Jonathan Holt Shannon  
Book Launch for 

*Performing al-Andalus: Music and Nostalgia across the Mediterranean*  
(Indiana University Press)

*Performing al-Andalus* explores three musical cultures that claim a connection to the music of medieval Iberia, the Islamic kingdom of al-Andalus, known for its complex mix of Arab, North African, Christian, and Jewish influences. Jonathan Holt Shannon shows that the idea of a shared Andalusian heritage animates performers and aficionados in modern-day Syria, Morocco, and Spain, but with varying and sometimes contradictory meanings in different social and political contexts. As he traces the movements of musicians, songs, histories, and memories circulating around the Mediterranean, he argues that attention to such flows offers new insights into the complexities of culture and the nuances of selfhood.

**Jonathan H. Shannon** is Professor of Anthropology at Hunter College and a member of the doctoral faculties in Music and Anthropology at the Graduate Center, CUNY. He has conducted ethnographic field research in Syria, Morocco, Spain and France and is the recipient of numerous grants and awards, including from SSRC, Fulbright-Hays and John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. He is the author of *Among the Jasmine Trees: Music and Modernity in Contemporary Syria* (Wesleyan University Press, 2006) and of *A Wintry Day in Damascus: Syrian Stories* (xx, 2013). In addition, Shannon is a jazz saxophonist, a devoté of the oud and a would-be competitive cyclist.

**Alexander E. Elinson** will be the discussant. He is an Associate Professor of Arabic at Hunter College and the Graduate Center. His research interests fall within the literary, linguistic, and cultural production of al-Andalus and North Africa. He is the author of *Looking Back: The Poetics of Loss and Nostalgia in Medieval Arabic and Hebrew Literature* (Brill, 2009) and numerous articles on al-Andalus and Morocco (medieval and contemporary).

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