

COMMUNITY EVENTS, CONVERSATIONS & PERFORMANCE

INDIANAPOLIS SYMPHONIC CHOIR
PRESENTS

A NEW
MUSICAL
WORK:

ZABUR

INTERFAITH CONVERSATION

TUESDAY, APRIL 21 | 4:00-6:00PM

INDIANA INTERCHURCH CENTER | KRANNERT ROOM | 1100 W. 42ND ST. | INDIANAPOLIS

Center for Interfaith Cooperation is hosting an interfaith celebration of Psalms, the text that helped to inspire the composition of *Zabur*. Over 3,000 years old, Psalms is an extraordinary example of how sacred text continues to influence our culture. Come prepared to contribute something about your favorite Psalm and plan to join us as we share stories, songs, and music that show the enduring power of sacred verse.

ART: A BRIDGE BETWEEN CULTURES

FRIDAY, APRIL 24 | 4:00-5:30PM

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL | PARISH HALL | 125 MONUMENT CIRCLE | INDIANAPOLIS

In this free public dialogue, Faisal Al-Juburi, Executive Director of Bridges of Understanding, will lead a spirited conversation with experienced diplomats and artists, including Ambassador Cynthia Schneider, film director Ruba Nadda, Bronx educator Brandon Cardet-Hernandez, and Herron School of Art and Design professor and GRAM Artprize winner, Anila Quayyum Agha. Together, they will explore how an artist's cultural and religious background can help bridge understanding to shape public policy.

MAESTRO CONVERSATION

FRIDAY, APRIL 24 | 7:15-7:45PM

HILBERT CIRCLE THEATRE | 45 MONUMENT CIRCLE | INDIANAPOLIS

Join conductor Eric Stark, ISO CEO Gary Ginstling and composer Mohammed Fairouz for an introduction to *Zabur* just before the downbeat of the world premiere performance. This 30-minute pre-concert conversation provides insight into the creative process behind a new, large-scale musical composition, as told by the composer and the conductor themselves.

*ADMISSION TO THIS EVENT IS INCLUDED WITH THE PURCHASE OF A CONCERT TICKET

FAURÉ REQUIEM & FAIROUZ ZABUR



WORLD PREMIERE PERFORMANCE

FRIDAY, APRIL 24 | 8:00 PM

HILBERT CIRCLE THEATRE | 45 MONUMENT CIRCLE | INDIANAPOLIS

Always intimate and moving, Fauré's Requiem is paired opposite a new work by composer Mohammed Fairouz titled *Zabur*. This world premiere performance features the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Indianapolis Children's Choir and guest soloists performing a new setting of the ancient Psalm texts, re-imagined in the contemporary Middle East.



PERFORMANCE TICKETS AND MORE INFO AT
INDYCHOIR.ORG
OR BY CALLING 317.639.4300

PRESENTER BIOS

AMBASSADOR CYNTHIA SCHNEIDER teaches, publishes, and organizes initiatives in the field of cultural diplomacy, with a focus on relations with the Muslim world. For the Brookings Institution, she leads the Arts and Culture Initiative within the Saban Center for Middle East Policy. Schneider also has consulted in the area of cultural diplomacy for the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage and teaches in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. From 1998 to 2001, she served as US Ambassador to the Netherlands, during which time she led initiatives in cultural diplomacy, biotechnology, cyber security, and education. In 2001, Schneider was awarded the Office of the Secretary of Defense Exceptional Public Service Award, the highest civilian award given by Pentagon, in recognition of support for the U.S. military during ambassadorship. She received her BA and PhD from Harvard University.

RUBA NADDA is a Canadian film director, born in Montreal to a Syrian father and Palestinian mother. She made her feature film debut with *Sabah* starring actress Arsinée Khanjian in the title role. Her film *Cairo Time*, starring Patricia Clarkson and Alexander Siddig, was released in 2009 and won Best Canadian Feature Film at the 2009 Toronto International Film Festival. In 2012, Nadda reunited with Siddig to film *Inescapable*, a thriller that also featured Marisa Tomei and Joshua Jackson. Her latest film, *October Gale*, premiered at the 2014 Toronto International Film Festival. Set in the Georgian Bay, it reunites her with Clarkson, with whom she is also collaborating on a film for HBO entitled *Elisabeth*. Nadda studied Literature at York University in Toronto, Ontario, and Film Production at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

BRANDON CARDET-HERNANDEZ is a passionate educator who believes in social justice through high quality educational opportunities. He is focused on closing the achievement gap by concentrating on teacher development/support, creating classrooms that are rigorous, engaging and student-centered and by using students' histories and experiences to further engage learning. Formerly the Director of Strategic Initiatives for the New York City Department of Education, Cardet-Hernandez is currently the Principal of The Urban Assembly Bronx Academy in the South Bronx. He is also a Co-Founder of Project Nathanael, a not-for-profit that supports a free co-ed elementary school in Port-au-Prince, Haiti through teacher development, resource management and capacity building.

ANILA QUAYYUM AGHA is an Associate Professor of Drawing and Foundation Studies for the Herron School of Art and Design in Indianapolis. Born and raised in Lahore, Pakistan, where she completed her BFA in Textile Arts in 1991, Agha has an extensive exhibition record in the US and has won numerous awards for her artwork. Most recently, Agha won both the juried and public ArtPrize competition at the Grand Rapids Art Museum for her installation "Intersections." The lattice of shadows emanating from the center of the laser-cut wooden cube represents the "geometric patterning in Islamic sacred spaces" and, according to Agha, "emulates a pattern from the Alhambra, which was poised at the intersection of history, culture, and art and was a place where Islamic and Western discourses met and coexisted in harmony and served as a testament to the symbiosis of difference."

ABOUT THE COMPOSER



Mohammed Fairouz, born in 1985, is one of the most frequently performed, commissioned, and recorded composers of his generation. Hailed by *The New York Times* as "an important new artistic voice" and by *BBC World News* as "one of the most talented composers of his generation," his large-scale symphonies, operas and oratorios all engage major geopolitical and philosophical themes with persuasive craft and a marked seriousness of purpose. Fairouz recently became the youngest

composer in the 115 year history of the Deutsche Grammophon label to have an album dedicated to his works with the spring 2015 release of *Follow, Poet*. The album has met with broad critical acclaim and received "highbrow and brilliant" distinctions in *New York Magazine's* taste-making Approval Matrix. Fairouz's solo and chamber music attain an "intoxicating intimacy," according to New York's WQXR. A composer who describes himself as "obsessed with text," with a deep respect for the power of the human voice, he has been recognized by *New Yorker* magazine as an "expert in vocal writing" and described by *Gramophone* as "a post-millennial Schubert." His principal teachers in composition have included György Ligeti, Gunther Schuller, and Richard Danielpour, with studies at the Curtis Institute and New England Conservatory.

ABOUT THE NEW MUSIC: ZABUR

As part of a three-year community engagement project, and thanks to the generous support of the Lilly Endowment and Brandwidth, the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir engaged the Indianapolis community in the commissioning of a new, large-scale choral-orchestral sacred masterwork. This piece of 45 minutes in length, will be performed by the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Indianapolis Children's Choir and guest soloists on Friday, April 24, 2015, 8:00 p.m. at Hilbert Circle Theatre.

The new work by composer Mohammed Fairouz is titled *Zabur* and features text from the psalms, underscoring the commonalities between diverse faiths and persons sung in English and in Arabic. Unique compared to other commissions of new musical works, *Zabur* is the outcome of a commissioning consortium comprised of houses of worship from the Christian, Jewish and Islamic traditions, area schools including the Indianapolis Public Schools, Butler University and Christian Theological Seminary, and other arts and civic organizations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.INDYCHOIR.ORG



Center for
Interfaith
Cooperation

