

My Five

Have you ever asked yourself who in your life matters to you the most? Who are the people you can't live without? The people that keep you sane. What if we told you to choose only five? Who would they be? Excluding your immediate family, that is!

Zade Dirani is a passionate 26-year-old Jordanian composer and pianist. His compositions blend Eastern Arabic scales with Western contemporary influences. Dedicated to using his music to bring people

together, his efforts have resulted in his CDs charting on Billboard, prestigious awards, friendships forged worldwide, and accolades including a feature in *People* magazine. While *The Washington Post* called Zade a "gorgeous pianist/composer/hunk," *The*

Washington Times said of Zade "Jordan's leading cultural ambassador dedicates his music to building bridges of peace and tolerance." Zade has released three CDs, which reflect his studies of each culture while attending the National Music Conservatory

in Amman and the Berklee College of Music in Boston. In the wake of 9/11, Zade began with much trepidation, a house concert tour across America playing in people's living rooms, churches, temples, schools, and hospitals in a humble grass-roots

5 IMPORTANT THINGS

1. The Holy Quran

I am certainly not one to flaunt my religious beliefs in one's face; however, the Quran is the book that is always with me in each city I visit. I begin and end my days with reading a couple of pages. What's remarkable about it is that you are always finding great insights every time you read it, and you are always

reminded of its universality, and the essence of its message: peace to all mankind.



2. Yamaha pianos

Those are indeed my favorite instruments. I like the sound of a Yamaha concert grand because it's brighter than that of other brands, and it cuts through "pop" mixes better, as it's more defined. My favorite times are spent in empty theaters improvising or working on new songs.



3. iPod

Imagine working out, jogging, stranded in an airport, or going to the beach without an iPod! Life would be extremely boring without a form of a portable mini device that can store a great deal of songs! Go Mac!

4. Laptop

It's amazing how this machine has transformed our lives. This has become a survival tool for running business, as I am sure many of our readers would agree.



5. My dream

"... I knew I'd build my world around you... And all my days... And all my nights... And my tomorrows... Will all begin and end.... With you"

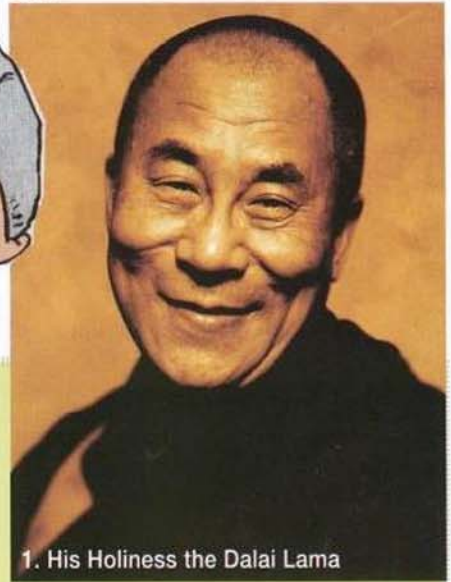
effort to create a better understanding of his culture in the West. After more than a year of planning and meeting with organizations all over the world, Zade has launched his most ambitious project ever in May of 2006, in Washington, D.C. under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan, and in partnership with Berklee College of Music and Seeds of Peace. Titled "Roads to You: Celebration of One World," Zade led 35 musicians from 18 countries, in a project that not only provides a wonderful evening of music, but showcases participants from war-torn regions coming together and working in an atmosphere of trust and team spirit. Musicians not only perform, but share their talent and heritage with fellow tour members; participate in more than 100 cultural presentations at educational institutions and community/civic functions in each city; with their host families and friends; and with their own families at home upon their return. Proceeds are allocated to support local charities and causes. Having been appointed by the government of Jordan as one of the six achievers that are leading the country into its new era, Zade was recently invited by King Abdullah and Queen Rania of Jordan to join them on the official state visit to the United Kingdom where he performed before Queen Elizabeth and the British royal family in London. Zade has graced the stage at a tribute to President Nelson Mandela organized by the United Nations Foundation and the Mosaic Foundation in Washington, D.C. Other distinctive appearances include "Exploring Jordan," held at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural



5. Betsey Kamel



4. Obelix the Gaul



1. His Holiness the Dalai Lama

THE FIVE PEOPLE I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT

I am not a person that gets attached to others. I have great friends and influences, but I do feel that my life will always go on as long as I have my faith, and my dream.

1. His Holiness the Dalai Lama

An advocate for international peace, tolerance, and compassion, the teachings of the Dalai Lama have influenced me in a positive way, and have helped me lead a calmer, happier life. My career can be extremely stressful with the constant touring and recording schedule, and in the Dalai Lama's teaching I find tranquility and personal peace. I performed for his Holiness in San Francisco in 2005.

2. Celine Dion

Celine's commitment to excellence in song and performance has inspired me for years. It's from her that I learned how a musician's dedication resembles that of an athlete. The discipline, strength, and continued growth are what make an artist evolve, just like an athlete.

3. Magida al Roumi

I grew up listening to her songs, and she is my earliest inspiration for committing one's art to a goal that's larger than the immediate self. Magida spent her life singing for peace in Lebanon, and I feel that through the Zade Foundation for International Peace and Understanding we are doing our part to carry the torch on an international scale.

4. Obelix the Gaul

Obelix is Asterix's best friend, the villagers of indomitable Gauls who kept holding out against Caesar and the Roman invasion. The French comic series is my favorite, and Obelix indeed is my favorite cartoon character. Going to sleep without reading what Obelix is up to is indeed something that I can't live without!

5. Betsey Kamel

My trusted assistant and best friend organizes my day-to-day life when I am at home in Los Angeles, or on the road. She travels the world with me and always challenges me to become better at what I do. Her kindness has enriched my life in so many ways. Everyone needs a Betsey!



3. Magida al Roumi

