



Young Audiences of Massachusetts
Experience. Understand. Create. Connect.

January 11, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am very pleased to recommend Karim Nagi for your inclusion on your roster of touring artists. Karim has been on our own roster here at Young Audiences of Massachusetts for several years. As you know, ours is an organization that brings arts learning to schools. For over 50 years, we've built up a reputation for bringing nationally and internationally known artists of the highest caliber to deliver programs that are closely tied to state curriculum standards and school's learning objectives. Karim's *Arabiqa* program has fit in well with our offerings.

Karim is an enormously charismatic performer. Children of all ages and their teachers respond strongly to his openness, sense of mission and delight in performance. He is a master of several traditional folk instruments from the Arab world, and his program includes not only music, but also dance, colorful costume, Arabic vocabulary and geographical context.

Perhaps most importantly, Karim's program opens children's eyes to some rich and exciting elements of Arab culture which serve as an important counterpoint to the frequent negative messages delivered by our conflict-obsessed news media and popular culture. I remember hearing that after one of his performances, a young girl approached Karim timidly, thanked him for his performance and then, offering the preface that he did not have to answer her if he found the question offensive, asked him if he is a Muslim. Karim was able to tell her warmly, that yes, he is a Muslim and does not feel any shame in letting people know this. This is such an important message for young people to hear right now.

I have every confidence that schools in all regions will find Karim's program as valuable as schools in Massachusetts do. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jason Rabin
Marketing and Development Manager
Young Audiences of Massachusetts
617-629-9262 ex. 305
jrabin@yamass.org

Young Audiences of Massachusetts
89 South St, Suite 603
Boston MA 02111
617.629.9262 - yamass.org