

## Kareem Roustom - Composer

Syrian born Kareem Roustom is an *Emmy nominated* composer who has composed music for film, television, the concert hall and album projects. Steeped in the musical traditions of the Arab Near East and trained in Western music, Roustom is a musically bi-lingual composer who has collaborated with a wide variety of artists ranging from the Philadelphia Orchestra to Shakira. An active composer of film music, he has scored a number of short and feature-length films, and his score for the PBS documentary "The mosque in Morgantown" earned him an Emmy nomination in the 31st Annual News & Documentary Emmy awards. Roustom's score for the award-winning documentary Encounter Point earned him the Best Musical Score Award at the 2006 Bend International Film Festival. Of his score for Amreeka (Sundance & Cannes film festival award winner) the *Hollywood Reporter* wrote "*Kareem Roustom's Middle Eastern-flavored score contributes greatly.*" About his score to the documentary Budrus (2010) *Variety Magazine* wrote "*A strong string, wind and percussion score by Kareem Roustom adds to the momentum and underlines key moments.*" In June of 2010 Roustom was awarded a fellowship to the prestigious *Sundance Film Composers Lab* held annually at the Sundance Institute. Roustom is also the recipient of BMI's Pete Carpenter Fellowship in film & TV music as well as a CAP Award from the American Music Center.

As a concert composer Roustom has been commissioned by groups such as the Philadelphia Orchestra, The Boston Children's Chorus, clarinetist Kinan Azmeh and the Damascus Festival Chamber Ensemble, and others. Roustom's works have also been performed by new music ensembles such as The Firebird Ensemble, The Ibis Camerata, In-Flux, the Apple Hill Chamber players and Intercultural Journeys. New works by Roustom include a large scale choral commission titled "The Son Of Man" for Spring of 2011 based on the Khalil Gibran's "Jesus The Son of Man." Other recent works include "Resonances" a double concerto for Arabic violin, cello, hand percussion and string quartet commissioned by Philadelphia Orchestra cellist Ohad Bar-David.

As an arranger Kareem has worked in a wide variety of idioms that range from pop to jazz to Arabic music. Most notably Kareem arranged strings for the Shakira and Beyoncé duet "Beautiful Liar." The song became the fastest rising single in Billboard history and was also nominated for a 2008 Grammy Award (Best Pop Vocal Duet). Kareem also wrote a string arrangement for Shakira's duet performance of "Hips Don't Lie" with Wyclef Jean at the 2007 Grammy Awards. Roustom's arrangements have been performed by the Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Zurich Chamber Orchestra, the Philadelphia Sinfonia, members of the Staatskapelle Berlin Orchestra and others.

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## Film Scores:

### *Budrus* (2010)

Composer

Just Vision, Directed by Julia Bacha

- Winner, Panorama Audience Award Second Prize, Berlin International Film Festival, 2010
- Winner, Audience Award, San Francisco International Film Festival, 2010
- Winner, Special Jury Mention, Tribeca Film Festival, 2010

### *The Mosque in Morgantown* (2009)

Composer

V1 Productions/PBS; Directed by Brittany Huckabee

- **2010 News & Documentary Emmy Award nominee for Outstanding Individual Achievement In A Craft: MUSIC & SOUND**

### *Amreeka* (2008)

Composer

First Generation Films; Directed by Cherien Dabis

- Nominated for Best Picture 2009 Gotham Awards
- Winner FIPRESCI Prize (International Critics Award) Cannes 2009
- Official Selection of the 2009 Sundance Film Festival

### *Kemo Sabe* (2006)

Composer

Directed by Rana Kazkaz; produced by Julio Caro

- Official selection at Shorts Corner/Cannes Film Festival

### *Encounter Point* (2006)

Composer

Just Vision; Directed by Ronit Avni & Julia Bacha

- Winner of the Best Musical Score Award at 2006 Bend International Film Festival (Bend, OR)

### *The Letter* (2003)

Additional Music/Composer

Hamzeh Mystique Films; Directed Ziad Hamzeh

### *Border* (2002)

Composer

Directed by Annette Solakoglu

- Best Short Film Award 2002 Santa Barbara International Film Festival

### *Undressed* (2001)

Additional Music/Composer Episodic TV

MTV Productions

### *Shadow Glories* (2000)

Composer (Feature Film)

Hamzeh Mystique Films; Directed by Ziad Hamzeh

*The Two Of Us* (2000)  
Orchestrator (Feature Film)  
Paramount Pictures

*Me, Myself & Irene* (1999)  
Orchestrator (Feature Film)  
"Where He Can Hide"  
Fox Pictures; Song by Tom Wolf

*Beggars & Choosers* (1999)  
Orchestrator (Episodic TV)  
Showtime-Granada Entertainment

*Cold Feet* (1999)  
Orchestrator (Episodic TV)  
NBC Productions

*My Little Assassin* (1999)  
Orchestrator (Feature Film)  
Lifetime Network

*Hopes On The Horizon* (1999)  
Composer (Documentary)  
Blackside Productions

*I Woke Up Early the Day I Died* (1998)  
Additional Music/Orchestrator (Feature Film)  
Muse Productions

## Selected Discography:

- 2010 The Boston Children's Chorus *This is the sound of Harmony*  
Featured composition "Hot Tea, Mint & Olives"
- 2009 Damascus Festival Chamber Players *Syrian Contemporary Music*  
Featured composition "Buḥūr"
- 2008 *Encounter Point Original Soundtrack*  
Composer  
Just Vision Inc.
- 2008 *Emel komm in mein leben*  
Composer, producer, arranger & performer  
TBA Music, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2007 Beyonce' *B'day [Deluxe Edition]*  
Arranger  
Sony Music
- 2006 *The Psalms of Ali Ufki*  
Performer (Oud)  
Dunya Music
- 2005 The Boston Camerata *"A Mediterranean Christmas"*  
Performer (Oud & Guitar)  
Warner Brothers Classics Label
- 2005 Sharq Arabic Music Ensemble *"Revival"*  
Producer/Arranger and Performer (Oud)
- 2004 El-Zafeer Ensemble *"Almitra's Question"*  
Fuller Street Music  
Composer, Producer, Performer (Guitar)
- 2003 Chicago Classical Oriental Ensemble *"The Songs of Sayyed Darweesh:  
The Soul of a People"*  
Xuaen Music  
Producer, Arranger, Performer (Oud)