

With Partial funding by a Director's Grant from the Council for the Arts at MIT



LET US REPEAT THE NAME OF GOD

Allah adını Zikredelim

directed by Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol and Robert Labaree

The second in a five-concert series, *Three Hundred Years of Turkish Music*, spring 2004

In the zikir ceremonies of the Turkish sufi brotherhoods, repeated musical phrases and texts create a group experience which is both contemplative and ecstatic. In this concert, the Turkish zikir takes its place alongside African-American Gospel music and the music of Haitian vodun ceremonies, which also rely on repetitive rhythms, words and melodies to pull us inward and upward.

Killian Hall, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Saturday, February 28, 8:00 pm

The Sobbet Turkish Music Ensemble

Cem Mutlu (*percussion, voice*) Karim Nagi Mohammed (*percussion*)
Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol (*saz, voice*) and Robert Labaree, (*çeng/ Turkish harp, voice*)
Bilgehan Tuncer (*voice*) Nektarios Antoniou (*voice*), Nihat Tokdil (*ney*)

Music of the mystical Islamic brotherhoods of Turkey: songs from selected dervish ceremonies, sung in Turkish and intended for use in special sufi gatherings outside of the mosque. Instrumental and vocal improvisation is interwoven with well-known settings of poetry by three centuries of poets reflecting a range of Muslim theological perspectives.

The Silver Leaf Gospel Singers

Deacon Randy Green, *director*
Deacon Warren Alston, Brother Billy Campbell, Deacon Lucius Stark,
Brother Bobby Jackson, Deacon Smitty Jones,
Charles Swanigan, Lloyd Horton, Harold Rainey, Melvin Francisco

The celebrated Silver Leaf Gospel Singers have continued to perfect an a cappella style which was wide-spread in African-American churches in the U.S. at the time the group was formed in 1945. Their repertoire includes many well-known hymns common to other Protestant faiths, as well as songs based on stories from the Bible.

Yanvalou Drum and Dance Ensemble of Wellesley College

Kera Washington, *director*
Drummers: Krista Kateneva, Leah B. Kaplan, Roshni Sampath, Analucia Martinez
Dancers: Krysland Filippi, Moira Pulitzer-Kennedy, Temana Andalcio, Jane Harris,
Katya Saunders, Allison Smith, Dara Antrum, Oumou Diallo,
Clairciane Presume, Olive Mwizerwa, Jennifer O'Donnell

Vodun has its origins in the religious devotions of slaves taken from many regions of the African continent. In the course of four centuries on the island of Haiti, African deities have merged with Roman Catholic saints, and a range of African languages have been absorbed into the French of the slave owners. Voice, dance and drums combine to evoke the presence of deities who influence human lives through inspiration, spiritual cleansing and physical healing.