

Cottonera Resource Centre Talk, University of Malta

MALTESE TRADITIONAL INSTRUMENTS

Mro Ruben Zahra

This lecture portrays a profile of Malta's folk instruments: *iz-Żaqq* (bagpipe), *iz-Żummara* (reed pipe), *il-Flejguta* (cane flute), *it-Tanbur* (frame drum), *iz-Żafżafa* (friction drum) and *il-Lira* (lyre). Zahra will illustrate each instrument with live demonstrations as well as video and audio samples. The presentation will go into crafting techniques and the role of the instruments within the local socio-cultural context. Malta's music heritage portrays an interesting crossroads of North African, Southern European influences and Byzantine influences. These instruments were on the verge of extinction by the 1970s. In 1999 Ruben Zahra and his collaborators established the Etnika revival project to establish Malta's music heritage back to its culture.

Please note that the lecture will be presented in the Maltese language.

Date: 24 January 2014

Time: 1900hrs

**Venue: University of Malta - Cottonera Resource Centre, Fortini, Cottonera
(ex-Lorenzo Gafa' Boys' Secondary School)**

Bionote

Ruben Zahra is a composer committed to contemporary expression and Mediterranean music heritage. His music has been presented in major international festivals all over Europe as well as in Egypt, Tunisia, India, Hong Kong and the USA. He studied at the University of Malta, Academy of Santa Cecilia in Rome and Mills College in Oakland, California. In 2006 he established the organisation 'Soundscapes' which develops cross-border co-operation between cultural operators and institutions on a Euro-Mediterranean platform. Ruben Zahra is the president of MACM - 'Malta Association of Contemporary Music' and artistic director of Għanafest - Malta Mediterranean Folk Music Festival. Ruben Zahra lives in Malta and works internationally as a freelance composer.