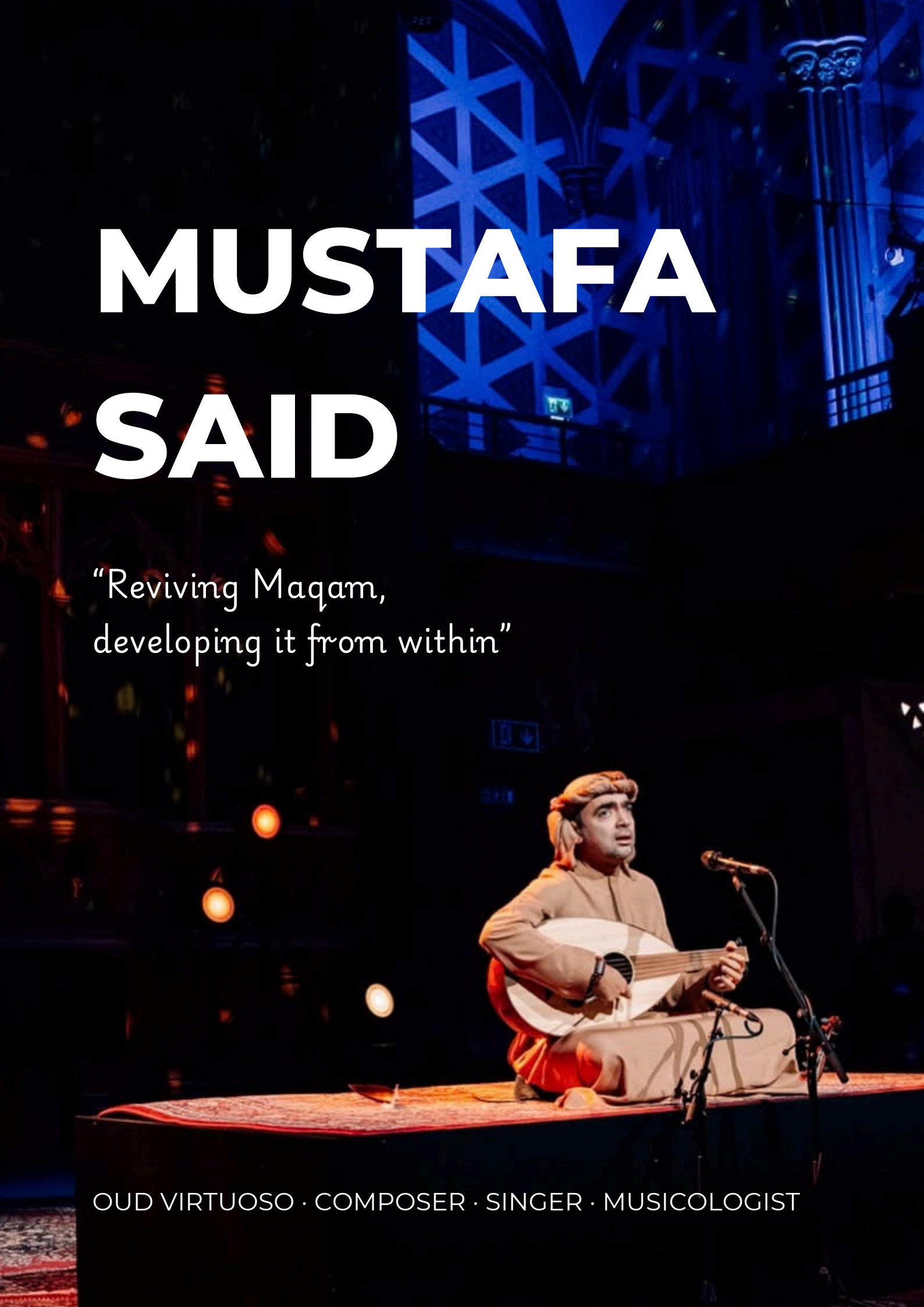


MUSTAFA SAID

"Reviving Maqam,
developing it from within"

OUD VIRTUOSO · COMPOSER · SINGER · MUSICOLOGIST

SELECTED FESTIVALS & INSTITUTIONS

IMATERIAL

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

FIMS FRIBOURG

MUĞAM ALƏMİ

AGA KHAN MUSIC AWARDS

Labyrinth Catalunya

شباك: نافذة من الثقافات العربية المعاصرة
SHUBBAK A WINDOW FROM CONTEMPORARY ARAB CULTURES

مهرجان أبوظبي
ABU DHABI FESTIVAL

Beirut Chants Festival

HUMBOLDT FORUM

SPOLETO FESTIVAL DEI 2MONDI

Dresdner Musikfestspiele

فاس مؤسسة رسالة
FÈS
FONDATION ESPRIT DE FÈS

IRTIJAL

معرض أبوظبي الدولي للكتاب
ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR

SIGILLVM VNIVERSITATIS HAFNIENSIS REFORMATÆ 1537 1479 FVNDATÆ

λαβύρινθος
ΑΠΟ ΤΟ 1982 | ΜΟΥΣΙΚΟ ΕΡΓΑΣΤΗΡΙ

ESCUELA SUPERIOR DE MÚSICA REINA SOFÍA



ABOUT ME

Born in Cairo, award-winning **oud virtuoso, composer, singer, researcher, and musicologist**. Dedicated to developing Arabic classical music from within its own Maqam tradition through performance, composition and research. **Head of Humanitarian Research at Qatar Foundation**. PhD in Musicology from USEK, Lebanon.



Presented over **1,000** concerts, recitals, lectures and masterclasses across **Europe**, **Middle East,** and **Asia**, performing both as a solo artist and with ensembles.

AWARDS:

- Aga Khan Music Award for Performance — 2019
- Mugham Festival Award - 2009
- Sheikh Zayed Book Award — Editing of Arabic Manuscripts, 2024



PERFORMANCE FORMATS

SELECTED INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

The performances combine **original compositions** by Mustafa Said, and revived works from historical Arabic **manuscripts**, offering audiences a distinctive perspective on Arabic Maqam as a living and evolving musical tradition.

Mustafa Said presents his work in different **performance formats**, below are examples of performances he has presented internationally and can be adapted for musical festival presentation,

MUSTAFA SAID WITH ASIL ENSEMBLE, 12 PLAYERS

Al-Ghurra Festival — Doha, Qatar, 2024
Maqam Visitors. **Watch video**

Shubbak Festival — London, UK, 2015
Burdah. **Watch video**

Qubat Al-Ghuri — Cairo, Egypt, 2023
Selected Poems of Al-Mutanabbi. **Watch video**

Church of St. Elizabeth — Berlin, Germany, 2018
Autism (instrumental). **Watch video**



MUSTAFA SAID WITH ASIL ENSEMBLE — SMALLER CONFIGURATION

Mugham Festival — Azerbaijan, 2023
Maqam Pilgrims. **Watch video**

Bibliotheca Alexandrina — Egypt, 2026
125 Years in Memoriam: Abdu El-Hamouli. **Watch video**

Al-Ghurra Festival — Qatar, 2024
Journey of Maqam in Eight Centuries. **Watch video**



SOLO — OUD & VOICE

Edinburgh International Festival — UK, 2024
Journey of Maqam in Eight Centuries. **Watch video**

International Festival of Sacred Music - Switzerland, 2022
Maqam Pilgrims. **Watch video**

Aga Khan Music Award — Lisbon, Portugal, 2019
Selected Sufi Poetry. **Watch video**



DEVELOPING MAQAM:
ENSEMBLES & PLATFORMS

HEART-TO-HEART FESTIVAL FOR MAQAM

Founded and directed by Mustafa Said, Qatar· 2025–2026
A dedicated musical season to **Maqam** and its diverse regional **dialects**. Bringing together different expressions of the tradition from around the world. Sponsored and supported by Qatar Foundation. **Watch video.**



DOHA ENSEMBLE FOR CLASSICAL MAQAM

Founded and led by Mustafa Said in Qatar, 2025.
Sponsored and supported by Qatar Foundation.
The ensemble performed at:

- Reina Sofia School of Music, Madrid, Spain. Opening and closing of the Chair of Arabic Music Studies. Academic years: 2025-2026 and 2026-2027. **Watch video.**
- Heart-to-Heart Festival for Maqam, Doha, Qatar. 2025
- BilAraby Summit 2026, Qatar.









ASIL ENSEMBLE FOR CONTEMPORARY ARABIC CLASSICAL MUSIC

Founded by Mustafa Said in 2003, Asil Ensemble is dedicated to creating and performing contemporary Arabic classical music rooted in the living tradition of the Arabic maqam.

Instruments: oud, large oud, small oud, tanbur, qanun, santour, ney, violin, viola, cello, riqq and other percussions.

Discography: AlKhayyam Quatrains 2008 - Asil 2010 - Burdah 2015 - Autism 2016 - Maqam Piligrims 2025

Performance Highlights:

- Al-Ghurrah Festival, Qatar 2024
- Mugham Festival, Azerbaijan 2009 and 2023
- Humboldt Festival, Germany 2018
- Kuwait Opera House, Kuwait 2018.
- Festival dei Due Mondi, Italy 2015
- Shubbak Festival, UK 2015
- Beirut Chants Festival, Lebanon 2015 and 2016
- Fes Music Festival, Morocco 2011 and 2012
- Abu Dhabi Music Festival, UAE 2010 and 2014



Mustafa Said also has presented masterclasses, workshops and lectures internationally on Maqam, music theory, manuscripts, and oud performance. His participation can also include festival masterclasses, workshops and educational sessions, creating opportunities for audiences, musicians and students to engage more deeply with Maqam and Arabic musical traditions.

LATEST MASTERCLASSES, CONFERENCES, AND WORKSHOPS

- **Reina Sofía School of Music**, Spain, The Chair of Arabic studies (lectures and discussion panels) 2025 & 2026.
- **Labyrinth,** Oud and Music Theory Masterclass:

Catalunya — Barcelona, Spain, 2019, Crete, Greece, 2023, 2025.

- **Arab Oud House** - Oud and music theory Workshop:

Cairo 2022, 2026 , Riyadh 2023, 2024. Abu Dhabi 2024.

- **Abu Dhabi International Book Fair**, UAE, 2017, 2023-2026.
- **BilAraby Summit**, Qatar, “Music as Identity” — 2025, 2026
- **WISE 12** — Doha, Qatar, Learning from the Roots— 2025
- **Hamad Bin Khalifa University**, Doha, Qatar, Translation and Music — 2025.
- **Al-Ain Book Festival**, Arabic Music Dialogues — UAE, 2022.
- **Copenhagen Faculty of Music**, Denmark, 2019



PRESS
& CRITICS

Songlines — Simon Broughton
Album review: Maqam Pilgrims - 2026
"Said's intense and emotional performances suggest that the poems have a real personal meaning for him."

Tina Moskal, Edinburgh Music Review
Concert review: Edinburgh Festival - 2024
"His voice is at times yearning, incantatory, prayerful. he delivers with stunning spot-on pitching for every demisemiquaver, as if tiptoeing through a flowerbed of rare plants."

The National — Neil van der Linden
Album review: Burdah - 2015
"It is fascinating to hear the ensemble effortlessly mingle all the elements. The musicians let their emotion run high in many parts"

Rolf Nilsén — Lira
Album review: Maqam Pilgrims - 2025
"The whole thing could have been overloaded with learning if the melodies that Mustafa Said created had not been so strong and evocative."



GET IN TOUCH

FOR BOOKING AND COLLABORATIONS:

contact.mustafasaid [at] gmail.com