

# STUDY GUIDE

## Information and Activities For The Classroom



### Contact Us

Yuval Ron Ensemble  
Yuval Ron  
[info@yuvalronmusic.com](mailto:info@yuvalronmusic.com)  
(818)-505-1355

### Management

Grape Seed Management  
David Celia  
[david@grapeseedmanagement.com](mailto:david@grapeseedmanagement.com)  
(603)-727-8213

### Booking

Cadence Arts Network  
Rachel Cohen  
[rachel@cadencearts.com](mailto:rachel@cadencearts.com)  
(310)-838-0849

## Table of Contents

- Page 2:** Ensemble History & Mission  
**Page 3:** Lecture & Workshop Topics  
**Page 4:** - Activities for the Classroom  
- Instruments  
- Sacred and Folkloric Dance  
**Page 5:** Testimonials

## Ensemble History & Mission

Formed in 1999, **The Yuval Ron Ensemble** endeavors to alleviate national, racial, religious and cultural divides by uniting the music and dance of the opposing people of the Middle East into a unique mystical, spiritual and inspiring musical celebration. The ensemble includes Jewish and Arabic musicians as well as Christian artists who have been actively involved in creating musical bridges between people of various faiths and ethnic groups worldwide. **Led by Oscar winning composer Yuval Ron** (music for **"West Bank Story"**) the Ensemble has enjoyed overwhelming community support and was chosen to be featured in **PBS "Holiday Celebration"** TV specials in 2005 and 2006 and was honored with the **Los Angeles Treasures Award in 2004**.

The Ensemble was invited by King of Morocco to appear at the **International Sacred Music Festival of Fez**, 2009 and had the honor to headline the benefit concert for the **Dalai Lama's** initiative **"Seeds of Compassion"** promoting Compassion in Education, Business and Community. In 2002, 2005 and 2008, the ensemble was featured at the **World Festival of Sacred Music** in Los Angeles and was honored to be the first American-based Middle Eastern Ensemble to perform at an **International Peace Festival '05** in South Korea. In addition, the Ensemble was chosen by the Mid-Atlantic Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts to represent the United States and its cultural diversity at the **International Folk Music Festival** in Lublin, Poland in 2005. In 2006 the Ensemble was the first to introduce the music of the Middle East to Chihuahua, Mexico at the **International Chihuahua Festival**, and in 2007 it was featured in the **International Oud Festival** in Jerusalem, Israel. In 2010 The Ensemble toured in Spain performing a unique collaboration with the Gypsy Flamenco artists of Andalusia in concerts in Seville, Jerez and Madrid. In 2011 the ensemble was invited by the Intercultural forum of the Association of writers and Journalists of Turkey to give a concert for peace in Istanbul and to conduct a Peace Mission Tour throughout Turkey,

The Yuval Ron Ensemble Cd's "Under The Olive Tree", "Tree of Life" and "Seeker of Truth" have become international favorites with world music lovers and has been featured on **National Public Radio's "Echoes"** and **"Hearts of Space"** programs. The Yuval Ron Ensemble was in residencies at numerous schools such as **Yale University, John Hopkins University, UCLA, Seattle University** and **Middlebury College** and has performed numerous benefit concerts to support organizations that promote peace and help the disadvantaged.

## Lecture & Workshop Topics

For Content Descriptions Please see our workshops and lectures list at:

[http://yuvalronmusic.com/text/workshops\\_link.html](http://yuvalronmusic.com/text/workshops_link.html)

- Spiritual Music Traditions of the Middle East
- Sacred Ecstasy in Jewish prayer and Sufi Ritual
- Muslim, Jewish and Christian Harmony in The Golden Age of Spain
- The Mysticism of Sound
- "My Heart is in the East" - Sacred Hebrew Music of the Middle East
- Sound Meditation as a Way for Healing and Peace
- From Coltrane to Nusrat: The Mystery of Music and Spirituality
- Kleizmer & Gypsy Music Connection
- Bedouin music and Israeli Folk Dance
- The Art of the Mawal
- Learn Arabic Popular Songs
- Between Jews and Sufis: Celebrating Peace in Fez
- Rumi - The Mystical Poet of Sufism
- Music, Spirituality, and the Brain
- Vocal Master Class
- Rhythms of the Middle East
- The Magic of Armenian Woodwinds
- Central Asia: A musical Journey through Iraq, Turkey, Uzbekistan and Armenia
- Landscape and Sound – Middle Eastern Music: The Fruit of the Desert
- Middle Eastern Styles and Improvisation
- Sounds of the Myth-Creating Music Based on Creation Myths
- Islam and the Middle East: A Journey in Music
- Cultures, Religions & Politics of the Middle East
- Music as a Bridge: Bringing People Together with Music
- Music, Women, and Peace-Building
- Music & Zen-Buddhism, Sound & Architecture
- The World Through Music
- For Kids and Family:
  - Learn to Dance: Andalusian Moroccan Dance
  - Learn to Dance: Turkish Andalusian Folklore Dance
  - Learn to Dance: Israeli Folk Dances
  - Learn to Drum: The Trance Drum (Daf) from Iran
  - Learn to Clap Andalusian Rhythms from Spain & Turkey

## Activities for the Classroom

- Discuss any cultural exchanges in your city/town. What brought people here, and how have they contributed to the local culture?
- Find a map of the Middle East, North Africa, and Andalucía (Southern Spain.) Ask people in your class if they have visited any of these regions and/or have family there. Ask them what city's they have been in, and invite sharing some of their travel stories.
- Find recipes for the food eaten from the different regions and present them to class.
- Go to <http://yuvalronmusic.com/home.html?text/ensemble.html~mainFrame> to listen and watch video clips of the Yuval Ron Ensemble, try to tap the Middle Eastern rhythms that you hear on the desk or your body,
- Use different words and create your own rhythms to make up your own percussion language.
- Share with the class images of sacred iconography of the three Abrahamic faiths and discuss the history and the core values (rather than beliefs) of these three traditions.

## Instruments

- **Oud** – Middle Eastern Lute, predecessor of the Guitar and Lute
- **Duduk** – Armenian Woodwind Instrument
- **Shvi** – Armenian mountain Sheppard flute made out of bamboo.
- **Clarinet**- A woodwind instrument having a straight tube and one reed.
- **Zurna** – Reed trumpet
- **Kanoun** – Middle Eastern lap Zither
- **Harmonium** – A keyboard instrument where notes are made by air driven through metal reeds by hand-operated bellows.
- **Doumbak** – Middle Eastern hand drum
- **Riqq** – Middle Eastern Tambourine
- **Daf** – Large Persian drum
- **Tombak** - Small Persian drum
- **Dohl** - Large Turkish bass drum
- **Cajon** - wooden box with a hole used as a drum
- **Zills** – finger cymbals

## Sacred and Folkloric Dance

- **Sufi Whirling** - physically active meditation
- **Flamenco**
- **Belly Dancing**
- **Moroccan trance**
- **Persian** - folkloric dance
- **Israeli Folk Dance**
- **Armenian Folk dance**
- **Debke**- middle eastern folkloric dance
- **Rom** -Turkish folkloric dance
- **Laz** - Turkish folkloric dance

## Testimonials

"Yuval Ron Ensemble, a world-class group... had a big impact on our community in a variety of ways, they are an inspiring, challenging, and memorable group."

– **Judith Eissenberg, Director, MusicUnitesUS**  
**Brandeis University, Boston, MA**

"The Yuval Ron Ensemble seamlessly blends extraordinary musical achievement with vivid storytelling. I was greatly impressed by their ability to capture the musical traditions, the history, and the many cultures of the Middle East within the universal message of peace, while being artistically stimulating and emotionally moving. Their genuine desire to have meaningful interaction with the audience was truly refreshing, whether during the show, afterward, or even over a casual cup of coffee the next day. I know they made a lot of people happy in Eugene."

– **Milo Petruziello, Cultural Forum**  
**Oregon State University**

"It was AWESOME. The kids loved it...the Ensemble was great. The classes were wonderful and the performance was terrific."

– **Brett Carroll, Choirs Director**  
**Burbank High School, Burbank, CA**

" a terrific and moving performance yesterday. The students I spoke to afterwards loved it and were really inspired. We were honored to have The Yuval Ron Ensemble perform on campus and what a positive response they got from the students."

– **Jasamin Rostam-Kolaji, Ph.D. Assistant Professor**  
**Department of History, California State University, San Marcos, CA**

"The Yuval Ron Ensemble's poetry, melodies, rhythms and movements transcend political, linguistic and religious divisions. Ron is a master storyteller, whose soft-spoken sincerity and insights promote human solidarity, serving as a powerful antidote to our pessimism and cynicism. By the end of the concert, the audience once again believes in the possibilities for peace and friendship among Muslims, Christians and Jews."

– **Joel Glick**  
**Oregon Education Association (OEA), Portland, OR**

" The audience was clearly mesmerized by the combination of cultures and styles that were blended together in the show..."

– **Dr. Mark Levine, History Department**  
**UC Irvine, Los Angeles, CA**