

## Qatar Music Academy to hold free Arab music concerts

*The life and works of Mohammad 'Abd al-Wahab will be explored*

Doha, 11 June 2013:

Qatar Music Academy has announced that it will hold two free Arab music concerts later this month as part of its continuing mission to foster music appreciation. These concerts will be staged at the Museum of Islamic Art Atrium (13 June, 6.35pm) and at the Katara Drama Theatre (22 June, 5pm). Admission will be free on a first come, first served basis, with children welcome.

*Marasi* is composed entirely of teachers from Qatar Music Academy's Arab Music Department. The Arabic word describes a harbour where ships return home after long voyages, and is an apt name for the ensemble as they act as guardians of *maqam* musical heritage from all over the Arab world. Qatar Music Academy is a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, and is dedicated to educating the next generation of young musicians.

The concert will celebrate the life and works of the Egyptian composer and singer Mohammad 'Abd al-Wahab. A legend in the world of modern Arabic music, al-Wahab's melodies have captured the hearts of millions and made him a much-loved musical personality. *Marasi's* concert will feature many of his best-known compositions.

Dr. Abdul Ghafour Al Heeti, Principal of Qatar Music Academy, said, "*Marasi* provides our students and the wider community with opportunities to explore theoretical, practical and historical interests in *maqam* music. This comes in line with our vision of promoting music appreciation and awareness in Qatar, to foster new talent and to preserve the legacy of Arabian musical culture. We welcome everyone to our two forthcoming concerts and to share in our passion for Arab music."

The ensemble will perform on traditional instruments such as the oud, buzuq, nay, qanun, violin (kaman) and a variety of Middle Eastern percussion instruments such as darbukkah, riq, duhul and tar.

Issa Boulos, Head of Arab Music at Qatar Music Academy, explained, "We established *Marasi* to explore an eclectic range of classical, neo-classical and popular forms of Arab music from throughout the Middle East, and to showcase the compositional and improvisational techniques unique to our culture. Al-Wahab is considered by art critics to have given modern Arabic songs their musical form, and these two free concerts will be a stirring tribute to this giant of Arab music."

For more information about *Marasi* and the forthcoming concert, more information can be found on Qatar Music Academy's website at [www.music.com.qa](http://www.music.com.qa). Alternatively, Issa Boulos, Head of Arab Music, can be contacted at [iboulos@qf.org.qa](mailto:iboulos@qf.org.qa).

-Ends-