



PRESS RELEASE ORIENTAL LANDSCAPES
26 April 2018

Calefax Reed Quintet, Mohammad Motamedi, Rima Khcheich, Rembrandt Frerichs Trio, New European Ensemble and many more at Oriental Landscapes festival in June. Introducing a global musical space that brings East and West into an artistic dialogue.

The second Dutch Edition of Oriental Landscapes will take place from **15 to 26 June 2018** in five cities across the Netherlands. Concerts, workshops and lectures in Amsterdam, Leiden, Rotterdam, The Hague, and Utrecht 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 thematic workshops. 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 Frerichs trio, Oene Van Geel**. Oriental Landscapes will present special collaborations with some of the world's leading artists from the Middle East region, such as **Mohammad Motamedi (IR), Rima Khcheich (LB), Nidaa Abou Mrad (LB)**. There will be premieres and performances of compositions by Zaid Jabri, Raad Khalaf, Mayas Alyamani, Babür Tongur, Kinan Azmeh as well as a special commission 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. 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.

Venues

Amsterdam: De Duif, De Balie

Utrecht: Tivoli Vredenburg

The Hague: Korzo Theater

Rotterdam: Podium Grounds, Belvedere Verhalenhuis, Pilgrimvaderskerk

Leiden: Rijksmuseum van Oudheden

Oriental Landscapes Syrian Editions



Oriental Landscapes 2017 Bimhuis
Kinan Azmeh, Dima Orsho, Steven Kamperman, Oene van Geel,
Nizar Rohana and New European Ensemble
Photo by Martina Novak

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

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>

Organization: <http://musicandbeyondfoundation.org>