



## NEWS

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### **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **“GO GLOBAL” WITH FORD COMERICA GLOBAL THURSDAYS WORLD MUSIC CONCERTS AT AANM**

Dearborn, MI (September 5, 2007) – What do a West African griot, a Mexican flamenco dancer and a Bulgarian wedding band have in common? They’re all on the bill for the fall season of the AANM’s popular Ford Comerica Global Thursdays world music concert series.

Contemporary Irish acoustic supergroup **Lunasa** opens the series September 20; a return of 2006’s colorful and free **International Holiday Marketplace & Fashion Show** concludes the season December 13. In between is a series of fascinating performers who will transport audiences to sonorous destinations not offered by any other local venue.

The musical itinerary includes Senegal in western Africa, as griot **Mady Kouyate** brings his Manding traditions and 21-string kora to share history through music and verse on December 6. From Mexico, by way of Detroit, comes **La Chispa & Company**, offering flamenco dance at its most sparkling and passionate on November 29. Then, on October 25, hear the hottest music being made in Bulgaria, from saxophone virtuoso **Yuri Yunakov** and his band of rising stars from that country’s fertile Romani (or Gypsy) wedding music scene.

In the lone non-musical offering for the fall season, New York’s cutting-edge Palestinian American playwright and actor **Betty Shamieh** presents excerpts of her award-winning Off-Broadway performances on October 18.

Click [HERE](#) to view the brochure online, or see the full schedule below. All seating is general admission. Tickets may be purchased in advance with a credit card by calling 313.624.0215.

Ford Comerica Global Thursdays represents one of metro Detroit's best entertainment values. For just \$10 (\$12 at the door; \$8 students with ID), concertgoers can enjoy unique performances in an intimate, 156-seat auditorium located in an architecturally distinct, art- and history-filled institution. Free, lighted parking is available in the municipal lot behind the Museum, and numerous nearby restaurants offer globe-trotting culinary treats.

Music lovers can enjoy Global Thursdays concerts for even less by becoming a Member of the Arab American National Museum. As one of several benefits, AANM Members can purchase their Global Thursdays tickets for just \$8. That's a 33% savings off the normal \$12 ticket price. Memberships begin at just \$25. Call 313.582.2266 or visit [www.arabamericanmuseum.org](http://www.arabamericanmuseum.org) to become a Member.

Sponsors for this concert series include: Ford Motor Company; Comerica; The Wallace Foundation; National Endowment for the Arts; Metro Times; and DoubleTree Hotel.

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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Fall 2007 Ford Comerica Global Thursdays

September 20 7:30 p.m.

Lúnasa, Irish Acoustic

Ireland's great 1970s group The Bothy Band inspired this gathering of Ireland's top contemporary players. Lúnasa use melodic interweaving of wind and string instruments, pairing flutes, fiddle, whistle and pipes in breathtaking configurations. Their inventive arrangements and bass-driven grooves are steering Irish acoustic music into new territory.

September 27 7:30 p.m.

Scott Feiner & Pandeiro Jazz, Brazil/NYC Jazz

Combine the rich rhythmic texture of the Brazilian pandeiro – a tunable, sophisticated cousin of the tambourine – with the intensity of New York City jazz, and you get

Pandeiro Jazz. The sound produced by this percussion, guitar and saxophone trio impresses audiences with its high energy, musical interaction, and intense grooves.

October 4 7:30 p.m.

Eastern Blok, Eastern European Fusion

Alluring and complex, Chicago-based Eastern Blok transcends borders. Formerly known as the Goran Ivanovic Group, they effortlessly blend classical and jazz music with the rich folkloric traditions of Macedonia, Bulgaria, and Serbia. Middle Eastern motifs merge gracefully with the evocative sounds of Eastern European klezmer music.

October 11 7:30 p.m.

SHUSMO, Middle Eastern Jazz

New York City-based SHUSMO originally formed to mix various elements of jazz and Middle Eastern music, and to present them through powerful grooves. Since then the melodic melange has seen other elements come into play, including Latin rhythms, counterpoint, and spoken word.

October 18 7:30 p.m.

Betty Shamieh, One-Woman Show

This award-winning Palestinian American playwright has two plays making their New York and world premieres this season. Shamieh's off-Broadway debut, *Roar*, was selected as a *New York Times* Critics Pick for 2004. As an actor, Shamieh performed her play of monologues, *Chocolate in Heat*, at its sold-out premiere at the New York International Fringe Festival in 2001.

October 25 7:30 p.m.

Yuri Yunakov and his Romani Wedding Band, Bulgarian Wedding Music

In Bulgaria, some of the best, most innovative music is generated by that country's colorful, competitive wedding music scene, with many musicians emanating from the Roma or Gypsy tradition. Saxophone virtuoso Yuri Yunakov and his band of rising stars, featuring clarinetist Sal Mamudoski and electric guitarist Vasil Angelov, create a lyrical, exuberant Eastern European weave of vibrant sounds, beautiful melodies and frenetic improvisations that impresses even seasoned jazz players.

November 1 7:30 p.m.

Gaida, Arab Songstress

A leading New York City Arab vocalist, Gaida has the "most beautiful, expressive voice, the sort of voice that violins and clarinets try to imitate." Damascus-raised Gaida learned from the recordings of Sabah Fakhri, Umm Kulthoum, and Fairouz. With her passionate voice and innate style, Gaida and her band deliver a powerful and heart-moving performance.

November 8 7:30 p.m.

Stratospheerius, Psychojazz Funk

Their live performances are filled with funky dance grooves; rip-roaring guitar/violin jams, and hooks that mix jazz, funk, and world beat. Featured in *Relix* Magazine's "On

The Verge" section, they're also "Best Jam Band" in the *Musician's Atlas* Independent Music Awards and a winner of the BMI John Lennon Songwriting contest.

November 15 7:30 p.m.

Edmar Castañeda, Columbian Folk/Jazz

Combining Latin jazz with traditional Colombian music, Castañeda has carved a firm place in the international jazz scene. A jazz harpist of imposing talent, he transforms the harp into a lead instrument to phenomenal effect. Castañeda produces cross-rhythms like a drummer, and smashes chordal flourishes like a flamenco guitarist.

November 29 7:30 p.m.

La Chispa and Company, Flamenco

La Chispa ("The Spark") and Company explores all aspects of flamenco to create a powerful mixture of complex rhythms and haunting melodies. Led by Mexican-born Valeria Montes, aka La Chispa, this Detroit-based troupe offers a breathtaking performance, with live accompaniment, that transports passionate Spanish dance and music to the stage with trademark vibrancy and intensity.

December 6 7:30 p.m.

Mady Kouyate, West African Griot

Born in Dakar, Senegal, Mady is a descendent of the Kouyate family of Dialolu, oral historians and musicians of Manding traditions, recording the history of West African societies through music and verse. Performing on the 21-string kora, he is a master of the traditional and ancestral heritage of griot.

December 13 6:00 p.m. FREE ADMISSION

International Holiday Marketplace & Fashion Show

Our popular holiday bazaar returns with fashion, art, crafts and food from around the world. Don't miss this opportunity to shop, explore and enjoy live music and complimentary refreshments, as our holiday gift to you!

Read more about all these artists at [www.arabamericanmuseum.org](http://www.arabamericanmuseum.org).

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