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On 22nd December, 2021, for the first time in the history of New York's St Patrick's Cathedral, a Muslim, veiled Egyptian woman, sang Christmas Carols – in Arabic.

This Egyptian was 2017 Gabr Fellow Dalia Ihab Younis, a medical doctor by training, a content creator and strategist in the development sector by profession, but by passion she is an independent musical artist and a mezzo-soprano.



2017 Gabr Fellow Dalia Younis, performing at St Patricks Cathedral, New York

During her musical career, Dalia created numerous community-based singing initiatives, performed on stage and in churches, wrote her own lyrics, music and arrangements for A Cappella, led choirs and facilitated song writing workshops. Over the past 5 years, Dalia successfully crafted several artistic innovations and awareness content that appealed to hundreds of thousands of people.

The event at the St Patrick's Cathedral in New York was part of St Patrick's 'Guest Choir Concert Series,' hosted by the cathedral annually during the holidays, featuring top level choirs and artists from the US and worldwide.

Dalia presented a special programme of Arabic versions of the most popular Christmas carols, where the audience of the ancient cathedral listened to familiar classical tunes in an unfamiliar language. This came as part of 'Sacred Music,' one of Dalia's artistic projects for interfaith dialogue and bridge-building through art.

During Dalia's presentation, those in attendance included the President of Dassault, Ambassadors, University Presidents and many more. Dalia's performance received overwhelmingly positive feedback, including: "Amazing Christmas songs, wonderful voice, beautiful singer and great musician making this Christmas so perfect and glorious."

Dalia was accompanied by a group of volunteer musicians, most notably the international artist Kamel Boutros on piano and Mohamed Neem on percussion, both of whom are New Yorkers and of Egyptian origin. On Oud, Turkish American musician Murat Keyder also joined the performance to further enrich the music experience with the unique quarter tone (a signature of Eastern music).

Dalia's memorable performance at St Patrick's Cathedral was arranged by Mr Kevin O'Callaghan, President of UBS in New York, and The Shafik Gabr Foundation, to support all interfaith and intercultural efforts. Since 2017, Dalia is a proud member of the Gabr Fellowship family and its '*East-West Art of Dialogue*' initiative.

Recorded songs from the performance are now available as a [playlist](#) on Dalia's official YouTube channel which you can find here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o5HilDyqEhE&t=1660s>

Note: For all Information Statements, please visit

<https://www.eastwestdialogue.org/fellowship/updates/>