

'Nile Project': A Musical Focus on Rivers

New music created by a diverse collective of master musicians from the Nile River Basin will come to the Upper Valley in a weeklong program that includes concerts, a day camp, a museum exhibit, and more.

Known as the Nile Project, the ensemble performs new music that weaves together the pointed melodies and deep grooves of Ethiopia with the Arab classical traditions of Egypt and Sudan, and rarely-heard music from Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya.

The project performs in concert at the Hopkins Center's Spaulding Auditorium on Friday, April 17, at 8 p.m.

Earlier that day, at 2 p.m., the group performs a shorter, one-hour version of the show for a special family matinee. HopStop audiences also get to hear a version of the show in free performances on Saturday, April 18, at 11 a.m. in Alumni Hall at the Hopkins Center, and at 3 p.m. at the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center in Claremont, N.H.

In performance, the Nile Project is an unprecedented mélange of instruments and styles from throughout the 4300-mile-long Nile Basin, combining the very specific sounds of Egyptian wooden flute, oud, African harps, thumb piano and other traditional instruments with saxophone, electric guitar, and a pan-African assortment of drums and

percussion.

'Water Ways' Focus

Music is only one part of the week, however.

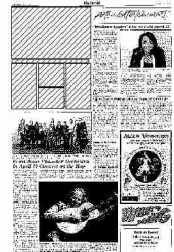
Created by Ethiopian-American singer Meklit Hadero and Egyptian ethnomusicologist Mina Girgis, the project is meant to pave the way, through music, for greater cooperation among Nile nations on critical issues involving the river. Earlier international treaties gave Egypt, at the mouth of the Nile, the greatest voice in determining water use, dam-building, water quality and other Nile issues.

New agreements underway would share that decision-making more among the 11 nations the river touches.

The project's Hop residency includes outreach activities to enhance understanding not only of the Nile and its cultures, but also the Connecticut River.

Events include a weeklong "watershed camp" for ages 7-16 combining music, visual art, science and outdoor exploration, developed by the Hop, AVA Gallery and the Upper Valley Land Trust; and a related exhibit, "Water Ways: Tension and Flow," at the Hood Museum of Art, April 4-August 23.

For ticket information, go to hop.dartmouth.edu or call 603-646-2422.





The Nile Project concert at the Hopkins Center will feature master musicians from throughout the Nile Basin.
(Provided)