



PRESS RELEASE / FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alwan for the Arts

www.alwanforthearts.org

Presents

Composer and Pianist John Kameel Farah CD release “Unfolding”

April 10th, 2010

Alwan for the Arts is proud to present Toronto-based composer, pianist, electronic musician and visual artist, **John Kameel Farah** in his New York Debut on **April 10th, 2010 at 9pm** performing selections from his recent critically-acclaimed CD *Unfolding*. The concert will be held at Alwan for the Arts at 16 Beaver Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10004. Tickets are \$15 and are available online at www.alwanforthearts.org or at the door.



John Kameel Farah was classically trained in composition and piano performance at the University of Toronto and The Royal Conservatory, John received the Glenn Gould Composition Award twice during his studies. The influences of the classical and avant-garde composers whose works he performed can be felt in his music, mixing with forays into free improvisation, minimalism, jazz, electro-acoustics, Eastern scales, ambient and genres of electronic dance music such as Drum & Bass, Breakcore, Dubstep and IDM. He studied Middle-Eastern classical music at Simon Shaheen's Arabic Music Retreat.

Toronto's NOWs Magazine named him Best Pianist 2006 for his unique fusion of Renaissance and Baroque counterpoint, experimental improvisation, Middle-Eastern texture, techno and electro-acoustics, to synthesize an entirely original sound. An artist whose work truly reaches beyond the confines of modern definitions, he has had the unique fortune of being reviewed by the Toronto Star's classical critic one day and gigging at an avant-garde jazz festival the next.

John has been interviewed and broadcast by the CBC's radio programs The Signal, Brave New Waves, Two New Hours and Metro Morning. He performs regularly in Toronto, and has also given concerts in Amsterdam, London, Paris, Hamburg, across Canada, the U.S., Korea, the Middle-East and Mexico.

(more)



PRESS RELEASE / FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

In 2008 he penned music for Kid Koala at the Guelph Jazz Festival, and gave a concert atop the Aztec Great Pyramid of Cholula with galactic visuals created by astronomer John Dubinski. In 1999 and 2002 he visited the Edward Said National Conservatory in the West Bank, giving performances and master classes in Ramallah and East Jerusalem



About Alwan for the Arts

Since its foundations in 1998, Alwan for the Arts has been an organization dedicated to the presentation and production of the arts and cultures of the Middle East, South Asia 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 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**.*

For more information please contact Jamal Rayyis at (646) 732 3261 or jamal@alwanforthearts.org