

Middle Eastern Music Workshops

For Western Musicians and Double Bass Players

The Middle Eastern double bass workshops present the world of Middle Eastern and classical Arabic music in understandable western language and make this unique musical tradition more accessible.

Western music players and lovers will become acquainted with this different musical tradition and its special musical elements and perception.

For double bass players who have studied using the common western methods, this kind of workshop opens doors we didn't know existed until recently. Double bass players will be introduced to the instrument's traditional part in this music as an accompanying instrument, as well as to a new playing technique which allows expressing this music's unique elements as a solo instrument.

Playing the double bass as a solo instrument in this music is a completely new field, which is forming as we speak. This new playing technique opens new repertoire and improvisation possibilities for the instrument, and sheds light on areas of the instrument that have been in complete darkness until now.



Hagai Bilitzky specializes in presenting the world of Middle Eastern music to western musicians. Hagai teaches double bass at the Jerusalem Academy for Music and Dance (JAMD) and presents the playing technique he devised for playing this music's special elements on the double bass in workshops in Israel and abroad.

As a performing artist, Hagai has recorded and performed over the years with senior acclaimed international and Israeli artists on the Arabic and Jazz music scene such as Abraham Salman, Nassim Daqwar, Kirk Lightsey, Zohar Fresco, Taiseer Elias, Simon Shaheen and many more. Hagai is a member of Algerian Pianist Maurice el-Madioni's trio and acclaimed Ladino vocalist Yasmine Levy's ensemble.



The workshops

1. *"Insight: Middle Eastern and traditional Arabic music"*

A fascinating lecture which presents the elements that comprise Arabic music and the basics of the style. The explanations in familiar western musical terms, along with musical demonstrations open a window to the musical riches of traditional Arabic culture.

- A different style with unique musical elements becomes accessible -

- Duration of the workshop: One hour.
- Suitable for musicians playing all instruments and music lovers at all levels.

2. *"Expanding Traditional Boundaries: The Double Bass and Middle Eastern music"*:

This workshop includes acquaintance with the new musical elements, the Arabic modal frameworks, the use of microtonality and rhythmic perception, and demonstrates the use of the double bass in this music not only as an accompaniment, but also as a solo instrument.

This extended workshop includes individual hands-on experience with the new technique by all participants. A musical piece from the Arabic tradition, arranged for a group of double basses, will be played together by participants.

- Duration of the workshop: Two and a half hours with no break.
- Suitable for western double bass players of all levels.

3. *"A Perfect Match: a Mini Course"*

This mini course includes the "Expanding Traditional Boundaries" workshop, along with two additional meetings in which we will strengthen our familiarity with the method for playing eastern positions, and discuss other interesting and important issues such as ornamentation in Arabic music, analysis of common modal framework behavior and improvisation.

- Duration: Three meetings of two and a half hours.
- Suitable for western double bass players of all levels.



Testimonials

- ❖ *“The workshop created a great interest for me, and I am sure to delve into this style in the future”*
- ❖ *“This was the newest and most interesting thing I heard today, and was a lot of fun”*
- ❖ *“The music is enchanting, and experiencing playing it helped me understand many new things.”*
- ❖ *“Your workshop was the most refreshing thing in the conference – thank you.”*
- ❖ *“The comparisons to western music and the examples you played were a real eye opener”*

The Middle Eastern Double Bass Workshops

- ◆ *Insight into a new musical world in which the double bass has an exciting and dynamic roll*
- ◆ *A view of a new playing technique for the instrument and the clarification of the western technical approach through it*
- ◆ *An inspiring practical playing experience*
- ◆ *A let up in festivals, seminars and bass days*
- ◆ *The widening of instrument's repertoire and improvisation possibilities*
- ◆ *Illumination of areas of the instrument never before played*

For pricing and availability contact me:

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