



MIDDLEBURY
PERFORMING ARTS SERIES
P R E S E N T S

Heart of Afghanistan

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2023
MAHANEY ARTS CENTER, ROBISON HALL



Heart of Afghanistan

Ahmad Fanoos, Vocals, Harmonium

Elham Fanoos, Keyboard

Mehran Fanoos, Violin

Sohail Karimi, Tabla

Program

Agar Bahar Biyayad (If Spring Comes)

Music by Ahmad Zahir and Lyrics by Ahmad Shah Azhar

If Spring comes, I will sing songs, I will sing songs of happiness and love.

Nawroz (It is Persian New Year)

Music and Lyrics, Folk/Traditional

It is Nawroz, Leila, life is too short.

Bekhan ba Herat (Sing for Herat)

Music and Lyrics by Amirjan Saboori

Sing again for this beautiful and lovable city, sing so that its kindness will envelope you.

Zendagi Shore Nazanin Darad (Life is Sweet)

Music by Ahmad Fanoos, Lyrics by Aziz Ahmad Fanoos

Life is sweet, life is love, enjoy its ups and downs.

Yakdana Gul (A Single Flower)

Music and Lyrics by Farhad Darya

I fell in love with your dark eyes, O girl from Sheberhan!

Da Zamong Zeba Watan (This is Our Beautiful Homeland)

Music and Lyrics by Gulistan

This is Afghanistan, our beautiful homeland. I can cry for these mountains, this is our homeland of pain, this is my homeland, this is Afghanistan.

Jara Jo (Sweet Spoken)

Music by Dawood Sarkhosh and Lyrics Traditional

Your voice and manners are so sweet, and as bright as the moon.

Larsha Ningarhar (Go to Ningarhar)

Music and Lyrics, Traditional

Go to Ningarhar, a place of spring, where it never snows, it is always green.

Bring me a black shirt and fresh flowers.

Ay Nay Naway Jawedan (The Cry of the Reed Flute)

Music by Ustad Naynawaz, Lyrics by Rumi

Ever since I was parted from the reeds, my lament has caused man and woman to moan. As the reed flute, let's pray that when your heart breaks, it breaks open.

Ahesta Bero (Walk Slowly)

Music and Lyrics, Folk/Traditional

Tonight there are flowers all around, walk slowly my moon, walk slowly, my sweet daughter, the beauty of my house.

Leili Jan (Beautiful Leila)

Music by Ahmad Zahir, Lyrics by Traditional

Beautiful Leila, you have broken my heart. I have always wished it, but you have never visited my village. Sighing, I have been waiting.

Shamse Mano Khudai Man (You my Sun, You my God)

Music by Rahim Ghafari, Lyrics by Rumi

Let me tell you this, Shamse is my Sun and my God. I thank you, my Sun and my God.

Azinja ta shamali Kar darum (I have in a love in Shamali)

Music by Zahir Howaida, Lyrics Traditional

Oh, I have a task in Shamali, and I have a love in Koh Daman.

Amagi Pak Birarem (Come Together like Brothers)

Music by Safdar Tawakuli, Lyrics Traditional

Come together Afghans, like brothers, unite no matter where you are from.

Aan Selsela Mohayat (Oh That Beautiful Wavy Hair)

Music by Ustad Neynawaz and Lyrics by Abolqasem Lahouti

Your wavy hair is so fresh and beautiful that, if for sale, its fragrance would permeate the entire bazaar!

*A replay of this performance is available on demand until 7:30 PM ET
on Saturday, January 14, 2023 at <http://go.middlebury.edu/Afghan-Heart/>*

*This residency is possible thanks to support from the Paul Nelson Performance Endowment,
the Rothrock Family Residency Fund, and the [American Voices](#) organization.*

About the Artists

The Heart of Afghanistan features Ahmad Fanoos on vocals and harmonium, and his sons Elham on piano and Mehran on violin, and Hamid Akbar on tabla. Together they will tell the story of Afghanistan from its pre-Islamic Buddhist heritage through traditional Ghazals based on the Sufi inspired poetry of Rumi and the “Afghan Elvis,” pop icon Ahmad Zahir, of the 1960s and 70s, who took the music of Elvis Presley and translated it into Dari and performed it with a traditional instrument ensemble. They offer a 360-degree view of Afghan culture through music, poetry, art and cultural heritage.



AMERICAN VOICES has extensive experience in Afghanistan, having carried out large-scale programs such as Jazz Bridges Afghanistan in 2006, Winter Academies at the Afghanistan National Institute of Music (ANIM), and YES Academy Herat and Mazar-i-Sharif in 2011. It was during these programs that we met and collaborated with members of one of Afghanistan’s most revered musical families, Ahmad Fanoos and Sons.

American Voices’ on-the-ground experience taught us so much about this proud nation and its rich confluence of cultures, languages, kingdoms, and iconic cultural sites. It is our pleasure to collaborate in this program with the Fanoos family in bringing to US audiences these timeless aspects of Afghan culture and experience that surpass the past 40 years of war and conflict.

This multi-media experience will take you beyond a concert or a lecture. The Heart of Afghanistan harkens back in place and time to discover Afghanistan's pre-Islamic, traditional, and contemporary culture through song, poetry, photography, and art.

These four recently airlifted Afghani artists will take you on a journey across this vast and diverse nation, from ancient odes lauding the Bhuddist statues of Bamiyan to Sufi ghazals of Rumi, and the Elvis-inspired Afghan pop of the 1960s and 70s.

Heart of Afghanistan is a production of American Voices in collaboration with the Fanoos family. We hope to bring you closer to a deep appreciation of Afghanistan’s complicated but rich history through its music, poetry, and scenes of both daily traditional life and iconic cultural sites. Join us in developing an awareness among US audiences of authentic Afghani culture even as the nation undergoes another challenging phase in its cultural life.



Our thanks to the 2022-2023 members
of the Performing Arts Series Society (PASS)
for their support of the series and arts at Middlebury.

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Scholars

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Molly Dorion '22.5
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Julian Gonzales-Poirier '23
Rose Heald '22.5
Neta Kafka '22.5
Emi Kawahara '25
Althea Kellet '22.5
Lizzie Kenter '23
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Colin Lyman '23
Gabryail Meeks '22.5
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Marco Motroni '25 ★
Vem Nazarian '22.5
Haegan O'Rourke '22
Mano-Meelis Onni '23

Scholars, cont.

Nestor Orozco-Llamas '23
Olivia Pintair '22.5
ZZ Pu '24
Graham Shelor '23
Zoe Sipe '23.5
Sophie Shiner '23
Asa Skinder '22.5
Tejas Srinivasan '24
Kexin Tang '22.5
Jackson Tham '22
Akari Tsurumaki '23
Alexis Welch '22.5
Yanruo (Alice) Zhang '23

★Performing Arts Series Intern



Join or renew NOW for 2022–2023 season!

Learn about PASS at go.middlebury.edu/pass, the box office, or via brochures in the lobby.

ACCESS TO THE ARTS IS IMPORTANT TO US

The following are available at Performing Arts Series events.

Please contact the Box Office for specific requests.



Accessible parking, seating, and restrooms are available at all venues. Family/all-gender/accessible restrooms available at the Mahaney Arts Center (3rd floor) and the Wright Theatre lobby.



Relay calls are welcome via the Vermont Relay Service (711). See an usher, the Box Office, or visit go.middlebury.edu/artsaccess for more information on our accessibility services.



Assistive listening devices are available at most events.



Sign language interpretation available at select shows.



Large-print programs are available at many performances.



Low-cost or free transportation is available through Tri-Valley Transit, 802-388-2287 or www.trivalleytransit.org/dial-a-ride.

MAHANEY ARTS CENTER

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Land Acknowledgement

Middlebury College sits on land which has served as a site of meeting and exchange among indigenous peoples since time immemorial. The Western Abenaki are the traditional caretakers of these Vermont lands and waters, which they call Ndakinna, or "homeland." We remember their connection to this region and the hardships they continue to endure.

We give thanks for the opportunity to share in the bounty of this place and to protect it.