

The Zaki Nassif Music Program (ZNMP)

Academic Committee: Jarrar, Maher; Jureidini, Wadi; Kim Thomas; Kurani, David; Nassif, Nabil (Chairperson), Sabra Ramzi

The Zaki Nassif Music Program (ZNMP) was inaugurated in December 2004.

Objectives

The Program aims to preserve and promote the musical heritage of Zaki Nassif and to foster excellence in the teaching of music by contributing to its advancement through a variety of activities that include:

- Reinstating and sustaining musical studies programs and music curricula at AUB.
- Recruiting scholars and new faculty members to initiate music courses and programs at the department of Fine Arts and Arts History (FAAH) in AUB Faculty of Arts and Sciences.
- Organizing competitions, concerts, conferences and seminars.
- Inviting professional musicians and academics to the University.
- Awarding prizes, scholarships, and fellowships to students in the name of Zaki Nassif.

Activities and Plans

One of the first achievements of the Program was completed on January 10, 2008 through a deed of gift by the family of Zaki Nassif that facilitated the transfer to the Jafet Library of the composer's archives, granting AUB all legal title and intellectual property rights. The archival material is being cataloged according to international library standards, and transferred, documented and conserved in electronic form. This pioneering project to conserve the cultural heritage of an oriental composer constitutes a model that could be replicated to preserve the work of other musicians.

The establishment in 2009 of an annual competition "A Choir from Every School", is another important accomplishment designed to encourage Lebanese elementary and secondary schools committed to developing a music curriculum and related activities.

Plans are under way to revive a Music degree program in FAAH. Both graduate and undergraduate courses will be offered. The range of courses will be new to Lebanon and the Middle East, including encouraging research in the field of Lebanese-Oriental music. The intention is to educate new generations of musicians and musicologists well versed in the composition and performance of Middle Eastern music in particular along with world music in general.

Publication of scholarly editions of Zaki Nassif's extant contributions to Middle Eastern music, including scores, lyrics, compositions, recordings, writing and correspondence is also planned.