JOURNEY THROUGH ORIENTAL MUSIC
Midday-concert - Oud Duo (Oriental lute)

Tuesday 26 April, from 12:00 to 1:15 pm
Salle Polyvalente EPFL

The traditions of the eastern and southern parts of the Mediterranean, as well as those that are beyond the Middle East, endeavor to enhance the finest and most complex particularities of a modal musical language (Maqam for the Arabs and the Turks, Maye for the Persians, Ethos for the Greeks, etc.). This musical approach is contrary to western musical language which is based on the use of universal reference rules, based on the concept of harmonies between notes.

Modal music has not stopped evolving, drawing on a tradition of continuous encounters and miscegenation. It has exploited a rich heritage from the great civilizations: Greek, Byzantine, Arabic, Persian, Ottoman, etc. It established a system rich in symbols, and it is transmitted orally from a master to his disciple in a context of “oriental” sensitivity which generates an identifiable harmonious atmosphere.

Taqsim, supreme genre of this oriental tradition, is a privileged moment of exploration within the meanders and mazes of the modes of the Orient brought to life through an improvised musical phrasing, and registered on a flow which is renewed continuously.

This hour long concert is packed with explanations illustrated by slide projections (power points), mainly dedicated to the knowledge of this traditional music. There will also be a historical, ethnological and religious preview. With this, Madam Yousra Dhahbi and Mr Maher Kayal will embark on an initiation journey through the music of the Orient.

The traditional modes (Bayati, Rast, Kurd, Hijaz, Saba etc.) will be presented through improvisations (taqsim) interpreted by the oud (oriental lutes) which will momentarily give way on stage to improvised dialogues.

Maher Kayal
EPFL, October 19, 2015