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More than a Concert

01.25.2008 | Campus and Community, Culture and Society

Renowned oud player Simon Shaheen brings his music and his rare perspective as an Arab Christian born in Israel to the Dayton community for a week of performance and education.

Shaheen will cap off his visit to the region with a performance by Qantara — his Grammy-nominated group that fuses traditional Arab music with jazz, classical and Latin American music — at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, in the University of Dayton Kennedy Union Boll Theatre.

General admission is \$18 with discounts for UD faculty, staff, alumni and students. For tickets, call Cityfolk's box office at 937-496-3863.

Shaheen, who has established himself as one of the best Arab musicians of his generation, is a composer, leader of two musical groups and virtuoso on the oud — a stringed instrument common in Middle Eastern and African music similar to the lute.

Beginning Feb. 10, he will be in residence on the UD campus, visiting classes and giving lectures and demonstrations.

UD's ArtStreet, Center for International Programs and Arts Series have joined with Cityfolk to bring Shaheen to Dayton as part of the World Rhythms Artist Residency Program.

Now in its second year, the residency program brings an artist or group performing in the Cityfolk annual World Rhythms Series to the Dayton community for an extended period of time to work with UD students and Dayton community members, said ArtStreet Director Susan Byrnes.

Through workshops, lectures, demonstrations and other activities, visiting artists promote the arts as a vehicle for developing culture and community that extends beyond traditional social and academic borders, Byrnes said.

The following public events are all free:

3 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11, Sears Recital Hall, UD Humanities Center

Music from Syria to Egypt: Lecture/Demo

4-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12, East End Community Center, 624 Xenia Ave.

Celebrating Community: East End Open House. Enjoy ethnic food and crafts, as well as music by the Comet Bluegrass All-Stars and Simon Shaheen.

1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, Sears Recital Hall

An Introduction for Middle Eastern Music: Lecture/Demo

Noon Thursday, Feb. 14, Kennedy Union Boll Theatre

Music from Syria to Egypt: Lecture/Demo

UD Arts Series coordinator Eileen Carr at 937-229-2787 or carreile@notes.udayton.edu