

Freddie Beyah is Making Music and Joy – A New Beginning

By Qur'an Shakir

ATLANTA, Ga. – “Now that music is full of love and real compassion,” my friend Michael Id-Deen said, as he walked into my classroom where the tunes of Freddie Beyah were played for a British Literature class. Students who were tapping their feet, rocking and moving gently back and forth looked up and continued to write in their journals.

Id-Deen moved to the CD player, saying, “The beat is highly energized, yet soothing. Who is the artist?” The artist, Freddie Beyah (www.freddiebeyah.com), is a regular musician and performer of Atlanta. His popularity at the Atlanta Masjid has resurged and has specifically gained popularity at the Mohammed Schools.

His latest CD – “A New Beginning,” is an album of melodic, yet high-strung pieces that often has listeners tapping feet, jumping to the floor to dance a time or two, and then just sitting back to hear the rapture of instruments.

“I like the music, because it is upbeat and does not interfere with my thoughts while I am writing,” one student proclaimed.

Just three decades ago, Beyah and his band were capturing audiences, as he was on tour with the legendary Al Green and William Bell. A performer inspired by his father and brother, Willie Hill, Beyah formed his first band, “Sounds of Soul,” while in junior high school.

Later, the Velvetone Band of Albany State recruited him, and his music kept evolving through the 1970s and 1980s. He also has performed on stage alongside artists such as Wilson Pickett, Jackie Wilson, Benny Lattimore, the S.O.S. Band, R.B. Hudmond, Millie Jackson, and Johnny Taylor.

And now, citizens of Atlanta are enjoying the sounds of the solo guitarists at some of the city’s best-known blues and jazz venues and in “gigs with the legendary Tams of Atlanta.”

His company, Alternative Productions, in producing a hit CD is committed to offering something different, “the



Musician Freddie Beyah dazzles Atlanta audiences at blues and jazz venues and at fund-raisers for Mohammed Schools of Atlanta.

(Photo by Qur'an Shakir)

ultimate in soul-stirring, infectious entertainment,” he explained. Something about Beyah’s music radiates through the CD and infuse the listener with joy, calmness and excitement – all at the same time.

“He is the kind of musician whose music makes you want to laugh, sing and rejoice,” said Maryam Shakir, who has attended several of his concerts at the Mohammed Schools’ Shareef Abdur-Rahim Gymnasium. “He brings a high spirit with his music,” she added.

Believing his musical abilities is a gift from Allah, the Most Gracious, Beyah does not limit his talent to simply performing to hype a audience or to make money. The band leader and musician generates spirit and energy and even offers lessons and classes for young artists, as well as offers his talents free to the Atlanta’s Mohammed Schools’ community.

Beyah has become a regular performer and entertainer for School events and fund-raisers. Giving munificently of his talents, every now and then, you may see teachers, parents, staff, alumni, friends and supporters of the Mohammed

Schools of Atlanta dancing joyously and bobbing their heads to the sounds and entertaining resonance of Freddie Beyah at a Freddie Beyah Concert.

The kindness and generosity of this Georgia native through the concerts raises much-needed funds for one of our Nation’s top Muslim elementary and high schools. Last year, one concert raised in excess of \$2,500.

“Taxi to Al-Jannah” Mark Sickman New Comedy Muslim America

By Ghazal

Nasrud-Deen, a devout Muslim raconteur. He passes the time by sharing Middle-Eastern folk wisdom to his audience.

As he “eke out” a living, he longs to establish a small business and will go to great lengths on his journey and cheer for him. Nasruddeen can anticipate what the audience wants and closer to his goal.

Can Nasruddeen succeed in his small deserted Baptist church? The assistance of the local mosque his in-law, the building department, kitchen and his son’s basketball team.

Where will a humble taxi driver’s ambitious project? Will his dream come true today?

“Taxi to Al-Jannah” is a beautiful story of Paradise in Arabic. Both Nasrud-Deen, a Catholic from California, and Mark Sickman, a warm portrayal of a Muslim comedian, after obstacle in his quest to bring a new life to his fellow man in this turbulent world.

“Taxi to Al-Jannah” has won several awards, including first prize in the National Writing Contest and a Silver Medal in the competition at the University of California. A staged reading in San Francisco.

The New York production of “Taxi to Al-Jannah” with set design by Maruti Kulkarni, lighting by W. King, costume design by Mike Gonzalez.

The cast includes Amir Durrani, Bartkoff, Christopher Diaz and Mueen Jahan Ahmad.

Why “Taxi to Al-Jannah”

“Taxi to Al-Jannah” (Paradise) puts a human face on the deities. A Muslim with a famous story of the hero and the “good” guy.

“Taxi to Al-Jannah” can help you understand the

With Allah’s Name, The Merciful Benefactor,

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