Press Release
For immediate release
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Note to Editors: High-resolution photos available at http://uniontheater.wisc.edu/press/index.html

THE NILE PROJECT:
COOPERATION AMONG CONFLICT

“The lack of progress on the diplomatic front bodes ill for a quick end to a stalemate that has long gripped the region. Home to 600 million people, more than half of Africa’s total population, the Nile Basin is already traumatized by endless internal political strife and mounting pressures to feed a population growing at Malthusian proportions.” (February 2014 opinion piece in Al Jazeera America.)

In a perfect mixture of individuals from 11 countries bordering the mighty river, The Nile Project proves that collaboration is not only possible among people of these countries, but that the result can be outstanding. The group, bringing together differing cultures from the Nile region with a mutual appreciation for music and performance, combines instruments, languages, and customs. This FREE concert will be presented at the Wisconsin Union Theater in Shannon Hall on Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 8 p.m.
The Nile Project’s website describes the group’s efforts thusly:

“Out of our deep belief in the creative potential of youth and their ability to be leading change-makers, we are putting together the best of minds to design and implement these programs to engage and empower Nile youth. We believe in Youth’s energy, their fresh perspective and their willingness to change the world, and that putting them into action through facilitating their cooperation and collaboration can materialize in the form of innovative ideas and solutions for the region’s challenges, based on deeper understanding and acceptance of one another’s rights and needs.”

On Wednesday, 2/25, from 4 - 6pm, The Nile Project will offer a panel, titled “The Nile & African Identity,” followed by a mixer/meet-and-greet from 6 to 8pm. Location will be announced later. The panel is described as follows:

Water resource conflicts are often rooted in political and cultural differences. Divergent understandings of African identity have played a significant role in the case of the Nile Basin. In this conversation, we will investigate what it means to be African. How have different Nile civilizations seen themselves vis-à-vis their river neighbors? How have these relations been impacted by religions, colonial interests, slavery, and civil wars? We will explore ways varying definitions of being “African” have affected Nile history. We will draw from examples of how the world music industry portrays African identity and share how the Nile Project represents a departure from traditionally exported African music. Nile Project musicians will illustrate some of these themes through musical examples from their respective traditions.

This performance is presented by the Wisconsin Union Theater’s Performing Arts Committee and supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts; the Associated Students of Madison; and the National Endowment for the Arts. Media sponsors are WORT, 89.9 FM and Capital City Hues.

Funded in part by ASM in a viewpoint neutral manner. Students can request disability accommodations at diversity@asm.wisc.edu