The UCSB Middle East Ensemble will present its formal Fall Quarter concert, the start of its 21st season, on Saturday, December 5. The concert will feature a set of Greek songs by the famed rebetiko singer Roza Ekenary (thank you, Voula Aldrich!), two sets of Persian music directed by Bahram Osqueezadeh, two songs from the Gulf region (Saudi Arabia and Kuwait), and a variety of Arabic songs and instrumental pieces (from Egypt and Lebanon). Melanie Hutton will continue to enchant us with a vocal solo.

As always, the Ensemble’s Dance Troupe will present a wonderful variety of dances, from Persian, Arab, Greek, and Arab-American cultures. For the finale, Ensemble dancer Cris! Basimah will present a rousing solo cabaret-style dance.