



Alwan for the Arts

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Presents

Two Evenings of Song Featuring Lebanese Songstresses May Nasr and Elizabeth Ayoub

May 21 and 22, 2010

Alwan for the Arts is proud to present Lebanese singer-songwriters May Nasr and Elizabeth Ayoub in performance on May 21 and 22, 2010. Both events will be held at Alwan for the Arts at 16 Beaver Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10004. Tickets are \$20 and are available online at www.alwanforthearts.org or at the door. Student tickets may be purchased for \$15 at the door only. Doors open at 8:30 pm both nights; performances will begin at 9:00 pm.

Friday, May 21, 2010 (9:00 pm):



May Nasr, vocals and guitar. A native of Lebanon, May Nasr has been influenced by the songs of the great Fairouz, Zaki Nassif, Ahmad Kaabour, Marcel Khalife, Julia Boutros. In her early singing career, May was mentored by the renowned sound engineer Farid Abul Kheir, and trained by the great Lebanese singer Zaki Nassif as well as Badia Sabra Haddad, the former voice teacher of Fairouz. A voice for freedom, justice, equality, humanity and love, May often focuses on the beauty of the Lebanese people in her music, using songs of peace, love and resilience to inspire positive change in local and global Arab communities. A strong voice for social justice as well, Nasr helps support local charities as well as global organizations through the proceeds of her many popular concerts. She has performed to ecstatic audiences throughout the Middle East and the world.

Her first CD, *Lil Ghaly*, was released in November 2008 and her most recent recording, *Written in Water*, with Lourdes Pérez, will be released later this year.

Ms. Nasr will be joined by special guest **Zafer Tawil** on Oud.

Saturday, May 22, 2010 (9:00 pm):



Elizabeth Ayoub, vocals and guitar. With a fresh, coming-of-age sensitivity, Elizabeth Ayoub graces the stage by blending the traditional with the contemporary, the East with the West. The youngest of seven siblings, her Lebanese immigrant parents fled to Venezuela before the civil war, in search of a promising future. It was in Venezuela that Elizabeth was thrust into an environment where three different languages were freely spoken and where her musical influences ranged from Koranic verse and the famed Lebanese diva Fairouz, to Simon & Garfunkel and Barbra Streisand. These influences span across decades and cultures, and enrich both her music and lyrics with heartfelt and haunting melodies and rhythms. From the yearning that springs from a traditional Arabic song, to that of a country-blues ballad, and an Arab-infused Cuban *son*, Elizabeth Ayoub transports you sweetly to and fro, through a musical journey.

This evening's concert *sin fronteras* ("without borders") marks both the New York City and Alwan debut of Elizabeth Ayoub and is a lyrical amalgam not to be missed. Joining Ms. Ayoub are **Arturo Martínez**, guitar; **Joe Zeytoonian**, oud, arab percussion; **Ramzi El Edlibi**, arab percussion; **Chris Marashlian**, bass; and **Enrique Lopez**, cuban tres.

These concerts are presented in conjunction with FIAF (French Institute Alliance Française)



About Alwan for the Arts

Since its founding in 1998, Alwan for the Arts has been an organization dedicated to the presentation and production of the arts and cultures of the Arab world, Middle East and North Africa. Alwan organizes film festivals and screenings, book/poetry readings and signings, lectures and conferences, art exhibits, musical and theatrical performances, and language and literature classes. In 2003, Alwan established a center at 16 Beaver Street in lower Manhattan. In the second decade of its existence, Alwan remains committed to providing a space for reflection, dialogue, and growth in the arts and cultures of the peoples of the Arab world, Middle East, North Africa, and their diasporas, serving their communities and educating the broader public through programs that enrich the artistic and cross-cultural encounter.

*Alwan for the Arts is grateful to **Union Square Awards** for its support in 2007 and 2008. Alwan is also grateful for support from **Lower Manhattan Cultural Council** and the **New York City Department of Cultural Affairs**.*

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