

Double oud masterclass with the master Naseer Shamma

To mark the visit of acclaimed oud player **Naseer Shamma** to Spain this July, Casa Árabe has organised two consecutive oud **masterclasses** led by this undisputed master, considered one of the most important oud musicians and composers in the world.

The classes are designed for: amateur oud musicians and/or professionals. The repertoire that each participant provides will be practised along with tailored study and rehearsal techniques.

Language: the classes will be conducted in English.

Instrument requirement: participants must bring their own oud to the classes.

Limited places: the number of participants is limited to 15 people in order to encourage a favourable setting and personalised training.

Masterclass duration: a total of six hours split into two three-hour sessions held on two consecutive days.

When: Tuesday, 8 July (from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.) and Wednesday, 9 July (from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon)

Where: Casa Árabe (c/ Alcalá 62, Madrid)

Price: 70 euro (one session) / 100 euro (two sessions)

Registration:

1. Those interested in the masterclass should send an e-mail to gerencia@casaarabe.es, including:
 - *Naseer Shamma masterclass + participant name and surname(s)* in the subject of the e-mail.
 - Name and surname(s).
 - Birthdate.
 - Brief description of the candidate (maximum of 15 lines), indicating musical knowledge and experience.
 - Deadline: the above mentioned information should be submitted not later than 30 June
2. After the said date, and once a confirmation e-mail from Casa Árabe is received, participants must transfer the cost of the course to Barclays bank account ES49-0065-0073-26-0031000018 and send proof of payment to Casa Árabe at gerencia@casaarabe.es.



Upcoming Naseer Shamma concerts in Spain:

Monday, 7 July at 9:00 p.m. Palacio de los Córdoba (Granada, as part of the FEX Festival)
Thursday, 10 July at 9:30 p.m. Teatro Góngora (Córdoba, as part of the Guitar Festival)

Naseer Shamma was born in 1963 in the city of Al-Kut, where the Tigris and Euphrates rivers meet south of Baghdad (Iraq). He discovered his talent for the oud at the young age of five and gave his first concert when he was only 11 years old. He studied at the Conservatory of Arabic Music in Baghdad for five years, studying under masters like As-Sharif Muhyi Addin, Jamil and Munir Bashir and Salman Shukr. Still a student at the conservatory, in 1985 he participated in the Arabic Music Festival in France, where French critics gave him the nickname of “The Young Ziryab” (in reference to the great Al-Andalus musician). He received the award for best song of the year in Iraq just a year later. Since then Naseer Shamma has performed on five continents and is recognised worldwide as one of the best oud masters of all time.

Naseer Shamma plays the oud by combining traditional methods with his own modern and original compositions. One of his universal contributions to the development of the instrument is the eight-string (instead of the traditional six strings) oud that he created according to a manuscript from the great Islamic scientist, musician and philosopher Abu Nasr al-Farabi (famous theoretician of ninth-century music). This technical innovation provides tones that are different from the oud, ideal for the elaborate compositions that Naseer Shamma composes and performs, where love, history and pain meld and combine. His musical performances focus not only on the “Meditative School” of the Iraqi oud, which is based on the famous “Maqams” (melodic modes used in Arabic music) that define the expression of mood, inspiration and spirituality, but also include an immense knowledge of the other two schools: the Turkish and Egyptian. Naseer Shamma is considered a modern “cultural guardian” of Arabic musical heritage and has opened several music schools in recent years. These schools, called *Beit al-Oud al-Arabi* (The House of the Oud), prepare students to become oud soloists, thus demonstrating yet another facet of Shamma’s artistic work.