



Faraj Abyad: Andalusian Love Story Ramadaniyyat 2023



A performance of original compositions by [Faraj Abyad](#), inspired by classical and contemporary Andalusian poetry. Influences from modern Khaleeji, Latin, and classical music will be intertwined with classical Egyptian and Syrian [Muwashshah](#) styles to create a new modern sound

rooted in Arabic Turath and tradition. This performance features ["Andalusian Love Story,"](#) a composition written by Faraj Abyad that is a series of love letters written between [Ibn Zaydun](#) and [Wallada Bint Al Mustakfi](#).

Get to Know... [FARAJ ABYAD](#)

Faraj Abyad is a contemporary Syrian singer and composer based in New York City. The Baltimore-born musician has played in some of the most prestigious venues in the US – including the historic [Symphony Space](#) on Manhattan's Broadway Street. He composes music to classical Arabic poetry of the past and present, each performance featuring a specific poet with his/her own unique style. Faraj was the first Arabic singer/composer to have an exclusive video filmed in the Islamic wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Additionally, Faraj was recently featured at Carnegie Hall on Arabic Language Day in 2021. In 2022, he was commissioned by Abu Dhabi Music Festival to produce an album of modern Tarab to the greats of classical Arabic poetry.

WHAT IS TARAB?

Faraj Abyad composes music to classical Arabic poetry of the past and present. Abyad's songs keep true to the principles of the traditional Arabic musical system— "Tarab." Tarab loosely translates to "ecstasy", which is the spiritual high attained by the listener when Arabic music is played with strong emotions and skill.



Artist Inspiration

When he was 14, Faraj Abyad was introduced to the music of Egyptian singer [Muhammad Abdul Wahab](#) and his unique compositional style, blending western themes with Middle Eastern quarter tone melodies. Abyad asked his mentor where he could find new music composed in this style, to which the answer was: there is nothing new in this genre. Ever since that moment, he dreamt of one day composing in this style and reviving it through his own melodies.

ACTIVITY

Listen to Muhammad Abdul Wahab's body of work [here](#) and watch Faraj Abyad's performance for the MET [here](#). Abdul Wahab was Abyad's primary inspiration when he was younger! Listen closely to the similarities of their style and identify Abyad's fresh takes on the genre.



Learn More



FURTHER VIEWINGS

NYUAD Institute Talk: [On Poetry and Music](#) →

Faraj Abyad: [The Loyalty of the Poet | MetLiveArts](#) →

[Syrian Composer Faraj Abyad is trying to revive classical Arabic music](#) →

[Faraj Abyad - Songs Of Aleppo](#) →

[How New York musician Faraj Abyad is trying to revive classical Arabic music around the world](#) →

[How the oud helped Syrian composer Faraj Abyad find his voice as a tarab singer in New York](#) →



FURTHER READINGS

[Emotion, Performance, and Temporality in Arab Music: Reflections on Tarab](#) →

["Music is Feeling": Tarab: a Phenomenon of Arab Musical Culture](#) →

[Muhammad Abdul Wahab: The Father of Modern Egyptian Song](#) →

[The Future of Arab Music: No sound without silence](#) →

[Al-Andalus: where three worlds meet](#) →

[The Arabic Origins of the Muwashshahat](#) →