4-8-2019 8:00 PM

World Music Series, Innov Gnawa, April 8, 2019

Lawrence University
2018–19
WORLD MUSIC SERIES

Nobuntu
Monday, October 8, 2018, 8 p.m. | Harper Hall, Music Drama Center

Yumi Kurosawa
Monday, January 14, 2019, 8 p.m. | Harper Hall, Music-Drama Center

Projeto Arcomusical
Wednesday, February 6, 2019, 8 p.m. | Harper Hall, Music-Drama Center

Fifth House Ensemble and Alash • Sonic Meditations
Monday, February 25, 2019, 8 p.m. | Lawrence Memorial Chapel

Innov Gnawa
Monday, April 8, 2019, 8 p.m. | Harper Hall, Music-Drama Center

Lawrence University Gamelan Concert
Monday, May 27, 2019, 3 p.m. | Stansbury Theatre

Innov Gnawa
MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2019
HARPER HALL, MUSIC-DRAMA CENTER
8 P.M.
Innov Gnawa
Maâlem Hassan Ben Jaafer: sintir, drums
Samir LanGus: castanets, krakeb
Ahmed Jeriouda: castanets, cajon
Amino Belyamani: castanets, krakeb

Monday, April 8, 2019
Harper Hall
8 p.m.

Program announced from stage
Brief intermission

Innov Gnawa is a Grammy-nominated Moroccan folk band, dedicated to exploring Morocco’s venerable gnawa music tradition. Formed in the summer of 2014 by Moroccan expat Samir LanGus, the group is based in New York City and draws on the considerable talents and expertise of Hassan Ben Jaafer, a Maâlem, or master gnawa musician, originally from Fes, Morocco. Under the guidance of Ben Jaafer, Innov has delved deep into the roots and rituals of gnawa music, and made a big splash in NYC, playing some of the city’s most prestigious rooms including Lincoln Center, Music Hall of Williamsburg, Brooklyn Bowl, Terminal 5, Celebrate Brooklyn as well around the U.S. at Coachella, Red Rocks Amphitheater and The Cleveland Museum of Art.

For the uninitiated, gnawa music is the ritual trance music of Morocco’s black communities, originally descended from slaves and soldiers once brought to Morocco from Northern Mali and Mauritania. Often called “The Moroccan Blues,” gnawa music has a raw, hypnotic power that’s fascinated outsiders as diverse as writer/composer Paul Bowles, jazz giant Randy Weston, rock god Jimi Hendrix, and the contemporary artist Bonobo. The music is utterly singular, played on an array of unique instruments—from the lute-like sintir that the Maâlem uses to call the tune, to the metal qarqaba (castinets) with which the kouyos (chorus) keep time and pound out clattering, hypnotic rhythms.

Hailed by Brooklyn Magazine as one of the “5 Bands You Need to Know in Brooklyn’s Arabic Music Scene,” Innov Gnawa make great use of the traditional repertoire by adding their own contemporary spin with African and Latin percussion. Taken as a whole, this exciting new outfit works hard to fuse a centuries old North African tradition with the pulse and attitude of New York City.