

For Immediate Release

**JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF SAN FRANCISCO  
PARTNERS WITH THE  
SAN FRANCISCO WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL FOR  
*HERE COMES THE SEA FOLLOWED BY AN OCEAN*  
AND ISRAELI MOROCCAN SINGER SMADAR LEVI**

SAN FRANCISCO, September 4, 2007—The Jewish Community Center of San Francisco (JCCSF) partners with the San Francisco World Music Festival for two unique performances included in the initiatives *Salaam/Shalom: Where Judaism and Islam Converge* and *Israel @ 60*. The first on Sunday, September 23 at 7 p.m. is the centerpiece of the San Francisco World Music Festival, a commissioned world premiere and tribute to Persian poet Rumi, entitled *Here Comes the Sea Followed by an Ocean*, followed by a concert on Tuesday, September 25 at 8 p.m. featuring the acclaimed Israeli-Moroccan singer **Smadar Levi** singing pan-Mediterranean songs in Arabic, Hebrew and Spanish.

***Here Comes the Sea Followed by an Ocean***

This newly commissioned world premiere will be led by Azerbaijani master kamancha musician and composer **Imamyar Hasanov**. An international collaboration, it will feature traditional lute masters, including Azerbaijani tar virtuoso **Rufat Hasanov**, Chinese pipa master **Liu He Cheng**, Chinese erhu virtuoso **Zhang Xiao Feng**, Iranian master percussionist **Pejman Hadadi**, Israeli oud virtuoso **Yoel Ben-Simhon**, and others. Lutes from the various countries include the tar, kamancha, pipa, erhu, and oud, accompanied by frame drums.

The title *Here Comes the Sea Followed by an Ocean* is attributed to the legendary Persian mystical poet **Attar**, who is said to have made the statement after seeing **Rumi** following behind his father as they made their way west to Anatolia from an unsettled home in Central Asia.

**Mowlana Jaleddin Rumi** (1207–1273) Persian Muslim poet, jurist, and theologian, was born in Balkh in present-day Afghanistan and died in Konya in present-day Turkey. His importance is considered to transcend national and ethnic borders. Throughout the centuries he has had a significant influence on Persian as well as Urdu and Turkish literatures, and his poems have been widely translated into many of the world's languages. He believed passionately in the use of music, poetry and dancing as a path for reaching God.

After Rumi's death, his followers founded the Mevlevi Order, better known as the "Whirling Dervishes," who believe in performing their worship in the form of dance and music. A mausoleum was built over Rumi's grave with a mosque, ritual dance hall, dervish living quarters, school and tombs of some leaders of the Mevlevi Order. The mausoleum continues

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to draw pilgrims from all parts of the Muslim and non-Muslim world, mainly because, although Rumi was a philosopher and mystic of Islam, he was not a Muslim of the orthodox type. While he was a devout Muslim, his doctrine advocates unlimited tolerance, positive reasoning, unity among human beings, goodness, charity and awareness through love. To him and to his disciples all religions are more or less truth. ***Here Comes the Sea Followed by an Ocean*** pays tribute to Rumi on the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth.

**Smadar Levi** performs on Tuesday, September 25 at 8 p.m. An exciting new voice emerging from the NYC world music scene, Smadar is an Israeli-Moroccan singer whose craft is best described as pan-Mediterranean music peppered with a gypsy sound. Smadar sings original and creative renditions of traditional tunes in Hebrew, Arabic, and Ladino. The Epoch Times International recently dubbed Smadar "a euphonious and haunting voice" for peace and unity.

Smadar musical and life journey began in Sderot, Israel, a small town near Gaza, where she was first exposed to Arabic culture. After her Army service in Israel, Smadar traveled around the world, picking up sounds and studying with various musicians. In 2000, she began working on her own project in New York City.

In 2004, she recorded her self-titled debut album *Smadar* featuring both traditional and original scores. In addition to her own project, Smadar has lent her vocals to a number of recordings, including *The Spy from Cairo* (Produced by ZEB from Organic Groove); *Sultana Ensemble* with Yoel Ben-Simhon; the 9/11 movie *Narrow Gate*; *Living For Tomorrow* (Film by Dekel Media); and the highly acclaimed 2006 art exhibit "Fearful Days" (Daphna Shalom). In 2006, the internationally renowned nonprofit organization *Seeds of Peace* honored her with an award for "uniting cultures to achieve peace through music."

**The San Francisco World Music Festival** was founded in 2000 by Executive Director Michael Santoro and Program Director Kutay Derin Kugay, to showcase the musical diversity from the Bay Area and around the globe by presenting high quality world music performances by master artists both locally and overseas, and from traditional to contemporary explorations. For the entire program and concerts of the Eighth Annual San Francisco World Music Festival please visit: [www.sfworldmusicfestival.org](http://www.sfworldmusicfestival.org) or call 415 561-6571.

**The JCCSF** located at **3200 California Street (at Presidio)** is the longest-serving Jewish community center on the West Coast, providing educational, social, cultural and recreational programs to the entire Bay Area since 1877. Open to people of all ages, all faiths and all backgrounds, the JCCSF provides quality experiences through a mix of formal and informal activities.

**Tickets for all events may be purchased through the JCCSF Box Office at 415/292-1233 or online at [www.jccsf.org/arts](http://www.jccsf.org/arts). For additional information, visit [www.jccsf.org](http://www.jccsf.org).**

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