



For Immediate Release:

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The Nile Project Europe Debut

This June, the Nile Project will make its European premiere with concerts in Brussels, Bradford, and London. We will also be performing on BBC Radio 3 on June 17 at 11pm (UK Time) - [tune in!](#)

Belgium

[Panel @ 10th European Development Days](#)

Tour & Taxis, Brussels

15 June 9:30am

[Concert @ 10th European Development Days](#)

Tour & Taxis, Brussels

15 June 7:45pm

[Concert @ Bozar Centre for Fine Arts](#)

Bozar, Brussels

16 June 8:00pm

United Kingdom

[Concert @ Yorkshire Festival 2016](#)

Alhambra Theatre, Bradford, UK

18 June 7:30pm

[Concert @ Barbican](#)

Islington Assembly Hall, London

19 June 7:30pm

Described as “*a committed, euphoric international coalition*” by the New York Times, the Nile Project brings together artists from the 11 countries sharing the world’s longest river to combine their instruments, languages, scales and rhythms in one of the tightest cross-cultural collaborations in music. The project’s mission is to inspire, inform and empower Nile citizens to collaboratively cultivate the sustainability of their shared ecosystem.

The Nile Project has designed an innovative musical process that allows its artists to self-organize by leveraging each other’s strengths in order to unearth a unique sound representative of the Nile watershed as a whole. By creating award-winning music within a participatory leadership framework, the Nile Project Collective provides a blueprint for new ways in which Nile citizens can organize themselves across sectors to generate creative and mutually-beneficial system-wide solutions in response to their shared hydro-political challenges.

Now in its 4th year, the Nile Project is growing beyond its musical program to strengthen its mission of Nile stewardship. As its musicians will be performing in the UK, the initiative will be announcing its inaugural class of Nile Fellows in partnership with universities in Egypt, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. Rooted in the same principles of its musical collective, the Nile Fellows program aims to translate the group's musical inspiration into an engine of environmental innovation to develop creative solutions to Nile sustainability.

THE MUSICIANS

Adel Mekha / Egypt, Nubia / Vocals, Percussion
Ahmed Omar / Eritrea, Egypt / Bass, Tanbour
Hind El Taher / Sudan / Vocals
Claude Ciza / Burundi / Percussion, Vocals
Dave Otieno / Kenya / Electric Guitar, Vocals
Dawit Seyoum Estifanos / Ethiopia / Krar, Bass Krar
Endalekachew Nigusie / Ethiopia / Masenko
Kasiva Mutua / Kenya / Percussion, Vocals
Msafiri Zawose / Tanzania / Limba, Zeze, Filimbi, Percussion, Vocals
Nader El Shaer / Egypt / Kawala, Keyboard
Roza Kifle / Ethiopia / Vocals
Saleeb Loza / Egypt / Vocals

ABOUT THE MUSICIANS

Adel Mekha / Egypt, Nubia / Vocals, Percussion

Adel Mekha is a widely respected Nubian percussionist and vocalist. With his knowledge of traditional Nubian rhythms and an expressive singing voice, Adel has worked with a wide range of ensembles and projects in and around Cairo, Egypt. Currently, Adel is a member of Uss We Lazq (Cut & Paste), a socially engaged Egyptian band.

Ahmed Omar / Eritrea, Egypt / Bass, Tanbour

Born in Libya to an Eritrean father and Egyptian mother, it is no surprise that mixing cultures has become part of Ahmed's creative output. It was after a visit to Eritrea in search of his roots that Omar started to think about the relationships between African and Oriental music and began to seek out musicians from other traditions to make the music that became the Africairo project. Today Ahmed plays bass for leading Egyptian bands such as Senet, El Dor El Awal, Beshir, and Wust El Balad. Ahmed has also organized the AfriCairo Music Festival and is a partner and manager at the Wust El Balad recording studio.

Claude Ciza / Burundi / Percussion, Ikembe, Vocals

Born in Burundi, Claude Ciza began his musical journey on traditional Burundian drums and other African percussion but his curiosity for music carried him to modern sounds. By the age of 18, he was touring Africa with Kidum and Samputu, among others. He later moved to the Netherlands where he graduated from Prins Claus Conservatory studying jazz drumming under the tutelage of Ralph Peterson and Steve Althernburg. A composer, drummer, and in-demand teacher, Claude has toured Europe, Africa, and the US.

Dave Otieno / Kenya / Electric Guitar

One of Kenya's leading guitarists, Dave Otieno is fluent in the Benga style common to the Lake Victoria region. He has worked with The Mushrooms (of 'Kenya Hakuna Matata' fame), Suzanne Owiyo, Eric Wainaina, and Ayub Ogada in Kenya as well as Mulatu Astatke, Chachi Tadesse, Gigi, and the now famous Tsedenia Gebre Markos in Ethiopia where, in 1995, he was commissioned by the Ethiopian Government to design a recording studio for

the Mega Creative Arts Centre in Addis. Dave has toured internationally with performances at the Joy of Jazz festival in South Africa, the North Sea Jazz festival in Holland, Festival Mundial in Holland, and the Folklife Festival at the Smithsonian, Washington D.C.

Dawit Seyoum Estifanos / Ethiopia / Krar, Bass Krar

Dawit is a well known bass krar player in Addis Ababa, flexible in a wide variety of formations and styles, and also a skilled player of the traditional Krar and flute called Washint. Dawit has toured extensively within Ethiopia representing the Addis Ababa University at Mekele, Bahir Dar, Ambo, Dessie, Nazreth, etc, as well as internationally with artists such as drummer Paal Nilsson-Love, Jeroen Visser, Mirco. Dawit is a regular member of Ethiocolor, the top Ethiopian cultural band based in Addis.

Endalekachew Nigusie / Ethiopia / Masenko

A well known masenko player in Addis, Endalekachew performs regularly at the Ethiopian National Theater, Ras Theater, and on the popular Ethiopian Idol TV show, Balageru. He has his own studio and also works as an arranger.

Hind El Taher / Sudan / Vocals, Percussion

A Sudanese vocalist currently residing in France, and representing the Sudanese city of Wad Madani, Hind El Taher's singing style is often described as having depth and sweetness. Her song Dawam Batrahom, a collaboration with famed producer Dr. Yousif Elmosely, became a hit in Sudan and went viral on social media platforms. Hind often performs with her husband Thierry Fournet (saxophone).

Kasiva Mutua / Kenya / Percussion, Vocals

Jackline Kasiva Mutua (Kasiva) is an internationally touring drummer and percussionist based in Nairobi, Kenya. Her performance style is influenced by afrobeat, zouk, samba, reggae and soul. As a young drummer, Kasiva learned traditional drums from her grandmother and continues to perpetuate her heritage and celebrate her community's spirit.

Msafiri Zawose / Tanzania / Limba, Zeze, Filimbi, Percussion, Vocals

Msafiri Zawose is currently one of the most admired Gogo musicians today. His father, Hukwe Zawose (1938-2003) was a musical giant, an influential figure in post-independence Tanzania, head of a large musical clan, a master musician and one of the most mesmerizing performers ever seen. Born into a family that honors and values tradition, Msafiri is determined to preserve this rich musical heritage. Msafiri has mastered a wide variety of instruments from marimba (balafon), zeze (Gogo twostringed violin), ilimba (pentatonically tuned thumb piano) and ngoma (traditional drums). He has a transient voice spanning a wide range of styles and sounds, transporting his listeners to a different world.

Nader El Shaer / Egypt / Kawala, Keytar

Nader El Shaer was born and raised in the coastal and musically diverse climate of Port Said, Egypt. Having never received formal training in music, he started playing accordion at a young age, switching to Ney as a teenager before discovering a deep connection with the tone of the Kawala. Nader is a master of Maqam, the modal musical tradition of the Middle East, but also listens to extensively and plays music from India, Turkey and East Asia. Nader has performed internationally and all over Egypt, in events ranging from classical to traditional to Shaabi.

Roza Kifle / Ethiopia / Vocals

Ethiopian vocalist and songwriter Roza Kifle grew up listening to the sounds of her mother singing around the house and began studying music at 14. She has since performed throughout Ethiopia with Zemen Band, Millennium Band, Lubak Band, Mahari Brothers, Imperial Majestic Band among others. Roza has opened shows for legendary Ethiopian

musicians including Mahmoud Ahmed and Alemayehu Eshete and has sang with Teddy Afro, Mikael Belayneh and Jah Lude.

Saleeb Loza / Egypt / Vocals

Born in Minya Egypt, vocalist and percussion Saleeb Loza 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.

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