

2014 // 15 SEASON

Northrop Presents

THE NILE PROJECT

Tue, Feb 24, 7:00 pm
Carlson Family Stage

Aswan



Northrop at the University of Minnesota

Presents

THE NILE
PROJECT

مشروع
النيل

President & CEO

MINA GIRGIS

Musical Director

MILES JAY

Artists

MOHAMED ABOUZEKRY ALSARAH MICHAEL BAZIBU

HANY BEDEIR NADER ELSHAER DINA EL WEDIDI

MEKLIT HADERO JORGA MESFIN KASIVA MUTUA

SOPHIE NZAYISENGA STEVEN SOGO SELAMNESH ZEMENE

THE NILE PROJECT

The Nile Project is transforming the Nile conflict by inspiring, educating, and empowering an international network of university students to cultivate the sustainability of their ecosystem. The project's model integrates programs in music, education, dialogue, leadership, and innovation to engage students across disciplines and geographies.

Musical Collaborations:

The Nile Project brings together artists from the 11 Nile countries to make music that combines the region's diverse instruments, languages and traditions. The concert experience aims to inspire cultural curiosity, highlight regional connections, and showcase the potential of trans-boundary cooperation.

Dialogue & Education Programs:

Participatory workshops and cross-cultural dialogues provide university students with unique intellectual experiences, deepening their understanding of the Nile ecosystem, and stimulating new ways of thinking, communicating, and doing.

Leadership & Innovation Programs:

The Nile Fellowship and Nile Prize programs incentivize university students to apply their education and training toward mobilizing their peers and pioneering innovative solutions to the Nile Basin's complex and interrelated challenge.

THE NILE RIVER

The Nile, one of the world's most iconic rivers, has captivated the imagination of millions throughout time. Originating in two sources—Lake Victoria in East Africa and Lake Tana in the Ethiopian highlands—the 6,670-kilometer river flows northward through a diversity of climates, landscapes, and cultures before passing through Egypt and emptying into the Mediterranean Sea.

Its 437 million inhabitants are projected to more than double within the next forty years, placing an ever increasing demand for Nile water; water that is tied to all aspects of life—from the food on tables to the electricity that powers homes to people's health. Even now, people living along the

Nile are vulnerable to water-related hardships. At least five nations in the Nile basin are facing water stress. Seven of the eleven Nile countries continue to suffer from undernourishment rates higher than 30%. Less than 10% of basin residents have access to electricity. The core issue at hand is how to peacefully allocate Nile Basin water among eleven nations with different needs and priorities, whose populations are all skyrocketing.

This mounting resource scarcity has contributed to a geopolitical conflict between upstream and downstream riparian states. Tremendous political capital has been expended to draft the Nile Cooperative Framework Agreement, an international treaty to govern water distribution and infrastructure projects differently from the existing 1959 Egyptian-Sudanese treaty giving Egypt the majority water right annually. While the agreement has yet to win mutual consensus, the arduous negotiation process has exposed the deep-seated mistrust between countries, the absence of opportunities for citizen-led dialogue, and the lack of a unified identity and vision for the future development of a shared Nile ecosystem.

The Nile River Basin is wrought with political, environmental, economic, and social challenges requiring a new approach to better address the myriad challenges it faces. As regional tensions flare, the Nile Project offers a unique grassroots strategy to effectively mobilize thousands of people across the Nile Basin and beyond in constructive cross-cultural dialogue and collaboration.



THE NILE PROJECT ARTISTS



MOHAMED ABOUZEKRY
Despite his tender years, this oud player has a stunning command of his instrument, as well as an open ear for other forms, skills that got him a recent album deal with Harmonia Mundi.



NADER ELSHAER
Born in the culturally rich town of Port Said, Egypt, Elshaer taught himself accordion and ney, only to fall in love with the tones of the kawala (end-blown cane flute) and its role in Arabic classical music.



KASIVA MUTUA
Kenyan percussionist and singer Mutua may have learned drumming from her grandmother, but has developed her own knack for powerful Afropop beats. Her expressive playing can tell a story on its own, or keep a band perfectly in the pocket.

THE NILE PROJECT PRODUCERS

MINA GIRGIS
President & CEO
An Egyptian ethnomusicologist with background in hospitality experience design, Girgis explores new ways to cultivate environments conducive to learning, making, and experiencing music. He specializes in curating and producing innovative musical collaborations across diverse styles.



ALSARAH
Based in Brooklyn, this soulful Sudanese singer and ethnomusicologist's songs have won high praise from roots-music tastemakers like *Songlines Magazine*.



DINA EL WEDIDI
With experience that spans Arabic classical music, edgy theater, and street protest, this young singer has most recently worked with Brazilian heavyweight Gilbert Gil on her debut album.



SOPHIE NZAYISENGA
The first female master of the Rwandan traditional zither (inanga), Nzayisenga learned at her internationally acclaimed father's knee before setting out to make the instrument her own.

MILES JAY
Musical Director
A contrabassist, composer, and arranger, has worked with the likes of Youssou N'Dour, Ziad Rahbani, Fathy Salama, Ross Daly, Naseer Shamma, Niyaz, Mashrou3 Leila, and the Cairo Symphony Orchestra.



MICHAEL BAZIBU
A member of Uganda's leading traditional music and dance company, Ndere, for the past 17 years, Bazibu plays several traditional Ugandan stringed and percussion instruments with virtuosic grace.



MEKLIT HADERO
(select appearances only)
A co-founder of the Nile Project, this American-based Ethiopian singer frequently digs deep into soul and hip hop, but never loses sight of her roots.



STEVEN SOGO
Burundi's leading bassist, this multilingual multi-instrumentalist can play anything with strings, including the umiduri, Burundi's answer to the birembau. Add to that Sogo's wonderful voice, and it's easy to see why he was named a World Bank musical ambassador.



HANY BEDEIR
When the biggest stars in the Middle East need daff (hand drum) or riq (traditional tambourine), they call Bedeir, whose percussion skills have also earned him a teaching position at several respected Cairo institutions.



JORGA MESFIN
This self-taught sax player meshes jazz with Ethiopia's wealth of musical forms and ideas, both as a respected band leader and favorite sideman for greats like Mulatu Astatke.



SELAMNESH ZEMENE
Hailing from a long line of unique culture bearers in Northern Ethiopia, this young singer has brought her traditions to collaborations with indie darlings like Debo Band and The Ex.



Photo courtesy of The Nile Project.

Kevin Kling's comedy
set in post-Snow White era:

"witty, offbeat and unpretentious...unlike anything
in Disney or the Brothers Grimm..."
—Pioneer Press

7 Dwarfs

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Whiting Proscenium Theatre, Rarig Center

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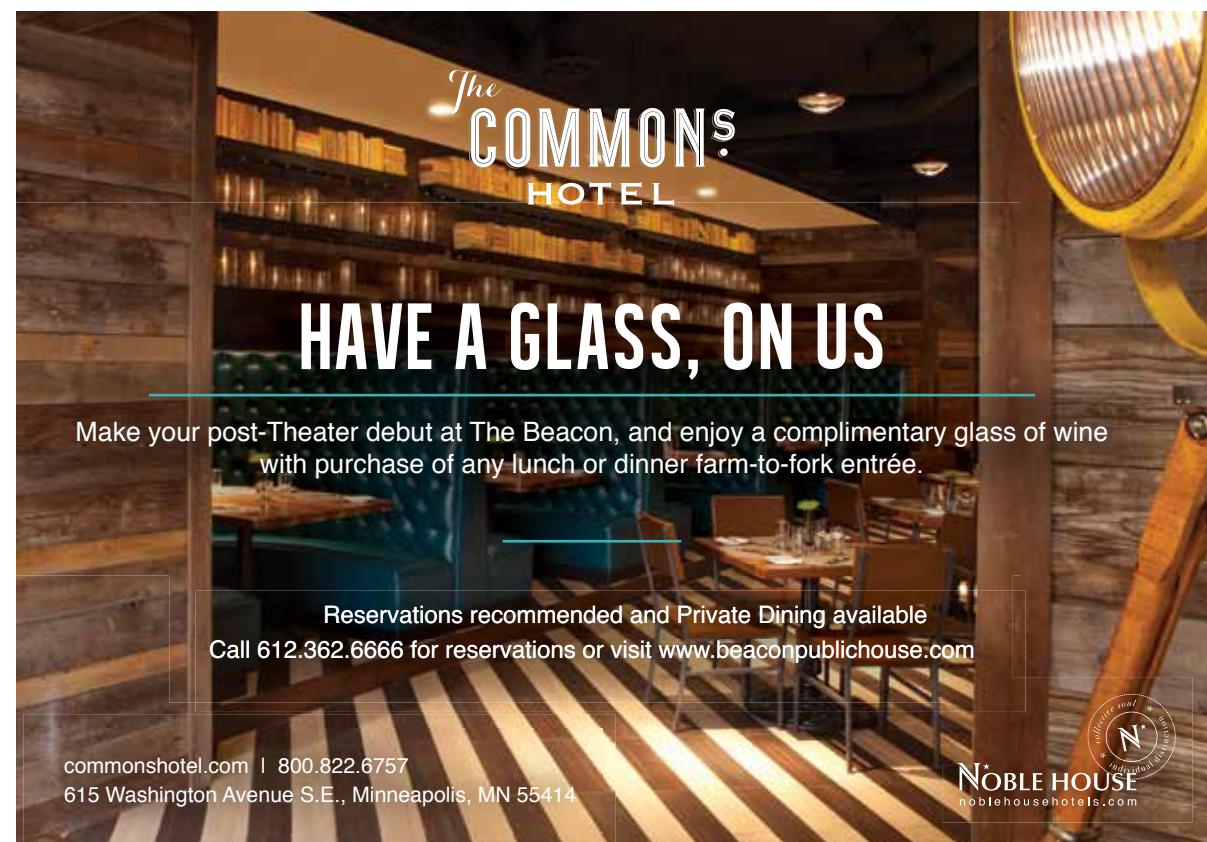
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Martha Graham's Ying Xin in *Diversion of Angels*. Photo © Hibbard Nash Photography.

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Surdyk's Café
Surdyk's Café is on the first floor, west side of Northrop. Hours: 7:30 am–7:00 pm, Monday–Friday and 10:00 am–3:00 pm Saturday. Surdyk's concessions (including wine and beer) are located on the east and west sides of each level before and during performances happening on the Carlson Family Stage.

Restrooms
Restrooms are located on every level and side of the building, including family restrooms (except on the fourth floor, where there is a women's restroom on the east side, and a men's restroom on the west side only).

General Ticket Information
For any ticketing questions, visit U of M Tickets and Events on the ground floor of west and east sides of the building or visit northrop.umn.edu for the most current listing of events.

Replacing Lost Tickets
For your convenience, U of M Tickets & Events keeps record of your purchase, should you lose or forget your tickets.

Accommodating Special Needs
Northrop has accessible seating; please ask an usher for assistance. Elevators are located on both the east and west sides of the building. Accessibility services, including parking information, are available upon request.

If a guest wishes to transfer from their wheelchair to fixed seats, the wheelchair will be taken to the outer lobby to comply with local fire code regulations. At the end of the performance an usher will return the wheelchair to the guest.

Cameras and Cell Phones
Use of cameras and recording equipment are not permitted in the theater. Please be considerate and turn off your cell phones or other electronic devices during the performance.

Motorist Assistance
University of Minnesota provides free jump starts, vehicle unlocking, and flat tire changes to vehicles in University parking facilities Mon–Fri, 7:00 am–10:00 pm. Call 612-626-PARK (7275) for assistance.

Campus Security Escort
Trained security monitors are available 24/7 to walk or bike with anyone on campus. This free service is provided by the University of Minnesota Police Department. Please call 612-624-WALK (9255) or ask an usher to contact them for you.

Questions?
If you have any questions or concerns, please ask an usher or anyone with a Northrop name tag.

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in *Correria Agwa*. Photo © Michel Cavalca.