



*Yahya Mhirsi and Fatma Souf*

Both of us are so happy to get to know you a little better through our program today. We are a married couple from Tunisia attending East Tennessee State University as transfer students since January 2022 to continue our music education. Our personal funds for academic studies and associated costs are somewhat limited so we started a project called Tennessee88.

Tennessee88 is a tour of 88 concerts created in conjunction with the New York based non-profit known as 88 International. We hope to

- (1) raise funds to assist with academic costs and associated expenses
- (2) Share music and promote Tunisia in different concert settings in Tennessee.
- (3) Promote cultural exchange and

understanding while encouraging other young musicians to follow their dreams.

Our parents' income from Tunisia is relatively low because of the Tunisian dinar's falling currency exchange rate. We have two siblings each, so we are striving to alleviate some of the financial burdens from our parents. As international students we are not authorized to work off-campus in the U.S.

All donations are tax-deductible. You can write a check to FUMC and write TN88 in the memo line. Or, use the QR code below to make a donation electronically. You can also search under GoFundMe.com on your computer and search for Yahya Mhirsi.

If you want to support this project, but cannot do so financially, please consider helping us to organize a free concert in Tennessee (church, schools, retirement communities, events, etc.) Also please share this campaign with your friends on social media.

First United Methodist Church  
Johnson City, TN



INTERNATIONAL



This QR Code will direct you to a link that is a certified, safe GoFundMe account with Tennessee88 and 88 International (a not-for-profit organization created in part to assist in funding educational efforts).

## *A Tennessee88 Concert*



*More Than Music;  
Our Universal Language*

*Piano*  
Yahya Mhirsi



Fatma Souf  
*Violin*

**October 23, 2022**

**4:00 pm**



*Welcome!*

**First United Methodist Church  
900 Spring Street  
Johnson City, Tennessee**

# More Than Music: *Our Universal Language*



*A special thanks to our guest,  
Mason Van Horn, for graciously  
assisting us with the concert by  
leading the singing today.*

We would like to thank the pastors, staff and members of First United Methodist Church for allowing us to perform in this beautiful sanctuary for our concert.

We are grateful to have the opportunity to further our studies at ETSU. We are happy to be a part of your community as we share music, time together, share our story and make new friends all while getting to know you.

*~ Yahya and Fatma*

## Selected Verses for Hymns *(you are invited to sing with us)*

### THE PROGRAM

#### PART ONE

Church Hymn Medley	UM Hymnal
Prelude and Allegro	F. Kreisler
Sonatine 1st Movement	M. Ravel

#### INTERMISSION

#### PART TWO

Variations on Tunisian National	
Anthem	arr. Yahya Mhirsi
Lamma bada yatathana	Trad. Arabic
Parfum de gitane	A. Brahem
Night in Tunisia	D. Gillespie

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Thank you for attending our concert!

#### [Nearer My God to Thee \(UM Hymnal 528\)](#)

Nearer my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!  
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,  
Still all my song shall be,  
Nearer, my God, to thee;  
Nearer my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee.

#### [Amazing Grace \(UM Hymnal 378\)](#)

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind but now I see.

#### [Hymn of Promise \(UM Hymnal 707\)](#)

In the bulb there is a flower;  
In the seed an apple tree;  
In cocoons, a hidden promise:  
Butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter,  
There's a spring that waits to be,  
Unrevealed until its season,  
Something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning;  
in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing,  
in our life, eternity.  
In our death a resurrection;  
at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.