New European Ensemble, Rembrandt Frereichs trio with Houssein Ali Zadeh, Oene Van Geel. Oriental Landscapes will present special collaborations with some of the world's leading artists from the Middle East region, such as Salar Aghili (IR), Harir Shariat-Zadeh (IR), Hossain Alizadeh (IR), Ibrahim Kevo (SY), Kevork Mourad (US/SY/AR). There will be premieres and performances of compositions by Zaid Jabri, Raad Khalaf, Mayas Alyamani, Babür Tongur, Kinan Azmeh and together with new piece by the Amsterdam-based violist/composer Oene van Geel.

Oriental Landscapes introduces new artists and compositions while giving deep insight into the link with history and music in the East and the West, so that people may share better values. These involve the audience and participants in finding solutions. We emulate discussions about the role of music in integration; the role of communities in preserving the cultural heritage; finding ways to safeguard memories; adapting social changes through music and culture in general.

## Oriental Landscapes Syrian Editions



By Martina Novak

Kinan Azmeh, Dima Orsho, Steven Kamperman, Oene van Geel, Nizar Rohana and New European Ensemble on stage of Bimhuis, Oriental Landscapes 2017

The festival was held twice in Damascus, Syria before the crisis began. The Festival attracted scholars and artists from across the world. Artists from Morocco, Tunisia, India, France and England participated.

Festival director Hannibal Saad on previous editions of Oriental Landscapes in Syria:

*“There were conferences and concerts every day. I am proud to say that all the participants came to the same conclusion: that countries in the Middle*

*East have so much in common, yet are as diverse as the countries in Europe”*

*“I lost my work and my financial support”, said Hannibal Saad referring to his current situation. He has been on a journey to find a sense of purpose despite his displacement: “I found out that I had a lot of valuable things – my history, my contacts and my music.” For Hannibal Saad, the festival will allow him to demonstrate and celebrate the richness of Middle Eastern culture.*

### Note for the Editors:

#### About the organization:

The Oriental Landscapes festival is organized by Music and Beyond Foundation. The mission of Music and Beyond Foundation is to stimulate understanding, promote diversity and foster respect through open dialogue and the diffusion of knowledge for cultures in conflict. M&B Foundation achieves this through music and other forms of art in creating cultural exchange initiatives and projects between East and Western nations with a specialization in Syrian-Oriental and Eastern European cultures.

**On request, exclusive interviews with the participants and/or the organizers of the festival can be arranged. Please, send your written request specifying the organization you represent to: [maryanka.ne@gmail.com](mailto:maryanka.ne@gmail.com)**

Information on artists and upcoming events will be soon available via:

<http://www.oriental-landscapes.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/Oriental.Landscapes/>

Twitter: @syrianmusiclive

Festival Impressions Photo Selection 2017: <https://goo.gl/93QQkW>