

Anwar Abudragh

Iraqi classical music concerts and workshops, August 2009

Anwar Abudragh, a soulful singer of classical Iraqi maqam and inspirational player of the oud (fretless lute) and joze (Iraqi spike-fiddle), is conducting workshops and concerts in Brisbane this August.

Brisbane Powerhouse Concert

Sat 15 Aug 8pm

Abudragh seeks to reinvent Iraqi maqam, by enriching the classical tradition with his musical experience in working with artists and musicians from different horizons. Accompanying him are Iraqi and local musicians on Arabic, Turkish and Persian instruments and the sensational dancing of Tamara Taylor. This varied concert will begin by introducing listeners to the rarefied and delicate sounds of classical Iraqi songs and improvisations, and ends with a large ensemble with Tamara leading an Arabic dance party. Your ears and eyes will be transfixed from start to finish with a plethora of unique instruments, rhythms and accents.

Tickets: full \$27, conc \$18

**Bookings: 07 3358 8600 or www.brisbanepowerhouse.org
or [Anwar's Powerhosue concert page](#)**

Brisbane Powerhouse, 119 Lamington St, New Farm

Iraqi Maqam Workshops

free for kids: Fri 7 Aug 4-6pm

\$30 for adults: Sat 8 Aug 11am-3pm

Community Concert

Sun 9 Aug 12-1pm

In collaboration with BEMAC, Milpera State School and The Romero Center, Anwar will conduct practical and engaging workshops for musicians who like to sing or play Middle-Eastern instruments. Anwar will hold Iraqi Maqam workshops with teenagers from Brisbane's refugee community on Friday 7th August from 4-6pm. The workshop on Saturday 8th August will be tailored to adult singers and instrumentalists. Participants are not required to be able to read sheet music (although music will be provided). Students will be introduced to classical Iraqi Maqam, a traditional song, and we will also touch upon the *takasim* (improvisation). A Community Concert presented by BEMAC, BAMEDAM and The Romero Centre will include Anwar Abudragh and those students who wish to participate.

Location: BEMAC, 120 Main St Kangaroo Point

Community Concert tickets: \$14 and \$8 concession (under 16's free)

Bookings for Workshop and Community Concert tickets phone BEMAC: 3391 4433

For more information on Anwar Abudragh see:

www.maqamat.be

To enjoy Anwar's music visit:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=05HtCZ49yQg&feature=related>

Anwar Abudragh, who was born in Baghdad, lives in Belgium and performs and teaches throughout Europe and The Middle-East. He plays oud, joze (small spike-fiddle), violin and sings traditional Iraqi Maqam. He obtained a diploma from the Institute of Music in 1991 and completed his Masters degree at the University of Baghdad in 1995. He is currently completing a Masters of Musicology in Belgium.

The last great master, Munir Basheer played a major role in Abudragh's musical development. Under his direction and the supervision of the artist Nasser Shamma, Abudragh has participated as joze player in the group Al Baiyariq. He has also worked as a violinist in the Iraqi Symphonic Group. Abudragh taught at the Institute of Music as well as the School of Music and Ballet in Baghdad. He has performed at numerous Arabic and international music festivals including events in Belgium, Holland, Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Denmark, Sweden, Greece, Egypt, Abu Dhabi, Lebanon, Jordan and Algeria.

He currently works as teacher of music at the Arab Cultural Centre in Brussels. He also performs solo playing joze, oud and singing Maqam and collaborates with other groups of different musical styles such as Jazz, Flamenco, Indian, Turkish, Greek and music for films. Currently, Abudragh seeks to reinvent the Iraqi maqam basing himself on the classical tradition which he seeks to enrich with his new musical experience driven from his work with musical groups from different horizons.

Abudragh has recorded 5 CDs including: Traditional Iraqi songs (Belgium '04), Poem for Baghdad (Belgium '03), Berges mesopotamiennes (Belgium '02) and Soufiyatte al Hamayoun (Jordan 2000). His masters are Mohamed Husein Gomar (joze), Hussain Eladhami (Iraqi maqam), Naseer Shamma, Ali Hassen and Raed Khoshaba (oud).

To read, see and hear more about Anwar visit: <http://www.anwarabudragh.com/>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=05HtCZ49yQg&feature=related>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hLyGBF9m1-w&feature=related>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GuiNWEsjIf0>