

# Final Report for *Scheherazade*

## Performance Details

*Scheherazade* has been performed three full times in the Champaign-Urbana region this fall. A preview show was given (free of charge) during the Sweetcorn Festival at [co][lab] gallery in downtown Urbana on August 22. The premiere of the multimedia show was held on Sept. 6 at the Parkland College Theatre in Champaign, IL. Another performance was given at the Courtyard Café in the University of IL Union on Sept. 26. A free performance of *Scheherazade* was also given in collaboration with storyteller Kim Sheahan at the Spurlock Museum in Urbana on Nov. 9.

Two other performances were given (and Urbana Arts mentioned as a sponsor) on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> in Denton, TX partially sponsored by the University of North Texas.

## Performance Results

*Scheherazade* was created as a synthesis of musical, visual, and theatrical arts. This melding was intended to evoke an immersive art experience that appealed to both those interested in classical music and those who do not typically attend classical concerts. In particular, the University of IL performance attracted a wide variety of audience members, many of whom simply stopped by to watch the show after being intrigued by the visual elements as they passed through the Union. Children to retirees' parents attended these concerts, and much positive feedback was received not only on the music, but on the experience as a whole.

Many audience members praised the beautiful storytelling quality of the show, and after attending a *Scheherazade* performance, many people have chosen to attend other more traditional classical concerts I have given. Via this, it can be assumed that *Scheherazade's* goal of increasing the general public's interest in classical music by sharing that music in an innovative and unique manner in a non-traditional, urban public setting, succeeded. Moreover, it was rewarding to see music that was either from the Middle East or heavily influenced by music from that region be so warmly received by a wide ethnic range of audience members. Several Iranians came up to me after my Spurlock performance to say how much they enjoyed the performance. Many American grad students have asked about the opening piece (*Stranger*) curious about its Jewish origins. In particular, though, the Spurlock museum performance was best for this encouragement of great social tolerance and understanding of other cultures stories. By telling the stories of Orpheus and Euridice, Scheherazade and Scharazad, and Ariadne and Theseus, intermixed with harp playing, it was quite clear that all of these stories had much in common with one another as well as told universal stories of love. By performing Middle Eastern music, *Scheherazade* encouraged greater social tolerance by performing music that combines traditional Jewish and Arabic styles alongside classical Western idioms, showcasing that all three of these music styles have much in common. This program also offered the opportunity to educate the citizens of Urbana on the unique style of Middle Eastern-influence music, a style of music that is not often played for Western audiences.

# Scheherazade final budget

## INCOME

Urbana Arts Grant		500
IMusE	1250	
Tickets (approximately)		250
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2,000</b>

## EXPENSES

Composer		1,500
Production Materials	auxilliary percussion, electric candles, fabric)	1,178.00
Video and Audio Recording		1194
Film Animation Editing		250
Travel		480
Projector and Screen Rental for [co][lab]		40
Printing		42
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4,684.00</b>

Tech crew	in kind
Photography	in kind

<b>NET INCOME:</b>		<b>-2684</b>
		<b>(loss funded by Ann McLaughlin)</b>