

The Asian Arts & Culture Program at UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

**CONTACT:** Sue McFarland, 413-577-2486 (aacp@acad.umass.edu)  
**WHAT:** TEAL-One97: Arab & North Africa Music Project  
**WHEN:** Wednesday, April 3, 2013 at 7:30 PM  
**WHERE:** Bowker Auditorium  
**IMAGES:** To download images relating to this press release, visit our [Press room](#) at fineartscenter.com  
**TICKETS:** Fine Arts Center Box Office 545-2511/ 1-800-999-UMAS

*“.. New Generation–New Day–New Sound ”*

Love Arabic groove? Come dance to the sounds of *TEAL-One97 :The Eclectic Ambassadors of Love*

**TEAL-ONE97** a.k.a Arab & North Africa Music Project is an all-star rock music collective created by a new generation of American maestros of Middle Eastern and North African descent. With multilingual vocals, groovy global rhythms, and transcendent melodies, the group creates a uniquely hip soundscape that pays homage to each artist’s ethnic and American musical heritage. Inspired by the global emanations of the Arab Spring, this danceable, dynamic combo brings a powerful message of hope and positive change for a new generation and a new day to **Bowker Auditorium** on Wednesday, **April 3 at 7:30PM**. Presented by the UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center Asian Arts & Culture Program, tickets are available by calling **1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511**. More information and tickets are also available on line at: **fineartscenter.com**.

TEAL-One97’s first major public performance in 2012 received rave reviews at the One World Concert featuring the Dalai Lama, and celebrities that included Dave Mathews, Counting Crows, Angélique Kidjo and both Nelly and Nelly Furtado. It’s said that the sound of TEAL-One97 surpasses all prior blends of North Africa, Middle Eastern, and Western music. It is an expression of today’s new globally aware generation of artists from Arab and North African descent. Bridging the sweet tones of the oud to rolling guitar rhythms, TEAL-One97 incorporates Arab, Middle Eastern, and North African musical traditions in equal measure with rock, country, rai and pop.

A true North African and Arab collective the band members, like their music, crossover multiple boundaries from these regions. Originally from Iraq, Laith Alattar's pure tenor voice mixes sweet nostalgia of a beloved yesterday with MC Rai's hip North African vibe featuring chaabi folk, rebel rai, and the latest grooves from the global dance floor. Simo Filali Chahad born in Casablanca, Morocco is a multi-instrumentalist deftly switching between keyboards, guitar, drums, and vocals. With a master's degree in computer science, Filali programs a unique mix of tech and live sounds into his music. Cheb Yassin's musical journey began in Algeria in 1994. He comes to US soil via Tunisia and Egypt. While in Cairo, Yacine emerged as the ambassador to Rai music when he was awarded the 2000 International Music Festival Musical Arrangement Award. In 2005, Yacine was picked up by Dandana TV, the first Arab-American network to broadcast from the United States. Karim Nagi is a native Egyptian drummer, DJ, composer and folk dancer. The creator of Turbo Tabla, Nagi has released four internationally distributed CDs of a unique brand of Arab House/Electronica featuring acoustic instruments. Karim Nagi is a true crossover artist, uniting traditional and the modern, the ethnic and the urban. American born, Paul Hefti, guitarist and composer, will join the group for this select tour date.

For ticket holders a pre-performance talk will be presented at 6:45PM by Banning Eyre, Senior Editor at *Afropop.org* and a commentator for NPR's *All Things Considered*

TEAL-One97: Arab & North Africa Music Project is presented in partnership with the Smith College Department of Middle Eastern Studies and receives additional support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Pioneer Valley Hotel Group, Daily Hampshire Gazette, Valley Free Radio and Moti's Restaurant.

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