

Multiple Strings Attached

– by assistant professor Rasmus Birk

Background

Musicians with a non-Western background are rarely found in Danish music education, either as students or teachers*. The reasons can be many, including the division into genres (rhythmic / classical / electronic). As a consequence, mutual exchange and knowledge sharing of topics such as instruments, playing styles, phrasing traditions and ornamentation are not happening.

Aims

The goal of this project is to develop a number of new compositions for a quintet consisting of oud, baglama, jazz guitar, rock guitar, and harp; 5 string instruments rooted in vastly different cultures and genres.

The project takes place in collaboration with Jens Christian Kwella, Maher Mahmoud, Orhan Özgür Turan, and student Vera Armbruster.

Method

The compositions are created in an interactive development process, in which all participants contribute with material and genre- and instrument-specific expertise. The final pieces are presented at a series of concerts played by the participants.

* Aaholm, K: *Young musicians in Denmark with middle eastern roots - why not a music education?* RAMA 2013.



Left to right: Orhan Özgür Turan, Maher Mahmoud, Rasmus Birk, Vera Armbruster, and Jens Christian Kwella.

Outcome

The concerts are filmed, and video recordings are made available together with all musical scores at www.musikkons.dk.

Perspectives

Bridging two completely separate environments, RAMA Aalborg and musicians with a background in Turkey and Syria, the project represents a pioneering work that has the potential to trigger new collaborations and knowledge sharing within and outside the institution.

At the professional level, the project has added inspiration and new knowledge to the guitar teaching curriculum. At the personal level, the project has yielded increased creative, performing and pedagogical competencies.

The project will make a significant contribution to the existing string literature and also provide materials for teaching use.

MAHIRK

Composed & Arr. by: RB
- based on ideas from Maher Mahmoud & Rasmus Birk

Oud (Maher)

Intro/Lude $\text{♩} = 116$ $Fm7$ Bb/F Ab/F Bb/F Ab/F $Fm7$ $D_9^{(Bb)}$ $C7^{(F\#)}$

Maher: Freely F-derian impro

[A]

5 Fm $G7/F$ $C7/E$ Fm $G7/F$ $C7/E$

5 Fm $G7/F$ $C7/E$ D_9 $C7$ $G7^{(Bb)}$ NC Fm $C7$

[B]

7 $D_9^{(add^b)}/F$ Eb/F Fm Eb/F

9 $D_9^{(add^b)}$ Eb Fm Eb/F

[C]

11 $D7/F\#$ Gm $A\#7$ $D7$ Bb Eb Bb/D Bb

13 F Eb/D C D Gm $D7/F\#$ Gm Cm Cm/Eb $F\#7$ Gm Ab $D7/F\#$

15 $D7/F\#$ Gm $A\#7$ $D7$ Bb Eb Bb/D Bb

17 F F C Eb Gm C D Gm $D7/F\#$ Gm Cm Cm/Eb $F\#7$ Gm Ab $D7/F\#$

Maher Mahmoud / RB © 2021-22
Fine

Lead sheet for the composition 'Mahirk', composed & arranged by Rasmus Birk with Maher Mahmoud

