A Photographic Journey
Abu Dhabi Festival 2013

"This publication is part of a limited edition run of 500"
Primary Strategic Partner

جهاز الشؤون التنفيذية

EXECUTIVE AFFAIRS AUTHORITY
Under the Patronage of
His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mabarik Al Nahyan
UAE Minister of Culture, Youth & Community Development
Patron & President, Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation
For 10 glorious years, the Abu Dhabi Festival has celebrated the creative spirit of the United Arab Emirates, united the world through culture, and paid homage to the principles upon which our beloved nation was founded. Our tenth anniversary year marked this impressive milestone with an incredible programme featuring national, regional and world premieres presented across the 7 Emirates, uniting artists and audiences from the four corners of the world.

From its modest beginnings, the Abu Dhabi Festival today is widely recognized as a beacon of artistic innovation, and an ambassador of cultural understanding. Its impact resonates far beyond the realm of culture; helping to bond communities, build skills, foster knowledge, empower individuals and create a platform for artistic expression through the arts, education, culture and creativity.

And to our network of partners that encompass the world, we share our deepest thanks. Each year, many thousands of children, young people, and adults experience the magic of the Abu Dhabi Festival through myriad concerts, performances, workshops and exhibitions, all of which enable them to discover their own creative potential. A decade since its humble beginnings, the Festival is starting to witness the results of its efforts. As we look ahead to another fruitful ten years, we take pride in the knowledge that Abu Dhabi Festival is helping to sow the seeds of creativity for the benefit of all.
Above: The signing of the strategic cultural partnership between Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation and Institut Francais (UAE) at the 2013 Abu Dhabi Festival, with HE Alain Azouaou, Ambassador of France to the UAE; HE Hoda Al Khamis-Kanoo, Founder, Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation; and Denis Douveneau, Director, Institut Francais (UAE).

شكر وتقدير

شيئانًا وتجاربًا حاسمة وبالنسبة للجميع، تجاوزت المنظمات المشاركة في مهرجان أبوظبي حدود الأفكار والأعمال لتحقيق الابتكار وصنع التاريخ في العالم الثقافي والتعليمي. هذه المساهمات تسببت في زيادة الوعي بالتعدد الثقافي والوعي بال аппات مختلفة، وقد تشمل تطوير مسيرات مهنية للمؤسسات التعليمية وتنوع تصرفات واستعدادات الجمهور.

الشركاء البرنامجين التعليمي والمجتمعي

المؤسسات التعليمية: 
- الإمارات العربية المتحدة: جامعة أبوظبي (ADU)، الإمارات العربية المتحدة: جامعة أبوظبي (ADU)، الإمارات العربية المتحدة: جامعة أبوظبي (ADU).
- الدول العربية: جامعة إمارة أسفي، جامعة إمارة أسفي، جامعة إمارة أسفي.
- الدبلوماسية: السفارة الأمريكية في أبوظبي، السفارة الأمريكية في أبوظبي، السفارة الأمريكية في أبوظبي.

المؤسسات المدنية: 
- أبوظبي: مركز إمارة أسفي للسيكولوجيا، مركز إمارة أسفي للسيكولوجيا، مركز إمارة أسفي للسيكولوجيا.
- أبوظبي: مركز السفارة الأمريكية في أبوظبي، مركز السفارة الأمريكية في أبوظبي، مركز السفارة الأمريكية في أبوظبي.

المؤسسات الخاصة: 
- أبوظبي: كلية البترول، أبوظبي: كلية البترول، أبوظبي: كلية البترول.
- أبوظبي: مدرسة فينر، أبوظبي: مدرسة فينر، أبوظبي: مدرسة فينر.

المؤسسات الصحية: 
- أبوظبي: مستشفى شعاع، أبوظبي: مستشفى شعاع، أبوظبي: مستشفى شعاع.
- أبوظبي: مستشفى كيروت، أبوظبي: مستشفى كيروت، أبوظبي: مستشفى كيروت.

المؤسسات الثقافية: 
- أبوظبي: جمعية الإمارات للحياة الفطرية، أبوظبي: جمعية الإمارات للحياة الفطرية، أبوظبي: جمعية الإمارات للحياة الفطرية.
- أبوظبي: مركز إمارة أسفي للسيكولوجيا، مركز إمارة أسفي للسيكولوجيا، مركز إمارة أسفي للسيكولوجيا.

المؤسسات التعليمية والمدنية والطبية والصحية:
- أبوظبي: университет الإمارات العربية المتحدة، الإمارات العربية المتحدة: جامعة أبوظبي (ADU)، الإمارات العربية المتحدة: جامعة أبوظبي (ADU).
- أبوظبي: مركز إمارة أسفي للسيكولوجيا، مركز إمارة أسفي للسيكولوجيا، مركز إمارة أسفي للسيكولوجيا.
- أبوظبي: مركز السفارة الأمريكية في أبوظبي، مركز السفارة الأمريكية في أبوظبي، مركز السفارة الأمريكية في أبوظبي.

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- Abu Dhabi: مركز إمارة أسفي للسيكولوجيا، مركز إمارة أسفي للسيكولوجيا، مركز إمارة أسفي للسيكولوجيا.
- Abu Dhabi: مركز السفارة الأمريكية في أبوظبي، مركز السفارة الأمريكية في أبوظبي، مركز السفارة الأمريكية في أبوظبي.

المؤسسات الصحية:

المؤسسات الصناعية:

المؤسسات الثقافية:
- Abu Dhabi: جمعية الإمارات للحياة الفطرية، أبوظبي: جمعية الإمارات للحياة الفطرية، أبوظبي: جمعية الإمارات للحياة الفطرية.
- Abu Dhabi: مركز إمارة أسفي للسيكولوجيا، مركز إمارة أسفي للسيكولوجيا، مركز إمارة أسفي للسيكولوجيا.
- Abu Dhabi: مركز السفارة الأمريكية في أبوظبي، مركز السفارة الأمريكية في أبوظبي، مركز السفارة الأمريكية في أبوظبي.

المؤسسات الصحية:

المؤسسات الصناعية:
ADMAF Education fosters understanding and appreciation for the arts and meaning. Every year, it undertakes a wide range of programmes and projects, partnering with the nation’s universities to achieve academic excellence. ADMAF’s roster of national awards galvanises the interest of students and young people and adults. Through the award ceremony, ADMAF seeks to empower the people of the UAE so that they are able to uphold their customs, preserve their traditions, and share their riches with the world.

Established in 1996 by H.E. Hoda Al Khamis-Kanoo, ADMAF is an independent, non-profit organisation under the Presidency and Patronage of H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Culture, Youth & Community Development. As the cultural sector of the UAE continues to flourish, ADMAF is proof that it is possible to establish a dedicated, non-profit organisation to work on cultural projects that would otherwise not be possible.

In the course of an academic year, on average ADMAF delivers over 250 lectures, workshops, field trips, exhibitions, concerts, productions and other initiatives, students receive ‘hands on’ experience that complements the theoretical knowledge they are taught in class. In addition to the Abu Dhabi Festival presented each March, Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF) benefits society and contributes to Abu Dhabi’s cultural vision through a dynamic range of year-round programmes.

An independent, non-profit organisation under the Presidency and Patronage of H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Culture, Youth & Community Development. ADMAF is an established, independent, non-profit arts organisation in the United Arab Emirates. Active since 1996, ADMAF is dedicated to the promotion and respect for arts and culture in the UAE. The organisation is a public body that operates independently of the government and raises funds from a variety of sources.

The organisation is dedicated to promoting the arts in the UAE and is a centre of excellence for arts education and professional development. It is committed to empowering artists and art lovers in the UAE to make the arts an integral part of their daily lives and to contribute to the development of a vibrant arts community in the UAE. ADMAF provides a wide range of programmes and services to support artists, arts organisations and communities across the UAE. The organisation is a leading advocate for the arts in the UAE and is committed to ensuring that the arts are accessible to all.

ADMAF's year-round community programme reaches out to citizens in all walks of life, ensuring that the arts and culture are accessible to everyone. ADMAF's programmes aim to foster a culture of appreciation and integration, as well as to promote cross-cultural exchange and collaboration. The organisation is committed to creating a platform for artists to showcase their talents and for communities to come together to celebrate the arts.

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A Decade of Distinction
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2013 marked the 10th Anniversary of the Abu Dhabi Festival. Under the stewardship of ADMAF, it has achieved international status and has established itself as one of the Arab world’s leading cultural events.

Investing in the Future

Since its inception, the Abu Dhabi Festival has placed education at its core, building upon the vision of ADMAF founder H. H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. By working with a range of academic partners, it presents a wide range of opportunities for children and young people aged 18 months and upwards, to demonstrate their talents and vie for scholarships in the future. The festival is also spreading its wings to over 90% of the Abu Dhabi Festival each year is open to the public.

Today, over 90% of the Abu Dhabi Festival each year is open to the public, providing a rich and culturally diverse program for the whole community. "Provisioning a cultural platform and an incubator of artistic enlightenment, respect and tolerance - to the heart of the UAE. In an unparalleled effort, we are also trying to achieve the impossible," says Her Excellency the festival’s Patron, H. E. Rhoda L. Hooker, "We hope to foster the human capacity for growth and creativity with Ahmed Al Falah's vision to inspire creativity and prepare the next generation for the future. Investing in the Future means investing in the future of our community.”

The Festival Vision

Reflecting the vision of the UAE capital as an international cultural crossroad, the Abu Dhabi Festival is rooted in the principles of the country’s founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan: tolerance, respect and enlightenment. As a thriving metropolis that places art, education and culture at the forefront, the festival plays an intrinsic role by further expanding the boundaries of creativity and innovation through the arts. With its portfolio of not one but three programmes – Main, Education and Community – it permeates the farthest reaches of the UAE, engaging children, young people and adults of myriad nationalities by providing memorable and meaningful experiences that unite visitors, residents and citizens alike.

Creative Connections

Each year, artists from around the world come to Abu Dhabi to perform, engage and inspire. Strengthened by a growing global network of 17 cultural partners, the Festival has increased its audience from a humble 4,000 to over 29,000 in just ten years.

With 129 events over 29 days in 44 venues across the 7 Emirates, the 2013 Abu Dhabi Festival was a record-breaking year. Maintaining its formidable reputation as a Festival of Firsts, it brought its total number of commissions and world premieres to an incredible 12, spanning theatre, music and the visual arts.

Access for All

Today, over 90% of the Abu Dhabi Festival each year is open to the public, providing free events across the country through its diverse Community Programme. In addition to staging high profile events such as Earth Hour as well as commissioning the first Abu Dhabi Festival Opera, the festival is also establishing itself as a distinctcultural institution.

With its patronage of H. H. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahyan, then Minister of Information and Culture, the festival received the Patronage of H. H. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahyan, then Minister of Information and Culture, and the phenomenal Yundi Li (China). Since its debut in 2004, it has been inspiring an international music scene; the conductors Krzyzstof Mackowy and David Hanover are among its frequent visitors. The festival also continues to support the Buckminster Fuller Institute’s Visionary Project.

The 2010 edition continues the festival’s tradition of bridging cultures and building bridges. "Abu Dhabi is the epicenter of a new age of global interconnectedness," says the festival’s founder, H. H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan: tolerance, respect and enlightenment. As a thriving metropolis that places art, education and culture at the forefront, the festival plays an intrinsic role by further expanding the boundaries of creativity and innovation through the arts.

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Under the patronage of HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Culture & Information
Rasha Arodaky & Gary Hoffman - Tübingen Chamber Orchestra with Susanne Calgeer, conducted by Gudni Emilsson
Musica Antigua - Naseer Shamma & Al Oyoin - Nazih Girgis - The Festival Award

Under the patronage of HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Culture & Information
Azerbaijan State Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Farkhad Bedalbeyli - Slava & Leonard Grigorayan - The Armonia Quartet - Eugen Prochac & Eleanora Skutova - David Korevaar - Naseer Shamma & 24 Ouds - 'Jason & The Argonauts' - The Festival Award - The Festival Lecture Series
Under the patronage of HH General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces

Guests of Honour: HRH The Infanta Dona Pilar de Borbon; HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Presidential Affairs of the UAE; HE Farouk Hosny, Egyptian Minister of Culture; HE Marwan Hamade, Lebanese Minister of Telecommunications.

Under the patronage of Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs

Guest of Honour: HE Ghassan Salame, Lebanese Minister of Culture

Lebanese National Oriental Orchestra, conducted by Dr Walid Gholmieh - Waleed Howrani - Patrick Simper with Olja Kaiser - British Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Roderick Dunk - Anastasia Khitruk & Daniel Propper

- The Festival Award - Children’s Day - The Festival Lecture Series

Under the patronage of HH General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces

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Under the patronage of HH General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces

Guests of Honour: HRH Prince Michael of Kent GCVO - Mrs Nazek Hariri, Chair, Hariri Foundation - HE Abdul Aziz Al Khoja, Saudi Minister of Information and Culture - Princess Christine de Chaimy


Under the patronage of Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Culture & Information

Guests of Honour: HRH Prince Michael of Kent GCVO - Mrs Nazek Hariri, Chair, Hariri Foundation - HE Abdul Aziz Al Khoja, Saudi Minister of Information and Culture


- The Festival Award - Children's Day
Under the patronage of HH General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces

Guest of Honour: HE Christine Albanel, French Minister of Culture

Angela Georghiu, Jonas Kaufmann & Ion Marin - The Bolshoi Ballet & Orchestra - Andrea Bocelli - Magida El Roumi - Matthew Barley - Sir James Galway, Jean-Yves Thibaudet & Nina Kotova - Latifa - Karim Said - Dia Al Azzawi - The Festival Award - Education & Community Programmes

تحت رعاية الفريق أول سمو الشيخ محمد بن زايد آل نهيان، ولي عهد أبوظبي، نائب القائد الأعلى للقوات المسلحة

ضيف شرف المهرجان: معالي كريستين ألبانيل، وزيرة الثقافة الفرنسية

باليه وأوركسترا البولشوي - أندريا بوتشيللي - ماجدة الرومي - ماثيو بارلي - سير أمسية الأوبرا: أنجيلا جيورجيو، جوناس كاوفمان، يون مارين

لطيفة - كريم سعيد - معرض الفنان التشكيلي العالمي ضياء العزاوي - جائزة مهرجان أبوظبي - جائزة مهرجان أبوظبي – البرنامج التعليمي والمجتمعي
Under the patronage of HH General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces

Guests of Honour: HE Bogdan Zdrojewski, Polish Minister of Culture


2010

Under the patronage of Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Culture & Information

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2010
Under the patronage of HH General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces

Guests of Honour: HRH Princess Mathilde, Duchess of Brabant & HE Jos Chabert

World Orchestra for Peace, conducted by Valery Gergiev - Rachid Koraïchi - The Zaha Hadid Pavilion - Carnegie Hall's Ensemble ACJW - Sara Al Qaiwani - Sylvie Guillem - The Festival Award - Riwaq Al Fikr Festival Debates - Education & Community Programmes

تحت رعاية الفريق الأول سمو الشيخ محمد بن زايد آل نهيان، ولي عهد أبوظبي، نائب القائد الأعلى للقوات المسلحة

أوكرسترا العالم لموسيقى السلام بقيادة فاليري غيرغييف - معرض "طريق الورد" للفنان التشكيلي الجزائري رشيد قريشي - ملكة "ها جديد - فرقة ACJW - أوركسترا والوني الملكية لموسيقى الحجرة مع أوغسطين دوميه، عبد الرحمن الباشا وعازفين منفردين من كلية الملكة إليزابيث للموسيقى - برقة هورستوفيتش - مكبث من غلوب إديوكيشن في شكسبير غلوب - مكادي نحاس ومشروع الإرث الموسيقي لبلاد الشام - جائزة مهرجان أبوظبي - رواق الفكر - البرنامج التعليمي والمجتمعي
Under the patronage of HE Sheikh Nahyan Mabarak Al Nahyan, UAE Minister for Higher Education & Scientific Research

Guest of Honour: Sir Vernon Ellis, Chair, British Council

Abu Dhabi Festival Facts & Figures

- **2013 Festival Audience**: 29,000 festival attendance
- **90%** free events
- **6,710** children and young people enjoyed the Education Programme
- **95%** average capacity for the Festival’s ticketed events
- **9,275** people participated in the Community Programme

**Festival Highlights**

- **4 Universities**: 20 international guests
- **35 Nurseries, Schools and Centres**: 185 journalists attended
- **58 Education Programme Events**: 1,195 children and young people enjoyed the Education Programme
- **55 Community Programme Events**: 7,025 festival audience
- **50 Main Programme Events**: 20,084 festival audience
- **2013 Abu Dhabi Festival Award to Plácido Domingo**: 2013 Festival Award to Plácido Domingo

**Marketing Campaign**

- **First appearance in the UAE for Mariinsky Ballet & Orchestra, Joshua Bell, Gilbert Gil**: Reached 3.9 million

**Festival Initiatives**

- **11 Festival initiatives celebrated Emirati cultural identity**: 3.9 million

**2013 Festival Facts & Figures**

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- **9,275 people participated in the Community Programme**: 185 journalists attended
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Spain was chosen as the Country of Honour for the 10th anniversary edition of the Abu Dhabi Festival. The ‘Decade of Distinction’ celebrations were marked by an outstanding performance by the Spanish operatic legend, Plácido Domingo. HE José Eugenio Salarich, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to the UAE, also contributed to the festivities by participating as a distinguished panelist in the discussion, ‘Culture & Identity’, which was the first in the series of Riwaq Al Fikr / The Festival Debates 2013.

Upholding ‘Bilad Al Khayr’ (Land of Blessings), the founding spirit of the UAE, Abu Dhabi Festival continued the tradition of donating a percentage of its box office ticket sales to fellow non-profit organizations by presenting a cheque to the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). The proceeds from the 2013 Festival are supporting an education project for girls in Egypt through UNESCO’s Malala Fund for Girls’ Education, which is dedicated to the 15-year-old Pakistani schoolgirl Malala Yousafzai, who was the target of an assassination attempt by the Taliban because of her defense of the right of girls to go to school. Hoda Al Khamis-Kanoo presented the Festival proceeds to UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova in Paris in the presence of HE Abdullah Al Neaimi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates Permanent Delegation to UNESCO.
Abu Dhabi Festival’s 10th anniversary programme is announced. Media posed questions to a panel consisting of H.E. Hoda Al Khamis-Kanoo, Festival Founder & Artistic Director; Oussama Rahbani, composer; Mona Khazindar, Institut du Monde Arabe; Dr Habib Ghuloom Al Attar, actor & playwright; and Amina Taher, Mubadala. The audience was inspired by a recital from 8-year-old violinist and ADMAF grant recipient, Khawla Al Rayhi.
Main Programme

Institut du Monde Arabe
Plácido Domingo
Czech Philharmonic
Joshua Bell
Gilberto Gil
YUNDI
Rahbani Legacy
Bechara El Khoury
Bryn Terfel
25 Years of Arab Creativity
The Contemporary Arab Art Scene
In partnership with Institut du Monde Arabe
5th – 31st March 2013
The Gallery, Emirates Palace
Above: Students and media meet Abu Dhabi Festival Patron, HE Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahyan, the newly appointed UAE Minister of Culture, Youth & Community Development with The Rt Hon David Willets M.P., UK Minister for Universities & Science.

Below: Curated by Ehab El Labban and in partnership with Institut du Monde Arabe, ‘25 Years of Arab Creativity’ received its Arab regional premiere at Abu Dhabi Festival 2013.

Above: (from left to right) HE Farouk Hosny, former Egyptian Minister of Culture; HE Hoda Al Khamis-Kanoo, Abu Dhabi Festival Founder & Artistic Director; Mona Khazindar, Director General, Institut du Monde Arabe; HE Alain Azouaou, Ambassador of France to the UAE.

Above: An exhaustive panorama of contemporary Arab art, the exhibition offered a fresh perspective on the region’s recent visual arts developments, featuring more than 70 works by 47 artists from 15 countries.

Facing page: Visitors to Emirates Palace were welcomed by the ‘Elephant Trio’ by Nadim Karam.

على الصورة المقابلة: وجد الزوار رائعة الأفيال من نديم كرم عند نقطة الدخول إلى قصر الإمارات 2013.

أعلى: معرض “عاماً من الإبداع العربي” بانوراما تشكيلية فريدة تعكس مشهد الفن العربي المعاصر وهو يمثل معرضاً تشكيلي مثير للاهتمام، وتشمل المجموعة 70 عملًا من 47 فنانًا من 15 دولة عربية على الأقل.
It is inspirational to see these artists and to know that I am part of a movement.

Maitha Demithan, artist

"إنه لأمر ملهم أن أكون بين هؤلاء الفنانين وأن أمثل جزءاً من هذا المنجز التشكيلي العربي اللامحدود" 

الفنانة التشكيلية الإماراتية ميثا بن دميثان

"It is inspirational to see these artists and to know that I am part of a movement."

Maitha Demithan, artist
HE Sheikh Sultan bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan, Chairman of Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority and Director General, HE Mubarak Al Muhairi view the Abu Dhabi Festival commission ‘Rhapsody of Culture’ by Mattar bin Lahej.
Jalal Luqman’s ‘Point of View’, an Abu Dhabi Festival commission, is unveiled by HE Sheikh Sultan bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan, Chairman of Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority.
Mariinsky Ballet & Orchestra
‘Homage to Fokine’
14th – 15th March 2013
Emirates Palace Auditorium

باسليه وأوركسترا مارينسكي
تحية لميخائيل فوكين
14-15 مارس 2013
مسرح قصر الإمارات
Mariinsky Ballet gives a remarkable performance in the capital... The Dying Swan was danced beautifully. Death has seldom looked so gorgeous. A triumphant evening

Kevin McCadle, The National
A wonderful audience and such warm hospitality

Yuri Fateyev, Mariinsky Ballet

Hoda I. Al Khamis-Kanoo presents traditional bishts to Conductor, Maestro Boris Gruzin and Yuri Fateyev, Acting Director of the Mariinsky Ballet.
Plácido at the Palace
with Anna María Martínez and the Czech Philharmonic
Conducted by Eugene Kohn
20th March 2013
Emirates Palace Auditorium
“Abu Dhabi’s cultural flame is being kept alight by ADMAF, whose annual festival has been busy paving the way for cultural development in the Emirates.”

Opera Now
This festival comes across less as an event to pull crowds to their feet regardless of location, than as a sleek, well-oiled vehicle for cultural diplomacy.

Plácido Domingo receives the Abu Dhabi Festival Award for outstanding contribution to arts and culture from Abu Dhabi Festival Patron HE Sheikh Nahyan Mabarak Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Culture, Youth & Community Development in the presence of HE José Eugenio Salarich, Ambassador to the UAE of the Kingdom of Spain, the Festival's 2013 Country of Honour.
Joshua Bell
& the Czech Philharmonic
Conducted by Jiří Bělohlávek

22nd March 2013
Emirates Palace Auditorium

22 مارس 2013
مسرح قصر الإمارات
"The near-capacity crowd was truly rewarded with an evening of technically brilliant musicianship...an extraordinary force of nature to behold."

Hugo Berger, The National
Joshua Bell and Jiří Bělohlávek receive specially commissioned artworks by artist and ADMAF Advisor, Mohammed Abdul Latif Kanoo from Festival Founder & Artistic Director, Hoda Al Khamis-Kanoo.

“I’m so impressed by the hospitality, the mix of cultures, and the contrast between the old and the modern. It’s fascinating and I want to come back more and more”
Joshua Bell

I’m so impressed by the hospitality, the mix of cultures, and the contrast between the old and the modern. It’s fascinating and I want to come back more and more.
Joshua Bell
A Taste of Brazil: Gilberto Gil
Featuring Dina El Wedidi
23rd March 2013
Emirates Palace Auditorium
"Gil invited the audience to be involved with the magic on stage. A standing ovation proved everyone was grateful."

Saeed Saeed, The National

"سحر الموسيقى البرازيلية عمّ المكان، فكان ترحيب الجمهور وتصفيقه الحار مثالاً حياً على التقدير العظيم لهذا الأداء."

سعيد سعيد، ذا ناشيونال
Hoda Al Khamis-Kanoo, Gilberto Gil, Dina El Wedidi, Bem Gil and Gustavo di Dalva with ADMAF Advisors, Mohammed Abdul Latif Kanoo, Dr Frauke Heard-Bey, Bashir Al Haskouri, Princess Irina zu Sayn Wittgenstein Berleburg, and Mary Corrado with HE Joao de Mendonca Lima Neto, the Ambassador of Brazil to the UAE, friends and family.
Piano Passion: YUNDI in Recital

24th March 2013
Emirates Palace Ballroom
“Yundi pulled off pieces’ quiet flourishes and thunderous climaxes with aplomb”

Hugo Berger, The National

"نَمَّ بكَنَّ أداءً عادياً، كأنَّ عاصفة إيقاعات ساحرة هبت كل ما نشفعناه كان مثالاً حد الإبهار"

هيوغو بيرغر ذا ناشيونال

Above: Yundi answers questions from the inquisitive audience in a post-concert discussion onstage at Emirates Palace.

Below: Hoda Al Khamis-Kanoo and Jonathan Mills, Artistic Director, Edinburgh International Festival with YUNDI wearing a traditional bisht.
The Rahbani Legacy
By Ghadi & Oussama Rahbani
with The National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine
Conducted by Volodymyr Sirenko
25th March 2013
Emirates Palace Auditorium
To accompany the world premiere of the Abu Dhabi Festival commission, ‘The Rahbani Legacy’, an exhibition from the collections of Oussama & Marwan Rahbani offered festival visitors insight into the lives of Assi and Mansour Rahbani. The items included manuscripts and instruments, as well as stage costumes from productions by Mansour Rahbani and those by his sons.

Above: Marwan Rahbani points out his uncle Assi’s violin to HE Sheikh Sultan bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan, Chairman, Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority.
Accompanied by a Lebanese choir and Mansour’s son Oussama on piano, seven of the Middle East’s most talented vocalists gave a vibrant performance for the world premiere of the Abu Dhabi Festival commission, which was preceded by a welcome of traditional drumming and poetry.


Previous pages: Right (above): First Lady of Lebanon HE Wafaa Sleiman with HE Hoda Al Khamis-Kanoo; HE Farah Al Khatib Al Hariri, Acting Charge d’affaires, Embassy of Lebanon; Rose Antoine Choueiri, Trustee, Byblos Festival; HE Dr Maitha Salem Al Shamsi, Minister of State & Chair of The Marriage Fund; Sami Nmeir, Consul General of Lebanon in Dubai and the Northern Emirates and his wife.
Festival Gala
Bechara El Khoury: ‘Poème Orientale’
Bryn Terfel with Victoria Yastrebova
& the Czech Philharmonic
Conducted by Jiří Bělohlávek
26th March 2013
Emirates Palace Auditorium
Facing page: Jiří Bělohlávek conducts the world premiere of the Abu Dhabi Festival commission, 'Poème Orientale'.

Above: Composer, Bechara El Khoury receives the applause of audience and orchestra alike for his latest work.
Terfel brought the elated audience to its feet.

The Saudi Gazette
"Abu Dhabi will become the staple diet of opera in the future"

Bryn Terfel

The many faces of Bryn Terfel as he performs at the 2013 Abu Dhabi Festival Gala, accompanied by soprano Viktoria Yastrebova.

Above (Left to Right): The Rt Hon Alan Duncan MP, UK Minister of State for International Development; Mohammed Abdul Latif Kanoo, ADMAF Advisor; Ruth Mackenzie, Director of the Cultural Olympiad, London 2012; HE Dominic Jermey, Ambassador of the UK to the UAE; Bryn Terfel; ADMAF Advisors, Dr Frauke Heard-Bey and Mary Corrado.

Facing page: The celebrated bass-baritone Bryn Terfel and acclaimed composer Bechara El Khoury with Festival Founder & Artistic Director, Hoda Al Khumairi Kanoo.
Education Programme
ADMAF Creativity Award 2013

Abu Dhabi Festival Patron, HE Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahyan, HE Farouk Hosny, and The Rt Hon David Willets M.P., with university student Hamda Rubaya Khamis Busamah, winner of the ADMAF Creativity Award 2013, and fellow finalists. The ADMAF Creativity Award is supported by Gulf Capital and in association with Chopard.
Romeo & Juliet - Workshops
by Globe Education, Shakespeare’s Globe
Schools and Universities, 3rd - 5th March 2013

“...it has helped deepen students’ understanding of the issues of conflict and human behaviour.”

Amal El Sawad, Zayed University

Treasuring Traditions with Mubadala
Higher Colleges of Technology (Madinat Zayed) & UAE University Al Ain, 3rd, 4th & 6th March 2013

الاحتفاء بالتراث مع مبادلة
كليات التقنية العليا (مدينة زايد) وجامعة الإمارات العربية المتحدة
في العين، 3، 4، 6 مارس 2013
Young Artists’ Day
Abu Dhabi Theatre, 9th March 2013

CARNegie HALL
"We were incredibly inspired by the kids. It was really hard to say goodbye following the concert!"

Betsie Evans Becker, Manager, Carnegie Hall
Carnegie Hall Music Residency III: The Declassified Ensemble
Abu Dhabi Schools, 3rd-12th March 2013
Sultan Al Amimi, Poetry Academy Abu Dhabi; Dr Aisha Bilkhair, Centre for Documentation & Research; Manish Pandey, Filmmaker; and HE José Eugenio Salarich, Ambassador of Spain to the UAE.

Held at the Zayed University (Abu Dhabi) College of Communications & Media Sciences, Sir Clive Gillinson CBE, Executive & Artistic Director of Carnegie Hall delivered the 2013 Abu Dhabi Festival Lecture to students where he discussed the role music plays in society and inspiring the next generation.

“Do unto others as you would do for yourself: seek the extraordinary in every single thing you do.”

Sir Clive Gillinson CBE
"Arts & Audiences" was held at the Zayed University (Abu Dhabi) College of Arts and Creative Enterprises and discussed approaches to nurturing audiences through meaningful experiences that excite, engage and inspire. The panellists were Jonathan Mills, Edinburgh International Festival; Ruth MacKenzie, London 2012 Cultural Olympiad; Sheikha Hoor Al Qasimi, Sharjah Art Foundation; and Lisa Ball-Lechgar, ADMAF.
We grew up surrounded by culture. Mansour Rahbani was a great thinker.

Oussama Rahbani

دُرِّضنا محاطين بالثقافة، كان منصور الرحباني مفكراً عظيماً.

أسامة الرحباني

In association with New York University Abu Dhabi Institute. ‘The Rahbani Legacy - The Path of Bees’ discussed the musical influence of the Rahbani brothers and their children. The panel featured Oussama Rahbani, Henri Zoghaib, Hala Nahra, and Dr. Ghazi Kahwagi and was attended by Marwan Rahbani, and Ghadi Rahbani.

أقيمت الندوة الحوارية "الإرث الرحباني: طريق النحل" بالتعاون مع جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي، وتناولت دور الأخوين الرحباني عاصي ومنصور والجيل الثاني من العائلة الرحبانية، بمشاركة كل من الفنان أسامة الرحباني، الشاعر هنري زغيب (رئيساً)، د. غازي قهوجي، الإعلامية هالة نهرا، وحضور كل من مروان وغدي الرحباني.
The Christo & Jeanne-Claude Award 2013
Patron: H.H. Sheikha Shamsa Bint Hamdan Al Nahyan
New York University Abu Dhabi, 12th March - 6th April

Presented by New York University Abu Dhabi, in partnership with ADMAF. The Christo and Jeanne-Claude Award is a launch pad for young visual artists in the UAE. The inaugural award-winning piece ‘Mirari’ (Mirage) by Zayed University student Sheikha Maryam bint Sultan bin Zayed Al Nahyan was premiered at the Abu Dhabi Festival, before touring the UAE.
“Anyone doubting the Abu Dhabi Festival’s education pedigree should check out the guest names for its students-only programme”

Saeed Saeed, The National
Scottish Opera ‘Sensory O’
The start is strong, the standard of organisation is high and the engagement of Emiratis is clear.”

Al Khaleej
“Thank you for making such an inspirational week possible. Pupils, parents and staff are still buzzing with excitement.”

Mark Batten, Brighton College
Big Sing Abu Dhabi brought together the internationally acclaimed Bryn Terfel and the dynamic conductor Tim Rhys Evans (above) with the choirs of Brighton College Abu Dhabi and Emirati a capella quartet SAMA (pictured) for an inspirational evening of song.
Part of ADMAF's year-round education programme, 'Ways of Seeing' with Mubadala series played host to the curator of '25 Years of Arab Creativity' Ehab El Labban, who gave a masterclass to students of Zayed University.


"In this work, I hope to illustrate that, during the past 2 years, regimes, depicted here as 'thrones', have collapsed by the sheer will of the people... I was inspired by the contemporary Arab exhibition held in Emirates Palace, especially Driss Ouadahi's 'No Return' triptych (pictured). I sincerely hope that this photograph serves to illustrate a similar theme; namely, the fact that a better future lies in moving forward and adapting to the new circumstances."

- Shakhbout Al Kaabi
Community Programme
Jalal’s Art Trip: Urban Trek & Exhibition
Various locations & Ghaf Gallery, 6th – 16th March 2013
The Festival’s ‘Bayt Al Farabi’ returned for the second consecutive year to pay homage to the great musician, philosopher and scientist Abu Nasr Muhammad Al Farabi (872 - 950AD). The programme featured Sherine Tohamy & the Najmaat women’s ensemble and Takht Al Emarat, led by Ali Obeid and featuring special guest, Anwar Abu Dragh (pictured).
"The students are still talking about the wonderful performance"

Rosie Tennent, Higher Colleges of Technology (Madinat Zayed)
“From artistic events to educational initiatives, the Abu Dhabi Festival enriches and strengthens national identity”

Al Roaya
World Storytelling Day
Abu Dhabi Heritage Village, 20 March 2013
The 9th Emirates International Peace Music Festival
UAE tour, 19th - 23rd March 2013
Students attend an Abu Dhabi Festival lecture on arts and health in association with Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi (CCAD) featuring Iva Fattorini, Chair of the CCAD Global Arts and Medicine Institute, Heart Surgeon Johannes Bonatti, and Senior Director of Medical Informatics Manish Kahl.
"For many patients, the sounds of instruments were very comforting and uplifting."

Ahmed Al Mansoori, Sheikh Khalifa Medical City
Words of Wisdom
UAE Elderly Care Centres, 25th - 27th March 2013
The UAE in Colour
Al Gharbia & Northern Emirates Schools, 25th - 27th March 2013

لوّن الإمارات
مدارس المنطقة الغربية والإمارات الشمالية، 25 – 27 مارس 2013
Let's Make Art at Dar Al Ber!
Dar Al Ber Orphanage, 27th April 2013
Dar Zayed On Tour!
Manarat Al Saadiyat, 9th March 2013

إكتشف الإمارات مع دار زايد
منارة السعديات، 9 مارس 2013
Earth Hour - Switch off Your Lights!
Abu Dhabi Corniche, 23rd March 2013

“The Abu Dhabi Festival is perhaps the most far reaching and impressive of them all.”
Time Out Abu Dhabi

“يمثل مهرجان أبوظبي المنصة المجتمعية الحاضنة والحاجبة للحضور من جميع شرائح المجتمع.”
تايم آوت أبوظبي
Access All Areas
The Festival’s student ambassadors rush into the exhibition ‘25 Years of Arab Creativity’ to take their positions for the opening.

Filmmaker Manish Pandey discusses ‘Culture & Identity’ at New York University Abu Dhabi to a focused audience and media.
Scores and costumes are prepared for the performance - just another day in the life of the Mariinsky Ballet & Orchestra.

The scores and costumes are prepared for the performance - another day in the life of the Mariinsky Ballet & Orchestra.

Orphans from Dar Zayed take their first steps into the Saadiyat Story at Manarat Al Saadiyat, while Carnegie Hall’s Sir Clive Gillinson takes a last look at his notes before the Festival Lecture.

الأطفال من دار زايد في جولة لهم على المعروضات الفنية ضمن منارة السعديات في أبوظبي، بينما يجلس السير كلايف غيلينسن في انتظار بدء محاضرته لطلبة الجامعات ضمن محاضرات مهرجان أبوظبي.
From patron to participant, the world’s media clamour for stories at the Abu Dhabi Festival.

Bryn Terfel enjoys some traditional Arabic coffee after a breathtaking performance, YUNDI is besieged by young fans.
The artists of ‘Three Generations’ are caught in the frame with HE Sheikh Sultan bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan and Hoda Al Khamis-Kanoo; while the debate heats up at Riwaq Al Fikr.

Festival VIPs relax in the exclusive lounge overlooking the Arabian Sea at Emirates Palace, as excited audience members collect their tickets from the Festival Box Office at Abu Dhabi Theatre.
Festival artists were surprised to receive very special portraits from the ‘Question of Identity’ series by ADMAF Advisor and artist, Mohammed Abdul Latif Kanoo.
What the papers say
Only Connect
The Mariinsky Ballet launches a new cultural exchange initiative while winning audiences in Abu Dhabi.

By Chris Gannon

The Mariinsky Ballet is one of the world’s greatest ballet companies, with a strong history and a central place in the development of classical dance. At the Abu Dhabi Festival, two performances of “Homage to the Museum” were presented, two works not previously performed in the UAE, to the delight of members of our ruling family and other dignitaries – and looking curiously like a businessman, wrote and painted, received and gave...”

Love and life for all to enjoy
Classical ballet is the highest of the high arts, but a company like the Mariinsky Ballet brings it within the grasp of everyone.
Es gibt viele Möglichkeiten, etwas zu benennen, eine davon ist die Farbe –

Auch wenn man das nicht allen Wörtern immer gleich ansieht.

Verwandt, “dem Rötlichen”, und man das griechische Wort chrysós steckt das griechische Wort kirrhós.


Zuschauer die Sicht vernebelten.

Der Untergang des Sultans, der Ukrainer in der Wüste, schallen dem politischen Akteur in das „Virus“ der klassischen westlichen Musik, mag das nicht zuletzt das Residenz- und Nationalmuseum) „performance-centres“ auf „auditoriums“ des sogenannten „Auditoriums des“.


خلال مناسبة إعلان مجموعة أبوظبي للثقافة والفنون عن تفاصيل، أنامل طفلة إماراتية تداعب مشاعر الجمهور، خولة تعزف بمهارة الكبار وتسير على طريقهم إلى العالمية.

مهرجان أبوظبي الثقافي 2013 دعم لهوية الإمارة المتفردة كمنصة للإبداع

مجلة ببرك الصغيرة، د. نواف عبد الحليم.
مهرجان أبوظبي يذهب بالفن إلى الجمهور
الخليج الإماراتية، 19 مارس 2013

 Oprah Winfrey، which began two decades ago as a small TV talk show that featured a single host, has grown into one of the most popular and influential programs in the world. It airs in over 140 countries and languages and is watched by millions of people each week.

The show has become known for its broad range of topics, including celebrity interviews, discussions on important social issues, and personal stories from everyday people. It has also been praised for its ability to connect with a diverse audience and for its positive impact on the world.

Despite its success, the show has faced criticism over the years, particularly regarding the behavior of some of its guests and the treatment of some of its employees.

In recent years, Oprah has expanded her media empire to include a variety of other projects, such as a magazine, a book club, and a production company. She has also become involved in activism and philanthropy, using her platform to support a range of causes and initiatives.

Overall, Oprah Winfrey has become a global icon and a symbol of hope and inspiration for people around the world.
The Abu Dhabi Festival team and guests celebrate the end of another successful edition and the completion of a Decade of Distinction.