



## NEWS

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### **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **EGYPTIAN NATIONAL ORCHESTRA PERFORMS AT ARAB AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM FUNDRAISER**

Dearborn, MI (September 19, 2007) – Take a musical journey to the land of Egypt while supporting the Arab American National Museum (AANM) at the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Concert Gala at 8 p.m. Saturday, October 27 at the Detroit Opera House. Egypt’s national orchestra, the Umm Kulthoum Orchestra, will present a variety of classical Arabic music and other selections for this elegant affair in an historic renovated theater, one of the finest opera venues in the United States.

A new price structure makes it affordable for everyone to attend this festive annual fundraiser for the AANM, produced by the volunteer Friends of the Museum. Concert tickets run \$25, \$50, \$75, \$100 and \$150; early birds at all prices get the best seats. A \$200 Patron ticket includes valet parking, preferred concert seating and a cocktail reception. At \$500, a Benefactor ticket offers all of the above plus an invitation to “Cairo By Night,” a private dinner party on October 20 in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Named for the beloved 20<sup>th</sup> century Egyptian diva Umm Kulthoum, the Orchestra was formed by Egypt’s Ministry of Culture in 1967 to revive and preserve traditional Arabic music. Comprised of 55 trained vocalists and 40 instrumentalists, the Orchestra presents both traditional forms and works by contemporary composers. The Orchestra has performed throughout the Middle East, Turkey and Spain, while a spinoff quintet has toured other European nations.

A 17-member ensemble of the Umm Kulthoum Orchestra, with 15 musicians and two vocalists, is touring five U.S. cities this fall. The tour begins in New York City October 25; moves to Detroit October 27; then stops in Raleigh, North Carolina October 30; Chicago November 1, and Washington, D.C. November 4.

Tickets for the October 27 Concert Gala are available by calling Wafa Salah at 248.626.2522, the Arab American National Museum at 313.624.0200 or Ticketmaster at 248.645.6666. Tickets are also available for purchase online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) and [www.accesscommunity.org](http://www.accesscommunity.org). The Detroit Opera House is located at 1526 Broadway in downtown Detroit.

The Arab American National Museum documents, preserves, celebrates, and educates the public on the history, life, culture, and contributions of Arab Americans. We serve as a resource to enhance knowledge and understanding about Arab Americans and their presence in this country. The Arab American National Museum is a project of ACCESS, a Dearborn, Michigan-based nonprofit human services and cultural organization. Learn more at [www.arabamericanmuseum.org](http://www.arabamericanmuseum.org) and [www.accesscommunity.org](http://www.accesscommunity.org).

The Museum is located at 13624 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn, MI, 48126. Museum hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Closed Monday, Tuesday; Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Admission is \$6 for adults; \$3 for students, seniors and children 6-12; ages 5 and under, free. Call 313-582-2266 for further information.

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