

For Immediate Release



AUB celebrates the life of Walid Gholmieh, Lebanon's exceptional classical music paragon

Beirut, Lebanon- 24/11/2011 - A large audience filled AUB's Assembly Hall on Wednesday November 23 in anticipation of a concert commemorating the late Lebanese composer, conductor and musicologist, Walid Gholmieh.

AUB Provost Ahmad Dallal referred directly to Gholmieh in his speech.

“We are offering you this concert, Dr. Gholmieh, as a promise to keep your heritage alive,” said Dallal.

Organized by AUB's Zaki Nassif Music Program– a program founded in 2004 through Gholmieh's large assistance– the concert combined the Lebanese National Arabic Oriental Orchestra and the National Conservatory Choir in a performance of a selection of Gholmieh's compositions.

According to AUB's Provost, Gholmieh's music has made a positive impact on the nation.

“We believe in Walid's talents and the seeds of culture he has planted, nurtured and grown in the souls of the Lebanese people from all social strata,” said Dallal.

Many of Gholmieh's relatives were present, including his wife, Elham, who struggled to hold back tears when presented with a remembrance award from the Zaki Nassif Music Program.

Other members of the audience included the Australian Ambassador Lex Bartlem; Adonis Acra, representing Minister of Culture Gaby Layoun; Hanna Al Amil, the current director of Lebanon's National Conservatoire for Music; and former Minister of Culture Mohamed Youssef Baydoun, who worked for many years with Gholmieh to popularize Lebanon's music culture.

Acra singled out the importance of Gholmieh's contributions to the cultural heritage of Lebanon in his speech.

Among the spectators was Lebanese artist and calligrapher Wajih Nahle, who expressed his appreciation of the music. "It was truly wonderful," Nahle said, "Gholmieh will live on forever in his music."

Born in Jdeidet Marjayoun in 1938, Gholmieh dedicated most of his life to music. Through his multi-disciplinary talent, as a composer versed in oriental and western music, Gholmieh later managed to establish both the Lebanese National Symphony Orchestra and the Lebanese National Arabic Oriental Orchestra. By the time of his passing away early this June, the Lebanese musical genius had spent 19 years directing the Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of Music, simultaneously demonstrating great administrative skills and wisdom.

"Gholmieh was a man for all seasons," said Nabil Nassif, chair of the Zaki Nassif Program fundraising and academic committees. "He admirably accomplished so much throughout his lifetime."



Picture of Zaki and Walid taken in the early 1990's; at the time they were colleagues in the Conservatoire