

# THE NEW YORKER

GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN: NIGHT LIFE

## SONIA M'BAREK

March 23: The Tunisian singer **Sonia M'Barek** specializes in *ma'luf*, a Tunisian court music rooted in the centuries-old songs of Al-Andalus, the Muslim kingdom that flourished in Spain from the Middle Ages until 1492. After the Christian reconquest, many of the area's Muslim exiles settled in North Africa, passing along their musical legacy to their descendants. M'Barek was inspired by her grandmother to start singing, and she first learned *ma'luf*, which is a traditionally male genre, from her teacher Tahar Gharsa at the Tunis conservatory, which she began attending when she was eight-years old. A compelling performer, she is also known for her interpretations of *raqs sharqi*, the cabaret songs from Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries which are used in belly dancing. For this rare American concert, she will be backed by several gifted instrumentalists, including the Palestinian violinist **Hanna Khoury** and the Syrian cellist **Kinan Abou-afach**. (For more information and tickets, visit [alwanforthearts.org](http://alwanforthearts.org).)

March 23 – March 23

**PROSHANSKY AUDITORIUM, CUNY GRADUATE CENTER**

365 Fifth Ave., at 34th St.

212-817-7000

[gc.cuny.edu](http://gc.cuny.edu)

To get more of *The New Yorker's* signature mix of politics, culture and the arts: **Subscribe now**

---