

Bushra El-Turk's music of 'ironic', 'arresting' and 'limitless imagination' forebears the influence of her Lebanese roots and life as a Londoner and love of the world's folk music.

Bushra began to study the cello and piano from a young age at the Centre for Young Musicians and then went on to study composition at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with Julian Philips, where she graduated with a Bachelor and then gained a Master in Composition with Distinction, supported by a PRS Foundation Scholarship.

She has written various works for the concert hall, dance, theatre and multi-media, both performed and broadcast on radio and television in the UK, Europe, the Middle-East, the Americas and Australia.

The Lebanese composer **Abdallah El-Masri** completed his studies at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatoire where he obtained his Bachelor, Master and Ph. D degrees. He studied orchestration with Nicolay Rakov, composition with Roman Lednyov and contemporary harmony with Yuri Kholopov. Abdalla El-Masri's orchestral works include two symphonies, violin, piano and oud concertos, and the symphonic poem "Matar". His chamber music works have been performed by distinguished ensembles across Europe, the USA, and the Arab world, while his orchestral works have been included in the programmes of the Moscow Radio Symphony Orchestra, Lebanese Symphony Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Nancy Orchestra in France, Cairo Symphony Orchestra, Moscow Globalis Orchestra, State Symphony "Capella of Russia"- and others.

Khoury Houtaf is Lebanese composer of mostly orchestral, chamber, choral, vocal, and piano works that have been performed in Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

Mr. Khoury studied piano privately with Michel Haddad in Tripoli from 1982-85 and composition, harmony and piano with Abdelhaq Masri at the Iqbal Academy of Music in Tripoli from 1985-88. He then studied composition with Prof. Yuri Ishenko at the National Music Academy of Ukraine in Kyiv from 1988-97, where he earned his MMus with distinction in 1993 and his PhD in 1997 with Prof. Kotliarevsky. His music has been performed in Australia, Belarus, Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Lebanon, Mexico, Peru, Qatar, Russia, Salvador, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, the UK, and the USA.

Toufic Succar was born of a family originating from Bsarre, Lebanon. He moved to Beirut in 1937, where he studied at the college of the Peres Jesuites. Alongside his academic studies in Beirut, he studied the violin with Ernst Cassel, the piano with Pierre Thibaut-Bloch and harmony, counterpoint and the fugue with Bertrand Robilliard.

In 1949, he won a place at the Conservatoire National de Music de Paris and studied in the classes of Henri Challan, Noel-Gallon and Tony Aubin. In 1953, he was named professor of composition at the National Conservatory of Music in Beirut. He was appointed by the director to develop musical theory and composition courses, comprising the Western harmonic systems, musical analysis, harmony, counterpoint, fugue, composition and orchestration. With the Western students in mind, he created a class on the theory of Eastern music.

He was director of the National Conservatory of Music in Beirut from October 1964 to October 1969. He was also founder and director of the Bsarre Institute of Music "Gebran Khalil Gebran", which he directed from 1971 to 1975. He inspired the evolution of the "anun" from 1966 for which he wrote a number of polyphonic pieces of which there are six Lebanese ones. In addition he is the author of various pedagogical works.