

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR ATTENTION: ARTS EDITOR, FEATURES EDITOR, EVENTS LISTING

Mesmerizing Performances of Turkish Sufi Music, Poetry and Stories with Latif Bolat

Turkish Mystic Sufi musician, singer and composer Latif Bolat will present mystic Sufi music, poetry, stories and images of the Wandering Dervishes from the ancient land of Turkey.

One of the most well-known Turkish musicians in the US, his mesmerizing performances draw on ancient texts and employ traditional instrumentation such as the Saz (long necked lute).

Travelling from the Mediterranean city of Mersin in Turkey, Latif Bolat plays Turkish Folk ballads and ecstatic devotional Sufi songs. These are the ritualistic music and poetry of the Anatolian mystics since the 12th Century. Now partially residing in New Mexico and Turkey, Latif Bolat has presented his music all across America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Singapore, Bulgaria, Spain, Turkey, the Philippines, Ireland, England and Scotland.

In addition to the workshops, music events and lectures around the world, he has recorded 4 very successful CDs, made many TV and Radio appearances, and composed music for the PBS Documentary "Muhammed: Legacy of a Prophet," and George Lucas's TV series "Young Indiana Jones." He is also the co-author of the compilation book of ancient Turkish Sufi poets entitled "Quarrelling with God: Mystic Rebel Poems of the Dervishes of Turkey."

Latif Bolat has recently performed at the Carnegie Hall in NYC and received the Best Collaboration CD Award from the European Union for his work with the Bulgarian Jazz group Lot Lorient.

Latif Bolat will visit Edinburgh on Saturday 4 October 2008 for a Day Workshop and Evening Concert, organised by the Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace, EICSP, Scottish Charity SC038996.

In the day workshop, we'll review the development of Sufi mysticism within the religion of Islam starting from the time of Prophet Mohammed and after. These developments will be taken from historical, spiritual and artistic dimensions. In addition to the history and philosophy of Sufism, we'll concentrate on the artistic expressions of the Sufi mystics for the past 1000 years, especially from the Turkish perspective. We'll have a journey from the steppes of the Central Asia into Anatolia. We'll trace the mystical nature of the pre-Islamic nomadic Turkish people, their Nature worshiping, Shamanistic beliefs and their effects on the later Sufi Mysticism that was developed among these nomadic people. We'll review the poetry of Yunus Emre, Rumi, Nesimi and many other Bektashi poets. We'll work on the songs of these Wandering Dervishes from the 12th century on. You can expect to go home with a good understanding of the Turkish Mysticism of the past 1000 years after this workshop.

If you stay for the evening music event following the workshop, you can immerse yourself in the poetry and music of these Wandering Dervishes.

From the horrifying years of the Crusaders and Genghis Khan's destruction in the Middle East, through to the present days, people found great comfort in this Sufi culture

Throughout, Latif Bolat will also recite devotional poetry from 13th Century Sufi poets Yunus Emre, Rumi and other ancient poets, and will show images of the Turkish people and sacred places from the land of Anatolia.

For further details on Latif Bolat see: <http://www.latifbolat.com/>

Latif Bolat will offer a day workshop on Saturday 4 October, 10.30am-4pm, with registration from 10am, at the Augustine United Church, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, on Turkish Mystic Sufi Literature: Poetry, Storytelling, Humour and Philosophical Writings. Cost: £20/£15 (Concessions).

On the evening of Saturday 4 October, from 7.30pm-9.30pm, with doors open from 7pm, he will offer a concert, Healing Sounds of the Wandering Dervishes of Turkey: Turkish Mystic Sufi Music, Poetry, Stories and Images with Latif Bolat, at the Meeting Room, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh. Cost: £10/£8 (Concessions), on the door on the night.

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