



The Cathedral
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the Divine

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RELEASE

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**THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE AND CENTER STAGE
PRESENT EGYPTIAN MUSICAL INNOVATOR
DINA EL WEDIDI**



Photo: Abdallah Sabry

(September 29, 2018 – New York, NY) – The Cathedral of St. John the Divine’s commitment to cross-cultural artistic engagement continues with a performance by Egyptian sensation **Dina El Wedidi**, exploring Egyptian folk, jazz, and underground rock music **on Saturday, September 29 at 7:30 pm** at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112th Street), Manhattan.

Co-presented by the Cathedral and Center Stage, Dina El Wedidi channels the rich cultural heritage and 21st century identity of modern Egypt. A sophisticated musical innovator, her richly ornamented and detailed compositions, generous arrangements, bell-clear voice, and charismatic stage presence have established her as a global cultural force.

El Wedidi links traditional motifs and ideas to build layered works of contemporary hybridity. In form, content, and expression, she creatively tracks Egypt’s storied past and contemporary circumstances. Her original songs draw on folklore, rituals, and early 20th-century popular music, as well as global ideas and exploration.

Called “transcendent” by the Egyptian press (*Al-AhRam*), El Wedidi’s prowess and intensity on stage is backed by some of Egypt’s best young musicians. She has toured on her own in Europe and the U.S., and toured with, written for, and recorded with the multi-national supergroup that forms the Nile Project. She was mentored and toured with international icon Gilberto Gil as a Rolex protégé. The cumulative impact is propelling Egypt’s modern music scene into international prominence.

The Cathedral is pleased to host El Wedidi’s New York City performance, part of this fall’s Center Stage program. Now in its fourth season, Center Stage has helped bring 29 performing arts ensembles from nine nations—Algeria, Egypt, Haiti, Indonesia, Morocco, Pakistan, Tanzania, Ukraine, and Vietnam—to the United States, hosted by colleges and universities, festivals, music clubs, and cultural centers. Each tour includes residencies in large cities and small towns, and a range of activities from performances, workshops, and discussions, to artist-to-artist exchanges, masterclasses, and community gatherings. Center Stage artists engage with audiences onstage and online, building mutual understanding through shared cultures and values.

For tickets to the September 29 performance, please visit this page:

<http://www.stjohndivine.org/visit/calendar/events/music/27082/dina-elwedidi>

About The Cathedral

The Cathedral of St. John the Divine is the Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. It is chartered as a house of prayer for all people and a unifying center of intellectual light and leadership.

People from many faiths and communities worship together in services held more than 30 times a week; the soup kitchen serves roughly 25,000 meals annually; social service outreach has an increasingly varied roster of programs; the distinguished Cathedral School prepares young students to be future leaders; Adults and Children in Trust, the renowned preschool, afterschool and summer program, offers diverse educational and nurturing experiences; the outstanding Textile Conservation Lab preserves world treasures; concerts, exhibitions, performances and civic gatherings allow conversation, celebration, reflection and remembrance—such is the joyfully busy life of this beloved and venerated Cathedral.

About Center Stage

Center Stage is a public diplomacy initiative of the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts in cooperation with the U.S. Regional Arts Organizations, with support from the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art, and the Trust for Mutual Understanding. General management for this performance is provided by Lisa Booth Management, Inc.