



**Daat
Hamakom**

Center for the
Study of Cultures
of Place in the
Modern Jewish
World



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THE PLACE OF MUSIC

The Forum for Contemporary Ethnomusicology
and Da'at Hamakom - Center for the Study
of Cultures of Place in the Modern Jewish World

Present

Prof. Salwa El-Shawan Castelo-Branco

New University of Lisbon, Portugal; President of the International Council for Traditional Music

The Heritagization of Arabic Music in Twentieth-Century Egypt

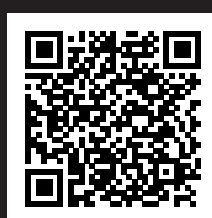
The heritagization of Arabic music in twentieth-century Egypt was marked by two milestones: the Arabic Music Conference held in Cairo in 1932 with the goal of establishing a canon for Arabic music theory and practice; and the founding in 1967 of Firqat Al-Musiqa Al-'Arabiyyah, a vocal and instrumental ensemble that aimed at reviving and disseminating Arabic music heritage/turath. The 1932 conference established Al-Musiqa Al-'Arabiyyah (Arabic music) as a discursive field grounded in the ideal of authenticity. However, its influence on performance practice was negligible. Thirty-five years following this landmark event, Firqat Al-Musiqa Al-'Arabiyyah (FMA) established a new performance model and aesthetic for Arabic music, providing a new sonic substance to the notion of al-musiqa al-'arabiyyah, conceptualized as heritage/turath.

Taking into account Egyptian nationalism, pan-Arabism, and the modernization efforts that characterized the Nasser era (1956 -1970), this lecture will focus on the discursive construction of Arabic music by Firqat Al-Musiqa Al-'Arabiyyah and its impact. It will examine national cultural policy and government investment in safeguarding and disseminating Arabic music heritage, while at the same time sponsoring and promoting the institutionalization and indigenization of Western music; the agency of leading musicians, musicologists and cultural politicians in the efforts that led to the founding of FMA and in the establishment of a new performance model for Arabic music; and the impact of heritagization on the sustainability of al-musiqa al-'arabiyyah.

July 12, 2016
at 18:00

The Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem

Lecture and Round Table open to the public, free admission



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