



NEWS

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ZYDECO GREAT OPENS GLOBAL THURSDAYS

World Music Series Now Offers Online Ticketing

Dearborn, MI (January XX, 2008) – Named “Best Place to Concertize in Color Year-Round” in the Metro Times 2007 Best of Detroit issue, the Comerica Ford Global Thursdays world music concert series returns to the Arab American National Museum with a sizzling January 31 performance by zydeco great **C.J. Chenier & The Red Hot Louisiana Band**.

From jazzy New Orleans, Global Thursdays transports you to the world of maqam – classical music from Middle East – with the Iraqi group **Safaafir** on February 7, and then on to various musical destinations including Colombia (**Claudia Calderon**, March 20), India (**Shashank**, March 27); and Ghana (**Abuakwa African Music & Dance Ensemble**, February 14).

Detroit’s always impressive music scene offers up **Nadir’s Distorted Soul** (March 6) in a performance focused on the acoustic, jazz and world portions of its repertoire. Michigan acoustic music is represented by **Jere Stormer’s Folk Out II** (April 10) with a stellar lineup including the **Rev. Robert Jones** and **Floyd King & The Bushwackers**.

Closing out the Winter-Spring Global Thursdays season with music and humor on April 17 is **Babylon Circus** from Lyon, France, a group that fuses ska and reggae with jazz, swing and European folk music and a healthy serving of lighthearted fun.

The AANM’s 156-seat auditorium guarantees an intimate musical experience. **After the show, Global Thursdays performers typically greet audience members in the Lower Level Gallery and autograph their CDs, which are for sale at each concert.**

Global Thursdays remains one of metro Detroit's best entertainment values. Tickets are just \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door; and \$8 for Museum Members and students with I.D. Free, ample, lighted parking is available in the municipal lot behind the Museum, which is accessed by turning north from Michigan Avenue onto Neckel Street. All performances begin at 7:30 p.m. The complete schedule appears below.

Concertgoers may now purchase their Global Thursdays tickets in advance with a credit card at www.arabamericanmuseum.org. Tickets remain available by phone, also with a credit card, at 313.582.2266 or 313.624.0215. Advance-sale tickets purchased either way are held for pickup at the ticket table on the night of the performance.

Global Thursdays now has its own MySpace page, featuring artist information, music clips and links. Visit www.myspace.com/aanmglobalthursdays and become a Friend.

Global Thursdays is sponsored by the Comerica Charitable Foundation and Ford Motor Company; WDET-FM Detroit Public Radio; Metro Times; The Wallace Foundation; National Endowment for the Arts, and DoubleTree Hotel. The AANM also welcomes new local partners – the Jamaican Association of Michigan and the Indian American Cultural Association – for specific performances.

COMERICA/FORD GLOBAL THURSDAYS

2008 Winter/Spring Schedule

January 31 7:30 p.m.

C.J. Chenier & The Red Hot Louisiana Band
New Orleans Zydeco

C.J. is the son of the great King of Zydeco, Clifton Chenier – the first Creole musician ever to win a Grammy Award. Clifton taught C.J. how to front a world-class touring band and when Clifton died, C.J. stepped up. Get all fired up at this pre-Mardi Gras party!

February 7 7:30 p.m.

Safaafir
Iraqi Maqam

Amir El Saffar – trumpeter, composer, singer, and santoor (trapezoidal hammered dulcimer with 70 strings) player – is garnering international acclaim for his work, both in the traditional Iraqi Maqam (the system of melodic modes used in Arabic music) and in the realm of jazz.

February 14 7:30 p.m.

Abuakwa African Music & Dance Ensemble
Ghanian Drum & Dance

Established in 1998 in Kokomlemle, Accra, Ghana, Abuakwa is a first-class performance ensemble that explores the classical foundations of African music and dance, with

authentic instruments and dazzling dance moves representing Africa's various indigenous cultures.

February 21 7:30 p.m.

Le Trio Joubran

Palestinian Oud

The sons of a legendary instrument maker and his vocalist-wife, Le Trio Joubran carry on their family's musical traditions in contemporary style. Ouds (lutes) are rarely heard in multiples, but the intuitive sense of ensemble that these brothers share makes it a magical experience. *Comerica Charitable Foundation Night.*

February 28 7:30 p.m.

Roots Vibration

Caribbean Reggae

Roots Vibration is a musical force focused on authentic Caribbean stylings. Comprised of talented players from the lush islands of the Caribbean and the funky streets of Detroit, this band will stimulate your senses with positive roots music in a Carnavalesque celebration. *Sponsored by the Jamaican Association of Michigan.*

March 6 7:30 p.m.

Nadir's Distorted Soul

Detroit Funk & Rock

Some artists defy classification. Nadir rebels against it. Distorted Soul covers diverse territories of sound and style, effortlessly blending soul, jazz, and funk to create an infectious, delectable groove. This award-winning outfit focuses in on the acoustic, jazz and world music areas of its repertoire for this special engagement.

March 13 7:30 p.m.

Karim Nagi

Egyptian Percussion & Dance

Nagi uses his traditional foundation to re-imagine the culture, uncovering progressive deliveries and new concepts. He combines the power and articulation of Arab percussion with the earthy bravado of Arab folk dance to create a charismatic solo performance which also incorporates verbal commentary and touches of electronica.

March 20 7:30 p.m.

Claudia Calderón

Latin American Folk

Pianist and composer Claudia Calderón was born in Palmira, Colombia. Based on traditional harp music, Calderón's romantic, folkloric piano style preserves and celebrates the ethnic music of the mountains, plains and coasts of Venezuela and Colombia.

March 27 7:30 p.m.

Shashank

East Indian Flute

"Shashank sings through his flute," says one critic of this fiery classical musician. Shashank's performances offer extraordinary range - from the deepest meditations to lighthearted, youthful fun to astonishing virtuosity. *Sponsored by the Indian American Cultural Association.*

April 3 7:30 p.m.

Burkina Electric

West African Electronica

Burkina Electric brings a new twist to Burkinabe music by infusing its traditional rhythms and elements with Western club electronica. The music of the Burkinabe is played on drums, flutes, stringed instruments and a balophon, a xylophone-like instrument made with dried gourds.

April 10 7:30 p.m.

Jere Stormer's Folk Out II

Michigan Acoustic Music

A cavalcade of folk musicians including Floyd King & the Bushwackers, The Rev. Robert Jones, Dennis Kingsbury, Maggie Ferguson, Denise Stein and Jim Bizer, with your host, singer/songwriter Jere Stormer. *Sponsored by WDET-FM, Detroit Public Radio.*

April 17 7:30 p.m.

Babylon Circus

French Ska/Reggae

Babylon Circus is a 10-piece group founded in 1995 in Lyon, France. The band began as a ska group but quickly transcended the genre, mixing punk, reggae, folk, swing and jazz influences with their European folk roots. A healthy dose of humor spices up the sonic proceedings! *Sponsored by Metro Times.*

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 and www.accesscommunity.org.

The Arab American National Museum is a proud Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Read about the Affiliations program at <http://affiliations.si.edu>.

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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