



THE FOURTH LIGHT PROJECT

PRESENTER/BUYER QUOTES:

"Niyaz - and especially their Fourth Light Project - offers the prime example of what those of us in the performing arts field aspire to bring to every audience - a transformative experience! It is a visually and aurally stunning evening that fuses artistry and technology with a deep knowledge of Sufi mysticism and the doctrine of Divine Love. Azam Ali and Loga Ramin Torkian lead a team of highly skilled instrumentalists, vocalists and technicians who bring to life the rich history and stories from Islam and Muslim-majority societies that are so timely in our current environment of inaccuracies and misperceptions. Members of the troupe are equally at home on and off stage - adept at sharing their talent and knowledge in workshops and discussions with audiences of all ages. Anisa Mehdi, executive producer for APAP's Building Bridges grant program noted: "The Fourth Light Project son et lumiere [sound and light show] works. Its new. It's novel. No gimmick. It's good." For all the right reasons - it's a standing ovation guaranteed." - **Scott Stoner, Coordinator - APAP Building Bridges**

"It was a beautiful evening and patrons in attendance loved it. We had 60 people attend our off-site after-party and 20 of them stayed for over an hour until the artists arrived. The artists were very gracious to our patrons. I was unaware - until that evening - that we were the first stop on the tour. Quite a surprise to hear that! It was an exquisite performance and I hope the tour does well." - **Jennifer Ross, Director of Programming at the Walton Arts Center**

"I was in the audience and thought the show was beautiful and well attended. Lannie Guster, our hospitality coordinator mentioned that everyone in the group was very kind and pleasant to work with."
- **Eric Essix, Director of Programming at the Univ. of Alabama-Birmingham**

"It was a pleasure working with Loga and Azam and their collaborators. They are decidedly talented artists who care deeply about the work they do. Niyaz covered a wide variety of topics in advance of their performance of The Fourth Light Project, addressing topics ranging from Iranian American Immigration History to Feminism in the East and from a brief history of Islam and Sufism to using technology to enhance the arts. Their work with students was particularly notable. They taught elementary students to whirl like a dervish, spoke with students studying arts administration about what it's like to work as professional touring artists, did a lecture/demonstration on electronic music at a local high school, and participated in a number of Q&As across the University of Iowa campus. Our community was profoundly moved."
- **Micah Ariel James, Education Manager at the University of Iowa**

"It was a great experience. They are delightful to spend time with and I had a wonderful time during the residency week. Azam and Loga are some of those rare artists that I know I will now become friends with and keep in touch with personally. I have promised them I will visit LA in December and spend time with them."
- **Tommy Hensel, Managing Director at Moraine Valley Community College**

"The show was beautiful! The audience loved it and they were really engaged with the post-show Q&A. The artists were a pleasure to work with, too." - **Grace Evenson, Booking Coordinator at Cedar Cultural Center**

AUDIENCE QUOTES - MORAIN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
"Niyaz gave the most powerful and ethereal performance that I've seen in any show. They are remarkably gifted musicians and performers. The Q&A session at the end of the show was a wonderful experience as well. Everything about the event was memorable and beautiful."

"This was one of the best concerts I've been to. Please have them back again! It reinforced the power of music & spirituality & love & standing up for truth & justice & peace. [I will remember the most about the performance] ... the music - the visuals - the whole experience - the whirling dervish - the spirituality of the performance - the Q&A post show."

"PLEASE BRING NIYAZ AGAIN SOON! I WAS SO PLEASED TO SEE THAT MVCC IS MAKING THIS EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE APPRECIATION AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN DIFFERENT CULTURES/RELIGIONS. IT IS SO SORELY NEEDED."

[I will remember the most about the performance]
... The seamless- almost dreamlike presentation and the amazing performance given by all the project members."
... Azam's hypnotic voice, the female whirling dervish and overall spellbinding performance." -audience member at Moraine Valley Community College
... the beautiful music and extremely skilled whirling dancer. "

"As a whole, it was an amazing performance, putting together a talent from different countries. A wonderful way of giving a message to make a bridge between east and west. The question and answer session was great."

AUDIENCE QUOTES - UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
"I loved this show. I am interested in world music and eastern religions, especially Sufism. This was a great experience of both. The music was mesmerizing and the singing and dance, captivating and elevating." (Bob)

"Niyaz: breathtaking and amazing. Thank you for scheduling them." (N.)

"Thanks so much for bringing Niyaz to Hancher! Really a wonderful performance!" (Sonia)

"Niyaz features vocal and instrumental performance by an accomplished female singer and a tight, very good small ensemble including tabla and oud. A light show on the backscreen uses the physical contours of the singer as points of departure into visual abstraction; this is an effective metaphor for the timeless, radiant presence of the female mystic who is the subject of the show." (Belinda)

"Wonderful music, never saw a whirling dervish before and she was wonderful. All in all, it was pleasing to experience a different form of dance and music." (K)

"Really enjoyed the performance; the combination of historical and anecdotal information and stellar individual performances made this a personal and memorable event." (Louis)