





FARAH SIRAJ

Named Jordan's Musical Ambassador, Jordanian virtuoso Farah Siraj balances a career that spans the United States, Europe and the Middle East. Farah has performed at some of the world's most prestigious platforms, including the *United Nations*, *Nobel Prize Hall*, the *World Economic Forum*, *The John F. Kennedy Center* in Washington DC, *Lincoln Center* in New York, *MTV*, *Coke Studio*, the TV show *Good Morning Live* in the USA, *MBC TV* in the Middle East and the *Antena de Oro Awards* of Spain. Farah has performed before HM King Abdullah II and HM Queen Rania of Jordan, HM King Juan Carlos of Spain, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and HE Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon. In addition, Farah represents Jordan annually on *United Nations World Peace Day*.

To this date, Farah has toured the Middle East, Europe, India, South America and the United States, spreading the message of peace through her music. In 2011 Farah internationally released her album entitled *NOMAD*, funded personally by His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan. In *NOMAD*, Farah performs her original compositions, fusing influences of middle eastern music, flamenco, jazz, bossa and pop, with lyrics in Arabic, Spanish and English. The recordings took place in the Middle East, Spain and the USA, including more than 30 internationally acclaimed musicians from five different continents.

In 2012, after the success of *NOMAD*, Farah presented the world premier of her new work, entitled *The Arabian Jazz Project*, featuring original compositions and traditional middle eastern tunes set to a jazz context. As a result of the success of *The Arabian Jazz Project*, Farah was chosen as one of New York's "Summer Stars of Jazz" and named "the Norah Jones of the Middle East" by *New York Time Out*.

In June 2014, Farah released her latest album, *Dunya*, meaning "world" in Arabic and Hindi. Farah currently leads an ethnically diverse quintet of *Arabian Flamenco Jazz*, with world-class musicians from the Middle East, Europe, the United States and South America, including music from all four regions. Farah and her band have toured the Middle East, India, Europe and the United States and South America with sold-out concerts in all four regions. During her tour of India, Farah shared the stage with India's most renowned composer, A.R. Rahman, performing *Zariya* live on *MTV*. The song hit #1 in the music charts in India and #3 in the Middle East.

Farah's musical education includes the prestigious *Trinity College of Music* in London and *Berklee College of Music* in Boston, where she was recognized for her lush arabian vocals, as mentioned in the article "Out of Berklee, A Gift of Music" by the *Boston Globe*. Farah's music often expresses the reality of war and raises awareness for the urgent need for peace. In recognition of her humanitarian efforts, Farah was invited to perform at the 2012 United Nations Humanitarian Awards in New York. In addition, Farah's music was played before the United Nations Security Council before passing a legislation regarding the genocide in Darfur.

DISCOGRAPHY

Dunya – Farah Siraj ©2014 Worldwide

The Arabian Jazz Project – Farah Siraj ©2012 USA

Nomad - Farah Siraj ©2011 Worldwide

To the Sudanese Women ©2006 Berklee College of Music (USA)

COLLABORATIONS

Dystopia – Megadeth ©2015 Worldwide

Leilah – Pitingo ©2014 Universal Music Spain (Europe)

Zariya - MTV Coke Studio/A.R. Rahman (Sony Music) ©2013 Worldwide

Dialogue (Mosaico) - The New York Flamenco Jazz Project ©2012 USA/Europe

Homenaje a Chocolate - Olé y Amen - Pitingo ©2011 (Universal Records)

Palladio - Xibus - Boston String Quartet ©2006 USA

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Private performance for His Majesty King Abdullah II, Jordan

Private performance for His Highness *Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum*, UAE Private

Private performance for United Nations, under the patronage of Secretary-General *Ban Ki-moon*

Public Performances

United Nations, USA The John F. Kennedy Center, USA

World Economic Forum, Jordan

Noble Prize Hall, Norway

Lincoln Center, USA

John F. Kennedy Center, USA

Jordan Royal Cultural Palace, Jordan

Jazz at the Lincoln Center, USA

Nobel Peace Prize Forum, USA

MTV Coke Studio, India

Spring of Culture Festival, Bahrain

Global Arts, United Arab Emirates

St. Georges Hall, UK

Blue Note New York, USA

Liverpool Arab Arts Festival, UK

Austin World Music Festival, USA

City Hall of Boston, USA

Harvard University, USA

Georgetown University, USA

City Hall of Barcelona, Spain

Noche Blanca del Flamenco, Festival Spain

Palacio de Viana, Spain

Casa Arabe, Spain

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA

Intercultural Journeys, USA

Embassy of United States of America, Spain

Antena de Oro Awards, Spain

Fundacion Tres Culturas, Spain

National Library of Peru, Peru

VIDEO & AUDIO LINKS

VIDEOS

Zariya with A.R. Rahman (#1 Hit in India):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wlaZSx6tqRo>

Making Of DUNYA:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1E5JDYS0ZHU&feature=youtu.be>

BBC Arabic:

http://youtu.be/4LGoeZv3Tlg?list=PL63lwGZ_8vszn_ua4zInWnH6YU4Oylab

Spring of Culture Bahrain Festival:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HV9_Bw47l-w

Cordoba Flamenco Festival:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tom6sf6h1kc>

Inta Albal (Live in NYC)

<http://youtu.be/xh-Freg6fNQ>

See the World (Live at the Blue Note New York)

<http://youtu.be/nCsHD5Prids>

What If (United Nations Peace Day)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLEj_tkL9QU

TED Performance at the Kennedy Center

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPlogZdCc_w

“Jordanian Samba”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GIUXgonqGro>

Farah Solo performance at Georgetown University:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mefT21QoNMk>

AUDIO

DUNYA

<http://soundcloud.com/farahsiraj/sets/dunya>

NOMAD

<http://soundcloud.com/farahsiraj/sets/farahsiraj>

THE ARABIAN JAZZ PROJECT

<http://soundcloud.com/farahsiraj/sets/thearabianjazzproject>

TELEVISION INTERVIEWS/PERFORMANCES

RTVE (Spain) min 20-25:

<http://www.rtve.es/alacarta/videos/noticias-andalucia/noticias-andalucia-21-06-2013/1889060/>

BBC Arabic:

http://youtu.be/4LGoeZv3Tlg?list=PL63lwGZ_8vszn_ua4zlnWnH6YU4Oylab

MBC episode on "Kalam Nawaem":

<http://shahid.mbc.net/ar/episode/117477/%D9%83%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%85-%D9%86%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%85-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%88%D8%B3%D9%85-2016-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%84%D9%82%D8%A9-522.html>

Quotes from the Press

“The Norah Jones of the Middle East” - TimeOut New York

“Vivacious arabian flamenco jazz” - Rolling Stone

“This singer is the musical child of Umm Kulthum, Paco de Lucia, and Ella Fitzgerald. Siraj possesses a strong, flexible voice perfect for negotiating the quarter-tones of both traditional and contemporary Arab music, adding Andalusian flavors from classical music to flamenco, and dipping into pop and bossa nova” - The Village Voice

"If the straight-ahead stuff isn't enough, and you're up for an act that stretches the boundaries of jazz outside both the genre and the American border, look no further than Farah Siraj" – The Villager

“The exceedingly accomplished Siraj, who has been composing music since the tender age of sixteen, fuses Middle Eastern folk, flamenco, jazz, bossa nova and more, creating and performing world music at the highest level imaginable. Listening to Farah Siraj's music one can hear elements of Spanish guitar, Middle Eastern folk, pop vocals, jazz lines, and the list could go on. Did we mention she sings in Spanish, English and Arabic? Having studied and performed music in every corner of the globe, Siraj's musical ambitions have evolved into a vast humanitarian project that begs listeners to contemplate peace. In a simple phrase, “world music for world peace”.Farah Siraj's compositions are both innovative and breathtakingly beautiful”. - The Key (XPN Radio)

“Her entire repertoire was performed with a radiance and evident enjoyment, her singing voice chocolaty smooth and sweetly melodic – vocally reminiscent at times of Welsh songstress Mary Hopkin”. - Liverpool Echo