

Hello Friend, Flamenco has its origins in Al-Andalus. [View Online](#) Or [Forward](#) to a friend.



## Ziryab, the Songbird of Andalusia

### February 18-28, 2016

Written & Performed by Ronnie Malley

Directed by Anna C. Bahow



Take an enchanting musical journey back to 9th century Islamic Spain with Muslim American musical impresario Ronnie Malley. Arabic music, poetry, and songs breathe life into the story of Ziryab, a former slave whose musical abilities brought him fame throughout Al-Andalus: a land where Christians, Jews and Muslims co-existed for over seven centuries and created a unique and diverse society.

#### DATES

February 18-28, 2016

Thursdays at 7:30 pm

Fridays at 8 pm

Saturdays at 4 pm & 8 pm

Sundays at 4 pm

#### TICKETS

\$20 / \$15 Students



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## From East to West: The Influence of Ziryab and Andalusian Music

Ziryab, an immensely talented court musician and former slave from Iraq, is said to be the progenitor of Andalusian classical music in the 9th century. In addition to his genius as a performer, he founded a music conservatory in Cordoba that would operate more than 500 years after his death, and it is believed that Flamenco music, with its roots in classic Iraqi songs, was heavily influenced by Ziryab.

As inhabitants of Al-Andalus resettled over time, they carried with them the music of Andalusia, which can today be found in Egyptian and North African musical traditions. By

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musical hub, responsible for introducing numerous instruments into European culture (for instance, the European lute would evolve from the Middle Eastern oud).

The oud, in fact, greatly influenced playwright and performer Ronnie

Malley early in life. His discovery of the album "Turath" by Middle Eastern American oud virtuoso Simon Shaheen greatly shaped his musical trajectory. Listen to Middle Eastern musical standards from "Turath" on YouTube [HERE >>](#)



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