

WHEN PATHS MEET

Sami Yusuf, Amsterdams Andalusisch Orkest, Cappella Amsterdam

6 June, Amsterdam
Het Concertgebouw

A boundless celebration of music from the heart

Internationally renowned composer, vocalist and musician Sami Yusuf sings in multiple languages and explores various cultures because, as he says, 'People all over the world are looking for connection, and music makes that connection on the most profound level.'

The British musician with Azeri roots is called a mega-star by the likes of the BBC and *Time Magazine*. With a preference for Sufi music, Yusuf is in full command of a range from deeply meditative melodies to pulsating energetic rhythms. His compositions are inspired by traditional music and mystical poetry.

For this unique, international project, *When Paths Meet*, for which he creates new compositions and arrangements, Yusuf and his musicians collaborate with chamber choir Cappella Amsterdam and the Amsterdam Andalusian Orchestra. Yusuf intertwines their traditions, Western classical choral singing and Arabo-Andalusian music, weaving together their distinct traditions in a joint celebration of music across cultural boundaries.

When this concert had to be cancelled in 2020, one song was nevertheless remotely realised with nearly thirty musicians in separate studios. One, which has now been viewed more than 500,000 times online, is a promising preview for this concert. In 2022, all the musicians will finally come together physically. One, online inmiddels al meer dan 500.000 keer bekeken, is een veelbelovend voorproefje voor dit concert. In 2022 komen alle muzikanten dan eindelijk fysiek bij elkaar.

Programme

Veritas
Karitas
Pearl
Li Habibi
Fiyyashiyya
The Fire Within
I Only Knew Love
The Meeting
One

Veritas

Composed by Sami Yusuf
Latin words inspired by Hildegard von Bingen's poetry
Modes Shur, Bayati with Andalusian allusions
Mawwal Nahawand

translation

Sanctus, Sanctus
Holy

Karitas, Claritas
Love, Clear Light

O Lux vivens
Clarissima lux
*O Living Light
Brightest Light*

Veritas, Veritas
Truth

Virtus Sapientiae
Power of Wisdom

Karitas

Composed and arranged by Sami Yusuf
Latin words by Hildegard von Bingen
Azerbaijani words by Mahammad Fuzuli
Mode Bayati Shiraz with allusion to Rast

Lyrics

Karitas habundat in omnia, omnia
de imis excellentissima
super sidera
atque amantissima
in omnia, omnia
quia summo regi osculum pacis dedit.

*Love abounds in all,
from the depths exalted and excelling
over every star,
and most beloved of all,
for to the highest King the kiss of peace was given.*

öyle ser-mestem ki idrâk etmezem dünyâ nedir
men kimem sâkî olan kimdir mey û sahbâ nedir

gerçi cânândan dil-i şeydâ için kâm isterem
sorsa cânân bilmezem kâm-ı dil-i şeydâ nedir

hikmet-i dünyâ vü mâfiha bilen arif degil
arif oldur bilmeye dünyâ vü mâfiha nedir

ah u feryâdın fuzûlî incidipdir âlemi
ger belâ-yı aşk ile hoşnûd isen kavga nedir.

*I am so intoxicated that I can no longer perceive what the
universe is
Who am I? Who is the cupbearer? What is this wine?*

*Even though I ask my Beloved for union with my frenzied
heart,
If the Beloved asks me, what is this union my crazy heart
desires, I would not know!*

*O Fuzuli! Your lamenting and moaning have disturbed the
universe!
If you are content with the affliction of love, then why do you
lament so?*

Pearl

Composed and arranged by Sami Yusuf
Lyrics by Will Knox

Lyrics

I spent a thousand sleepless nights
In wait of dreams I could not find
I walked a thousand empty roads
In search of signs to bring me home

With every breath I spoke your name
 With every breath I spoke your name
And heard it rolling in the waves
 And heard it rolling in the waves
Beneath a veil of ocean blue
 Beneath a veil of ocean blue
I broke illusion from the truth
 I broke illusion from the truth

You said, walk to me and I'll find you
Call me and I'll show you
Hiding like a pearl for you
To heal and guide you
From deep inside you
Hiding like a pearl for you

And from the pulse beneath my skin
You called me to a source within
Where every layer revealed one more
A secret brighter than before

And at the heart there lay just one
 And at the heart there lay just one
The root of all that I'd become
 The root of all that I'd become
I watched the surface start to break
 I watched the surface start to break
Free of form, free of shape.
 Free of form, free of shape.

You said, walk to me and I'll run to you
Call me and I'll show you
Hiding like a pearl for you
To heal and guide you,
From deep inside you
Hiding like a pearl for you.
For you.

Li Habibi

Arranged by Ahmed el Maai
Words by Al Hayk
Music by Moroccan Andalusian
English translation by Hassan Bakkali
Mode Hijaz al-Kabir,albughya,Albassit,Qaim wanisf

From the Andalusian tradition
Paragraphs from Nûbâ al-Hijaz al-kabir

From the Arabo-Andalusian tradition found in North Africa.
The Great Hijaz Nubat is one of the 11 Andalusian Chapters
still preserved and performed by Andalusian orchestras in the
Maghreb. It has a cheerful and refreshing tone and is tradi-
tionally played in the afternoon and at night.

Lyrics

To my love, I send my regards every time, hoping for her
goodness
In continued love regardless of the grudges
And I'm calling my dear full moon. you are what I want in the
essence of existence.
Oh my wish and my desire. I was deeply touched by your love.
Oh my desire and my rest. From your loved one I send a
thousand regards.

Fiyyashiyya

Arranged by Sami Yusuf
Words and music by Othman ibn Yahya
English translation by Dr Tim Winter
Mode 'Ajam

Well known traditional Sufi song from Morocco

Lyrics

A humble slave I am of an almighty Lord.
No work is too hard for that One who's adored.

But though I'm a beggar who cannot afford
To claim any strength, sure and strong is my Lord.

He says, where He wills, when He wishes a thing,
just "Be", and it is, by the might of a King.

The ruler whose edicts and wise rulings bring
All blessings and grace by the might of a King.

I haven't got the force,
No strength between my sides
Why feel such remorse
when the Maker provides?

Ana 'abdu Rabbî lahû qudratun
Yahûnu bihâ kullu 'amrin 'asîr

Fa-'in kuntu 'abdan ða'îfa l-quwâ

Fa-Rabbî 'alâ kulli shay'in qadîr

Minnî ash 'alayâ wa ana 'abadun mamlûk

Wa-l-'ashyâ' maqaðîya mâ fi t-tahqîqi shukûk

Rabbī nāzir fiyā wa ana nazārī matrūk

Fi l-'arḥām wa l-'aḥshā' min nuṭfa ṣawwaranī

Ana mā lī fiyāsh, ash 'alayā minnī

Aqliq mir-rizqī lāsh, wa-l-Khāliq yarzuqnī

Allāhumma ṣalli 'ala l-Muṣṭafā, ḥabībna Muḥammad 'alayhi s-salām

I'm safe in the shade of his all-knowing height
And no strength have I — His all power and might.

So glory to God, his bounty shining bright,
All gratitude and praise are His due and His right.

He says, where He wills, when He wishes a thing,
just "Be", and it is, by the might of a King.
The ruler whose edicts and wise rulings bring
All blessings and grace by the might of a King.

The Fire Within

Composed and arranged by Sami Yusuf

Latin words by Hildegard von Bingen

English words are translated from a poem by Mansur al-Hallaj

Turkish words by Kayugus

Arabic mawwal by Abu al-Hasan al-Shushtari

Mode: Aeolian with allusions to traditional Andalusian mode:

Lyrics

I do not cease swimming in the seas of love,
rising with the wave, descending from above;
now the wave sustains me, then I sink below;
love bears me away to where there is no shore.

Spiritus Sanctus
Holy Spirit

Gel gel ey gönül 'aşk denizi taşdı gönülde
Dürr ü cevâhir oldı bakun mevci bu dilde
Gel gel ey gönül başını koy meydân içinde
Dür-dâne getir daldın ise 'ummân içinde

رق معنى الهوى

Passion had a subtle meaning

في النفوس والأشباح

In souls and in shadows

و ظهر واحتوى

And it appeared and was contained

في الصدور والأرواح

In hearts and spirits

يا خيلي الجوى

O air of burning desire

لو ذقت من الراح

If you had a taste of wine

يا له من مُدام

O from him constantly

من سكر به غنى

He who has become drunk
has gained in richness

O ignis Spiritus paracliti,
O fire of the Spirit and Defender,

vita vite omnis creature,
The life of every life created,

sanctus es vivificando formas.
Holy are you—giving life to every form.

O iter fortissimum, quod penetravit
O mighty course that runs within and through

omnia in altissimis et in terrenis
everything—in the heavens and in the earth,

et in omnibus abyssis,
and in every depth—

tu omnes componis et colligis.
you bind and gather all together.

يا كثير الملام

O you who blame

لا تلمنا دعنا

Do not blame us

نحن أهل الغرام

We are the people of love

كل معنا معنى

Each of us has a purpose

نحن قوم لنا في المعاني أسرار

We are a people of signs and symbols

I Only Knew Love

Arranged by Sami Yusuf

Words by Rabi'a al-'Adawiyyah

Music: Traditional Andalusian melody

English translation by Dr Tim Winter

Maqām Nahāwand

Lyrics

I only knew love when I knew love of Thee,
I sealed up my heart against Thy enemy.
I stood long in converse with Thee, who doth see
My heart's inner secrets, but Thou I don't see.
My love is twin loves, yet the twain are for Thee,
The first's for Thy love, and the other's for Thee.
And as for the first, which is love of Thy love:
Remembrance complete, not distracted from Thee.
'Araftul-hawā mudh 'araftu hawāk

Wa-'aghlaqtu qalbī 'alā man 'ādāk

And as for the second: my true love of Thee,
I see Thou as present in all that I see.
All praise to Thy name, and no praises for me,
For Thine is the glory in all unity.

'Uḥibbuka ḥubbayni, ḥubba l-hawā
Wa-ḥubban li-'annaka 'ahlu l-lidhāk

Fa-'amma l-ladhī huwa ḥubbul-hawā
Fa-shughlī bi-dhikrika 'an man siwāk

Wa-'amma l-ladhī 'anta 'ahlu l-lahu
Fa-lastu 'ara l-kawna ḥattā 'arāk

'Araftul-hawā mudh 'araftu hawāk
Wa-'aghlaqtu qalbī 'alā man 'ādāk
Fa-la l-ḥamdu fī dhā wa-lā dhāka lī
Wa-lākin laka l-ḥamdu fī dhā wa-dhāk

The Meeting

Composed and arranged by Sami Yusuf
Mode Aeolian with allusions to Shur
Instruments Erhu, Qanun, Guitar
Multiple soloists will be featured

ONE

Composed and arranged by Sami Yusuf
German words by Meister Eckhart
Arabic words by Abu al-Hasan al-Shushtari
Music Maqām Nahāwand

Lyrics

Daz ouge, da inne ich got sihe

daz ist daz selbe ouge, da inne mich got sihet

min ouge und gotes ouge daz ist ein ouge

الْفَنَّا بَعْدَ حِينٍ فِي خَرَجْتُ

أَنَا بِمَا بَقِيَتْ هُنَا وَمِنْ

أَنَا إِلَّا أَنَا يَا أَنَا وَمِنْ

قَدِيمًا الْهَوَى كَأَنَّ سَقَيْتُ

سَمَاءٍ وَلَا أَرْضٍ غَيْرٍ مِنْ

عَصْرِي فَرِيدَ فِيهِ أَصْبَحْتُ

لِوَأِي حَامِلًا الْوَرَى بَيْنَ

عَجِيبٌ مَذْهَبٌ مَذْهَبٌ لِي

هَتَائِي يَا فَاقَ قَدْ بِالْحُسْنِ

أَهْلٌ لِلْجَمِيلِ هُمُو مَنْ يَا

شَقَائِي فَيَا تَمُنُّوا لَمْ إِنَّ

تَجِدُ أَهْلًا يَا حَسَاكُمُ

رَجَائِي مِنْكُمْ تَقْطَعُوا أَنْ

أَهْلٌ لِلْجَمِيلِ هُمُو مَنْ يَا

شَقَائِي فَيَا تَمُنُّوا لَمْ إِنَّ

عَجِيبٌ مَذْهَبٌ مَذْهَبٌ لِي

هَتَائِي يَا فَاقَ قَدْ بِالْحُسْنِ

عَصْرِي فَرِيدَ فِيهِ أَصْبَحْتُ

لِوَأِي حَامِلًا الْوَرَى بَيْنَ

daz ist ein ouge

und ein gesiht

und ein bekennen

und ein minnen