



presents

Love letters from the Middle East

Ali Paris

qanun & voice

Friday, June 12, 2020 at 8 PM
Old First Church
1751 Sacramento St. at Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94109
(415) 474-1608 www.oldfirstconcerts.org

ABOUT OLD FIRST CONCERTS

- Great venue for music with beautiful acoustics and amazing Steinway concert grand piano.
- Primarily local emerging and mid-career professional musicians presenting innovative programs.
- Every concert offers new insights and virtuosic performances.
- Complimentary refreshments served at intermission or after the concert.
- An independent 501(c)3 non-profit organization devoted to presenting music at affordable prices, especially for low-income seniors and students.
- Solo, chamber music, and world music concerts year-round since 1970.

DONATING TO OLD FIRST CONCERTS

Ticket sales provide about 38 percent of our operating revenue each year. In addition, we rely on support from private foundations and Grants for the Arts from the city of San Francisco. Our generous individual donors complete the picture. We invite you to join us in our mission to connect audiences and local musicians and build up the classical music and world music scene in San Francisco. Donations are tax-deductible and donating on our website is easy and secure: www.oldfirstconcerts.org/give/, or checks can be mailed to: Old First Concerts, 1751 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. Thank you!

COVID-19 RESPONSE: RETURNING TO THE MUSIC

Old First Concerts is committed to the health and safety of our audiences, performers and staff. We hope to resume concerts soon and have implemented a number of policies and procedures to help us reach that goal, which you can read about on our website.

In the meantime, know that all tickets are fully guaranteed—so if we have to cancel or postpone an event that you’ve purchased a ticket to, you can choose to use the ticket for any concert between now and June 1, 2021, or you can be fully refunded.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Following us on **Facebook** is a great way to keep informed about the latest concert information. While you are there, don’t forget to **share** events with your friends and hit the “Like” button liberally. [facebook.com/oldfirstconcerts/](https://www.facebook.com/oldfirstconcerts/)

You can also find us on **Instagram** [@oldfirstconcerts](https://www.instagram.com/oldfirstconcerts) with information about upcoming events plus photos and videos from our concerts.

ARTIST

“One of the most eclectic and diverse artists” ~ Alicia Keys

“Unrivaled unique artist” ~ Quincy Jones

Ali Paris captivates audiences worldwide with his unique fusion of Middle Eastern and Western music styles highlighted by both technical virtuosity and emotional expression. He accompanies his singing with his instrument, the Qanun, a rare Middle-Eastern 76-string zither that dates back to the 14th century. Ali’s music education began at the age of 5 in his native countries of Morocco and Palestine studying Arabic traditional music with master Simon Shaheen. He quickly became known as a child prodigy, performing great concert halls by age 9 and touring internationally by the age of 11.

Since then he has received multiple international awards including the TBA Awards 2017, The Glickman Award 2016 & Marcel Khalife Artist of the Year (2010-2012), and has expanded his musical career exponentially relocating to the United States to earn his degree at Boston’s prestigious Berklee College of Music. He has collaborated with a long list of world-renowned artists such as Alicia Keys, Quincy Jones, Paco De Lucia, and Bobby McFerrin. His solo performances have reached diverse audiences from the Newport and Istanbul Jazz Festivals to the White House in Washington DC and the Royal Palace in Jordan to play for both President Abbas of Palestine and Queen Rania of Jordan. He has appeared as a soloist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Michigan Philharmonic and is featured in the renowned Grammy-winning Spanish documentary *Entre2aguas*, the Hollywood movie *Noah* and Forbes under 30 concert series, These appearances were the

first to feature the Qanun as a multi-genre instrument on a grand scale. Ali has also collaborated with numerous world-renowned artists to benefit the work of Doctors Without Borders, Save a Child's Heart and Keep A Child Alive including an album with Alejandro Sanz that has funded numerous humanitarian projects around the world.

Ali Paris tours extensively in the US, Europe & The Middle-East. These performances are marked for their exploration of fertile ground in the crossover between Eastern and Western cultures and music genres.

COMING UP AT OLD FIRST CONCERTS

Friday, June 19 at 8 pm

Natalie Raney, *cello*

Cellist Natalie Raney will present a program of vibrant works for solo cello that evoke the spirit of springtime. Program includes works by Kaija Saariaho, Dorothy Chang, & J.S. Bach.

Friday, June 26 at 8 pm

Cornelius Boots, *solo shakuhachi and taimu*

A dynamic solo presentation from a master of jinashi Zen bamboo flutes ranging from virtuosic and energetic to meditative and subtle.

Sunday, July 12 at 4 pm

Daniel Lewin, *violin* & **Dmitriy Cogan**, *piano*

World Premiere of *Chorales and Interludes No. 3* by Dan Flanagan, plus works by J. S. Bach, William Grant Still, Augusta Read Thomas, and Ludwig van Beethoven.

Friday, July 24 at 8 pm

L'Arc Trio—Maria van der Sloot, *violin*; **Christine Lee**, *cello*;

Jung-eun Kim, *piano*

Prize-winning young ensemble's debut on our series, featuring a World Premiere by the eclectic Canadian composer Vivian Fung and two trios by Beethoven.

Sunday, July 26 at 4 pm

Central Star—Paula Dreyer, *piano*

Premiere performance of the complete cycle of works called *Central Star*, in which Paula tells a personal, yet universal story about the powers of imagination, intuition, and creative expression during challenging times of uncertainty, as well as offering a therapeutic medium during everyday life.

Sunday, August 9 at 4 pm

The Refuse Project—Vanessa Langer, *soprano*, with guests including **Sarah Cahill**, *piano*, and others

An ambitious program of virtuosic contemporary vocal works by George Crumb, David Coll, Henry Cowell, and Olivier Messiaen.

Tickets and more information at oldfirstconcerts.org

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Old First Concerts' piano is a New York Steinway D model, circa 1980, with Hamburg action. It was donated by The Stanley Ibler Fund, and is maintained by David Love Piano Service and Restoration.