



The great Egyptian 20th century music tradition is still alive both in contemporary performance and it is inspiration for new compositions. Arabic music making is more and more developing and shaping new forms and expressions, traveling across and beyond geographical spaces, meeting new audiences. Søren Møller Sørensen, senior professor of musicology at University of Copenhagen, Denmark, will introduce the musician Bilal Irshed, Danish Palestinian musician rooted in Arab tradition, as an indicative model of this phenomenon.

Bilal Irshed and his quartet will perform a selection of music from his project The Fifth String. The project takes its name from a 9th century Arab musician named Ziryab, who is credited for having added a fifth string to the then four-string oud. According to the legend Ziryab coloured the first four strings so that they would symbolise Aristotle's four temperaments. Then he added a fifth string that would represent the soul. It is from this fifth string that the project draws its inspiration. The Fifth String was created by the oud player Bilal Irshed and the music consists of original compositions combined with new arrangements of Egyptian 20th century music tradition.

Søren Møller Sørensen is a senior professor of musicology at University of Copenhagen, Denmark. He is specialized in music history and philosophies of music. Through his long carrier, he has contributed to the development of the theoretical foundation of his subject, particularly music historiography. His field of study includes European as well as Arab music. In both cases, his research is marked by a never-ending quest to understand music in its cultural embeddedness, be it in societal terms or in terms of the relation to philosophy, literature and the arts in general.

Bilal Irshed is a Palestinian - Danish oud virtuoso and music composer who is residing in Denmark. He was born and raised on the village of Daboryya in the northern Galilee. He joined the Arabic music orchestra of Nazareth in 2002, who he toured and performed with at many international venues and music Festivals in Europe. In 2011 Bilal released two albums: 'Compositions' with Bilal's Trio and 'The Fifth String' with the Fifth String Ensemble

MONDAY, OCTOBER, 25 - AT 7PM
short lecture followed by a music performance



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Venue: IFAO Gardens