

Composed by Falah Sheikh Mohamed, Kamal Pillai, David Dykov
Responding to **Formation III: The Dappled Light of the Sun** by [Conrad Shawcross](#) (2015)
Performed by Falah Sheikh (vocals), Kamal Pillai (guitar), Layla Laubach (piano)

Composer's statement: *In Shukriya, I interpreted the sunny days as a challenge of the pandemic. The kaleidoscope represents the dedicated COVID frontline workers and the shadows represent the recovery and wellness of society. Though this melodious piece, I express my gratitude to the frontline superheroes who work selflessly to protect us.*

Falah Sheikh Mohamed, Co-composer, vocal (Ajman)

Falah, whose family is from India, was born and raised in the UAE. He is currently pursuing a Master's in Engineering Management from the UAE University. Falah enjoys singing and playing violin and is a member of the university's orchestra. In addition to music, Falah enjoys athletics and is a member of four university sports teams. He speaks five languages. Falah is currently interning at a reputed hypermarket in UAE.

Kamal Pillai, Co-composer, guitarist (Al Ain)

Kamal is a multi-instrumentalist focussing on the guitar and melodic improvisation. Since the late 1990s, Kamal has been an active performer in various music groups, rock bands and is also a music teacher. Through teaching, Kamal discovered his life's purpose. After moving to UAE in 2007, he dedicated himself to the art of teaching music in his new home, Al Ain.

David Dykov, Co-composer (Abu Dhabi)

David is Bulgarian and has lived in the UAE for eight years. David started playing the piano at the age of eight. He has gained valuable experiences from undertaking the ABRSM piano practical exams, where he recently achieved Distinction for Grade 8, and participated in the Emirates Peace Music Competition. Most recently, David has developed an interest in composing music. He has recently composed the first movement for a Cello Sonata for piano and cello. David is now in his first year of university in the UK.

Layla Ilene Laubach, Piano (Dubai)

Layla Ilene Laubach is an undergraduate student studying psychology at Rice University in Houston, Texas. Although American-Lebanese, she was born and raised in the UAE. Layla graduated from the American School of Dubai in 2018, and is currently back home in Dubai to complete her academic year remotely. She has been playing piano for fifteen years and percussion for ten, and always makes room to participate in community and school bands. Layla also enjoys tap dancing.