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The Palestinian music-making experience in the West Bank, 1920s to 1959: Nationalism, colonialism, and identity

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Curriculum Vitae

Issa Boulos was born in Jerusalem, Palestine in 1968, and grew up in Ramallah. He comes from a family of both musical and literary traditions. He worked in Ramallah and Jerusalem as an arranger and performer of classical Arab repertoire, folksongs, and contemporary works from an early age.

In 1998, he obtained a Bachelor's degree in Music Composition from Columbia College and a Master's degree in Music Composition from Roosevelt University in 2000. He studied with Gustavo Leone, William Russo, Robert Lombardo, Ilya Levinson, and Athanasios Zervas.

Since 1998, Boulos was a lecturer at the University of Chicago, where he directed the Middle East Music Ensemble until 2010. This period promoted him to pursue various research opportunities and examine the tapestry and complexity of *maqām* music from those who make it.

From 2010 to 2014, he acted as the Head of Music at the Qatar Music Academy, where he engaged in research and curriculum development. In 2013, the Turath Project awarded Boulos the A. J. Racy Fellowship for Ethnomusicological Music Studies. This award enabled him to conduct some fieldwork in Palestine.

Boulos has been involved in diverse fields since the early 1980s, and his academic pursuits go hand in hand with his practice as an artist. His creative competencies include artistic mastery of *maqām*, musical composition and performance, ensemble direction, and literary writing.

Throughout his career, Boulos founded various ensembles to perform his original compositions. He was commissioned by multiple orchestras, including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Palestine National Orchestra. He participated in various research ventures, forums, symposia, and conferences and lectured widely in the U.S., the Middle East, and Europe.