

A man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a black shirt, is playing a qanun. He is looking down at the instrument with a slight smile. The background is dark, and the lighting is focused on the man and the instrument.

# *Mustafa Saïd & Asîl Ensemble*

مصطفى سعيد و مجموعة «أصيل»

Born in Cairo, Mustafa Said is a musician and musicologist. An Oud virtuoso and singer, whom music education started at very early age accompanying the “Mashayekh” of Tanta (Egypt), and learning from them the art of Inchad. He made a study trip around the mediteranean sea to study music from different areas, within a world music program at many universities started with the American University of Cairo, alongside literature and linguistic studies at Ain Shams University. Later he pursued a Master Degree in Lebanon, from the Antonine University where he focuses his study on the modal system in Mashayekh singing tradition. Mustafa’s major projects and activity is in the field of

performing music and composing new melodies. Taught workshops and gave conferences and lectures in many academic and artistic institutions. He also wrote several musical compositions for theater plays, danse performances and films. He has much participation in international music festival as a solo performer, a guest artist, a collaborator with other musicians, or with the Asil Ensemble (which he found in 2003).

[www.mustafasaid.co](http://www.mustafasaid.co)





*Asil Ensemble for Arab Contemporary Classical Music*  
مجموعة «أصيل» للموسيقى الفُصحى العربية المعاصرة

# مجموعة «أصيل» للموسيقى الفُصحى العربية المعاصرة



Asil Ensemble is one of Mustafa Said's music projects is the establishment of Asil Ensemble in 2003. The goal is to perform new contemporary Arabic music on the principle of internal development. The ensemble has since been a human and musical adventure through which many of Said's compositions have been performed. A project that keeps its goal while re-inventing its form as a way to keep itself alive and authentic.

Asil produced many pieces inspired by poetry, history, literature, and musical research. With more than 12 instruments, the ensemble suggests a truly new perspective into the Arabic music, enlarging its spectrum for interpretation, collaboration, voice tradition, and experimentation with acoustic sounds as well as with musical concepts.



# Concerts in Pictures - selections

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*Aga Khan Music Award Concert, Winner for Best Music Performance  
- Lisbon, Portugal, 2019*



*"Autism" premiere concert for ALBEDO creative art platform  
- Monnot Theater, Lebanon, 2016*



*Asil Ensemble with guest Moroccan singer Karima Skalli  
- Barbican Concert Hall, UK, 2015*



*Duo concert with percussionist Joss Turnbull  
Orientalische Musikakademie Mannheim e.V.  
- Germany, 2013*



# Concerts in Pictures - selections



*Concerto for Mandoline (Vivaldi I Solisti Veneti) with original Arabic composition and Oud improvisation by Mustafa Said - with the Kremerata Baltica Chamber Orchestra  
- Eisenstadt, Austria, 2012*



*Duo concert with Qanoun player Ghassan Sahhab  
- Beirut, Lebanon, 2012*



*Oud Recital - Japan Tour - Fukushima, Fuji, Tokyo  
- Japan, 2011*



*'US the Moon and The Neighbors' Festival  
- Beirut, Lebanon 2013*



*Ruba'eyat el Khayyam  
- Madina Theater, Lebanon, 2012*



# Concerts in Pictures - selections

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26 April — 2 May 2017    26 أبريل – 2 مايو 2017



Concert and artist talk  
- Abu Dhabi Book Fair, UAE, 2017 and  
2018



Oud Recital - Labyrinth Catalunya  
- Cardadeu, Spain, 2019



Concert by Mustafa Said, Negar Bouban and Bilal Bitar at Mucem (The Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilisations),  
- Marseille, France, 2020



Homage to Arab violinist Sami al Shawa (1885-1965) - with Ahmed Al Salhi and members of the Asil Ensemble  
- London, UK, 2015



# DISCOGRAPHY

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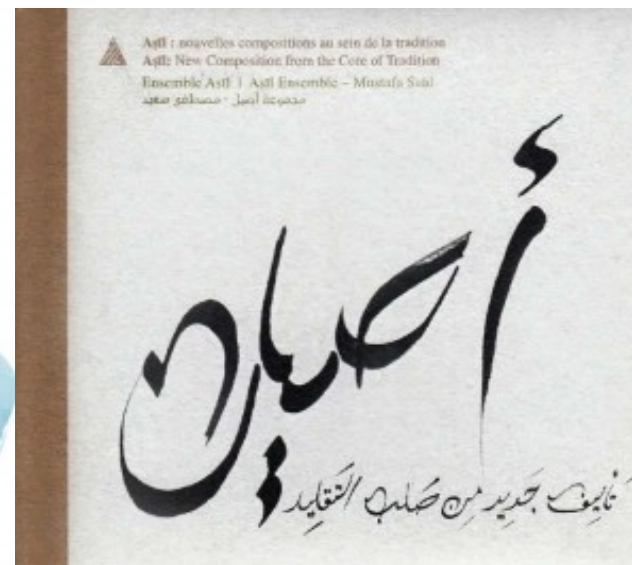
## TAWAHHUD (Autism) - 2016

Instrumental piece inspired by the article entitled 'autism' by Alaa Abd el Fattah - Live performance by the Asil Ensemble. Co-



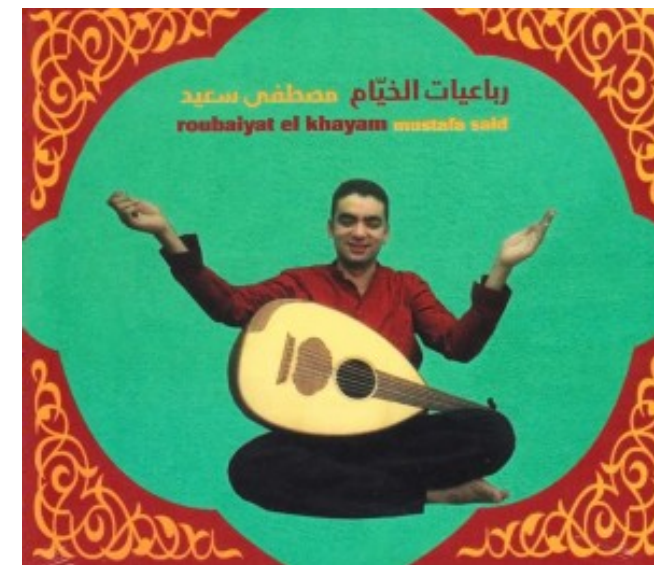
## BURDAH - 2015

Instrumental and singing of the Burdah poetry by contemporary arab poet Tamim AL Bargouthi. Live Concert Recording - co-Produced by the AMAR foundation.



## ASIL (Original and Authentic) - 2009

Instrumental modal compositions by Mustafa Said - performed by the Asil Ensemble. Co-produced by Taqalid - Forward Music



## RUBAEYYAT EL KHAYYAM (Omar El Khayyam Quatrains) - 2008

Music compositions and singing of a selection of Omar el Khayyam Quatrains poetry.



A man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a white thobe, is seated on a pile of large, light-colored rocks. He is holding a tan-colored oud and looking down at it. The background features a weathered stone wall on the left and a simple, light-colored building with small windows on the right. The sky is clear and blue.

# *NEW HORIZONS - work in progress*

- **Al Shaikh Al Akbar's Shrine Parting From** - a series of instrumental and vocal pieces in three modes. To be executed by 6 musicians with three vocals. A project based on Ibn Arabi poetry and philosophy.
- **Abu el Alaa Al Acheq** - music compositions inspired by the writings and poetry of Abu el Alaa el Maari (11th Century AD).  
This project got the Arab Fund for Art and Culture (AFAC) support for an early research phase for its realization.
- **Silence** - A concert dialogue between archival recordings and Oud playing, this project is a solo Oud recital displaying sounds from the archives as the performer's partner on stage.
- **Al Nabaa wel Ghar** - a solo Oud Album recorded in nature setting in the mountains of Lebanon - Project in marketing design phase, to be released in the up coming months.



# In the press - selections

## FR /In Ubiquité Culture

Concert de Oud, par Mustafa Saïd



© Clara Sfeir

Le récital de oud, ce « sultan des instruments », proposé par Mustafa Saïd, se tient dans un petit studio privé où la poignée d'heureux élus venus l'écouter se sent comme à la maison. Assis en tailleur sur un tapis blanc, le musicien égyptien est entouré de ce public attentif qui fait cercle autour de lui. Il débute le concert lentement, pinçant ses cordes à l'aide d'un plectre. La soirée fait alterner ses compositions et des improvisations. Les morceaux s'enchaînent et se mêlent, donnant à ce moment partagé l'esprit et l'espace d'un long souffle musical.

Né au Caire, compositeur de musique classique contemporaine arabe et chercheur en musicologie, Mustafa Saïd fonde en 2003 *l'Ensemble for Arab Classical Contemporary Music – ASIL* – Il est aussi, depuis 2010, directeur artistique de la *Foundation for Arab Music Archiving and Research – AMAR* – fondation libanaise spécialisée dans la conservation et la diffusion de la musique arabe traditionnelle. Il enseigne à l'Institut Supérieur de Musique de l'Université Antonine, au Liban, après avoir enseigné à la Maison du Oud, au Caire. Il s'intéresse particulièrement à la période de la *Nahda* qui couvre les années 1903 à 1930 et se traduit par une philosophie dite de la *Renaissance*.

Passionné par la musique orientale savante dont il est un des grands connaisseurs, Frédéric Lagrange donne sa définition de *l'École de la Nahda* : « *École* doit être compris ici dans le sens de communauté esthétique et stylistique dans la composition et l'interprétation. Le terme désigne l'ensemble de musiciens qui participèrent à l'élaboration d'une musique de cour à partir du règne de khédive Ismail, musique qui faisait la synthèse des différentes traditions orientales compatibles avec le goût égyptien. » Cette période permet de mêler les répertoires sacrés et profanes et de faire sortir les chants – composés de nombreux poèmes d'amour mystique – des salons, de les jouer dans des espaces tels que les cafés. Le chant alors se désynchronise du contexte dans lequel traditionnellement il apparaissait comme les fêtes, religieuses ou familiales.

## ENG/ In Digital Berlin

INTERVIEW WITH

## Mustafa Said

By Digital in Berlin · On

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Mustafa's major projects and activity is in the field of performing music and composing new melodies. Taught workshops and gave conferences and lectures in many academic and artistic institutions. He also wrote several musical compositions for theater plays, danse performances and films. He has much participation in international music festival as a solo performer, a guest artist, a collaborator with other musicians, or with the Asil Ensemble (which he found in 2003). Mustafa Said will perform **at Elisabeth**

**Kirche for Autism. The Asil Ensemble for Arab Contemporary Classical Music on April 13th.**

## ENG/ In The National

## Egypt's Mustafa Said wins Aga Khan Music Award for performance

► The Egyptian musician and composer won the title in Lisbon, beating 14 other finalists



## DEU/ In Zeit-Ton

**Zeit-Ton**  
Zur Sendereihe  
14.03.2017

Elemente der klassischen arabischen Musik sind über den Umweg der arabischen Popmusik bis heute im Libanon sehr präsent - allerdings in vereinfachter Form. Denn für Mikrotonalität, Improvisation und ausladende Suiten-Formen ist in der Musik der Charts kein Platz.

Zudem haben in vielen Ensembles europäische Instrumente und Synthesizer die arabischen Instrumente verdrängt. Eine junge Generation libanesischer Musiker möchte an die große Tradition der Takht, der klassischen arabischen Ensembles, anschließen. Ihr Ziel ist es, diese Musikform - ausgehend von den ursprünglichen Prinzipien und Formen - weiterzuentwickeln.

Was dabei entsteht, ist zeitgenössische Musik, die nicht an die westliche Avantgarde anschließt, sondern die eigene Musiktradition weiterentwickeln möchte. Das Asil-Ensemble und sein aus Ägypten stammender Leiter Mustafa Said sind das Kraftzentrum dieser Bewegung im Libanon.

**Sendereihe**  
• Zeit-Ton

**Gestaltung**  
• Rainer Elstner

**Playlist**  
Titel: ZTT 170314 Zeit-Ton Libanon / Asil / Klassische arabische Musik / Elstner  
Länge: 51:39 min





## **Website**

[www.mustafasaid.co](http://www.mustafasaid.co)

## **Podcasts**

[Rawdat el Balabel](#)

[qposts with Mustafa](#)

## **FaceBook Page**

[@mustafasaidmusic](#)

## **Youtube Channels**

[Mustafa Said](#)

[Asil Ensemble](#)

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## **Artist Management**

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