

The Schaefer Center Presents
2016-17 Season

THE NILE PROJECT

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2017 7PM

SCHAEFER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
BOONE, NC

Appalachian
STATE UNIVERSITY



Nile Project Artists:

Adel Mekha / Egypt, Nubia / Vocals, Percussion

Ahmed Omar / Eritrea, Egypt / Bass, Tanbour

Asia Madani / Sudan / Vocals, Percussion

Dave Otieno / Kenya / Electric Guitar

Ibrahim Fanous / Eritrea / Krar

Kasiva Mutua / Kenya / Percussion, Vocals

Michael Bazibu / Uganda / Entongoli, Adungu, Endingidi, Percussion, Vocals

Mohamed Abozekry / Egypt / Oud

Nader El Shaer / Egypt / Kawala, Accordion, Farfisa, Vocals

Saleeb Fawzy / Egypt / Vocals

Selamnesh Zemene / Ethiopia / Vocals

Steven Sogo / Burundi / Vocals, Bass, Ikembe, Umiduri

Adel Mekha: A widely respected Nubian percussionist and vocalist based in Cairo, Mekha's knowledge of traditional Nubian rhythms and an expressive singing voice have brought him work with a wide range of ensembles and projects.

Ahmed Omar: Born in Libya to an Eritrean father and Egyptian mother, it is no surprise that mixing cultures has become part of Omar's creative output. Today, he plays bass for several leading Egyptian bands and organizes the AfriCairo festival and music project.

Asia Madani: A Sudanese vocalist and percussionist residing in Cairo, Madani grew up surrounded by music with a father that played oud and a professional percussionist as a brother. She is a captivating performer who has appeared at many international festivals.

Dave Otieno: One of Kenya's leading guitarists, Otieno is fluent in the Benga style common to the Lake Victoria region. He has toured throughout Africa and Europe and recently performed at the Folklife Festival at the Smithsonian, Washington D.C.

Ibrahim Fanous: An Eritrean kraar player and vocalist based in London, Fanous began his vocal training at a young age in Eastern Sudan in three different languages—Arabic, Tegna and Amharic. He performs internationally throughout North Africa and Europe.

Kasiva Mutua: Kenyan percussionist and singer Mutua may have learned drumming from her grandmother, but has developed her own knack for powerful beats. One of Kenya's leading drummers, her expressive playing can tell a story on its own, or keep a band perfectly in the pocket.

Micheal Bazibu: A member of Uganda's leading traditional music and dance company, Ndere, for the past 17 years, Bazibu plays several traditional Ugandan stringed and percussion instruments with virtuosic grace.

Mohamed Abozekry: Despite his tender years, this Egyptian oud player has a stunning command of his instrument, as well as an open ear for other forms, skills that got him a recent album deal with Harmonia Mundi.

Nader El Shaer: Born in the culturally rich town of Port Said, Egypt, El Shaer taught himself accordion and ney, only to fall in love with the tones of the kawala (end-blown cane flute) and its role in Arabic classical music.

Saleeb Fawzy: Born in Minya, Egypt, vocalist and percussionist Fawzy has a deep knowledge of coptic church hymns and has toured throughout Europe and the Arab world. He is currently working on Tawasol project, helping people to learn through art.

Selamnesh Zemene: Hailing from a long line of unique culture bearers in Northern Ethiopia, this young singer has brought her traditions to collaborations with indie darlings like Debo Band and The Ex.

Steven "Sogo" Irambona: Born in Burundi, Steven Irambona started to play the guitar and sing at an early age. He is a World Bank Musical Ambassador for Burundi and a popular voice of the people. Irambona has lived in exile in the USA since 2015.

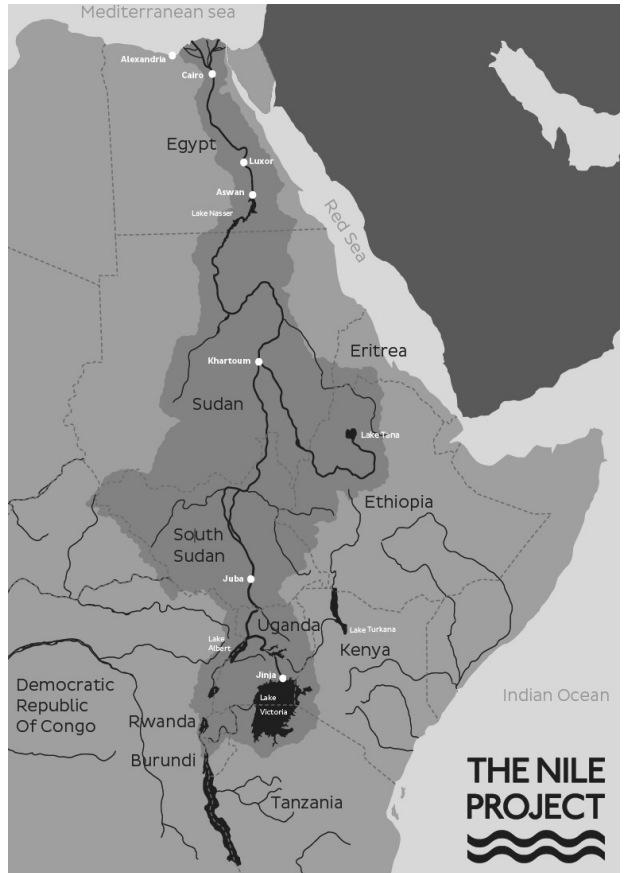
Nile Background:

The Nile, one of the world's most iconic rivers, has captivated the imagination of millions throughout time. Originating in two sources – Lake Victoria in East Africa and Lake Tana in the Ethiopian highlands – the 6,670-kilometer river flows northward through a diversity of climates, landscapes, and cultures before passing through Egypt and emptying into the Mediterranean Sea.

Its 450 million inhabitants are projected to double within the next 25 years, placing an ever increasing demand for Nile water; water that is tied to all aspects of life - from the food on tables to the electricity that powers homes to people's health. Even now, people living along the Nile are vulnerable to water-related hardships. At least five nations in the Nile Basin are facing water stress. Seven of the eleven Nile countries continue to suffer from undernourishment rates higher than 30%.

Less than 10% of basin residents have access to electricity. The core issue at hand is how to peacefully allocate Nile Basin water among eleven nations with different needs and priorities, whose populations are all skyrocketing.

This mounting resource scarcity has contributed to a geopolitical conflict between upstream and downstream riparian states. Tremendous political capital has been expended to draft the Nile Cooperative Framework Agreement, an international treaty to



govern water distribution and infrastructure projects differently from the existing 1959 Egyptian-Sudanese treaty giving Egypt the majority water right annually. While the agreement has yet to win mutual consensus, the arduous negotiation process has exposed the deep-seated mistrust between countries, the absence of opportunities for citizen-led dialogue and the lack of a unified identity and vision for the future development of a shared Nile ecosystem.

The Nile River Basin is wrought with political, environmental, economic, and social challenges requiring a new approach to better address the myriad challenges it faces. As regional tensions flare, the Nile Project offers a unique grassroots strategy to effectively mobilize thousands of people across the Nile Basin and beyond in constructive cross-cultural dialogue and collaboration.

About the Nile Project:

The Nile Project is transforming the Nile conflict by inspiring, educating, and empowering an international network of university students to cultivate the sustainability of their ecosystem. The project's model integrates music, education, dialogue, leadership, and innovation to engage students across disciplines and geographies.

Music Program

An expanding collective of artists from the 11 Nile countries redefining principles of cross-cultural musical collaboration. Also a series of community choirs applying the same principles across the Nile Basin.

University Program

A suite of student activities including a yearlong fellowship program, university chapters and local community projects in cities across the Nile Basin.

Network Program

An international network of scholars, executives and policymakers focusing on developing collaborative solutions to food sustainability in the Nile Basin.

Touring Credits:

Mina Girgis – Producer & CEO

Andrew Reissinger - Music Program Manager

SRO Artists - Booking Agency

For more information:

nileproject.org

facebook.com/nileproject

twitter.com/nileproject

THANK YOU!



The Nile Project performance and residency have been funded in part by a grant from South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the NC Arts Council. Additional support has been provided by the university's Quality Enhancement program.

AN APPALACHIAN SUMMER FESTIVAL

2017 Festival Highlights

June 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26 & August 2
Weicholz Global Film Series

June 30, July 16, 23 & 25
Broyhill Chamber Ensemble

July 9
Eastern Festival Orchestra featuring **Midori**

July 13 & 14
National Black Theatre Festival: "Maid's Door"

July 21
MOMIX: "Opus Cactus"

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Full season will be announced soon!

APPSUMMER.ORG



Susan Feagin

Join Us!
Spring Exhibition Celebration
Friday, April 7, 2017 • 6-10pm

Free and open to the public! Food. Live Music. Cash Bar. Meet the Artists.



Turchin Center for the Visual Arts

423 West King Street, Boone, NC

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Featured Exhibition:

Collective Vigilance:
Speaking for the New River

February 3-July 29, 2017 • Mayer Gallery

In partnership with the Center for Appalachian Studies and the New River Conservancy, the Turchin Center presents this exhibition designed to showcase the headwaters of the New River, to focus attention on the environmental threats which imperil local watersheds, and raise awareness of the sustainability challenges faced by the New River Basin and our local rivers.

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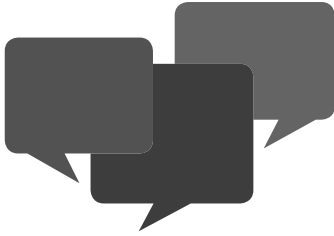
SUPPORTING SPONSORSHIP PROVIDED BY



MISSION STATEMENT

The Schaefer Center Presents supports the teaching mission of Appalachian State University by offering a diverse array of music, dance and theatre events designed to enrich the cultural, educational and economic landscape of the campus and surrounding region. By creating memorable performance experiences and related educational and outreach activities, the series promotes the power and excitement of the live performance experience; provides a "window on the world" through the artistry of nationally and internationally renowned artists; and showcases some of the finest artists of our region.

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Sundays

After *A Prairie Home Companion*
& *Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me!* tune in for:



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Triad Arts Weekend @ 4pm



Sound Opinions @ 6pm

American Routes @ 7pm



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Our State
CELEBRATING NORTH CAROLINA



Our State supports the North Carolina Presenters Consortium (NCPC) with a monthly listing in the magazine of exciting professional arts and entertainment events.

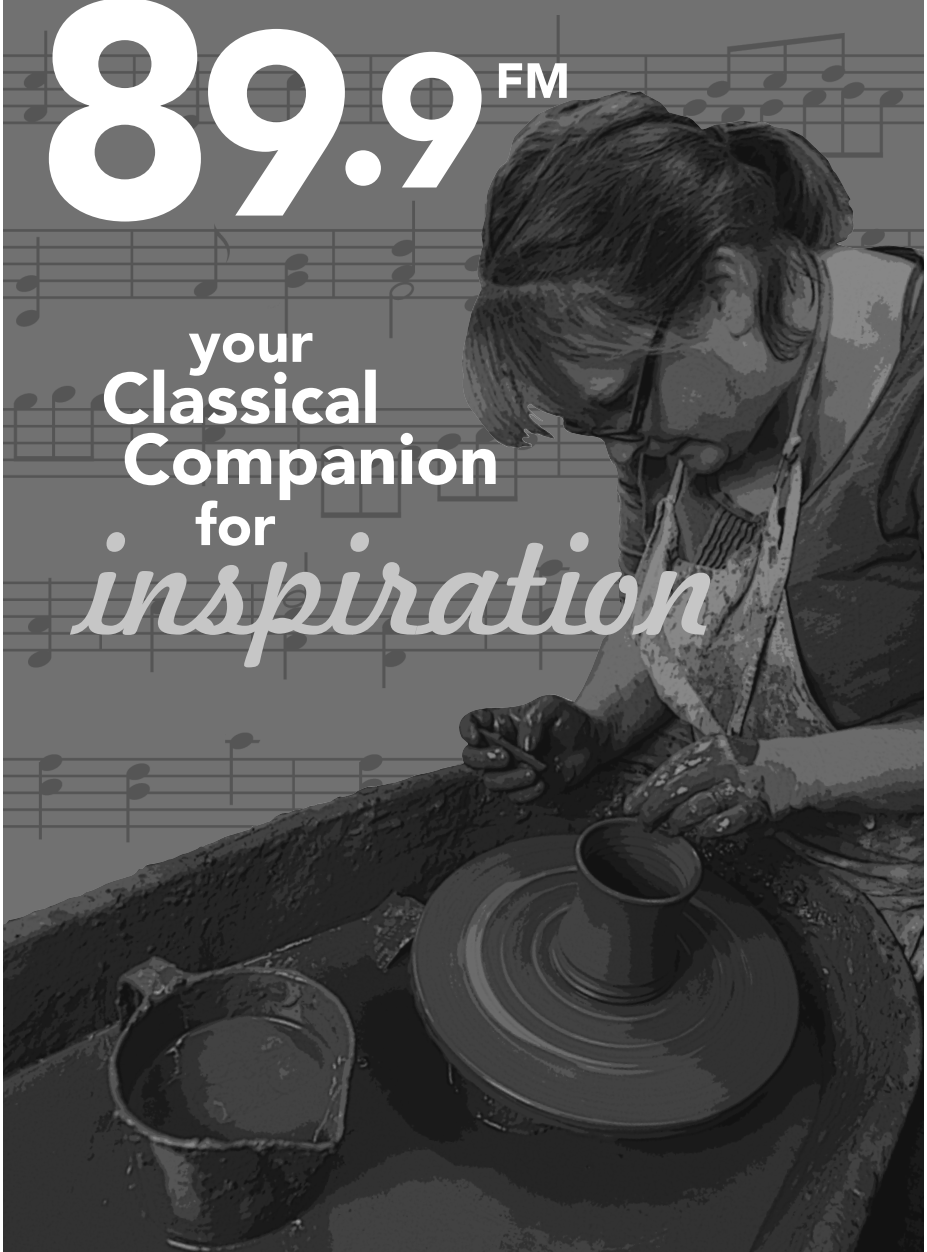


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