



# Young Audiences of Massachusetts

## *Educational Materials*

Please forward to teachers

8/30/2010

### **ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE**

**Karim Nagi: Arabiqa**

**Grade levels: K-12**

Join Egyptian-American Karim Nagi on an engaging, high-energy journey to learn about Arab and Muslim culture through a variety of traditional instruments, folk music, and traditional dance. Karim uses authentic costumes, maps, Arabic words, lots of audience participation, and humor as he enlightens his audience about a captivating world beyond the headlines. Karim is a master percussionist and dancer who likes to have fun with his audience! Students will clap unique rhythms, dance, and celebrate as they learn about these amazing and ancient cultural traditions. A former faculty member of the New England Conservatory of Music, Karim now performs nationwide to great acclaim with the SHARQ Arabic Music Ensemble.

### **LEARNING GOALS**

1. To introduce students to Arab music, instruments, dance, and culture.
2. To use Arab music and dance to emphasize the importance of learning about a culture outside the frameworks of politics and headlines.

### **PRE-ACTIVITY**

Learn the names of all 23 Arabic countries, which are Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine (Israel), Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

### **POST-ACTIVITY**

Review clapping rhythms and Dabka steps. Discuss the similarities and differences between Arab and Western cultures. With groups of older students, discuss how the students' new knowledge of Arab culture affects how they view current events happening in that part of the world.

### **CURRICULUM LINKS:**

Dance, Foreign Languages, History and Social Sciences, Multicultural Studies, Music

## Arab Music and Dance

The Arab culture is thousands of years old. Originating in the Arabian Peninsula, the language and culture has since spread to over 23 countries in the Near East and Africa. Poetry and stylized speech has been the cornerstone of all Arab art. There are numerous epic tales and stories dating back to the nomadic Bedouin tribes well before the Biblical era.

Music is closely related to poetry in Arab culture. Poetry would be sung melodically, rhythmically, and with refrains and repeats. A rich modal and melodic system was developed to align certain scales and note combinations to match certain moods, feelings and poetic emotions. Over the centuries instruments were added to accompany the vocal repertoire. Now there are several instruments in every category that are unique inventions of the Arab world.

Dance has also been an essential cultural tool. Most Westerners are familiar with Arabic dance as entertainment. But dance is essentially a social ritual for the Arabs. Dance is used for ceremonies like weddings and births, as well as sport and storytelling. There are several dances for single performers, women, men, and mixed gender groups. Dance is closely related to music and a great many Arab dancers are also musicians.

## Vocabulary

**Arab:** a member of an ethnic group originating from the Near East

**Arabic:** a language spoken by the Arabs in 23 countries; the alphabet is completely different from English and is written from right to left; capital letters are not used; English actually uses Arabic numbers

**Arab-American:** an American citizen who is of Arab descent

**Bi-Cultural:** someone who lives in America but also retains many of the traditions of their country of family origin

**Islam:** a religion that originated in Saudi Arabia and can now be found all over the world; the religion was founded by the prophet Muhammad in the late 500's AD and most beliefs of Judaism and Christianity can be found in Islam

**Muslim:** someone who follows the religion of Islam

**Copt:** one of the original Christians found in Egypt during the first century AD; this sect of Christianity has seven million followers in Egypt

## Karim Nagi: Arabiqa

K-12

### Arabic Instruments

Oud: lute with five pairs of strings

Nay: bamboo flute

Segat: brass castanettes

Duff: frame drum

Qanun: lap harp with 96 strings

Riqq: tambourine

Buzuq: guitar

Tabla: hand drum

### ABOUT THE PERFORMERS:

Karim Nagi is a native Egyptian drummer, DJ, and folk dancer. He is the creator of Turbo Tabla, and has released two internationally distributed CDs of this unique brand of Arab House/Electronica using acoustic instruments. Karim has authored instructional DVDs for the Tabla/Doumbek and Riqq tambourine, as well as two rhythm compilation CDs. He is also well versed in the ultra-traditional styles of music and dance as the leader of the Sharq Arabic Music Ensemble, and the Arab Dance Seminar. Karim performs and teaches Tahteeb Cane Dance, Dabka Line Dance, and Zikr Sufi Dance. He taught at the New England Conservatory of Music for 5 years, and has lectured and presented at Harvard, MIT, Yale, Bowdoin, Princeton, Stanford, William & Mary, and several Community Colleges. He has recorded music for Bellydance Superstars, Bellyqueen, and the Bellytwins, as well as mainstream artists like Alicia Keys, and The Urban Griot Project. His performances boast a dynamic concoction of live drumming and dance, done in unison. Because of his proficiency in both music and dance, his workshops deliver students to a new physical understanding of the connection between these two disciplines. As a dance and drum teacher, Karim has taught in nearly all major bellydance festivals in the United States and Cairo, as well as all major Arab Culture festivals in the USA. Karim Nagi is a true crossover artist, uniting the Cabaret and Tribal, Traditional and the Modern, the Ethnic and the Urban.

### ABOUT YOUNG AUDIENCES:

Young Audiences of Massachusetts (YAMA) is the oldest, largest and most utilized arts-in-education organization in the state and one of the largest in a national network of 33 chapters. For over 45 years, YA has been serving as a link between teaching artists and the region's school children, providing dance, storytelling, music and theater programs to children in schools, libraries and hospitals in the form of assembly performances, workshops and residencies. The organization's mission is to encourage lifelong engagement with the arts by making them an integral part of every child's education.