



THE NILE PROJECT FLOWS INTO JORGENSEN

Thurs, Apr 20, 2017, 7:30 pm

The Nile Project founder Mina Girgis lectures at UConn's Konover Auditorium

Weds, Apr 19, at 4:00 pm.

One of the most joyous cross-cultural collaborations in today's World music scene, The Nile Project - 13 musicians representing 11 countries on Africa's Nile River Basin - will take the stage at UConn's Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts on Thursday evening, April 20 to celebrate the sounds, songs, and rich musical diversity of one of the oldest regions on Earth. Using their music to spark cultural curiosity, the group is on a mission to entertain audiences while engaging them to learn about the world's longest river and understand its large-scale social, cultural, and environmental sustainability challenges. Doors will open at 7:00 pm. Performance starts at 7:30 pm.

A lecture by ethnomusicologist Mina Girgis, founder of The Nile Project, will be given on Wednesday, April 19, at 4:00 pm, one day prior to the concert, in the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center's Konover Auditorium.

From their debut performance captured live on their 2013 CD release entitled *ASWAN*, it was clear that The Nile Project was something completely new. *NPR* named their recording one of five "Must Hear International Albums," and *The New York Times* hailed them as "A committed, euphoric international coalition." The next few years saw the eclectic ensemble complete two African Tours and a 4-month U.S. Tour with stops at 25 universities, Lincoln Center, the United Nations, and almost every major media outlet.

Much more than just a band, The Nile Project brings together in creative collaboration artists from the 11 Nile countries: Tanzania, Egypt, Sudan, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Burundi.

To craft their music, Egyptian and Ethiopian artists have mastered each other's model systems. A Burundian bassist has become the foundation within head-spinning Ugandan rhythms. Instruments that parted ways millennia before are reunited and pushed into new tunings. Old love songs and lullabies have crossed geographical and linguistic barriers to forge unexpected tunes and improbable friendships.

With recent invitations to lead workshops for diplomats and policymakers by Lincoln Center and the European Commission, The Nile Project is at the forefront of modeling how music and art can drive meaningful social change.

The Nile Project's mission is to transform the water conflict in the Nile Basin by inspiring, informing, and empowering Nile citizens to collaboratively cultivate the sustainability of their shared ecosystem. Through an innovative approach combining cross-cultural musical collaborations, youth leadership development, and a collaborative network focusing on food sustainability, the Nile Project seeks to address the cultural and environmental challenges at the root of the Nile conflict in order to shift the world's longest river from a divisive hydropolitical argument to an opportunity for fruitful transboundary cooperation.

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Quick Reference

World Music Event
The Nile Project

Date
Thurs, Apr 20, 2017, 7:30 pm

Place
Jorgensen Center
for the Performing Arts
2132 Hillside Road
UConn campus, Storrs, CT

Tickets
\$36, \$32

Box Office
860.486.4226
Mon–Fri, 10 am–5 pm

The Box Office window is also open for walk-up ticket sales 90 minutes before showtime.

For Immediate Release

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THE NILE PROJECT, continued

“Unlike so many other cross-cultural collaborations, for us, the music is just the starting point,” says Sudanese vocalist and percussionist Asia Madani. “The concert opens the door. It makes people curious and inspired. It engages their sense of empathy.”

The Nile Project’s collaborative model offers a blueprint for new ways Nile citizens can organize themselves to make the Nile more sustainable. In an evolving series of interlocking programs that spring from the concert experience, the Project hopes to inspire, educate and empower young people worldwide to contribute to Nile sustainability.

For this reason, nearly every stop on the U.S. tour will be accompanied by a series of workshops and symposia involving the Nile Project participant musicians, complemented by the faculty resources and student interest of each campus. From water issues to women’s roles, from musical discovery to the image of the Nile through history, a wide range of topics tackle the river’s complexity and aim to draw students into active roles. These activities expand the circle of conversation begun by the musicians, to encompass entire academic communities.

For more information about The Nile Project visit www.NileProject.org.

This year Jorgensen was voted Best College or University Performing Arts Center in the Hartford Courant’s CTNow, as well as Connecticut Magazine’s Best of Performing Arts Venues (College) for 2016. Established in December of 1955, Jorgensen has grown to become the largest college-based presenting program in New England. Each season Jorgensen enriches the lives of students, faculty, staff, and area residents with 30 to 35 diverse performances from nationally and internationally acclaimed artists and ensembles ranging from classical music to world music and dance, classical ballet and contemporary dance, comedy, family programming, and contemporary entertainment. Dedicated to University of Connecticut president Albert N. Jorgensen, Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts continues to follow his vision of the University as the state’s educational and cultural leader.

Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts is located at 2132 Hillside Road on the UConn campus in Storrs. Tickets are available now online. Floor seats are \$36; Mezzanine - \$32; Students & Youth under 18 - all seats \$15.

For tickets and information, call the Box Office at 860.486.4226, Monday through Friday, 10 am - 5 pm, and 90 minutes prior to events, or order online at jorgensen.uconn.edu. Convenient \$5 event parking is available in the North Garage. Free parking is available in Lots 9, F, and L. For a detailed parking map, go to park.uconn.edu.

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