

Biography

Nahla Mattar

Egyptian composer Nahla Mattar, professor of music at Helwan University in Egypt and former director of the Umm Kulthum Museum in Cairo, received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Composition from Arizona State University. She has received recent commissions, awards, and recordings for her compositions “Three,” a trio for cello, bass clarinet, and piano; “A River inside Us Running,” a string quartet celebrating the river Nile; and “Al Ain,” an orchestral work recently released on the Naxos label. Her op. 10 no.4, for voice and piano on colloquial Egyptian Arabic was just performed at the *Engended festival*, Royal Opera House in London, July 2021. In Nov. 2021, her flute and contrabass op. 17 no. 1, *Waltzes from the Old Testament* were premiered in the *Festival de Música Erudita do Espírito Santo*, Brazil. When setting the Arabic language to music, she seeks to explore how pronunciation and meaning can create spiritual musical journeys.

Mattar has a major interest in designing and collaborating in new pedagogy for expanding music imagination of children. Among projects/researches: *Children Composition with Graphic Notation* in Cairo 2018 & 2020, *Eurthmica 1* in Jordan 2016-2017, *Drawing Sound* in Cairo 2013-2014, *Eyes Wide Open* in Denmark and Egypt 2014. Mattar is the Egyptian representer in the Mediterranean Forum of Musical Childhoods, Education and Culture (an international academic initiative). Since 2022, Mattar is the Helwan University coordinator in the ISME CoPA. In the same year, Matar was one of the Reviewers for *the 9th International Symposium on Assessment in Music Education. ISAME9*, Hannover, Germany March 20-22, 2023. which resulted in nearly 50 paper presentations by presenters from 7 countries across 5 continents and 13 US states. Publication (expected publication in 2024).