a symphony for peace

reflections on the syrian crisis

wright state university
wednesday, march 28
7 p.m.
creative arts center, schuster hall
Welcome Message

Wright State University’s College of Liberal Arts and Collaborative Education, Leadership, and Innovation in the Arts (CELIA) invite you to A Symphony for Peace: Reflections on the Syrian Crisis. This free evening performance spotlights the plight of refugees from war-torn Syria through the combined talents of artists, musicians, and Middle Eastern Studies faculty. Led by Music Professor Shelley Jagow, director of the Symphonic Band and Saxophone Quartet, A Symphony for Peace features a specially commissioned work by CELIA Distinguished Visiting Artist Malek Jandali, an acclaimed Syrian-American composer and pianist. We hope you enjoy this unforgettable evening of music, visual arts, and the spoken word!

With generous support from the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation

About CELIA

Wright State University’s Departments of Art and Art History and Theatre, Dance, and Motion Pictures and the School of Music have joined together to form CELIA—Collaborative Education, Leadership, and Innovation in the Arts—an Ohio Center of Excellence at Wright State University.

CELIA acts to develop initiatives to enrich the already-remarkable artistic climate in the Dayton region—an important tool for economic development.

CELIA enhances ongoing collaborations and nurtures new partnerships. CELIA projects demonstrate high-quality, innovative collaborations, and the ability to further strengthen the reputation of the arts at Wright State.
Program

Movement I: Dialogue

Welcome and Introductions .................................................. Dr. Shelley Jagow
School of Music

The Syrian Refugee Crisis: A Brief Overview .................. Dr. Awad Halabi
Department of History

Letters of Hope .............. Emery Monnig, Ian Carmody, Micah Marshall,
and Zach Scott
Chaminade Julienne Catholic High School

My Syrian Homeland .......................................................... Aghiad Alkhiamy
Wright State University Biomedical Engineering Junior

Movement II: Film and Photography

Beyond Bethlehem ................................................................. Dan Bracken
Media Producer; Ginghamsburg Church

Syrian Symphony for Peace ............................................... Malek Jandali
Composer and Pianist; Founder, Pianos for Peace
CELIA Distinguished Visiting Artist

Portraits of Refugees ......................................................... Benjamin Montague
Department of Art and Art History

Movement III: Music

Saxophone Quartet ............................................................... Malek Jandali
I. Vivace
World Premiere
Wright State University Saxophone Quartet

Give Us This Day (Short Symphony for Wind Ensemble).. David Maslanka
1. Moderately slow
2. Very fast
Wright State University Symphonic Band
Photographs curated by Benjamin Montague
Personnel

Wright State University Saxophone Quartet
Dr. Shelley Jagow, Ensemble Coach
Alex Welch (soprano), Nathan Emerson (alto), Kyle Buflod (tenor), and David Kestner (baritone)

Symphonic Band
Dr. Shelley Jagow, Conductor

Flute
Rachel Smith (Biology)
Megan McFaddin (Music)
Dustin Deao (Music)
Mariah Paynter (Music)
Delaney Linkhart (Music)
Micki Hayes (Music)
Nicole Robinson (Biomedical Engineering)
Judy Cronenwett (English and Theatre)
Taryll Green (undecided)

Oboe
Glenn Harman (Spanish)

Clarinet
Lucas Becker (Materials Science Engineering)
Allison Zimmerman (Music)
Alexander Khatibloo (Mechanical Engineering)
Megan Laux (Music)
Jessica Rench (Music)
Christopher Nilo (Music)
Alexis Voisard (English)
Joseph Swetlik (Music)
Joshua Seitz (Economics)

Bass Clarinet
Conner Campfield (Music)

Bassoon
Jonathan Baldwin (Music)

Alto Saxophone
Cody Fourman (Chemistry)
Jonathan Gaul (Music)
Gracie Whittaker (Early Childhood Education)

Tenor Saxophone
Kyle Buflod (Music)

Baritone Saxophone
Dalton Throckmorton (Political Science)
Trumpet
Nathaniel Khatibloo (Computer Engineering)
Weston Gelford (Biomedical Engineering)
Connor Brogan (Industrial Engineering)
Daniel Waugh (Music)
Daniel Hackathorne (Music)
Erin Helser (Music)
Emily Stringer (Music)
Shelby Holmes (Music)
Jacob Haines (Earth and Environmental Sciences)
Skyler Foster (Criminal Justice)

Horn
Jacob Jadischke (Mechanical Engineering)
Alicia Watson (Music)
Taylor Schuller (Materials Science Engineering)
Emily Schlaegel (Music)
Joshua Taylor (Music)
Wesley Michael (Music)

Trombone
Drew Gillum (Music)
Christian Davis (Music)
Anthony Emmons (Music)

Euphonium
Andrew Blake (Engineering and Music)
Benjamin Koerner (Psychology)
Mara Burnett (Business and Music)

Tuba
Paul Boocher (Music)
Ian Blouch (Music)

Percussion
Guthrie Douglas (Music)
Daniel Page (Music)
Rebecca Carlson (Music)
Nathaniel Jeffery (Music)
Jaime Kice (Music)
Michael Miller (Music)
Troy Davis (Music)
Anthony Palumbo (Film)
Jesse Duncan (Music)

Piano
Vicky (Hei Man) Tong (Music)
Malek Jandali, Composer and Pianist, Founder, Pianos for Peace

German born, Syrian-American composer Malek Jandali has been hailed by BBC WorldNews as “an acclaimed pianist.” His music has been described as “moving and thought provoking” by Bob Stevenson of NPR. His most recent commission was premiered by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. “The world premiere of ‘The Silent Ocean’ by Malek Jandali was an evocative and emotional journey for musicians and audience members. In this piece Malek captures the struggle, trauma, and triumph of our displaced brothers and sisters, through the voice of a child. It is a beautiful and important message.” (Maestra Marin Alsop)

Malek’s compositions not only integrate Middle Eastern modes into Western classical forms and harmony, they echo UNESCO’s call to preserve and protect the rich cultural heritage of Syria and the Silk Road at a time when it is being eradicated. They range from chamber music to large-scale orchestral works including three symphonies and concertos for violin and piano. His works have been performed by numerous leading orchestras such as the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, The Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra, The Cairo Symphony Orchestra, The Stockholm Solister, and the Russian Philharmonic Orchestra, among others. David Firman of the RPO describes Jandali’s music as “gorgeous, haunting, yearning, and full of hope, with a pain more personal than that of Tchaikovsky or Rachmaninoff.”

His albums Syrian Symphony, SoHo, Hiraeth, and The Jasmine Tree were released at Carnegie Hall in 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 respectively. Jandali’s compositions have been described by Fanfare magazine as “a major new addition to the 21st century’s symphonic literature.” American Record Guide hailed the Syrian Symphony album as having “heart-rending melodies, lush orchestration, clever transitions, and creative textures.” The Syrian children were the inspiration for his second symphony, Luminosity, which was premiered by the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra at Carnegie Hall and recorded at the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

A prolific composer, his repertoire includes four symphonies and concertos for piano, violin, and cello in addition to numerous chamber works. Recent commissions include a Piano Quintet for the Apollo Chamber Players, a Saxophone Quartet for Wright State University, a String Quartet for the Nashville Symphony Orchestra, and a Symphonic Poem, “The Silent Ocean” for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Maestra Marin Alsop, received a standing ovation and “found a rapt audience at its world premiere” (The Washington Post).

Jandali is the recipient of the 2014 Global Music Humanitarian Award and in 2015, The Carnegie Corporation of New York honored him as a Great Immigrant. Jandali is a strong advocate for peace and human rights and was selected as a Visiting Scholar for the 2017/2018 academic year in the Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights at Rutgers University. His causes go beyond those of humanitarian activism, as he is regularly recognized by and invited to speak to key academic audiences at Harvard University, the Skoll World Form, Duke University, Aspen Ideas Festival, Fordham University, the United Nations headquarters in New York City, and the Doha Debates at Georgetown University in Qatar.

He is the founder and CEO of Pianos for Peace, a nonprofit organization dedicated to building peace through music and education. He embraces young talent through the Malek Jandali International Youth Piano Competition. Jandali makes his home in both New York City and Atlanta. His music is published by Soul b Music and can be found on iTunes, Amazon and at Virgin Megastores worldwide.

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Aghiad Alkhiamy, a current junior studying biomedical engineering at Wright State University, was born and raised in Damascus, Syria. While in Syria, Alkhiamy worked with an organization to collect clothes and blankets to give to those who were forced to flee their cities and who lost their homes. In the second year of the revolution, he traveled to Lebanon, where he served as a volunteer to work with Syrian children in a refugee camp. Upon graduating high school in 2014 in Syria, Alkhiamy decided to leave for the United States of America due to the ongoing war in his country.

Alkhiamy spent his first semester at Wright State studying English in the LEAP (Learning English for Academic and Professional Purposes) program before entering his major in biomedical engineering. Alkhiamy serves as treasurer of the Muslim Student Association and was the recipient of the 2017 Global Citizen Award from the Wright State University Center for International Education. Last year he worked with a United Kingdom–based association called From Syria with Love, which collects drawings from children refugees and sells their pieces in art exhibitions at universities. The money raised from the exhibitions is used to build hospitals and schools in refugee camps. Alkhiamy summarizes his career goals as follows:

“I have two dream jobs. The first is to work in a company that creates prosthetics and to be the one who has enough engineering and human structure information skills so I can connect the two fields together and come up with a device that helps humanity. My second dream job is to go back to Syria and help people who suffer and have lost part of their bodies from the aggressive war that is happening there to try to enhance what is left in their lives. My biggest hope is to see my country safe again and to go back there and rebuild the oldest city in the world.”

Dan Bracken has been the senior media producer at Ginghamsburg Church since 2006. Every winter Ginghamsburg Church raises funds to support development projects around the world. To document these efforts, Bracken has filmed agriculture and safe-water initiatives in Sudan; malaria-net distribution in South Sudan; flood-relief projects in Louisiana; heroin recovery in Ohio; and support efforts for refugees in Beirut, Lebanon. Most recently Bracken has documented poverty development in Jamaica and El Salvador and has come to believe that humility is the world’s pathway to peace. He graduated in 2006 from Asbury College with a degree in media communication. Bracken has been married since 2008 and has twin children born on 12/12/12.

Awad Halabi is associate professor in the Departments of History and Religion Philosophy, and Classics, specializing in Islam and the modern Middle East. He is the coordinator of the Wright State University’s minor in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies. Halabi organizes the annual Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Lecture Series, which hosts speakers to deliver public talks on Islam and the Middle East. His main research focuses on Islamic rituals and Palestine during the period of late-Ottoman and British colonial rule. Halabi graduated from the University of Toronto.
Benjamin Montague is associate professor in photography at Wright State University. He received his M.F.A. from the University of Delaware in 2003 and his B.A. from Marlboro College in 1993. Montague has exhibited his work widely and is currently represented by Works on Paper Gallery in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He has won several grants including Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Awards in 2007 and 2017. Montague’s work is included in the collections of the Columbus Museum of Art and the New Mexico Museum of Art in Santa Fe.

Shelley M. Jagow (Ph.D.) is professor of music (saxophone) at Wright State University and director of the Symphonic Band and Saxophone Quartet. She is a Vandoren Regional Artist as well as a music education clinician for Conn-Selmer, Hal Leonard, and Meredith Music. “Dr. J” enjoys working with school bands and presents clinics, performances, and adjudications and serves as honor band conductor at state, national, and international events. Jagow was previously nominated for both the Robert J. Kegerreis Distinguished Professor of Teaching Award and the Brage Golding Distinguished Professor of Research Award. She has published numerous articles in periodicals and is a contributing author to both The Music Director’s Cookbook (Meredith Music) and Teaching Music through Performance in Band (GIA) series. Jagow is the author of several Meredith Music Publication books including Teaching Instrumental Music: Developing the Complete Band Program; Tuning for Wind Instruments: A Roadmap to Successful Intonation; Intermediate Studies for Developing Artists on the Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone and Bassoon; and The Londeix Lectures—a multi-DVD set archiving the historical lectures of Jean-Marie Londeix. Her website is www.shelleyjagow.com

Wright State University Saxophone Quartet

Kyle Buflod (tenor), Alex Welch (soprano), Nathan Emerson (alto), David Kestner (baritone) are the Wright State University Saxophone Quartet, a performing chamber ensemble composed of music students under the coaching of Professor Shelley Jagow. All members are music education and/or performance majors at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. Quartet membership is chosen annually on a highly selective audition process. The Quartet has performed throughout the United States in Connecticut, Indiana, Nebraska, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. International performance tours include Japan, Italy, and Scotland.

The WSU Saxophone Quartet is a recipient of the Edgar Hardy Scholarship, the Dayton Chamber Music Society Scholarship, the Chamber Music Institute Fellowship, and the Wright State University Presidential Commendation for Excellence. The quartet has commissioned and premiered works from national composers all across the world. The group performs a diverse musical repertory and is often invited to perform at school, community, and professional events including the Ohio Music Educators Association (OMEA) State Conference, the Music Educators National Conference (MENC), the North American Saxophone Alliance (NASA) conferences, the International Society for Music Education (ISME), the World Saxophone Congress, and the United States Navy Band International Saxophone Symposium.
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