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# Kareem Roustom

## Buḥūr

(2008)  
Revised 2014

Clarinet in B $\flat$ , Violin, Viola & Cello

- I. al-Ramal (The Running)
- II. al-Kamel (The Perfect)
- III. al-Mutadarek (The Continuous)

Performance time ca. 19 minutes

Premiered on March 13, 2008 Damascus, Syria  
Kinan Azmeh - clarinet, Mayas Al-Yamani - violin,  
Wisem Ben Ammar - viola and Hassan Al-Moataz - Cello.

♯ Neutral tones can be found on a string instrument by locating the half way point of minor third (i.e. G to B $\flat$ ). The distance in cents of a minor third is 300 cents. The half way point would be 150 cents which would give an exact B . ♯ The desired pitch in movement II is approximately 15 cents below this point. (B $\flat$  + approximately 35 cents).

**Program Notes:**

**Buhur (2008) for clarinet and violin, viola and cello**

This inspiration for this work came from my research into the connection of poetic meter and musical meter of the Near Eastern Arabic vocal repertoire known as the *Mumashshabaat*. In studying this connection I began to see the inherent rhythmic structure of the Arabic poetry, known as the *'urud*, as it related to the musical setting. These structures are derived from 16 poetic meters known as the *bubur*: the plural of the word "sea." Although none of the three movements in this work are based on any specific poems they are, however, based on the rhythmic patterns of three of the 16 *bubur*. The music attempts to convey the emotions, or my interpretation of them, of the three *bubur* that are the basis of this work. The melodic and harmonic materials are derived from loose interpretations of *maqam* (Arabic modal system). It is a testament to these ancient Arab poetic structures that they can still inspire the imagination to explore their "seas" well over a thousand years after their creation.

Kareem Roustom

# Buḥūr

## بحور

### I. al-Ramal (The Running)

## الرمال

For Elias Roustom

Kareem Roustom

Misterioso  $\text{♩} = 88$   
(1/2 step)  
*tr*

Clarinet in B $\flat$

Violin

Viola

Cello

*pp* *mf*

*pp* *mf*

*pizz.*

*sf pesante* *sf*

B $\flat$  Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

*pizz.* *più f*

B $\flat$  Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

*ancora più f*

*sfz* *pp*

*f* *f* *pp subito* *pp subito* *ff*

2

distinto ♩ = ca. 63

bend

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

sul tasto

(1/2 step) *tr*

sul tasto

(1/2 step) *tr*

sul tasto l.h. pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz. arco *tr* (whole step)

*pp*

♩ = ca. 160 - 172

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

*pp*

ord. spicc.

*p*

pizz.

*p*

*mf*

16

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

*mp*

arco ord.

*mf cantabile e molto espr.*

*pp* *mf*

21

B♭ Cl. *pp* *mf* *pp*

Vln. *pp* arco *mf* *pp*

Vla. *pp* *mf* *pp*

Vlc. *p*

25

B♭ Cl.

Vln. pizz.

Vla. *mf*

Vlc. *mf*

28 **senza misura**  
\* Do not synchronize with others.

B♭ Cl. *sf* *p* *f* *frullato* ca. 15

Vln. *sf* *p* *f* ca. 15

Vla. *sf* *p* *f* *arco* ca. 15

Vlc. *dim.* *p*

a tempo

(. + d)

(. + d)

(. + d)

29

B♭ Cl. *pp* *molto f* slap tongue

Vln. *pp* *molto f*

Vla. *pp* *molto f*

Vlc. *mf* *p*

34

B♭ Cl. *mp* *tr*

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc. *mp* *tr*

37

B♭ Cl. *pp*

Vln. *p* pizz.

Vla. *p* *molto* *p sub.*

Vlc. *pp*

# II. al-Kamel (The Complete)

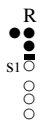
## الكامل

In memory of Riyad al-Sunbati (1906-1981)

Flowing ♩ = ca. 58

This musical score is for the second movement, "al-Kamel," composed by Riyad al-Sunbati. It is a 4/4 piece with a tempo of approximately 58 beats per minute. The score is arranged for a chamber ensemble consisting of Clarinet in Bb, Violin, Viola, Cello, and Bb Clarinet. The music is characterized by a flowing, rhythmic quality. The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 1-4) features a Cello part with a triplet and a trill, and a Viola part with a triplet. The second system (measures 5-7) features a Bb Clarinet part with a triplet and a trill, and a Viola part with a triplet. The third system (measures 8-10) features a Bb Clarinet part with a triplet and a trill, and a Viola part with a triplet. The score includes various dynamic markings such as *mf*, *p*, *mp*, *fp*, *f*, *sf*, *cresc.*, and *poco*. The score is marked with a large "COPYRIGHT IS ILLEGALLY" watermark.





10

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

*sfz*

*tr*

*sfz*

*tr*

*sfz*

*tr*

*sfz*

*tr*

*sfz*

*tr*

12

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

*tr*

*pp*

*tr*

*pp*

*tr*

*pp*

*tr*

*pp*

*tr*

*pp*

14

*♩ = 144*

*♩ maintains same tempo except where indicated otherwise*

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

*mp*

*con sord.*

*senza vib.*

*pp*

*con sord.*

*pp*

*senza vib.*

*pizz.*

*pp*

*mp*

*3*

*3*

*3*

21

B♭ Cl. *pp* *p*

Vln. senza vib. *pp* *p* con vib. *p* *mp*

Vla. senza vib. *pp* *p* con vib. *p* *mp*  
sul G

Vlc. arco senza vib. *pp* *p* pizz. *mp* arco con vib. *p* *mp*

27

B♭ Cl. *f*

Vln. senza sord. *p* *sfz*

Vla. senza sord. *p* *sfz*

Vlc. pizz. *mf* *p* arco *sfz*

33

B♭ Cl. *f*

Vln. *f* *p* *f* *jeté*

Vla. saltando *f* *jeté*

Vlc. pizz. *f* *3*

37

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

pizz. *mf*

arco *p* < *mp* *p*

pizz. *p*

arco ord. *p*

arco *p*

pizz. *p*

42

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

*mf* *f*

pizz. *mf* *f* *mf* *sf*

pizz. *mf* *f* *mf* *sf*

*mf* *f* *mf* *sf*

46

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

*mp* *p*

*dim.* *mp* // con sord.

*dim.* *mp* // con sord.

*dim.* *mp* *p*

### III. al-Mutadarek (The Continuous)

## المتدارك

For Kinan Azmeh

Energico ♩ = 138 +

Clarinet in B♭

Violin

Viola

Cello

*f* arco *p* *cresc.* *tenuto*

6

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

*f* *p* *f* *p*

11

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

*f* *f* *f*

16

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

*mf*

*espr.*

*p*

*molto*

*f*

21

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

*pizz.*

*p*

*arco; leggero*

*mf*

26

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

*f*

*pp*

*cresc.*

31

B♭ Cl.

*morendo*  
*pizz.*

Vln.

*sf*  
*arco*  
*f*  
*p sub.*  
*cresc.*  
*spicc.*

Vla.

*sf*  
*arco*  
*f*  
*p sub.*  
*cresc.*  
*spicc.*

Vlc.

*sf*  
*arco*  
*f*  
*p sub.*  
*cresc.*  
*spicc.*

36

B♭ Cl.

*f*

Vln.

*f*  
*p*

Vla.

*f*  
*p*

Vlc.

*f*  
*p*

41

B♭ Cl.

*fp*  
*mf*  
*f*

Vln.

*pesante*  
*sf*  
*f*  
*fp*  
*tr*

Vla.

*sf*  
*pesante*  
*f*  
*fp*  
*spicc.*

Vlc.

*sf*  
*fp*  
*mp*

46

B♭ Cl. *mp* *f*

Vln. *spicc.* *mp cresc.* *f*

Vla. *mp cresc.* *f*

Vlc. *cresc.* *f*

51

B♭ Cl. *dim.* *pp*

Vln. *p cresc.*

Vla. *f sub.* *cresc.*

Vlc. *p cresc.*

56

*liberamente*

B♭ Cl.

Vln. *pizz.*

Vla. *sf* *p pizz.* *dim.* *pp* *f*

Vlc. *sf*