

B A Z M - O - R A Z M

A R T I S T S

Susan Oetgen *composer, vocals & costumes*
Tony Melone *piano & laptop*
Ian M. Riggs *bass*
Evan Pazner *drums*
Justin Waldstein *art & projections*
Alan Chin *Iraq War photographs*
Sahar Javedani *choreography*

C O N T A C T

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O N - L I N E

myspace.com/bazm-o-razm
justinwaldstein.com
youtube.com/farewell_recruit



Art by Justin Waldstein

R E C O R D I N G S

- Bazm-o-Razm (EP) 2008
- Farewell, Recruit 2008

P A S T B O O K I N G S

- *Music off the Walls* Chamber Series,
Brooklyn Philharmonic,
Brooklyn Museum,
Brooklyn, NY March 2008
- *The Performance Project @ University
Settlement*, University Settlement,
New York, NY May 2008

U P C O M I N G B O O K I N G S

- *Music on MacDougal* Music Series,
The Players' Theatre,
New York, NY Jan 2008

P R O J E C T D E S C R I P T I O N

A meditation on the timeless and troubled romance of love and war, *Bazm-o-Razm* is Likeness to Lily's multi-media song-cycle for soprano, flute, violin, cello, bass, piano and drums, featuring original drawings by artist Justin Waldstein, Iraq War photos by Pulitzer Prize-nominee Alan Chin, and choreography by Sahar Javedani. Composer/vocalist Susan Oetgen was commissioned to write *Bazm-o-Razm* as part of her Composer Mentorship with Composer-in-Residence Randy Woolf at the Brooklyn Philharmonic. *Bazm-o-Razm* received its world premiere on the orchestra's *Music off the Walls* series at the Brooklyn Museum in March 2008.

"Bazm-o-razm" means "feasting and fighting" in Farsi. It refers to a tradition of Sufi epic poetry where love and battle are considered the twin inspirations of all heroic action. These poems were meant to be performed at intimate musical gatherings (*bazm*), customary in the society of medieval Persian nobility. The songs, images and gestures performed in Likeness to Lily's *Bazm-o-Razm* recount the entangled stories of two pairs of star-crossed lovers: the fate of Layla and Majnun, the famous lovers of the Sufi romance *Layla-o-Majnun*, is transposed to a contemporary American couple, who, having newly discovered each other, lose each other once again to the exigencies of war.

C R I T I C A L A C C L A I M

"Susan Oetgen brought a fresh approach to her orchestral composing during her residency with the Brooklyn Philharmonic. *Bazm-O-Razm* for Brooklyn Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra and Likeness to Lily was lyrical and poignant. It challenged our audience, both musically and emotionally." - Greg Pierson, *Interim Executive Director, Brooklyn Philharmonic, Brooklyn, NY*

"Likeness to Lily's multi-media *Bazm-O-Razm* was a highlight of the Brooklyn Philharmonic's chamber series at the Brooklyn Museum." Steven Lankenau, *Director of Programming, Brooklyn Philharmonic, Brooklyn, NY*

"*Bazm-o-Razm* [for Likeness to Lily and cello, violin and flute]...blended the two worlds very effectively. The lyrics were truly outstanding, very moving and personal. The songs were daring and utterly convincing. The audience of 3-400 people responded with an enthusiastic standing ovation, which I was glad to be part of!" - Randy Woolf, *Composer-in-Residence, Brooklyn Philharmonic, Brooklyn, NY*