

**An Evening with Tala Jarjour**  
**Author of *Sense and Sadness: Syriac Chant in Aleppo***

Thursday, March 28, 2019, 7:00 to 8:30 pm

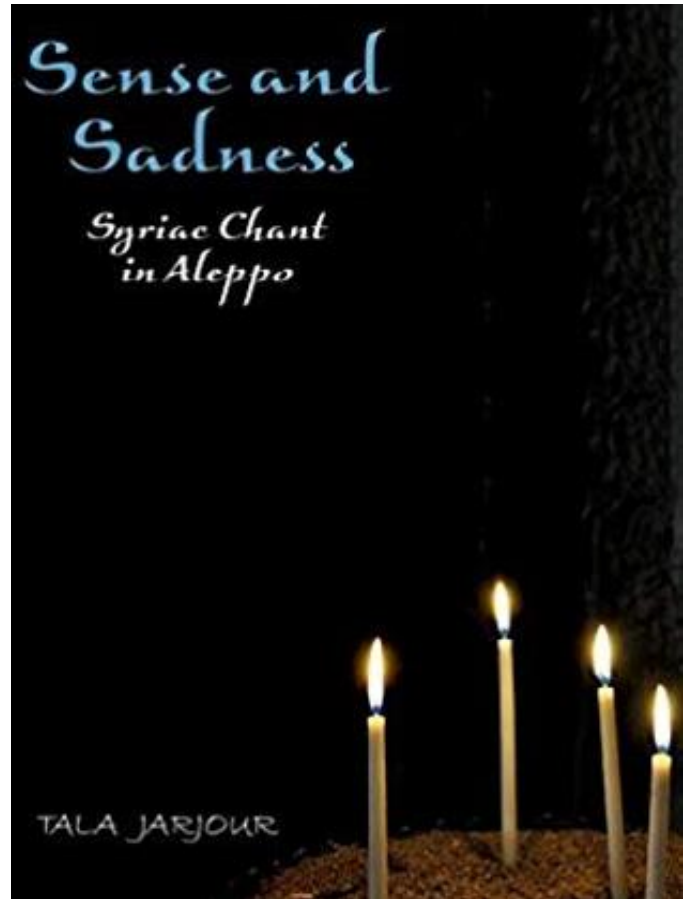
Old First Presbyterian Church

1751 Sacramento Street at Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

When she went to Aleppo to study a unique kind of chant that has roots in early Christianity, author Tala Jarjour had no idea that in a handful of years the beautiful city she so loved would be all but destroyed, and the people whose religious music she was studying would be forced to leave their hometown, fearing for their lives.

This is a community of Christians who trace their roots to the early years of Christianity, and to Syriac, the first language Christians used in what is today the southeast of Turkey. The heirs of this heritage had already fled persecution in the aftermath of the First World War and found refuge in Aleppo, so being on the run again was as painful as it was familiar.

As an anthropologist of religion and musicologist, Tala found herself thinking about music as being one with the people who practice it and their emotions. She decided that her book should be a story. *Sadness*, as it turned out, was more than an essential part of the legacy of this oral musical tradition. It was also an immediate reality in the lives of the people who carry it, and in the telling of their story.



Dr. Jarjour's talk about *Sense and Sadness* includes discussion, a reading, and a sample of musical sounds from one of the oldest traditions of sacred singing in continuous living practice.

Tala Jarjour is currently a Visiting Research Fellow at King's College London. She wrote her PhD in music as a Gates Cambridge Scholar. She has taught at New York University Abu Dhabi, the University of Notre Dame, and Yale University. Her research has been supported by the Yale University Institute of Sacred Music, the American Academy of University Women, and the Excellence Initiative at the University of Tübingen. Her current work revolves around music and religion, with a focus on cultures in and from the Middle East.

**Dr. Jarjour will be available for further bookings in the San Francisco Bay Area from March 29 to 31, 2019. To contact her please visit her website: [talajarjour.academia.edu](http://talajarjour.academia.edu)**