



BELEDI BEAT



A publication of Jawaahir Dance Company and The Cassandra School

2019: Volume 27, Number 2 Spring



photo by Jan Gaisen

Note from Cassandra

May 2, 2019

Please come to our GALA fundraiser and help support Jawaahir. *You* are why we do this wondrous and fun work. Special guest performers Salah Fattah (violin), dancer Alana Mari, and storyteller Ahmed Tharwat, along with the Jawaahir Dancers (we'll be premiering Ramzi El-Edlibi's *dabke* choreography at the show this year), and Cassandra will entertain you before our FABULOUS Live Auction! So many beautiful (and practical) items to bid on during our silent auction! See you there!

Caravan Under the Stars: Jawaahir's Annual Gala & Fundraiser

Thursday, May 9, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

Jawaahir Studio, 3010 Minnehaha Ave, Minneapolis

Cassandra and Jawaahir Dance Company invite you to join us at an evening of celebration and gratitude for all our treasured supporters. Throughout the evening you'll be treated to music by violinist Salah Abdel Fattah and dance performances by Cassandra, Jawaahir, and a special guest. Sample some tasty hors d'oeuvres donated by Mediterranean Cruise Café and bid on silent and live auction items bursting with amazing things. A fun evening and great support for Jawaahir Dance Company!



Jawaahir rehearsal for Caravan Under the Stars, 2019

People Who Make the Evening Special

Salah Abdel Fattah, Violinist

Salah Abdel Fattah is a violinist and oud player who has enjoyed a long relationship with Jawaahir Dance Company playing music in ensembles as well as solo. He came to the U.S. in 1969 from Egypt and settled in Minneapolis, studying at the University of Minnesota to become a pharmacist. He began to play the violin in high school in Egypt, but war and lack of funding had interrupted his studies. Thereafter he devoted himself to being a self-taught musician until he met Simon Shaheen and Kay Campbell and started going to the Arab Music Retreat, where he studied with Mr. Shaheen and others.

Salah continued to play in college for private family parties and events. Attending Cairo University led to more artistic opportunities. "Every year they held a festival with many performances, music, art, plays, and I got to meet other people interested in music. They opened my eye to classical Arab music. I thought, here's something that I can develop."



Salah playing at our 2017 Caravan Under the Stars

Living in Minnesota, Salah met musicians from Egypt, Lebanon, and Syria, as well as local musicians with vast experiences in Arabic and other music styles, and continued to play at parties. He is a founding member of the band Layli Sharque and currently a Jawaahir board member. Over the years, Cassandra also asked him to play for Jawaahir shows with different ensemble groups. These experiences led him to do more performing. "I had my main job in pharmacy, juggling between music and the business." He was also parenting two children with this wife Suzanne.

"I've played solo for the Gala many years. I play what I feel is familiar. It is an open performance." He plays for the first hour of the event. "It's an uninhibited performance." Although he says he doesn't play as much music as he used to, spending more time with grandchildren and family now that he's retired from the pharmacy, he says, "My interest in music is still the same. I won't go into retirement with music. It's been a really nice journey."



Jawaahir performing at Caravan, 2018

Alana Mari, Administrative Assistant

Alana Mari joined the Jawaahir team as the company's administrative assistant in January, and this is her first year coordinating the Gala. She is a recent college graduate and is very excited about the opportunity.

"Cassandra is a pillar of the dance community and I'm excited to work with her."

Alana is also a dancer, and she has been taking classes since she was a teen because she was drawn to belly dance as a powerful women's dance. In addition to dancing gigs at local restaurants, she teaches dance at Magus, as well as performs tribal fusion with the Black Isles Dance group, where they stage multiple shows a day at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival.

Alana's been working hard learning her new job and has been enjoying building new relationships with people and community businesses that are supporting the Gala with their donations to the silent auction. "It's been very fun reaching out to businesses in the community. They are so generous and have a lot of creative ideas."

This year some of the auction highlights include a black velvet jellaba from Morocco donated by Tammy Carta, framed original art by Debra Foutch, and what Alana calls "an epic self-care basket" donated by Lakewinds Natural Foods containing an array of gorgeous and practical body care product. Margo Abdo O'Dell will be contributing a private lesson and Timeless Portraits is offering a private sitting for a 11 x 17 studio portrait.

Be sure to introduce yourself to Alana and enjoy the Gala!



Alana Mari is this year's guest performer at Caravan 2019

Upcoming Events

[Blaine International Festival:](#) June 29 from 4:30–5:00pm. Come on out to Aquatore Park to enjoy a family friendly day of fun and see Jawaahir perform! This is a FREE event.

[Dances at the Lake Festival:](#) July 5 & 6 from 7:00–9:00pm. Jawaahir shares the stage with other fabulous local artists at these FREE outdoor performances in the Minneapolis Rose Garden.

[Roots, Rock & Deep Blues Festival:](#) July 13 from 4:00–4:30pm. This event is a weekend full of artists and Jawaahir will be featured in The Mission Room on this date. Come have a *rakin'* good time with us!

[The Rog Amphitheatre in Roseville:](#) July 21 from 6:00–8:00pm. Join Jawaahir and Amwaaj for an evening full of dance and live music! This is a FREE event and fun for the whole family.

For further information on any of our upcoming events, visit us at Jawaahir.org! You may also call 612-872-6050, or email us at admin@jawaahir.org.