

For Immediate Release



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## **Postage Stamp Honors Zaki Nassif:**

### **“AUB Provost Asserts Commitment to preserve his Heritage”**

In coordination with the Ministry of Telecommunications, LibanPost has issued a postage stamp in honor of the late composer Zaki Nassif. LibanPost has printed thirty thousand copies of the new stamp, along with 750 numbered first day covers. All are available at all LibanPost offices. American University of Beirut (AUB) Acting Provost Dr. Muhamad Harajli thanked LibanPost and the Ministry of Telecommunications, stressing AUB’s commitment to preserve the heritage of Zaki Nassif as part of Lebanon’s musical heritage and the quest for the development of Arab music study via modern academic programs.

Zaki Nassif’s music is the foundation stone for a new school of Lebanese and oriental music. It is recalled that the Zaki Nassif Program for Music was established In December 2004, in AUB’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Its principal aim is to preserve Nassif’s musical heritage through disseminating his work and securing its survival through the development of musical studies, promoting research, holding concerts, conferences and other activities such as talent competitions.

Under supervision of the Provost Office, the program fulfilled one of first objectives on 10 January 2008 when 1100 compositions by Zaki Nassif were retired to Jafet Library and archived. These were donated by his family. This propjet is unique in Lebanon and the Middle East. The achievement of this project is unique in Lebanon and the Middle East, and it may hopefully provide a model for future efforts in preserving the region’s rich musical heritage. An agreement was signed between AUB and SACEM (Society of Authors, Composers and Publishers of Music) with the aim of registering and protecting all of Zaki Nassif’s compositions.

This year, on the occasion of Zaki Nassif's centennial which coincided with AUB's 150th anniversary, the "AUB Zaki Nassif Ensemble for Arabic Music" was launched on 17 February in a crowded ceremony at Assembly Hall. Membership of the Ensemble mostly includes AUB students, staff and alumni.

ENDS

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**Note to Editors**

**About AUB**

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 700 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,500 students. AUB currently offers more than 130 programs leading to bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full-service 420-bed hospital.

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