

# World Sufism Symposium Edinburgh: The Sufi Path in the 21st Century

Evening of Sufi Music, Poetry, Storytelling and Devotional Practice

Friday 30 September 2011

Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL.

Registration 6.30pm-7pm for event 7pm-10pm.

*“Whether you love God or love a  
human being, if you love enough, you  
will come into the presence of Love itself.”*

Mevlana Jelaluddin Rumi

This evening will feature musicians and teachers attending Edinburgh’s weekend World Sufism Symposium being held at the Gillis Centre. You will have the opportunity to experience various traditions of music, poetry and storytelling from Sufi traditions ranging from Asia, Africa, the Middle East and North America, led by authentic Sufi teachers, not “recreators.”

Sufi music, poetry and storytelling traditionally takes place at gatherings called sama, where the emphasis is on a shared experience of wisdom and love in a community, rather than on “performers” and “audience.” This evening will recreate this atmosphere and feature chanted and musical dhikr (remembrance practice) by various teachers, meditation, storytelling and new translations of the great 11th century Persian Sufi poet Abdullah Ansari by Nahid Angha, codirector of the International Association of Sufism and founder of the Sufi Women Organization ([www.ias.org](http://www.ias.org)).

Cost: £10. Numbers are limited. Advance booking recommended.

#### *Bookings and Information:*

Fateah Alice Saunders, 44-(0)131-664-6206,

[alicefateah@btinternet.com](mailto:alicefateah@btinternet.com)

Online booking and updates: [www.eicsp.org](http://www.eicsp.org)

# World Sufism Symposium Edinburgh: The Sufi Path in the 21st Century

**The Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB.**

**Saturday 1 - Sunday 2 October 2011**

**Registration 9.30am-10am for symposium 10am-4.50pm.**



Whirling dervishes, Rumi poetry, the classical music of Persia, the "religion of love" - the word Sufi brings up images of a romantic tradition that flourished in medieval times. But Sufis around the world today also lead in activities that range from the "Arab Spring" uprisings of the past few months to movements for ecological awareness, women's justice and education, social service and peacemaking.

The World Sufism Symposium 2011 in Edinburgh celebrates Sufism as a diverse spiritual path, with expressions unique to many world cultures. At the same time, the Sufi path expresses the ideal of "unity," based on at least 1,300 years of tradition. It represents a post-modern form of inter-

spirituality that emphasizes respect and empathy, as well as the importance of deep relationship and social responsibility.

The Symposium is co-sponsored by the International Association of Sufism ([www.ias.org](http://www.ias.org)), which for the past thirty years, has been convening gatherings of Sufis around the world. Sufi teachers from diverse lineages from Africa, Bangladesh, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, the UK and the USA have confirmed their participation for the Edinburgh Symposium. This event will provide a unique opportunity to meet, listen to and experience spiritual practice with them.

Events on Saturday and Sunday will take place at the Gillis Centre, a large retreat centre in Edinburgh. A welcome and introductory talk on Saturday will be given by Dr Nahid Angha, one of the co-founders of the International Association of Sufism. Panels on Saturday and Sunday will include: Health and Healing; Everyday Life; Ecology; Social Service and Action; Psychology; Women's Justice and Education Issues; and the Arts. Chant, meditation, dhikr (remembrance) and prayer will intersperse the presentations and will be featured in several events during the weekend.

*Cost (depends on whether you wish to include lunch) options are:*

- £110 (for Sat and Sun) or £60 (for one day). Lunch is included ●
  - £100 (for Sat and Sun) or £55 (for one day). Lunch is not included ●
- (info about nearby cafes will be sent when you register)*

Numbers are limited. Advance booking recommended.

Further information (including accommodation suggestions) and registration form from:

**Fateah Alice Saunders, 44-(0)131-664-6206, [alicefateah@btinternet.com](mailto:alicefateah@btinternet.com)**

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