



National ARAB ORCHESTRA
 MICHAEL IBRAHIM, Music Director

Celebrating
Arab American Heritage Month

The National Arab Orchestra
in collaboration with Dr. Hussain Alobaidi presents

**Along the Euphrates:
 The Music of Iraq and Syria**

موسيقى العراق و الشام:
 المقام العراقي والقود الحليّ

featuring the NAO Takht ensemble and Safaafir with Hamid Al-Saadi

April 10, 2020

HOBBY CENTER | ZILKHA HALL
 800 Bagby St, Houston, TX 77002

\$50-\$200
 Door Opens at 6:30 p.m.
 Dinner Served at 7:00 p.m.
 Show Starts at 8:30 p.m.

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Iraqi Maqam is a genre of Arabic maqam music found in Iraq that is at least four-hundred years old. The ensemble of instruments used in this genre, called Al-Chalghi al-Baghdadi, includes maqam concert is known as *fasl* (plural *fusul*) and is named after the first maqam: Bayat, Hijaz, Rast, Nawa, or Husayni.

Qudud Halabiya (قود حلبية) literally means musical measures of Aleppo, is a form of Syrian Arab classical music found in both Arabic poetic form and secular musical genre. The poetic form is based

on Andalous-era poetry sung in classical Arabic, and closely related with the *Muwashshat*. *Qudud Halabiya* originated in al-Andalus. However, it was formed as a musical genre in the Levant, mainly in the city of Aleppo. It was developed by the musicians in Aleppo, based on secular, folk and religious songs. During the 20th century, *Qudud Halabiya* further developed and popularized by many Aleppine musicians including Omar al-Batsh (1885–1950), Abdul Qader al-Hajjar (1917–1993), Bakri al Kurdi (1909–1978), Bakri Rajab (1910–1979), Sabri Moudallal (1918–2006), Sabah Fakhri (1933), Mohammad Khairy (1935–1981), etc.



HAMID AL-SAAD

◀ **Hamid Al-Saadi**, is one of the few remaining masters of the Iraqi maqam. Through his powerful and highly ornamented voice, and in his comprehensive knowledge of the intricate details of the music and poetry of Iraq, Hamid Al-Saadi is one of the few vocalists keeping the maqam alive at a time when so many elements of this profound tradition are in danger of extinction. Born in Iraq in 1958, Hamid Al-Saadi began his artistic, musical, and scholarly journey with the Iraqi maqam in childhood, inspired by his love of Iraqi and Baghdadi culture, the Arabic language, music, and poetry. He learned the art of singing and performing the Iraqi maqam from the legendary Yusuf Omar (1918–1987), who proclaimed Al-Saadi as his successor. Muhammed Al-Gubbenchi (1901–1989), one of the most influential maqam reciters in history, said that he considered Al-Saadi to be the "ideal link to pass on the maqam to future generations."

Tickets can be purchased at the Hobby Center, 713-315-2400, or online at TheHobbyCenter.org

For more information:
 Houston@ArabOrchestra.org
 NAOEvents.org
 P: 215-490-4042

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