

Ronnie Malley + Zeshan Bagewadi – Workshop Description

The 2015–2016 Caravanserai: American Voices season presents acclaimed Muslim-American performers sharing their creative expressions in contemporary music and performance genres. Caravanserai: American Voices launches with a first-ever pairing of the unique sounds of genre defying Palestinian-American multi-instrumentalist Ronnie Malley along with celebrated Indian-American virtuoso vocalist Zeshan Bagewadi. Their innovative, cross-cultural musical styles reflect the diversity of influences, languages, and cultures that infuse the American immigrant experience.

In the United States, the children of immigrants find artistic expressions steeped in two worlds. Muslim-American musicians are influenced just as much by jazz, rock, and the blues as they are by Arab maqam, North African rhythms, Sufi poetry, and South Asian qawwali. Backed by a talented band of fellow multi-instrumentalists, Ronnie Malley and Zeshan Bagewadi will lead a unique collaborative musical exploration that brings these worlds together

Below is a short description of educational activities that these artists will conduct in K-12 classrooms and public workshops during their Caravanserai residency tour. This document offers general descriptions, and activities will be modified to respond to audience size, age level, and time allotted.

Study Guides

Please visit the “Resources” section of the Caravanserai website at www.caravanserai-arts.org/resources to find study guides, reading lists, and web resources that support and enhance classroom activities.

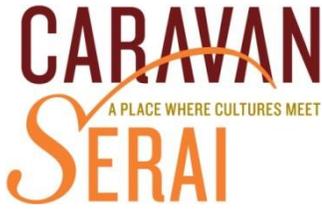
Artist Introduction

Ronnie Malley combines multiple global music traditions – Arab, Turkish, Balkan, South Asian – with his American jazz and rock roots to create a sound celebration that has led him to a diverse career. Born and raised in Chicago, he began his musical journey playing in American and Middle Eastern rock bands and traditional ensembles. Ronnie developed a talent for performance and musical direction that led to his appearance in seminal productions at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis, MN, Arena Stage in Washington, DC, and Chicago’s acclaimed Goodman Theater. He has collaborated with major international world music stars and many notable performers from the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia. Ronnie also composes scores and original songs for multiple film and theater projects, teaches Near Eastern folk and classical music at Old Town School of Folk Music and the Chicago Academy for the Arts, and tours internationally as a performer with Allos Musica, Lamajamal, Mucca Pazza, Duzan Ensemble and as a member of the University of Chicago Middle Eastern Music Ensemble.

Zeshan Bagewadi is an acclaimed classically-trained opera singer from Chicago who stretches the boundaries of his cultural and musical influences to create a unique voice that defies categorization. Zeshan is a genre defying virtuoso who is as comfortable playing the lead in Mozart’s *The Magic Flute* as he is singing qawwali or jazz standards or leading the indie rock band Zamin. Zeshan received his Master’s Degree in Voice and Literature from Northwestern University’s Bienen School of Music in 2011. Throughout his career, he has performed throughout the United States, Italy, and India, singing in 11 different languages. Zeshan is now involved in both solo and collaborative projects and will travel to Pakistan in the spring of 2016 to perform at the Music Mela festival. His latest project is *Dastaan-e-Yaari* (“A Tale of Friendship”), the first ever Hindi-Urdu song cycle for voice and piano.

Musicians and Instrumentation

Ronnie Malley	oud/guitar/vocals	Zeshan Bagewadi	vocals
Tessa Brinckman	flutes/keys/vocals	Robert Fletcher	drums and piano
Terry Longshore	percussion/electronic/vocals	Alec Lehrman	electric guitar
		Garrett McGinn	electric bass



Educational Workshop Structure

Ronnie Malley and Zeshan Bagewadi will offer several residency programming activities that can be presented as interactive workshops, master classes, or demonstrations. School concerts and residency events with student audiences will all feature a participatory or interactive component. *Event programming choices must be determined in advance in consultation with local Caravanserai organizer and Caravanserai production staff.*

Running Time

Total workshop time will be 45- 60 minutes (flexible depending on time allotted).

Introduction

Ronnie Malley and Zeshan Bagewadi will introduce themselves and speak briefly about their background, their style of music, and the multiple traditions that influence their music.

Workshop Offerings

Middle Eastern and Indian Music

Join Arab-American musician Ronnie Malley and Indian-American musician Zeshan Bagewadi for an interactive workshop that explores melodies and rhythms of Middle Eastern and South Asian music and their relationship to American musical forms and styles. Audiences will learn how to speak Middle Eastern and South Asian rhythms and hear how they sound in the music. Audiences will interact with the artists by singing along to songs taught during the workshop. Performances will include Middle Eastern, South Asian, and American music.

General workshop for all-ages and skill levels; no musical background necessary.

Middle Eastern and South Asian Music and Rhythms

Students will learn how to speak the rhythms from these regions and hear how they fit in music and songs. The artists will demonstrate traditional instruments from the Middle East and India. Students will also interact by singing along to the songs and putting to use the rhythms they have learned.

Open to all levels. Ideally students will have access to percussion instruments.

Mid-Eastern and Indian Music Theory

Zeshan Bagewadi and Ronnie Malley will delve into musical modes and rhythms from the Middle East and South Asia. Audiences will learn how to use *maqam* and *raga* scales to create melodies as well as *iqqa'* and *tala* to discover traditional rhythms. The presentation will feature a demonstration of traditional instruments as well as listening samples of South Asian and Middle Eastern music. Students will be encouraged to participate in singing, clapping, and playing on their instruments.

For an academic environment, especially music classes: primary, secondary, and post-secondary.

From East to West: A Tidal Wave of Sound Around the World

Zeshan Bagewadi and Ronnie Malley will explore the similarities and differences between music from the East and West. Through demonstration and listening samples, the artists and audience will explore how technology such as the Fender Twin Reverb Amp and guitar changed the way music was played around the world. Additionally, the artists will present how musical fusion occurs across cultures.

For an academic environment, especially music, humanities, or cultural studies classes: primary, secondary, and post-secondary.

Question and Answer

In the time remaining, the artists will be available to answer questions from the audience.