

# RUMI PASSION



OSAMA ABDULRASOL ENSEMBLE



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For more than 750 years, the literary works of Persian poet and Sufi mystic Jalal ad-Din Rumi have continued to resonate. Many of his insights came through meeting his mentor Shams-e Tabrizi. As a result of that relationship, Rumi developed into a master writer. As the Shakespeare of the Arab world, his poems still capture the imagination today. Among other things, he talks about contemporary themes such as migration, mental health and tolerance.

A brand new ensemble led by Osama Abdulrasol seizes upon Rumi's life's journey and his special connection with Shams for an all-encompassing spectacle. Combined with a unique set, music, choreography and poetry.

We bring Rumi closer to the audience, letting them (re)discover his work and inner revolution. We do so with a total experience of music, dance, poetry and new compositions. Iraqi-Belgian composer Osama Abdulrasol is the driving force behind this concept and put together a musical ensemble. Complemented by a high-level artistic team, the collective brings Rumi's journey to life. In a world full of challenges, we offer a moment of reflection and togetherness, where love is the common thread that connects us all.



## Press (in Dutch)

- De Standaard: [Musical theatre 'Rumi Passion': totally immersed in spiritual quest of 13th-century Sufi mystic \\*\\*\\*\\*](#) (September 21)
- VRT NWS: [Ghent international collective pays tribute to poet Rumi](#) (September 19)
- Radio 1 - De Wereld Vandaag: [New music and dance performance in Ghent brings ode to Rumi, one of the most famous poets of the Near East](#) (19 September)
- VOLZIN.NL: [Rumi, Shams and the Flow of Love](#) (September 18)
- Klara - Music Matters: ["Music takes care of the soul" Olav Grondelaers talks to the Belgian-Iranian Farnoosh Khodadadeh](#) (September 18)
- Podcast: [Groetjes uit Shambhala](#) (September 18)
- Radio 1 - [Culture Club](#) (September 15, from 1:41:30)
- Het Laatste Nieuws: [Ghent collective brings performance around Persian poet Rumi: 'Building a bridge between different cultures'](#) (September 13)
- AVS Gent: ['A Place in the Region' summer series: Isil Biçakçi](#) (29 August)
- Ha Concerts: ['From roller coaster to boundless love'](#) (July)
- De Randkrant: ["Een vriendschap die alle tegenstellingen overstijgt"](#)

## Trailer (with [link](#))



## Team

Osama Abdulrasol (qanun, oud), Farnoosh Khodadadeh (daf, vocals, poetics), Pelin Başar (ney, vocals), Shahab Azinmehr (tar, setar, vocals), Damla Aydin (cello), François Taillefer (percussion), Khaled Al-Hafez (vocals), Griet Desutter (poetics, narrator) en Işıl Bıçakçı (choreography, dance).

## Live in 2023

20 September  
22 September  
4 November  
16 December

Ha Concerts, Ghent (SOLD OUT)  
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CC Bolwerk, Vilvorde  
CC Sint-Niklaas, Sint-Niklaas

## Context

On 17 December 2023, Jalal ad-Din Rumi will have passed away exactly 750 years ago. The event will be widely commemorated across the Arab world and Turkey. Worldwide today, he is still considered a master poet of immense literary value. His poetry has a timeless beauty that continues to appeal. Besides his linguistic skills, he dealt with themes of tolerance, migration, identity and mental health.

This performance counts as a poetic journey, guided by the timeless words of Jalal ad-Din Rumi and Shams Tabrizi. Their narrative of love and tolerance is at the heart of our artistic work. Therefore, we not only bring the spirit of Rumi to life, but we bridge different cultures.

We create an experience that brings people together, a unique opportunity to forge deeper meanings. This performance is not just for enthusiasts of world music or poetry. We appeal to a wider community open to wonder. For (new) Europeans who have their roots in the Middle East or Turkey, we create a space where they can be proud of their heritage. This performance is a tribute to their cultural richness and an invitation to feel at home in a story of love and reconciliation.



The stream of love that runs through this performance reaches beyond artistic frameworks. It is a force that unites us, reminding us of our shared humanity and inviting us to reflect together on what is truly valuable. In a world full of challenges, we offer a moment of reflection and togetherness, where love is the thread that connects us all.

Theologian and consultant dramatist Jonas Slaats created the podcast series 'Groetjes van Shambhala' (Greetings from Shambhala) as part of this performance. A wonderful series of conversations between Jonas Slaats and author Paul van der Velde, in which the meaning of spirituality and esotericism is extensively discussed. Jonas Slaats also wrote 'Sufis, punks and poets', a book about his views on spirituality, Sufism and Islam.

## Credits

**Artistic direction:** Filip Standaert

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**Musical compositions:** Osama Abdulrasol

**Text:** Jalal ad-Din Rumi

**Lighting and video design:** Alexander Ronsse

**Advisor Dramaturgy:** Jonas Slaats

**Costumes:** Inge Coleman

**Business management:** Liselotte Vantrappen

**Communications and bookings:** Yannick Deleebeeck

**Photos:** Geert Vandepoele (image 1,2 and 3) and Koen Bauters (image 4)

A production of Ha Concerts, De Centrale, Voem vzw, Cluster, Evil Penguin TV and Handelsreiziger in Ideeën. With the support of the City of Ghent, Flanders and Tax Shelter.

**Duration:** 80 minutes



**Bookings:**  
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