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## 'Ūd Taqsīm as a Model of Pre-Composition

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## Curriculum vitae

Nizar Rohana is a Palestinian 'ūd player, composer and scholar based in the Netherlands. He is known for combining virtuosity with fresh contemporary compositions while maintaining the 'ūd's authentic language.

Rohana was born in Haifa and raised in the village of 'Isifya on Mount Carmel. From a young age, Rohana played music, picking up the 'ūd when he was thirteen. Following extensive studies in 'ūd performance, composition, and musicology, Rohana immersed himself in developing contemporary 'ūd compositions, taking inspiration from the practices of Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin and Brahms all the way to Tanburi Cemil Bey, Kemani Tatyus Efendi, Muhammad al-Qasabji and Muhammad Abdel Wahab.

In 2001 he was awarded a Bachelor of Music and Arts (specialized in 'ūd performance and musicology) from the Arabic Music Department of the Jerusalem Academy for Music and Dance and the Musicology Department of the Hebrew University. For some time he then focused his work on the music of the great Egyptian composer Muhammad al-Qasabji, completing his Master's degree in 2006.

As a performer, Rohana's wide stage experience as a soloist and within groups encompasses playing traditional, modern, experimental and world music. During the last twenty years, he has performed in countries such as Japan, Morocco, Egypt, Turkey, the USA and Europe, releasing his first album *Sard* (Narration) in May 2008.

In 2013 he formed his own trio together with the Hungarian double bass player Matyas Szandai and the French-Lebanese percussionist Wassim Halal, releasing their debut album *Furat* (Euphrates) in 2016.

In 2016, Rohana and the renowned Dutch bass player Tony Overwater formed the Madar Ensemble, together with the Dutch clarinetist Maarten Ornstein, the Tunisian violinist and viola d'amore player Jasser Haj Youssef, and the Jordanian percussionist Nasser Salameh. They released their debut album *Acamar* in May 2019.

Between 2001 and 2007 Rohana was one of the main 'ūd and music theory teachers at the Edward Said National Conservatory in Jerusalem, Ramallah and Bethlehem, and in 2006 he also worked as the deputy for academic affairs.