

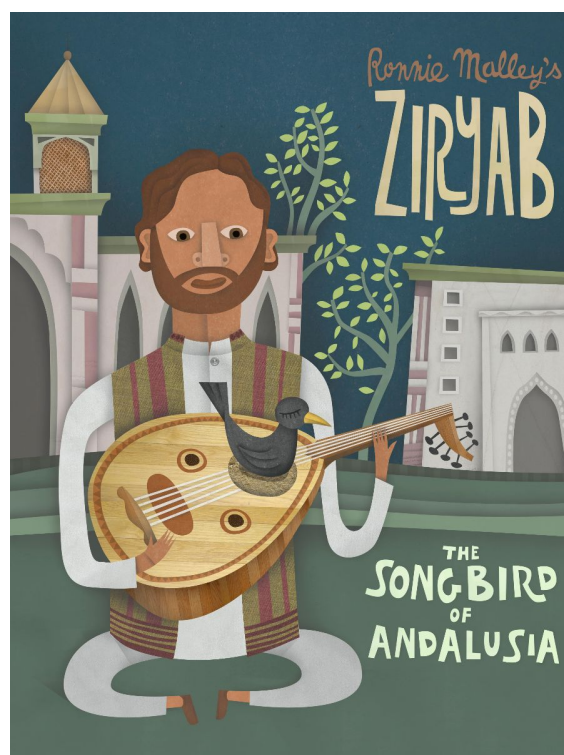
Musician Ronnie Malley shares a brief history of the oud.  
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## The Oud and Ziryab, the Songbird of Andalusia



When we produced Ronnie Malley's *Ziryab, the Songbird of Andalusia* (February 18–28, 2016), we had no idea that we would give birth to one of our most popular YouTube videos. Working with director Anna C. Bahow, Ronnie created and starred in the one-man musical, which showcased his many musical talents, especially him playing the oud. The oud is a lute-like, stringed instrument with origins in the Middle East.



As Silk Road Rising prepared for the World Premiere of *Ziryab*, we sat down with Ronnie to learn more about this much-beloved musical instrument. In many ways, the oud was Ronnie's co-star throughout the show.

The resulting video, seen above, has continued to attract and inspire audiences long after *Ziryab* completed its successful run. To date, the video has been watched nearly 18,000 times (!) and continues to draw about 10 views a day.

Ronnie Malley is a staple in Chicago's music and theatre communities. In addition to performing as part of several music ensembles, he teaches Arabic in Chicago Public Schools. He composes original music for theater, including our production of Tanika Gupta's *Great Expectations*, co-produced

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*Disappearing Number* produced by timeline Theatre Company. Before COVID-19 caused theatres around the world to close, Ronnie was on tour with the Broadway production of David Yazbek and Itamar Moses's *The Band's Visit*.

## Learn More about Ronnie Malley

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Visit our YouTube channel for this and other popular videos including our documentary *Not Quite White* and our video play *both/and*.

## Silk Road Rising on YouTube

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