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# The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

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## AN EVENING IN THE MIDDLE EAST WITH ANAHID SOFIAN: LAST SUMMERGARDEN PROGRAM THIS YEAR

On Friday and Saturday, September 28 and 29, Summergarden at The Museum of Modern Art presents its final program of the season, An Evening in the Middle East. Anahid Sofian, the organizer of this program, has brought together an unusual selection of the music and dance of the major cultures of the Middle East. Ms. Sofian will perform Arabic-style belly dancing and Armenian folk dances, while wearing veils and an authentic red, yellow and black folk costume ornamented with coins and jewelry. She will be accompanied by the well-known musician John Berberian on the oud, a predecessor of the lute. Also performing will be Zev Feldman, who will play selections on the santur, an instrument resembling an 88-string dulcimer. He will also perform rarely seen Turkish folk dances wearing pantaloons and traditional headdress.

Anahid Sofian began her training as a classical dancer but a serious knee injury forced her to abandon that career. Belly dancing was first a physical therapy, but she soon became interested in it as an art form. She now holds classes in her own studio and has been featured on the Dick Cavett Show, in "Glamour" Magazine, and in the latest issue of New York Magazine's "Great Weekends" issue. She was the opening performer of last year's Summergarden series.

Zev Feldman is a noted authority on Turkish dances and music. He has performed with The Pennywhistlers at the Newport Jazz Festival and has accompanied the Inbal Dance Theatre of Israel.

John Berberian began playing the oud at the age of 15, and is considered one of the best players in the country. He has recorded five albums of his music and performed at Town Hall. His most recent appearance was on the Jack Parr Show.

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Summergarden is Mobil Foundation's gift to New York. It enables The Museum of Modern Art to open its Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden without charge on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings from 6 to 11 pm, from June through September. Entertainment scheduled for Friday and Saturday nights begins at 8 pm. Access to the garden is through the gates at 8 W. 54 Street.

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Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of  
Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 Street, New York, NY 10019.  
Phone: (212) 956-7501; 956-7504.  
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