ABU DHABI FESTIVAL '16
PLEDGE FOR CULTURE
ABU DHABI FESTIVAL 2016
A Photographic Journey
In Memory of
NATALIE COLE
(1950 – 2016)
SINGER, SONGWRITER & ACTRESS
PERFORMED AT ABU DHABI FESTIVAL 2012

In Memory of
ZAHA HADID
(1950 – 2016)
ARCHITECT
THE ZAHA HADID PAVILION, ABU DHABI FESTIVAL 2011
CO-COMMISSION BY MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL, HOLLAND FESTIVAL & ABU DHABI FESTIVAL
In Memory of

HASSAN SHARIF

(1951 – 2016)

ARTIST

EXHIBITED AT ABU DHABI FESTIVAL 2016
المحتويات
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It is with great pleasure that we celebrate with ADMAF, in the 2016 edition of the Abu Dhabi Festival, two decades of creative energy that have diligently promoted a vibrant and multi-dimensional cultural strategy. Its resounding success resonates with Abu Dhabi’s 2030 vision regarding the cultivation of knowledge, creativity and innovation as the basis of a happy and prosperous society that is able to face the challenges of a globalised century with confidence and strength.

The Founder of the UAE, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, has always maintained that the real wealth of our nation is in its young people. Preparing them to take part in his historic journey meant prioritising investment in the establishment of world-class educational and cultural institutions that prepare young Emiratis for their destiny. In dedicating its 20th anniversary to H.H. Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak – Mother of the Nation – ADMAF pays tribute to a remarkable UAE leader who, from early days, stood with Sheikh Zayed as his vision was implemented, and ensured that women were an equal and active partner in this period of momentous transition.

The Abu Dhabi Festival 2016 echoes the UAE’s commitment to culture, arts and knowledge as partners in humanity, contributors to the enhancement and promotion of intellectual development and champions of enlightenment as the principles of life.

ADMAF, an incubator of talent, supporter of the arts and a creative group of cultural diplomacy and social empowerment, has shown that only by encouraging society and activating the young, success can be achieved and, in turn, a better future for all.

It is with deep appreciation that we celebrate with ADMAF, in the 2016 edition of the Abu Dhabi Festival, the two decades of creative energy that have diligently promoted a vibrant and multi-dimensional cultural strategy. Its resounding success resonates with Abu Dhabi’s 2030 vision regarding the cultivation of knowledge, creativity and innovation as the basis of a happy and prosperous society that is able to face the challenges of a globalised century with confidence and strength.

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I am delighted to congratulate the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation upon the occasion of its 20th year anniversary. Its accomplishments have been, and continue to be, a great source of pride. The Foundation has contributed to the major cultural renaissance that Abu Dhabi is currently witnessing; a place that, through God’s will, is becoming a global cultural capital.

ADMAF’s artistic initiatives enrich our lives, strengthen national identity and embed the values of creativity within society. In addition, it plays an important role in assuring our commitment as a pioneering nation to artistic and cultural collaborations with others around the world.

I have witnessed the great advancements that ADMAF has made over the last two decades. It began with limited resources yet with strategic planning by the Founder – my dear sister, Hoda Al Khamis-Kanoo – and the team, ADMAF has become a significant cultural institution in record time, undertaking initiatives both regionally and internationally. It has contributed to the development of audiences for the arts and appetites for culture, accomplishing happiness and increasing the quality of life of society as a whole. This is in addition to its successful role in knowledge development as well as capacity development for arts and culture in Abu Dhabi and across the seven Emirates. ADMAF has also supported creativity and innovation by collaborating with universities and colleges and in enlightening everyone about the importance of arts and culture.

First and foremost, the success of ADMAF is a result of the care and attention given by Abu Dhabi to culture, creativity and innovation. This is due to our wise leadership represented by H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, and his unconditional support of these important fields of humanity.

I would also like to highlight the endeavours of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, who is committed to ensuring that Abu Dhabi and the wider UAE become a successful model of cultural advancement – a global communication tool that reaffirms the values of tolerance and understanding.

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Our rich history and deep affinity to culture and heritage is encapsulated by this year’s Abu Dhabi Festival and echoes the commitment of our country’s leadership to position the city and Emirate as a global capital for culture and knowledge.

Our aim is to bring the best of the world to Abu Dhabi and take the very best of Abu Dhabi to the world. Culture is a collective commitment and we all play a part in its development through careful nurturing of the arts so it can become the heritage of tomorrow.

Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority is committed to promoting the heritage, culture and traditions of the Emirate worldwide. Its activities are designed to support the Emirate’s evolution into a world-class destination which makes a unique contribution to the global cultural landscape. As a strategic partner of ADMAF, we are proud to support and promote artistic excellence entwined with heritage and innovation.

Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF), this year celebrating its 20th anniversary, has always stood for humanity, our commonality – the deep bonds we share and the ties that create unity and celebrate diversity. The Abu Dhabi Festival is a perfect example of what we can achieve working together to help build a legacy for future generations.

As one society we must commit again to culture; make it more accessible to all – not just here in the seven Emirates but regionally and internationally – and support and encourage artists to keep culture and heritage a central pillar of our communities.

Saada Mohammed Al Mubarak
Chairman, Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority
ADMAF Strategic Partner

HIS EXCELLENCY
MOHAMMED AL MUBARAK

Chairman, Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority
ADMAF Strategic Partner
In 2016, Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Such a milestone is certainly the right moment to commemorate an achievement and to renew a long-term commitment to culture and the arts. Abu Dhabi Festival, created by ADMAF in 2004, embodies this commitment each year and has become a key player of the Emirate’s cultural landscape. Bringing the best artists to Abu Dhabi, commissioning original projects, fostering cultural expression, this ‘symphony of cultures’ echoes the remarkable vision of the UAE leadership to establish this country as a global centre for culture and knowledge.

For this 13th edition, held under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, France is the Country of Honour. This is obviously, for my fellow citizens and I, a source of pride and joy. Indeed, we are very proud of the long-lasting cultural relationship that we have with the UAE, to which ADMAF has been contributing over the years.

It is an honour for us to stand by our Emirati friends and to renew with them our pledge for culture. In today’s world, as we all have to fight against obscurantism, it is absolutely paramount to support artists, to engage societies in art, and to rely on truly committed audiences. In this regard, France supports Abu Dhabi Festival’s continuing efforts in making culture accessible to more and more people across the seven Emirates, across the Arab world and beyond. For culture highlights both the unity and the diversity of humanity.
As the Arabian Gulf’s largest celebration of arts and culture, the Abu Dhabi Festival stands as a beacon of creativity and an advocate of cross-cultural understanding. From modest beginnings, its impact today resonates far beyond culture, helping to unite, empower and, above all, inspire society.

Culture does not just ‘happen’. It is a fundamental part of human civilisation undertaken by individuals, societies and mankind. This absolute certainty has guided us from our humble beginnings to today.

Culture is a collective commitment. Every time a society has chosen to turn its back on culture, barbarity has taken root. By degrading culture, societies degrade themselves. Mindful of these painful lessons and steeped in the riches of our own culture and those of many others, let us commit again as a society, as a country and as a people – to culture.

As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of ADMAF, we renew our commitment and invite you to join us. Make your own ‘Pledge for Culture’ by creating art, enrolling your children in a music club, or taking your family to a museum. Whatever it takes, keep culture alive and give it vitality!

It is our duty as a nation to uphold the cradle of learning that has been at the very heart of the UAE vision since its founding. The Abu Dhabi Festival has always embraced every artform and every section of society – bringing the best of the world to Abu Dhabi, and taking the very best of Abu Dhabi to the world. It will continue to nurture culture; the deep bonds we share and the diversity that distinguishes us – always developing, always innovating.

لدولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة، وهي تخرج روياها التأريخية ورسالتها التحصينية الصادرة بعشرات المعارض الثقافية، فإن قلب المعرفة والاقتصاد والمعرفة تضمن للثقافة والفنون من قلب المناشدة والمعارض الدولية والكتب، والفنون، وأعمال وطنية للانشغال.

في ظل هذه المنجزات تواصل بمرور عشرين عامًا على تأسيس مجموعة أبوظبي للثقافة والفنون، نشأ النظر والمولعون للثقافة والفنون، وخلال الشكر والرضا لقيادةنا الرشيقة، وكل الوفاء للوطن.

ولنسر الشيخة فاطمة بنت مبارك، أم الإمارات، ودورها في إلهام الأجيال وبناء النجوم.

نعتدين منجز العشرين عامًا من العمل الثقافي التطوعي الذي أسسناه خلالها توجيهات سماوية، وسنوا فيهما على نجاحها الريادي في الفنون، باحدود، في تحقيق المعرفة، وترسيخ مبادئ التنمية المجتمعية، والتعاون الوطني، وتمكين المرأة.

من مدرسة سماوا استلهمنا العزيمة ورضا المبادرة، ومن البنية المعبرة الراسخة التي أرسنت أسسنا نجاحها الفضلاء الذي تحررهنا مبادرات خلاقة في المعرفة والبحث العلمي، والتعليم. في التنمية المجتمعية والعمل الثقافي، والتحالف المجتمعي.

أن الثقافة هوية وعالم جهادي وخير جماهير فعالة، انعكست مهرجان أبوظبي 2016 تحت شعار “الالتزام بالثقافة”, حيث تحدد التزامنا تعزيز الحركة الثقافية، وترجمة رسالة الإمارات الإنسانية والمعرفة.

اليوم، وفي خضم الجرائم التي يشتد وفقار العالم من حولنا، نحن أحوج ما يكون إلى الفنون التي توحد الشعوب، وتبني مستقبلاً أكثر إشرافاً بأوجاهه القائمة، وبكما تحتاج الصراعات المتداولة، ترسيل الإمارات رسائل الجماعة والسماح إلى العالم، وتعدنا رائحة على خارطة الثقافة العالمية واحة إبداعاً وجسماً للحوار والгар، والثقافة، مسيرًا في اللغة بث نهبة، ومعترفاً، نأمل أن تكون خطوة بعشرين عامًا من الإنجاز.

Her Excellency
HODA AL KHAMIS-KANOO
Founder & Artistic Director, Abu Dhabi Festival
Founder, Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation
ABOUT ABU DHABI FESTIVAL
نبذة عن مهرجان أبوظبي

ABOUT ABU DHABI FESTIVAL
Each year ADMAF’s endeavours culminate in an international celebration of culture that marries the nation’s creativity with world-class artistic expression.

Founded in 2004 under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the then UAE Minister of Information & Culture, Abu Dhabi Festival began as a modest platform for culture in the heart of the UAE capital. Between 2007 and 2011, the Festival was granted the Patronage of H.H. General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. In 2012, it received the patronage of H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahyan, today’s UAE Minister of Culture & Knowledge Development. In 2016, the Festival once again received the generous patronage of H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, now UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Reflecting the Abu Dhabi vision
Reflecting the vision of the UAE capital as an international cultural crossroads, 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 fore, the Festival plays an intrinsic role by further expanding the boundaries of creativity and innovation through the arts. Through its Main and Education & Community programmes, it permeates the farthest reaches of the UAE, engaging children, young people and adults while providing memorable and meaningful experiences that unite visitors, residents and citizens alike.

Engaging Audiences
Each year, artists from around the world converge on Abu Dhabi to perform, engage and inspire. Strengthened by a growing network of 33 partners, the Festival has increased its audience dramatically over 13 years. With 54 events in 41 venues across the seven Emirates, the 2016 edition maintained the Festival’s formidable reputation as a ‘Festival of Firsts’. Alongside commissioned works and international collaborations, audiences experienced national, regional and world premieres that celebrated the creative genius of mankind.

Investing in the Future
Since its inception, Abu Dhabi Festival has placed education at its core, building upon the vision of the Festival’s Founder and Artistic Director, Hoda Al Khamis-Kanoo. By working with a range of academic partners, it presents a wealth of opportunities for children and young people aged 18 months and upward. By demonstrating just how effective arts-based learning can be, this thriving and motivational educational programme invests in the development of young minds; shaping tomorrow’s leaders by sowing the seeds of creative innovation today.

Access for All
Today, over 90% of Abu Dhabi Festival is free, providing events across the country. In addition to staging high profile events and commissioning exciting new works by Emirati artists for everyone to enjoy, the Festival programme also works with local partners in the special needs, health and welfare sectors to provide unique experiences that complement existing provision for specific groups including hospital patients and those with profound and multiple disabilities.

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In the Foundation’s milestone year, its success was dedicated to H.H. Sheikh Fatima bint Mubarak, Mother of The Nation.

In 1996, the same year that Abu Dhabi was officially named the nation’s capital, Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF) was born. For two decades, ADMAF has been at the forefront of the UAE’s cultural sector. Through its platforms and programmes, it has enabled artistic expression to blossom while embedding culture at the heart of the nation.

Today, ADMAF touches the lives of 40,000 people across the UAE annually. From theatres and galleries to schools, nurseries, hospitals and special needs centres, it has pioneered new ways in which the arts can benefit society. The Foundation’s success was dedicated to H.H. Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Mother of The Nation, a pioneer who continues to inspire.

Culture gives people their identity and enables countries to engage in exchange and dialogue. In doing so, they flourish, becoming global beacons of innovation and creativity.

Delving into ADMAF’s archive, names of national and international significance pour forth. We have welcomed to our shores the stars of stage and screen, many for the first time: from Herbie Hancock, Kevin Spacey, Plácido Domingo and Wynton Marsalis to Carnegie Hall, The Bolshoi and The Mariinsky. We have celebrated the magic of the Arab world through the work of Zaha Hadid, Naser Al Shamma, Marcel Khalife, Walid Gholmieh and Rachid Koraichi. And we have seen the UAE’s very own musicians, artists and filmmakers rise to prominence; from Faisal Al Saari, Sara Al Qaiwani and Hamdan Al Abri to Nujoome Al Ghaneim, Mattar bin Lahej, Jalal Luqman and Azza Al Qubaisi, to name but a few.

In the year that marks a milestone in the Foundation’s history, its achievements are dedicated to H.H. Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Mother of The Nation.

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The ‘ADMAF 20’ book, film and microsite looks back on ADMAF’s contribution to culture, education and society. The inspirational story is told through the people who have played an essential role in the Foundation’s development, including those whose careers it has nurtured.
In ADMAF’s 20th anniversary year, the Abu Dhabi Festival marked a significant opportunity for the Foundation to make a renewed commitment to the core principal of its mission – a steadfast pledge for culture.

Hoda Al Khamis-Kanoo, Founder and Artistic Director of the Abu Dhabi Festival and ADMAF Founder explains this fundamental mission: “Culture is a collective commitment. Every time a society has chosen to turn its back on culture, barbarity has taken root. By degrading culture, societies degrade themselves. Mindful of these painful lessons and steeped in the riches of our own culture and those of many others, let us commit again as a society, as a country and as a people – to culture. As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of ADMAF, we have renewed our commitment, inviting our audiences as well as society at large to join us in making their own individual ‘Pledge for Culture’. These pledges could be creating art, enrolling children in a music club, or taking family and friends to a museum. Whatever it takes, we hope this pledge will keep culture alive and give it vitality!”

During the festival, everyone was encouraged to make their own individual pledges – from international guests representing leading cultural institutions and main festival performers to local students, families and audience members. Captured on film, social media channels and a commemoratory tree in Umm Al Emarat Park, more than 800 pledges were made, which have generated more than 2.6 million social media impressions to date. The vibrant and productive conversation continues throughout the Foundation’s 20th anniversary year and beyond.
My wife and I made pledges to promote and advance the culture of the UAE, our home. It has given my family and I so much; lives we can be proud of, opportunities to grow, and a culture that continues to enrich our lives.

KHALID AL AMERI
Columnist & Commentator

My pledge for culture is perpetual excitement.

PHILLIPPE APELOIG
Graphic Designer
Culture for me is the closest link that we can find between people and societies. It is an honour to be here, to participate and to bring a part of my own culture.

H.E. JOSÉ EUGENIO SALARICH
Ambassador of Spain

Culture is what you do every day in order to give meaning to your life. We are in a permanent whirlwind of technological advancement. One needs to stop and ask ‘what is the meaning of what I am doing?’ – there, only culture can get you to the beginning of an answer. That is why a ‘Pledge for Culture’ is a pledge to find meaning for your whole life.

DR. GHASSAN SALAMÉ
Dean, Paris School of International Affairs

My pledge for culture starts with my own. I believe that everyone must embrace who they are and where they came from. I love the fact that, in the UAE, so much is being done to ensure future generations value their roots.

FRANCO ALINA
Today, as ADMAF harnesses the power of culture, Abu Dhabi The Abu Dhabi Festival Award has become the benchmark of cultural excellence. Inaugurated in 2012, the first award commemorated the career of the eminent Lebanese conductor and composer, Dr. Walid Ghelmieh (1938–2011), and was received by H.E. Fouad Siniora, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Lebanon and Dr Ghelmieh’s widow, Elham. In 2013, Plácido Domingo was honoured for his contribution to opera, his support of young practitioners and his tireless commitment to nurturing new audiences. To mark the 11th edition of the Abu Dhabi Festival in 2014, an unprecedented three awards were bestowed upon three outstanding individuals who have dedicated their lives to inspiring and engaging youth in music: José Antonio Abreu, Gustavo Dudamel and Quincy Jones.

In 2015, to mark Abu Dhabi Festival’s 12th edition, awards were given to two of the world’s leading conductors, Iván Fischer and Riccardo Muti. Both continue to push the boundaries of their practice while engaging the young in upholding the rich legacy of classical music. In a similar vein, a posthumous award was received by Bernard de Launoit, President of the Queen Elisabeth Music College in Belgium, on behalf of his father, Comte Jean-Pierre de Launoit (1935–2014).

Today, as ADMAF harnesses the power of culture, Abu Dhabi Festival continues to commend pioneers around the world. In 2016, awards were given to dancer and conservationist Sylvie Guillem, the Oscar-winning composer Gabriel Yared and renowned author Amin Maalouf.

Sylvie Guillem’s award reflects modernity, a dedication to creative innovation and a contribution to a cultural renaissance. Gabriel Yared’s award is a symbol of the importance of a unified creativity, one that brings Arabic and Western approaches together. The recipient of multiple awards, Yared’s music is a blend of essences and originality traversing East and West. Author Amin Maalouf was awarded in recognition of his exceptional capacity to distil the Arab identity with works that celebrate the rich history of the Arab people and their pioneering role in the dialogue of civilisations. Maalouf’s writings are characterised by meticulous research that highlights the relationship between identity, East and West.

The Abu Dhabi Festival Award has become the benchmark of cultural excellence. Inaugurated in 2012, the first award commemorated the career of the eminent Lebanese conductor and composer, Dr. Walid Ghelmieh (1938–2011), and was received by H.E. Fouad Siniora, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Lebanon and Dr Ghelmieh’s widow, Elham. In 2013, Plácido Domingo was honoured for his contribution to opera, his support of young practitioners and his tireless commitment to nurturing new audiences. To mark the 11th edition of the Abu Dhabi Festival in 2014, an unprecedented three awards were bestowed upon three outstanding individuals who have dedicated their lives to inspiring and engaging youth in music: José Antonio Abreu, Gustavo Dudamel and Quincy Jones.

In 2015, to mark Abu Dhabi Festival’s 12th edition, awards were given to two of the world’s leading conductors, Iván Fischer and Riccardo Muti. Both continue to push the boundaries of their practice while engaging the young in upholding the rich legacy of classical music. In a similar vein, a posthumous award was received by Bernard de Launoit, President of the Queen Elisabeth Music College in Belgium, on behalf of his father, Comte Jean-Pierre de Launoit (1935–2014).

Today, as ADMAF harnesses the power of culture, Abu Dhabi Festival continues to commend pioneers around the world. In 2016, awards were given to dancer and conservationist Sylvie Guillem, the Oscar-winning composer Gabriel Yared and renowned author Amin Maalouf.

Sylvie Guillem’s award reflects modernity, a dedication to creative innovation and a contribution to a cultural renaissance. Gabriel Yared’s award is a symbol of the importance of a unified creativity, one that brings Arabic and Western approaches together. The recipient of multiple awards, Yared’s music is a blend of essences and originality traversing East and West. Author Amin Maalouf was awarded in recognition of his exceptional capacity to distil the Arab identity with works that celebrate the rich history of the Arab people and their pioneering role in the dialogue of civilisations. Maalouf’s writings are characterised by meticulous research that highlights the relationship between identity, East and West.
Facing Page: (from left to right) Sylvie Guillem presented by H.E. Abdul Rahman Ghanim Al Mutaiwee, UAE Ambassador to the United Kingdom; Gabriel Yared presented by Ambassador Abdullah Ali Musbeh Al Nuaimi, UAE Representative to UNESCO; Amin Maalouf presented by Tareq Al Shehi, Chargé d'Affaires, UAE Embassy to France.

Above: (top row) The Abu Dhabi Festival Award designed by Chopard; Mrs Elham Ghomieh & H.E. Fouad Siniora (for Dr Walid Ghomieh); Placido Domingo (2013); (second row) Gustavo Dudamel (2014); José Antonio Abreu (2014); Quincy Jones (2014); (third row) Comte Jean-Pierre de Launoit (2015); Bernard de Launoit (2015); Riccardo Muti (2016); (fourth row) Iván Fischer (2016).
THE NATION’S STAGE

From visual artists to filmmakers and musicians, more than 200 UAE citizens contributed to this year’s Abu Dhabi Festival.

The 13th Abu Dhabi Festival not only featured the largest contingent of Emirati artists, musicians, filmmakers, writers and creative minds in the Festival’s history, it also convened a greater diversity of creative disciplines than ever before. The 2016 Festival was characterised by a remarkable rapport between established and emergent practitioners, with leaders taking on mentoring and tutoring roles, nurturing the next generation of talent, across multiple platforms.

Taking on this dual approach, Nujoom Al Ghanem was celebrated with Al Kitab, the Festival’s new writing programme which brought together Al Nuaimi to develop a select group of budding actors, writers and ambitious ever stagings of an all Emirati show with 20 new acclaimed filmmaker herself invested in future generations through a public screening of her award-winning film ‘Nearby Sky’, while the leaders taking on mentoring and tutoring roles, nurturing the next generation of talent, across multiple platforms.

In the realm of music, the talents of Emirati musicians were celebrated in two diverse settings. The nation’s young musicians performed across the UAE in ‘Music in Hospitals’, enriching quality of life and well-being for patients and visitors. During ‘Festival in the Park’, residents of the UAE enjoyed performances from Emirati guitarists and pianists on the Umm Al Emarat Park stage.

Habib Ghuloom Al Attar, Meri Al Halyan, Waleed Al Zaabi and Ala’a Al Nuaimi to develop a select group of budding actors, writers and directors.

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A letter of cooperation was signed between ADMAF and Emirates Writers’ Union during the Festival. Celebrating the depth of Emirati literary talent, the signing took place during the second edition of Riwaq Al Kitab, the Festival’s new writing programme which brought together five Emirati authors to release their latest publications backed by the initiative.

In ADMAF’s 20th anniversary year, a record-breaking 202 Emirati citizens took to venues across the country to display their own talents and to nurture arts and culture development in the next generation – testament to the enduring and sustainable arts development work ADMAF has been doing since 1996.
(from left to right by row) Aisha Juma, Nujoom Al Ghanem, Afra Atiq, students of the Emirates Diplomatic Academy, Ammar Al Attar, Amna Al Dabbagh, Fatema Al Mazrouei, Eman Al Hashemi, Faisal Al Saari, Azza Al Qubaisi, Hamdan Buti Al Shamsi, Hind bin Demaitan, Khalid Mezaina, Khalid Al Banna, Khalid Shafar.
Since its early days, ADMAF has been investing in music. Through the Abu Dhabi Festival Composers’ Platform, the work of gifted musicians and composers – past, present and future – are shared with the world in order to build new audiences for Arab music.

Through its partnership with the Foundation for Arab Music Archiving & Research (AMAR), recordings by renowned Arab singers and musicians of the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries have been released. Albums and books on luminaries such as Badriyah Saadeh, Sami Al Shawa and Mohammed Al Qasabgi as well as contemporaries such as ‘Al-Sil’ Ensemble’ are available across several continents, reviving an important chapter of the region’s music history. In addition, in 2015, Abu Dhabi Festival presented ‘Al-Sil’ Ensemble at The Barbican during Shubbak, London’s festival of contemporary Arab culture.

Similarly, the Festival has collaborated with practitioners across the Arab world. The 2010 album ‘Silk Road’ by the Iraqi oud master, Naseer Shamma, was followed by ‘The Dream of the Oud: Naseer Shamma’ – Shamma’s first ever collection of scores. Macadi Nahhas (Jordan) joined the Foundation for her fifth album ‘Nour’, which revives forgotten regional songs, blending styles from pop to jazz, while remaining faithful to maqamat and Arabic melodic structures. The opera singer and composer Hiba Al Kawas (Lebanon) has released two seminal albums with the Festival: ‘Li’anni Ahya’ and ‘Sawtii Sama’. Premiered at the 2013 Abu Dhabi Festival the Czech Philharmonic conducted by Jiří Belohlávek performed ‘Poème Oriental’ by Bechra El Khoury (Lebanon/France). In 2012, the gifted Emirati musician Faisal Al Saari released ‘Synthesis’. The Festival followed up in 2016 by commissioning him for a new work in collaboration with Switzerland’s Luzia Von Wyl Ensemble.

The Festival supports practitioners of Arab origin to create new works, publications and recordings.

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Each year, the Festival supports practitioners of Arab origin to create new works, publications and recordings.
مكادي نحّاس

»

и يسألونني عن
و هم لا يعلمون أنه في
قلبِ كلِ واحدٍ منا!

TOTAL:

1    Taaban     3:53
2    Khilis il Haki     6:34
3   Nashidon ma     2:54 
4   Intal Hala     5:08 
5   Ta'a Nis'har     3:43
6   Tiji Nsafer     3:07
7   Hamam il Dar     4:37
8    Khadra     7:30

مكادي اسّنح

macadinahhas.net

Album produced by Maqam Productions  and supported by ADMAF

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Each year the Abu Dhabi Festival commissions the creation of new work by innovative visual artists, rooted in the culture of the United Arab Emirates.

This year’s contingent of 20 Emirati artists joins the distinguished roll-call of Abu Dhabi Festival commissioned artists.

ADMAF marked its 20th anniversary by enabling the creation of 20 new artworks by established and emerging Emirati practitioners. The commemorative commissions formed part of the Festival exhibition ‘Portrait of a Nation’. One of the largest ever shows of Emirati art, the 20 new commissions were featured alongside loaned and gifted works by 30 other Emirati artists. The 20 commissioned artists, all from the UAE, were (see facing pages): Sarah Al Agroobi (Desert Rose); Mohammed Al Astad (Untitled); Ammar Al Attar (Reverse Moments); Khalid Al Banna (Wedding); Amna Al Dabbagh (Untitled); Zeinab Al Hashemi (Coast Collision); Saeed Al Madani (Arabian Oryx); Eman Al Hashemi (Around); Azza Al Qubaisi (Dhad); Aisha Juma (Inner Pilgrimage); Mohammed Ahmed Ibrahim (The Qubba Project); Layla Juma (Leaf); Lateefa Bint Maktoum (Family); Salama Nasib (Her Patterns); Khalid Abdul Wahid (Artist Tools) and Khalid Shafar (THE NOMAD).

Previous commissioned artists include (see page 39): Bill Fontana (Desert Soundings, 2014); Fatma Lootah (Perfume of the Earth, 2015); Sawsan Al Bahar (Wra’a il Zaman [Leaves of Time], 2015); Jalal Luqman (Point of View, 2013); Mattar Bin Lahej (Rhapsody of Culture, 2013); and Noor Al Suwaidi (In Ode to The Bouquets, 2015).

See and read more about these works and the context of the commissions on pages 56–65 and download the exhibition book ‘Portrait of a Nation’ at admaf.org.
THE 2016 ABU DHABI FESTIVAL FACTS & FIGURES

- Emirates: 7
- Venues: 41
- Days: 27
- Festival audience: 21,545
- Emirati practitioners: 202
- Emirati-led initiatives: 14
- Events: 54
- Participating schools, centres & universities: 47
مهرجان أبوظبي 2016:
حقائق وأرقام

- الجنسيات المشاركة: 8
- نسبة الحضور في عروض مسرح قصر الإمارات: 87%
- مشاهدة عبر شبكات التواصل الاجتماعي: 4.7 مليون
- الأعمال التي دعمها مهرجان أبوظبي: 14,427
- عمل تكليف حصري: 26
- الإعلاميون الضيوف: 18
- عروض على خشبة مسرح قصر الإمارات: 8
- عدد كبار الشخصيات من ضيوف المهرجان الذين حضروا من 9 دول: 16
- عدد من الضيوف من 9 دول: 8
Abu Dhabi

FROM A TO THE
من أبوظبي إلى العالم

BU DUBAI WORLD
Arts and culture bond societies together. In collaboration with leading organisations around the world, Abu Dhabi Festival is creating a climate of meaningful cross-cultural dialogue and creative exchange.

In collaboration with leading global organisations, Abu Dhabi Festival enables the creation of cultural initiatives that bring countries together. The latest cultural diplomacy endeavours by Abu Dhabi Festival also seek to further strengthen Abu Dhabi’s position on the global cultural map.

Each year, Abu Dhabi Festival brings audiences together to share unique experiences that testify to our shared humanity; the deep bonds we share and that unite us. Always growing, always innovating; bringing the best of the world to Abu Dhabi, the Festival also takes the very best of Abu Dhabi to the world.

Since 2008, the Abu Dhabi Festival has been advocating cultural diplomacy by reaching out across the world, co-commissioning new works of global significance and presenting artists of Arab origin in renowned venues on several continents. This complements the international nature of the Festival at home each year – presenting world-class international artists to UAE audiences; celebrating the cultural ties with its country of honour; paying homage to outstanding contributions to arts and culture through The Abu Dhabi Festival Awards; bringing together key thought-leaders across the world in Riwaq Al Fikr/The Festival Debates; and publishing seminal publications on cultural practices.

Not only does this activity enable the Festival to reach audiences with whom it would not necessarily engage but also concerts, exhibitions and performances enable it to engage in creative dialogue with different countries, enabling societies to better understand each other.

Under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, the Festival continued its legacy of international cultural cooperation. In 2016 alone, it co-commissioned and supported six initiatives in four countries (USA, France, Lebanon, and Switzerland), namely: (USA) ‘City of Light: Ravel’s Mother Goose’, co-commissioned with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Gustavo Dudamel, Music & Artistic Director; (Lebanon) Babel Theatre’s ‘Baghdad Bath House’ European and North African tour; (France) ‘Naseer Shamma & The Global Music Ensemble’ concert at Olympia Theatre, Paris; (Switzerland) ‘Antumbra’ composed by Faisal Al Saari & Luzia von Wyl; (USA) ‘Star of the East: An Homage to Umm Kulthum’, co-commissioned with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and (France) ‘Kalîla wa Dimna’ opera by Monem Adwan, commissioned by Festival d’Aix-en-Provence and the Académie of Aix Festival.

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CITY OF LIGHT: MOTHER GOOSE, WITH INSTALLATION

Los Angeles Philharmonic, Walt Disney Hall, USA: 12 February 2016
ANTUMBRA BY FAISAL AL SAARI & LUZIA VON WYL
UAE & Switzerland: Autumn 2016

Commissioned by the Abu Dhabi Festival
Composed by Faisal Al Saari (UAE) and Luzia Von Wyl (Switzerland)

Abu Dhabi Festival’s support of the Emirati oud musician and composer Faisal Al Saari dates back to 2009 when he won the Abu Dhabi Festival Award and the ADMAF Creativity Award for his short film ‘Story of a Nation’. Then in 2012, the Festival launched his debut album ‘Synthesis’ with a landmark concert at Emirates Palace.

Epitomising the Festival’s vision for cross-cultural collaboration, Faisal collaborated with the Swiss composer Luzia Von Wyl to create a 12-minute piece entitled ‘Antumbra’ for oud solo with violin, cello, double bass, piano, marimba, drums, flute, clarinet, bass clarinet and bassoon. Premiered at ‘Oriental Fusion’ as part of Swiss Days Dubai in February, the piece will be performed later in the year in Switzerland.
Presented by Abu Dhabi Festival
At L’Olympia Bruno Coquatrix

Since their acclaimed debut at the 2012 Abu Dhabi Festival, Naseer Shamma and the Global Music Ensemble have taken audiences around the world on a cross-cultural adventure that testifies to the unifying power of music. In February, the award-winning Iraqi oud maestro joined an ensemble of outstanding instrumentalists from the four corners of the globe in the French capital: Didier Lockwood (violin), Ira Coleman (bass), Jorge Bezerra (percussion), Amine Bouhafa (piano), Serkan Çagrı (clarinet) and Victor Espinola (harp). Their eclectic programme traversed many cultures and included the premiere of a new work ‘Olympia’ – a tribute to the venue that hosted the legendary 1967 concert by Umm Kulthum. The spectacular concert received standing ovations from the adoring audience.

Presenting Muharraq Abu Dhabi
At L’Olympia Bruno Coquatrix

منذ احتضان مهرجان أبوظبي لعام 2012، وافق نصيرو شمّة وفرقة الموسيقى العالمية على بطولة مأثرة في الولادة الدبلوماسية في مجال الموسيقى. وفي فبراير، شاركت الفنانة العراقية الضخمة في انعقاد فرقة من السماسرة الرائدين، الذين هم المنفّذن في العالم مثلاً: ديديير لوكوود (كمان)، إيرا كولمان (غيتار باس)، دوجو بيزيرا (آلات تقبيل)، أمين بو حافة (بيانو)، سيركان تشاغري (كارلينت) وفيكتور إسبينولا (قيثارة). اعتمدت الخطة الملائمة في إبراز نمط الموسيقى المعمقة بين الثقافات، وشملت الاحتفال الأوّل لعيد أوبهني في مهرجان أبوظبي، مؤلفًا حديثًا لهزة تكبيرية للحفل الرائع. وقد قتبّن الحفل الرائع، بإلال عارف من الجمهور، لحفل عريض للإبعاد العربي في عام 1967، وتقديم حوار مع الجمهور القادر على جلال العارف العربي.
World Premiere

Commissioned by Festival d’Aix-en-Provence and the Academie of Aix Festival, co-produced with Opera de Lille and Opera de Dijon, supported by the Abu Dhabi Festival

Opera by Moneim Adwan in Arabic and French
Libretto by Fady Jomar and Catherine Verlaguet
Inspired by the book ‘Kalila and Dimna’ attributed to Ibn Al Muqaffa’
Conducted by Zied Zouari

Abu Dhabi Festival’s support of this production continues its celebration of its 2016 Country of Honour, France.

‘Kalila wa Dimna’ is a classic of Arab literature, written in the eighth century and based on an ancient collection of animal fables from India. Taking the fable of the Lion, whose friendship with the Cow is slandered by the ambitious Jackal, the opera by Moneim Adwan was premiered at the Festival of Aix-en-Provence 2016. Balanced between the human and the animal, between fable and tragedy, between the Arab and French worlds, between Occidental form and Oriental music, it tells the story of idealism crushed by ambition.

The production, which will tour internationally until November 2017, is performed by Ranine Chaar (Kalîla), Moneim Adwan (Dimna), Mohamed Jebali (the King), Reem Talhami (the King’s Mother), and Jean Chahid (Chatraba); accompanied by Zied Zouari (violin), Yassir Bousselam (cello), Selahattin Kabaci (clarinet), Abdulsamet Çelikei (qanun), and Wassim Halal (percussion).

"Kalîla wa Dimna" is a classic of Arab literature, written in the eighth century and based on an ancient collection of animal fables from India. Taking the fable of the Lion, whose friendship with the Cow is slandered by the ambitious Jackal, the opera by Moneim Adwan was premiered at the Festival of Aix-en-Provence 2016. Balanced between the human and the animal, between fable and tragedy, between the Arab and French worlds, between Occidental form and Oriental music, it tells the story of idealism crushed by ambition.

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Presented by the National Museum for Women in the Arts and the Middle East Institute, with the support of Abu Dhabi Festival.

This initiative was part of the National Museum for Women in the Arts ‘Cultural Capital’ sessions – a platform for building community connections through collaborations with other organisations. Honouring the Egyptian contralto singer and songwriter Umm Kulthum (ca.1904–1975), the programme consisted of performances of Kulthum’s beloved repertoire and moderated discussions about the social and political context in which Kulthum became the ‘Diva of Arabic Song’, during some of the most significant historical events in Egypt and the Arab World in the 20th century. Performers and speakers includes Huda Asfour, performer and composer; Lubana Al Quntar, soprano; Laura Lohman, associate professor of music, California State University, Fullerton; Hazami Sayed, executive director, Al Bustan Seeds of Culture, Philadelphia; and Lyne Sneige, Arts & Culture Programme director, Middle East Institute.

STAR OF THE EAST:
AN HOMAGE TO UMM KULTHUM

National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington DC, USA: 10 July 2016

قدّم هذه الفعالية المتحف الوطني للنساء في الفنون ومعهد الشرق الأوسط، بدعم من مهرجان أبوظبي.

كانت هذه الفعالية جزءاً من سلسلة الفعاليات التي تظدها المتحف الوطني للنساء في الفنون تحت عنوان "ثقافة العاصم": وهي منصة لتوزيع الروابط والتفاعلات المجتمعية من خلال التعاون مع مؤسسات أخرى. وأتت الفعالية تخريجاً لسيدة الغناء العربي، كوكب الشرق (أم كلثوم 1904–1975). استمر برنامج الفعالية على مدى مجموعة من أغنيات السيدة أم كلثوم، بالإضافة إلى جولة حوارية حول السياق الاجتماعي والتاريخي الذي جعل من أم كلثوم "نجمة الغناء العربي". عبر بعض أهم الأحداث التاريخية التي وقعت في مصر والعالَم العربي في القرن العشرين. مع المغنيين والمحترفين في هذه المناسبة، هدف عمصور (فنانة ومديرة) لليانث الفنانون (سوريان)، نواز القنطور (سوري)، لورا لوهمان (دينيسر، مساعدة في الموسيقى)، جامعات ولاية كاليفورنيا، فولفرتن، دارمي سيد (مدير تنفيذي برامج مركز البستان نواة الثقافة)، فيلادلفيا، ولين سنيج (مدير برنامج الثقافة والفنون، معهد الشرق الأوسط).

كما تبرع مجموعة أبوظبي للثقافة والفنون بلوجة "حلم" للفنانة التشيكية الإلزابيتة المزينة. تناولت سوكي التي تخص مجموعة تجنيب الأمثلة الفنية ضمن المتحف الوطني للنساء في الفنون.
Forgotten for 50 years, The Damascus Room of Villa Gutmann in Potsdam, Germany, re-opened on 30 October 2016. To mark this new chapter for one of the largest Syrian rooms in Europe, a recital of works by some of the Arab world’s greatest classical composers (including Dia Succari, Zaid Jabri, Walid Al Najjar and Boghos Gelalian) was given by Villa Gutmann’s Artistic Director, Ashraf Kateb (violin) accompanied by Hamsa Al Wadi Juris (piano).

Inaugural Recital of The Damascus Room,
Villa Gutmann, Potsdam, Germany
إلى أبو ظبي
FROM THE WORLD TO ABU
من العالم

E WORLD

DHABI
PORTRAIT OF A NATION

10TH APRIL – 10TH MAY 2016

EMIRATES PALACE GALLERY
إمارات الرؤى
10 أبريل – 10 مايو 2016
галيري قصر الإمارات
‘Portrait of a Nation’ offered a rare opportunity to showcase 30 loaned artworks next to 20 commissioned artworks, reflecting the 20th anniversary of ADMAF.

The exhibition was divided into seven themes and, as the rooms progressed, one could almost imagine the sequence offering a bird’s eye perspective on the UAE, eventually settling into a close-up view of specific areas, people and objects unique to the country.

The exhibition ‘Portrait of a Nation’ offered a rare opportunity to showcase 30 loaned artworks next to 20 commissioned artworks, reflecting the 20th anniversary of ADMAF.

**Nation & Unity**

‘Nation & Unity’ sets the stage for general reflections on the concept of nationhood. Through the first work, ‘Propeller Salutation’ by Sheikha Alyazia Bint Nahyan Al Nahyan, the exhibition begins with a still moment that sets the tone for contemplative respect. From this basis, we are prompted to consider the idea of the nation – “if there is one word to describe the culture of the Emirates, it is ‘united’,” says Amna Al Dabbagh. Her artwork, ‘United’, reflects the topographical form of the seven Emirates of the United Arab Emirates it is ‘united’, “explains Amna Al Dabbagh. Her artwork, ‘United’, mirrors the topographical form of the seven Emirates and literally reflects the portraits of exhibition visitors – individuals who are part of a nation.

The UAE, which celebrates its 45th anniversary in 2016, offers a natural portrait of a nation. The crystalline sculpture is formed from sand sourced on visits to all seven Emirates. Subtle material modulations in tone and texture are a celebration of diversity, while interlocking disks symbolize the strength of unity.

**Geography & Nature**

Continuing artistic explorations of the UAE’s natural environment, the Emirati artist Mohammed Al Astad’s ‘beach-pearl’ canvases are investigations into the land itself, created from and by the sand. The mountains of Khor Fakkan are the medium and setting for Mohammed Ahmed Ibrahim’s eight ‘gubba’ (domes). Each marked on a map, visitors to the area may make their own pilgrimage beyond the gallery walls.

Layla Juma’s ‘Leaf’ captures the delicate movement of a falling leaf in its material. a stylised, modern steel work that elegantly contradicts the hardness of its material.

**The United Arab Emirates Today**

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The Abu Dhabi Festival became a cultural landmark in the UAE and a witness of the history of cultural development in Abu Dhabi.”

H.H. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan,
UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, Abu Dhabi Festival Patron 2016
Architecture & Urbanism
Proceeding from the enduring natural state of the UAE, we move to the man-made interventions of architectural and urban systems. Architectural vernaculars new and old are celebrated in Khalid Shafar’s ‘THE NOMAD’, which draws on traditional Arish (palm leaf) architecture. The urban landscape is both medium and material in Eman Al Hashemi’s ‘Around’. The structure – steel girders of skyscrapers – invites the viewer to look into the mirror hanging above, while the printed patterns are abstract versions of details the artist found on trips around the Emirates. Zeinab Al Hashemi’s ‘Coast Collision’ kaleidoscopes a composite satellite shot of Abu Dhabi, ordering the chaos of the city into beautifully rhythmical patterns. Finally, Khalid Mezaina documents the ever-enduring shawarma shops in ‘Cafeterias of the UAE’.

Portraiture & Identity
The individual’s relationship with the nation is considered here. Ammar Al Attar’s ‘Reverse Moments’ is an archival investigation into the country’s photography studios of the 1960s and 1970s. In Lateefa Bint Maktoum’s beautiful, digitally collaged family portrait, a family stands in a historic site (the house of her great grandfather Sheikh Saeed bin Maktoum Al Maktoum) united as they observe the ever changing Dubai skyline.

Religion & Spirituality
This section explores human nature in depth, engaging meditation, self-reflection and consciousness. The large format paintings meditate on the indefinite space between abstraction and figuration, while depicting the rhythms of inner landscapes. Aisha Juma’s ‘Inner Pilgrimage’ is a meditative experience within the confines of the gallery.

Language & Calligraphy
Identity, spirituality and religion are essential elements of the nation. In turn, language and calligraphy are essential conduits to each of these elements – just as language is closely tied to identity, so too the Arabic language is inherent to Islam. Azza Al Qubaisi’s sculptural rendition of the only letter with a pronunciation not found in other languages) celebrates the unique attributes of the Arabic language.

Tradition & Heritage
This final section comprises works combining tradition and modernity. Saeed Al Madani references ‘telli’ embroidery in a panoramic view of two Arabian oryx, an innovative portrayal of an icon of Gulf culture. Khalid Al Banna’s ‘Wedding’ is a colourful explosion of fabric – a chaotic yet beautiful moment of convergence. Salama Nasib’s ‘Her Patterns’ captures the personal memories of her mother’s dresses in a contemporary installation. Fatema Al Mazrouie’s ‘A Man Who Built A Nation’ combines Islamic carpet design with photographs of every day UAE life. Also blending past and present, Hamdan Buti Al Shamsi unites pottery with collage. In Hind Bin Demaithan’s ‘Sadu-Pixel’, we see the potter through the past with traditional ‘sadu’ textile. The exhibition concludes with Khalil Abdul Wahid’s ‘Artist Tools’, retracing the creation of the 20 commissions – a tribute to the artists who form part of the ever-changing artistic landscape of the UAE.
H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahyan, Patron of ADMAF, enters accompanied by H.E. Michel Miraillet (Ambassador of France), H.E. Sheikh Fahim bin Sultan Al-Qasimi, H.E. Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh (ADMAF Advisor) and Hoda Al Khamis-Kanoo (Founder and Artistic Director, Abu Dhabi Festival)
H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahyan with Sarah Al Agroobi and her work ‘Desert Rose’
H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahyan viewing Zeinab Al Hashemi’s work ‘Coast Collision’

معالي الشيخ نهيان مبارك آل نهيان معا الفنانة زينب الهاشمي
‘تداخل الساحل’

H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahyan with Khalid Al Banna and his work ‘Wedding’

معالي الشيخ نهيان مبارك آل نهيان مع الفنان خالد البننا وعمله الفني ‘عريس’
“I’ve never seen such a significant exhibition of UAE artistic expression. I really hope it can share its message with people around the world.”

Dr. Ghassan Salamé
Chair, Arab Fund for Arts & Culture
“Congratulations on a wonderful exhibition. Really nicely curated, very nice pieces and an enchanting journey through UAE history.”

H.E. Khaldoon Al Mubarak
Chair, Executive Affairs Authority
NATALIE DESSAY & LAURENT NAOURI IN RECITAL

10TH APRIL 2016
EMIRATES PALACE AUDITORIUM
حفل أوبرا نتالي ديساي ولوران ناعوري
2016
10 أبريل
مسرح قصر الإمارات
The Arab world debut by Natalie Dessay and Laurent Naouri extended the Abu Dhabi Festival repertoire into the realms of historic France.

An intimate departure from their usual operatic performances, the celebrated Natalie Dessay and Laurent Naouri presented a diverse hand-picked programme of mélodies. These French art songs – more correctly, mélodies – have a long history, with its roots in the songs of the troubadours and trouvères of the Middle Ages. The creation of mélodies as a distinctive musical genre can be traced back to the middle years of the 19th century.

Since the beginning of her career, Natalie Dessay has sung on the most important international stages. During her career, she has been regularly invited to perform at the Vienna State Opera, the Metropolitan Opera in New York, La Scala in Milan, the Liceu in Barcelona, the Royal Opera House in London, and obviously the Paris National Opera. A great performer of the French repertoire, including Ophélie, Minka, Ruprecht in Prokofiev’s The Fiery Angel at the Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra, Ruprecht in Prokofiev’s The Fiery Angel at the Opéra de Lyon and Don Alfonso (Cosi fan Tutte) at the Grand Théâtre de Genève.

Laurent Naouri studied at the CNIPAL in Marseille and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. His broad repertory includes about 40 roles, from the early baroque to contemporary opera.

Among these and most notably are the Four Villains (The Tales of Hoffmann), Golaud (Pelléas et Mélisande), Count Almaviva (Le Nozze di Figaro), the title role of Falstaff, Pandolfe (Cendrillon), Sharpless (Madama Butterfly) and Germont (La Traviata). More recently, he has sung the roles of Fieramosca (Buenvenuto Cellini). He has performed Méphistophélés (La Damnation de Faust), the Marquis de la Force (The Tales of Abu Dhabi).

Future plans include Berlioz’s Roméo et Juliette with the Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra, Ruprecht in Prokofiev’s The Fiery Angel at the Opéra de Lyon and Don Alfonso (Cosi fan Tutte) at the Grand Théâtre de Genève.
Piano soloist, chamber music player and accompanist of famous singers, Maciej Pikulski has appeared on stage in 150 cities in 30 countries across five continents and recorded ten CDs and two DVDs.

In The National newspaper review of ‘Natalie Dessay and Laurent Naouri in Recital’, Rob Garrett wrote, “While best known as celebrities of the opera world, [mélodies] are clearly a form dear to French singers Natalie Dessay and Laurent Naouri, who presented a lovingly curated programme of personal picks and familiar favourites.

Backed sublimely by celebrated pianist Maciej Pikulski, the recital opened with a large section devoted to the works of Gabriel Fauré, one of the form’s most prolific champions. Flitting between solos and duets, Dessay shone on classic ballad Clair de Lune, based on a Verlaine text, and revelled in the drama of Après un Rêve. Backed sublimely by celebrated pianist Maciej Pikulski, the recital opened with a large section devoted to the works of Gabriel Fauré, one of the form’s most prolific champions. Flitting between solos and duets, Dessay shone on classic ballad Clair de Lune, based on a Verlaine text, and revelled in the drama of Après un Rêve. Backed sublimely by celebrated pianist Maciej Pikulski, the recital opened with a large section devoted to the works of Gabriel Fauré, one of the form’s most prolific champions. Flitting between solos and duets, Dessay shone on classic ballad Clair de Lune, based on a Verlaine text, and revelled in the drama of Après un Rêve.

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Laurent Naouri receives a specially commissioned portrait from the series ‘A Question of Identity’ by Mohamed Abdul Latif Kanoo.

Laurent Naouri and Maciej Pikulski, adorned in traditional bisht, with Natalie Dessay (centre), Hoda Al Khamis-Kanoo, Geneviève Miraillet and H.E. Michel Miraillet (Ambassador of France).
LANG LANG IN RECITAL

14TH APRIL 2016
EMIRATES PALACE AUDITORIUM
أمسية البيانو مع لانغ لانغ

14 أبريل 2016
مسرح قصر الإمارات
For his Abu Dhabi Festival debut, Lang Lang chose masterpieces from the greatest composers of piano virtuosity – Tchaikovsky, Bach and Chopin.

Lang Lang was born in Shenyang, Liaoning, China. He began piano lessons at the age of three and at the age of five won first place at the Shenyang Piano Competition. In 1994 he was awarded first prize for outstanding artistic performance at the fourth International Competition for Young Pianists in Ettlingen, Germany. In 1995, he won first place at the International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians in Japan. At 14, he was a featured soloist at the inaugural concert by the China National Symphony, broadcast by China Central Television and attended by President Jiang Zemin. The following year, he began studies with Gary Graffman at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, USA.

Lang Lang has gone on to inspire millions with his openhearted, emotive playing, whether in intimate recitals or on the grandest of stages. These include the 2014 World Cup Final concert in Rio de Janeiro, with Plácido Domingo; the Opening Ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, when more than four billion people around the world viewed his performance; the Last Night of the Proms at London’s Royal Albert Hall; and the Liszt 200th birthday concert with the Philadelphia Orchestra and Charles Dutoit, which was broadcast live in more than 300 movie theatres around the USA and 200 cinemas across Europe.

Lang Lang forms enduring musical partnerships with the world’s greatest artists, from conductors such as Daniel Barenboim, Gustavo Dudamel and Simon Rattle, to artists from outside classical music, including dubstep dancer Marquese ‘Nonstop’ Scott, king of the crooners Julio Inglesias and jazz titan Herbie Hancock. He builds relationships with corporations who will help him introduce classical music to ever-more people and he builds cultural bridges between East and West, frequently introducing Chinese music to Western audiences and vice versa.

He is also intent on bringing music into the lives of children around the world both through his work for the United Nations, as a Messenger of Peace focusing on global education and through his own Lang Lang International Music Foundation.

Time Magazine named Lang Lang in its ‘Time 100’, citing him as a symbol of the youth of China and its future. Lang Lang also mentors prodigies, convenes 100 piano students at a time in concert and dedicates his Lang Lang International Music Foundation to cultivating tomorrow’s top pianists.

He has performed for international dignitaries including the Secretary-General of the UN, Ban Ki-moon, President Xi Jin Ping of China and four US presidents, as well as at the Diamond Jubilee celebratory concert for Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace.

Lang Lang is one of the world’s greatest living pianists, and one of the most influential cultural ambassadors of his generation. He is a Maestro of the 21st Century, a symbol of the youth of China and its future. Lang Lang dedicates his Lang Lang International Music Foundation to cultivating tomorrow’s top pianists.

Lang Lang was awarded the title of ‘People’s Friend of the United Nations’ by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

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All the pianist’s notorious flair, theatrics, and inimitable technical prowess were on clear display.

In The National newspaper review of ‘Lang Lang in Concert’, Rob Garrett wrote, “Lang Lang is not a musician known for subtlety – and all the pianist’s notorious flair, theatrics, and inimitable technical prowess were on clear display at Abu Dhabi Festival.

A visceral sense of anticipation passed between the crowd at Emirates Palace – not quite the eager adolescent churning of a pop gig, but certainly a hunger-lust not normally associated with the staid classical concerts normally passing through the stage. Would the world’s greatest “classical rock star” live up to his own hype?

... Lang Lang’s talents were on clear display in the second half, dedicated to a chronological reading of Chopin’s four Scherzos, also captured on the pianist’s latest release. The form may take its name from the Italian for “I joke”, but the only thing funny about Lang Lang’s performance was, perhaps, the circus freak-show of his incomprehensible dexterity. For the first time in the evening Lang Lang broke out in a sweat – reaching out for a towel at the end of the jaw-dropping second Scherzo, from 1837, best known for its iconic, thunderous, stop-start refrain.

Among the best known composers for solo piano, Chopin’s enviable technical prowess and heart-wrenching sense of drama find a fitting home in Lang Lang. This was the foot-stomping, fringe-flopping, hand-contorting wunderkind we came to see – at the end of the third Scherzo, Lang Lang appears to punch the piano’s final, looming chords. Only the longer, fourth piece – composed, unlike its predecessors, from a state of domestic bliss in 1842, and the only one of the four in a major key – gave the pianist, or audience, a chance to catch their breath.”
H.E. Chuang Hua (Ambassador of China) and Lang Lang
H.E. Chuang Hua (Ambassador of China), Lang Lang dressed in traditional bisht, Hoda Al Khamis-Kanoo, Xiulan Zhou and Feng Jie.
ORCHESTRE DE PARIS
CONDUCTED BY PAAVO JÄRVI
WITH THIERRY ESCAICH AND
XAVIER PHILLIPS

15TH APRIL 2016
EMIRATES PALACE AUDITORIUM
أوركسترا باريس بقيادة بافو يارفي مع تييري إيسكايش وكزافييه فيليبس

15 أبريل 2016
مسرح قصر الإمارات
Commemorating France as the Festival Country of Honour, Orchestre de Paris marked the historic milestone of its Arabian Gulf debut with a patriotic programme of Berlioz, Lalo and Saint-Saëns.”

The Orchestre de Paris, France’s premier symphony orchestra, gives more than 100 concerts each season, as principal resident orchestra at the Philharmonie de Paris, the new concert hall designed by French architect Jean Nouvel, or on its many foreign tours.

The Orchestre de Paris gave its inaugural concert in November 1967 under the direction of Charles Munch. In 2010, Paavo Järvi took up the position of Music Director.

The orchestra draws its repertoire from the mainstream French musical tradition while playing a major role in promoting the music of the 20th and 21st centuries by appointing composers-in-residence and giving the first performances of numerous works.

With young audiences at the top of its priorities, the orchestra is constantly diversifying its outreach activities while expanding its audience (covering the whole educational spectrum from nursery school to university). In the course of the 2015/16 season, the musicians introduced more than 40,000 children to orchestral music.

In order to make its musicians’ talents available to the widest possible audience, the orchestra has committed to a substantial development of its audio-visual strategy by concluding strong partnerships with Radio Classique, Arte and Mezzo.

Born in Paris, Xavier Phillips began to study the cello at the early age of 6. By 15, he entered Philippe Muller’s studio at the CNSM in Paris and graduated with First Prize in 1989.

After these formative years, he won several international prizes, during one, his participation brought him to the attention of Mstislav Rostropovich, who had been particularly taken with his playing during his debut with the Orchestre de Paris in September 2001. Mstislav Rostropovich, who had dedicated himself to chamber music.

Aged 40, Xavier Phillips decided to take on a dedicated teacher and he has also dedicated himself to chamber music

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Aged 40, Xavier Phillips decided to take on a dedicated teacher and he has also dedicated himself to chamber music.

Vive la France!

Vive la France!
The music flowing between inward-gazing solemnity and pompous majesty with the greatest of nuance.

Composer, organist and improviser, Thierry Escaich is a unique figure in contemporary music and one of the most important French composers of his generation. The three elements of Thierry Escaich's artistry are inseparable, allowing him to express himself as a performer, creator and collaborator in a wide range of settings.

Thierry Escaich has composed in many genres and forms, always exploring new sound horizons. His catalogue numbers around 100 works which, with their lyrical, rich harmonies and rhythmic energy, have attracted a wide audience. Since 1992, Thierry Escaich has taught composition and improvisation at the Paris Conservatoire, where he himself studied and obtained eight ‘premiers prix’. In 2013, he received the honour of being appointed to the Académie des Beaux-Arts in Paris.

Thierry Escaich's career as a composer is closely linked to his career as an organist, which has led him to be one of the ambassadors of the great French school of improvisation, in the wake of Maurice Duruflé, exploring new sound horizons. His catalogue numbers around 100 own compositions and improvisations.

In the National newspaper review of ‘Orchestre de Paris with Thierry Escaich and Xavier Phillips, conducted by Parvo Järvi’, Rob Garrett wrote “The centrepiece was a sublime reading of Saint-Saëns’s third and final symphony. Something of a nationalistic mascot, it is regularly performed by the orchestra – and it showed, with the music flowing between inward-gazing solemnity and pompous majesty with the greatest of nuance... the organ again emerges with an almighty, heaven-staring chord, before pronouncing the melody's slow, simple inclusivity in almighty childlike blocks. Coming all the way to Abu Dhabi seemed a long way for star soloist... Thierry Escaich to fly to play so few notes – but the effect was overpowering.

If Saint-Saëns's work was defined by the sparing use of the soloist, a reading of Lalo's Cello Concerto marked a conceptual contrast. Rather than working in dialogue with its fellow strings, Xavier Phillips's antique cello was always front and centre.

[Followed a] triumphant opening performance of Berlioz’s Le Corsaire overture. An influential figure in the birth of programme music – compositions that invite listeners to picture a specific place, physical state or story – it was not difficult to imagine the breaking waves of the Mediterranean Sea that inspired the work's overflowing finale.
Thierry Escaich, Xavier Phillips and Paavo Järvi in traditional bisht and their specially commissioned portraits from the series ‘A Question of Identity’ by Mohamed Abdul Latif Kanoo

الفنانون تييري إسكايش، كزافييه فيليبس وبارفو يارفي بالزي التقليدي “البشت” مع صور شخصية لهم تم رسمها بتكليف حصري الفنان محمد عبد اللطيف كانو، مستشار مجموعة أبوظبي للثقافة والفنون ضمن مجموعة “مسألة هوية”

Thierry Escaich, Xavier Phillips and Paavo Järvi wearing traditional bisht, learning how to tie their ghutra.

الفنانون تييري إسكايش، كزافييه فيليبس وبارفو يارفي بالزي التقليدي “البشت”， يتعلمون كيفية وضع الغترة الإماراتية على رؤوسهم
أوركسترا باريس
بقيادة بافو يارفي
مع سيرغي خاشاتريان

2016
أبريل
17
مسرح قصر الإمارات
From the father of Czech music to icons of the German and Finnish repertoires, the second night of the Orchestre de Paris at the Abu Dhabi Festival delved into the psyche of Europe’s master composers – Smetana, Tchaikovsky and Sibelius.
Throughout, the renowned conductor presided with flowing elegance and absolute clarity... One wonders how these shoes might be filled next.

On this second night, Orchestre de Paris were joined by Armenian violinist Sergey Khachatryan.

Khachatryan won First Prize at the VIII International Jean Sibelius Competition in Helsinki in 2000, becoming the youngest ever winner in the history of the competition. In 2005 he claimed First Prize at the Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels.

In recent seasons, Sergey Khachatryan has performed with leading international orchestras including Mariinsky Orchestra (Valery Gergiev) and Orchestre de Paris (Andris Nelsons and Gianandrea Noseda). He has also collaborated with the Berliner Philharmoniker, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Orchestre National de France, London Symphony, London Philharmonic, Philharmonia Orchestra, NHK Symphony, Sydney Symphony and Melbourne Symphony.

Sergey Khachatryan and Lusine Khachatryan are regular duo partners. Together, they have given recitals at top international venues including Wigmore Hall (London), Palais des Beaux Arts (Brussels), Carnegie Hall and Alice Tully Hall (New York) and Herbst Theater (San Francisco). Their most recent project is Brahms' three Sonatas for Violin and Piano, both on stage and on recording.

In The National newspaper, Rob Garrett wrote of Paavo Järvi's appearance at Abu Dhabi Festival, “throughout, the renowned conductor presided with flowing elegance and absolute clarity.

Even without the sound, watching him sway with the lurching fluidity of a puppet – each nuance producing a symbiotic countermovement in the mass of musicians below – would be fascinating to behold.

After six years as musical director – including the historic launch of the orchestra's new home, Philharmonie de Paris – the Estonian conductor stands down this summer. One wonders how these shoes might be filled next.”
Sergey Khachatryan receives his specially commissioned portrait from the series 'A Question of Identity' by Mohamed Abdul Latif Kanoo, with Hoda Al Khamis-Kanoo

Paavo Järvi has his ghutrah adjusted by Mohammed Abdul Latif Kanoo
Alia Amin, Adnan A. Amin, H.E. Michel Miraillet (Ambassador of France), H.E. Ghassan Salamé, Geneviève Miraillet, Princess Irina zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Berleburg, Dr Fatima Al Shamsi, Michelle Anbar Haddad, Sergey Khachatryan, Hoda Al Khamis-Kanoo, Professor Eric Fouache, Bashir Al Haskouri, André Gremillet, Mark Williams, Dr. Cécile Fouache

Alia Amin, السيدة علياء أمين، السيد عدنان أمين، سعادة ميشيل ميراييه (سفير فرنسا في الإمارات)، سعادة غسان سلامة، السيدة جينيفييف ميراييه، سمو الأميرة إيرينا زوزاين-فيتغنشتاين، بيرليبرورغ، الدكتورة فاطمة الشامسي، السيدة ميشيل عنبر، الفنان سيرغي خاشاتريان، سعادة هدى الخميس-канو، البروفيسور إريك فواش، السيد بشير الهسكوري، السيد أندره غريمييه، السيد مارك وليامز، الدكتورة سيسيل فواش
الحفل الموسيقي الأوركستريالي
الأمير الصغير
إعداد نك لويد ويبر
وجيمس دي ريد

21 و 22 أبريل 2016
مسرح قصر الإمارات
In an Abu Dhabi Festival world premiere, The Little Prince was brought to life in Nick Lloyd Webber and James D. Reid’s orchestral concert version of their new musical. The Little Prince is one of the most cherished books of all time, selling millions of copies worldwide. It’s the captivating tale of a lost pilot who, crashed in the middle of the desert, encounters a young prince from a distant asteroid who tells him a story of life among the stars.

Nick Lloyd Webber is a composer, singer/songwriter and record producer who has been making music for all of his adult life. He has garnered international attention for everything from the release of his own records to scoring for film and television and, in more recent years, theatre.

His love of meaningful and heartfelt music, something shared with James D. Reid, brought the two of them together to write and create The Little Prince, the musical. Their aim was to bring the narrative of this captivating and universal book to life, in order to engage not only those familiar with the tale, but also those experiencing its magic for the first time.

James D. Reid studied contemporary music college in Edinburgh, before joining Scottish Opera’s education unit, helping create new musicals for children. In 1995 he studied Directing at London’s Central School of Speech and Drama, after which he directed in and around London. He has written and directed for television and radio at the BBC and has composed for international TV channels.

A lyrical celebration of the imagination and the artist within us all, the story was brought to life by an exceptional orchestra of 40 players and an outstanding company of 13 principal singers and chorus, conducted by acclaimed music director Simon Lee.

Conductor, music supervisor and orchestrator Simon Lee has an award-winning history of theatre and film credits, from Jesus Christ Superstar to Evita and The Phantom of the Opera. He has also conducted over 40 albums with artists ranging from José Carreras to Primal Scream and has worked with the great orchestras of the world.

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The images on the stage screens were hypnotic with moving images of cratered asteroid landscapes, pink clouds of stardust, and a snake who appears as a long trail of dancing fire.

Judging by the five-minute long-standing ovation, Lloyd Webber’s career is off to a promising start.

In The National newspaper review of ‘The Little Prince’ Jessica Hill wrote, “The whole musical has an ethereal quality – you feel as though you’re awake in the middle of a dream that you’re trying to make sense of.

Not afraid of a challenge, Lloyd Webber and Reid explored the moral complexities of The Little Prince. On the surface, it is a straightforward children’s story about a pilot who, upon crash-landing, discovers he shares the desert with a little prince who has left his asteroid to explore other planets.

The overarching theme, however, is that of a man reconnecting with his inner child, and how, ultimately, what is essential in life is invisible to the eye.

It is to Lloyd Webber and Reid’s credit that Exupéry’s own family have given this version their blessing... The soprano Want was a standout, she renders the enigmatic Prince’s role tenderly and with a vulnerability of a child... There are stirring string crescendos in the heart-melting Because it is She and lighter moments too — My Little Asteroid bounces along merrily in 70s pop-style and the Fox character’s lively Tame Me has a Dolly Parton ring to it.

The images on the stage screens were hypnotic with moving images of cratered asteroid landscapes, pink clouds of stardust, and a snake who appears as a long trail of dancing fire.

Judging by the five-minute long-standing ovation, Lloyd Webber’s career is off to a promising start.”
Hugh Grant receives his specially commissioned portrait from the series 'A Question of Identity' by Mohamed Abdul Latif Kanoo

الممثل العالمي هيو غرايتي يستلم صورة شخصية تم رسمها بتكليف حصري الفنان محمد عبد اللطيف كانو، مستشار مجموعة أبوظبي للثقافة والفنون ضمن مجموعة "مسألة هوية".
Hoda Al Khamis-Kanoo with Hugh Grant, James D. Reid, Nick Lloyd-Webber and Simon Lee dressed in traditional bisht with their specially commissioned portrait from the series 'A Question of Identity' by Mohamed Abdul Latif Kanoo.
CARLOS ACOSTA & FRIENDS

25TH & 26TH APRIL 2016
EMIRATES PALACE AUDITORIUM
As part of the farewell tour to his classical repertoire, Carlos Acosta made his Arab world debut at the 2016 Abu Dhabi Festival, accompanied by a company of talented young Cuban dancers.

Carlos Acosta is the most renowned ballet dancer of his generation. From humble beginnings in Havana, today he leaps across the world's greatest stages, inspiring tomorrow's dancers and enthralling audiences.

Born in 1973, Carlos grew up as the 11th child of an impoverished family in one of Havana's poorest districts. His energy and drive to succeed led him to train at the National Ballet School of Cuba. From 1989 to 1991, he performed throughout the world, guesting with several leading companies.

In 1990 he won the Gold Medal at the Prix de Lausanne, the Grand Prix at the 4th biennial Concours International de Danse de Paris, Vignale Danza Prize in Italy and the Frédéric Chopin Prize. Carlos was then invited by Ivan Nagy to dance as a principal with the English National Ballet in London during its 1991/92 season, making his debut in the Polovtsian Dances from Prince Igor.

Carlos danced with the National Ballet of Cuba (1992/93) under Alicia Alonso and was then invited by Ben Stevenson to dance as Principal with the Houston Ballet (1993–98), making his American stage debut as the Prince in The Nutcracker. He joined The Royal Ballet under the direction of Anthony Dowell in 1998; his title changed to Principal Guest Artist in 2003. Over the years he has performed in many highly acclaimed ballets and successfully choreographed his first full-length work Don Quixote for the company. He remains in the company today.

Carlos has performed as Guest Principal Artist with the world's leading ballet companies, including the American Ballet Theatre (2005), the Paris Opera Ballet (2006) and the Bolshoi Ballet (2007). He created his semi-autobiographical show Tocororo in Havana, where it premiered at the Sala García Lorca in 2003, broke all box office records at Sadler's Wells, London and secured an Olivier Award nomination in 2004. In 2007 he won the Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dance for his 2006 programme Carlos Acosta and Friends of The Royal Ballet, first staged at Sadler's Wells.

He continues to develop and produce his own popular, award-winning shows in London and Europe, including both classical and contemporary repertoire with guest artists from The Royal Ballet, often championing choreographers from his native Cuba.

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The culture and history of Cuba have been important influences throughout Carlos’ career. In 2011, he created the Carlos Acosta International Dance Foundation with the aim of giving young dancers the opportunity to benefit from world-class training, as he did. With the agreement of the Cuban government, the Foundation is creating what it intends should be a landmark dance centre of international renown in Havana.

In The National newspaper review of ‘Carlos Acosta & Friends’, Saeed Saeed wrote, “His Middle Eastern debut was vibrant affair showcasing his mastery of both the classic ballet canon and more modern pieces.

The vibe was low-key and intimate. With Acosta handpicking the cast, the performance was not only superb, but a showcase of Cuba’s ballet culture. Luis Valle and Veronica Corveas were riveting in ‘Winter Dreams’. Both exuded chemistry and candour as they portrayed two lovers struggling to accept their doomed fate. The mournful tone continued with Gabriela Lugo’s delicate solo turn in ‘Dying Swan’, only to perk up with Acosta’s heroic arrival in ‘Diana & Acteon’.

At 42 years old and in stunning shape, Acosta displayed deep musicality in his technique. Boasting more than just those peerless sharp lines, his movement has a sensual rhythm that emotionally engages the audience.

In act two, the classical shackles were truly cast off. The stage set also received a much-needed lift with a new café setting that formed the backdrop for one of Acosta’s celebrated routines, Les Bourgeois...

The performance ended with an exuberant tango-inspired ensemble number, Majisimo. It was a rather fitting end that hinted at Acosta’s future – heading a ballet-school project in Cuba.

At the end of the night, Acosta finally left the stage with his young dancers who embody his legacy to the ballet world. It was a fitting tribute to a spectacular career.”

Watch our exclusive interview with Carlos Acosta in the latest episode of The Artists’ Studio on YouTube Channel ADMAF96
H.E. José Enrique Enríquez Rodríguez (Ambassador of Cuba) greets Carlos Acosta

سعادة خوسيه إنريكيز رودريغيز (سفير كوبا) يرحب بالفنان كارلوس أكوستا

H.E. José Eugenio Salarich (Ambassador of Spain) meets the company of dancers from Carlos Acosta and Friends

سعادة خوسيه إيوخينيو سالاريتش (سفير إسبانيا في الإمارات) يرحب بالفنان كارلوس أكوستا وأصدقائه
Hoda Al Khamis-Kanoo with Carlos Acosta adorned in traditional bisht and holding his specially commissioned portrait from the series 'A Question of Identity' by Mohamed Abdul Latif Kanoo.
ABU DHABI FESTIVAL RECITAL SERIES: JOEY ALEXANDER TRIO

27TH APRIL 2016
THE ARTS CENTER AT NYU ABU DHABI
سلسلة حفلات المهرجان للعزف المنفرد:
ثلاثي جوي ألكساندر

27 أبريل 2016
 مركز الفنون في جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي
Aged just 12 years old, Joey Alexander made his Arab world debut at the 2016 Abu Dhabi Festival. No doubt a child prodigy, his talent would be equally staggering for an older musician.

Musicians and music professionals who perform with Joey Alexander, who encounter his talent, are often stunned by his maturity. Born on the island of Bali in the city of Denpasar in 2003, Joey first encountered the piano at the age of six and was immediately able to pick out the melody of Thelonious Monk’s ‘Well, You Needn’t’ and other jazz standards from his father’s record collection. Since then, his unparalleled musical intuition and talent have taken the world by storm. Joey was first catapulted to the attention of the music world in 2015 when, aged just 11 years old, Wynton Marsalis invited him to play the 2014 Jazz at Lincoln Center gala – a great honour for a musician of any age. The performance had The New York Times lauding him as an “overnight sensation.” The same year, he released his debut album ‘My Favourite Things’, which saw him achieve another first, becoming the first Indonesian from any musical genre to enter the US Billboard 200 chart. After being nominated for two GRAMMY awards and making a storming performance at the ceremony, ‘My Favourite Things’ peaked at number 59.

At age eight, UNESCO invited Joey to play solo piano in front of jazz icon Herbie Hancock during his visit to Indonesia. Joey drew significant inspiration from Herbie’s enthusiastic response to his playing. At age 10, Joey was featured at jazz festivals in both Jakarta and Copenhagen, and he won the international improvisation contest in Odessa, Ukraine, besting over 200 jazz professionals from 17 countries. In 2014, Joey performed at star-studded galas in New York City for Jazz at Lincoln Center in Rose Hall, the Jazz Foundation of America at the Apollo and the Arthur Ashe Learning Center at Gotham Hall. Joey has already been invited to perform at venues including the Rochester Jazz Festival, Newport Jazz Festival, Jazz at Lincoln Center and a TED conference. The sky appears to be the limit for this soulful young artist.
During their Arab world debut, the line up of the Joey Alexander Trio was completed by Dan Chmielinski on bass and Ulysses Own Jr. on Drums.

Dan ‘Chimy’ Chmielinski began his love affair with the bass at the young age of three and never looked back. Now 21, Dan is an accomplished bassist who, as well as playing with Joey Alexander Trio, has travelled the world performing with Etienne Charles, Bryan Carter, Sammy Miller and the Congregation, The Kyle Athayde Dance Party and the New York Jazz Symposium.

A native of Jacksonville Florida, Ulysses Owens Jr. has been described by The New York Times as an artist “who takes a backseat to no-one”. His mother, the choir director of their Pentecostal congregation, brought her son to a rehearsal when he was just two years old and gave him the best seat in the house: directly behind the drummer. Her priority was keeping track of him while she was conducting, but she soon noticed he was actually keeping time. When that hired professional fell through, the boy was ready to assume his seat.

He has steadily established himself as a leader in his generation of jazz artists, admired for his sensitive, fiery, and complex playing, vivid display of textural nuance and gift for propelling a band with charisma and integrity. Both humble in person and imposing behind a kit, Owens is a two-time GRAMMY winner.

Joey Alexander Trio performed as part of the second year of The Festival Recital Series. The series is dedicated to bringing truly exceptional, young, international talent to Abu Dhabi. Committedly non-genre specific, the festival presents the stars of tomorrow; musicians who have achieved prodigious success in the early phases of their careers and whose future is nothing less than bright. These are musicians who will rise to even headier heights, about whom audiences will, in years to come, be proud to profess their attendance at such early intimate performances as these.

Despite his lack of formal jazz training, Joey developed an authoritative technique and with his depth of musicality he quickly rose in the Indonesian jazz scene and beyond.
ABU DHABI FESTIVAL RECITAL SERIES:
ALFREDO RODRÍGUEZ TRIO

28TH APRIL 2016
THE ARTS CENTER AT NYU ABU DHABI
سلسلة حفلات المهرجان للعزف المنفرد:
ثلاثي ألفريدو رودريغيز
28 أبريل 2016
مركز الفنون في جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي
FROM CUBA TO THE WORLD

Alfredo Rodríguez’s style has been described as both elegant and explosive. Abu Dhabi Festival played host to the Arab world debut of his trio as part of its Recital Series.

GRAMMY nominated artist Alfredo Rodríguez reflects the talents of legendary jazz pianists Keith Jarrett, Thelonious Monk and Art Tatum. Schooled in the rigorous classical conservatories of Havana, Rodríguez’s riveting artistry is informed as much by Bach and Stravinsky as it is by his Cuban and jazz roots.

Discovered at the 2006 Montreux Jazz Festival by Quincy Jones, Cuban-born Alfredo Rodríguez has distinguished himself as the definition of jazz and improvisation without boundaries. He is the man behind the piano with fingers that seem to travel from one end of the world to the other, just within the span of the keys; his mastery of the art has earned him frequent appearances on prestigious stages around the world.

Rodríguez was nominated for a 2015 GRAMMY in the category of Best Arrangement, Instrumental or A Cappella for the track Guantanamera from his 2014 release, The Invasion Parade.

During his first tour in China, Rodríguez was asked to work with Tan Dun, Siedah Garrett and Quincy Jones to compose the English-version of the 2010 Shanghai World Expo theme song, making him the first non-Chinese artist to be bestowed this honour.

Though impressive, his accomplishments are not the only defining factors of his standout success; his ability to express himself culturally by ‘playing stories’ on the keys places him in a unique position to connect with his listeners on a more relatable and personal level. As demonstrated by the ‘Invasion Parade’, the follow-up album to his stunning debut on Mack Avenue, ‘Sounds of Space’, Rodríguez explores his memories of Cuba, the people and culture he left behind and finds his new place.

To quote Quincy Jones, “Alfredo is very special and I do not say that easily because I have been surrounded by the best musicians in the world my entire life. He is without doubt one of the best young pianists I’ve ever seen and with the enormous skills that he already possesses, his potential is limitless.”

During his Abu Dhabi Festival appearance, the Alfredo Rodriguez Trio was completed by Michael Oliviera on drums and Reinier Elizalde Ruano on bass.
Alfredo is very special and I do not say that easily. He is without doubt one of the best young pianists I’ve ever seen... his potential is limitless.

– Quincy Jones
Alfredo Rodriguez with his specially commissioned portrait from the series 'A Question of Identity' by Mohamed Abdul Latif Kanoo

الفنان ألفريدو رودريغيز يستلم صورة شخصية تم رسمها بتكليف حصري الفنان محمد عبد اللطيف كانو، مستشار مجموعة أبوظبي للثقافة والفنون ضمن مجموعة "مسألة هوية".
البرنامج والمجمـunity &

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العودة إلى المدارس

Abu Dhabi Schools & Centres: 3–30 April 2016

Lang Lang, Joey Alexander, Alfredo Rodríguez and Carlos Acosta inspired students in schools and music centres across Abu Dhabi.

2016 أبريل 30–3

مدارس ومراكز أبوظبي

شارك نجوم مهرجان أبوظبي لانغ لانغ، جوي ألكساندر، ألفريدو رودريغيز وكارلوس أكوستا في تقديم ورش إبداعية تفاعلية تحفيزاً للمواهب في مدارس ومراكز الموسيقى في أبوظبي.
Emirates Palace: 10–26 April 2016

Orchestre de Paris faced some of its biggest critics during their open rehearsal. Young people also went behind the scenes of The Little Prince to explore the production’s technical wizardry.

قصر الإمارات، 10–26 أبريل 2016

واجهت أوركسترا باريس بعض أهم "النقاد" خلال تدريباتها المفتوحة لجمهور طلبة مدارس أبوظبي، حيث قامت مجموعة من الطلبة الشباب بالدخول إلى كواليس العرض الأوركستراالي "الأمير الصغير" لاستكشاف السحر الفني والتقني وراء إنتاج هذا العمل المميز.
Emirates Palace: 10–26 April 2016

Prior to each performance, learned professionals gave audiences insight into the artist and repertoire: Matthew Sansom, Abu Dhabi Classic FM; Lisa Ball-Lechgar, ADMAF; Nick Lloyd Webber and James D. Reid, Composers; and Suzanne Walker, Sadler's Wells.

قوّمت ندوات ما قبل الحفل فرصة فريدة للجمهور لكسب مزيد من الاطلاع على العروض الفنية المتميزّة ولقاء الفنانيين العالميين المشاركين مع: ماثيو سانسوم من إذاعة أبوظبي كاسيك أف أم، ليسا بلشغار من مجموعة أبوظبي للثقافة والفنون، نك لويلد وبيجر وجيمس دي ريد المؤلفين الموسيقيين. وسوزان ووكر من سادلرز وايلز.
Emirates Palace: 10–26 April 2016

Established in 1996, this annual Award recognises outstanding creativity among young arts practitioners. The 2016 Gulf Capital-ADMAF Creativity Award was presented by ADMAF Patron, H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Culture & Knowledge Development. Winner, Jumaanah Elhashemi, a graphic design student from Zayed University (Dubai), was joined by Dr. Karim El Solh, Co-Founder and CEO of Gulf Capital, and ADMAF Founder Hoda Al Khamis-Kanoo. Jumaanah's innovative typography project blends bold aesthetics and simplicity in a way that mirrors the modern Arab art and design movement. 'Degree Typeface' was displayed in the auditorium foyer.
Each year, this Award recognises an Emirati student for their outstanding creativity in creating an original artwork inspired by the Festival exhibition. The 2016 winner was Sara Alahbabi of New York University Abu Dhabi for the work ‘Here’s what they think of me’.
THE CHRISTO & JEANNE-CLAUDE AWARD 2016

Established as a launch pad for young visual artists in the UAE, the 2016 winner ‘Silk Road’ by students of the American University of Sharjah was unveiled to the world. Presented by New York University Abu Dhabi, in partnership with ADMAF.

Patron: HH Sheikha Shamsa Bint Hamdan Al Nahyan
WAYS OF SEEING
WITH MOHAMMED AL ASTAD

Emirates Palace Beach: 14 & 28 April 2016
The Oxidisation Art Workshop was a chance for students to understand the creative process of UAE artist Mohammed Al Astad, which crosses the boundaries of science and art. Using a technique, which he calls 'beach pearls', students joined Al Astad to bury iron and iron powder with canvas in wet sand, thus using the chemical process of oxidisation to create art. Two weeks later, the works were excavated from the beach.
Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilisation:
18 April – 18 May 2016

A breathtaking exhibition of Islamic art created by the people of Sharjah marked another successful collaboration with The Prince’s School of Traditional Arts. In partnership with Sharjah Museums Education Department.
Through photography, Daniel Josip Kariko investigates the ideas of disappearing and changing landscapes, geopolitical and environmental themes. The exhibition also saw the university's College of Art & Design students launch their own visual investigations of the boundaries between the UAE's urban and rural landscapes.
Not only does the arts strengthen a child’s personal development, it also helps build a sense of identity and belonging. The Festival camp brought together children from various orphanages across the UAE for workshops in music, pottery and multimedia, as well as an Arabic theatre performance.

Al Jalila Cultural Centre for Children: 16 April 2016

مغامرات الفنون

ART ADVENTURES

مرکز الجلیلة لثقافة الطفل: 16 آبریل 2016
April saw the launch of the UAE Art Archive website by the Emirates Fine Arts Society, supported by Abu Dhabi Festival. Offering access for researchers, scholars and artists to over 10,000 items, this is a digitised historical resource of the country’s visual arts sector. Emirates Fine Arts Society Chair Nasser Abdullah joined Artist and Archive Project Manager Ali Al Abdan for a fascinating discussion.

www.uaeartarchive.ae
Emirates Palace Gallery: 7 May 2016

Three of this year’s commissioned artists discussed how they created their works. The audience discovered how Sarah Al Agroobi travelled the seven Emirates to create her sculpture ‘The Desert Rose’; how Aisha Juma embarked on a journey that resulted in ‘Inner Pilgrimage’; and how Hind bin Demaithan combined traditional Sadu weaving with LCD screens in ‘Sadu-Pixel’.

갈리يري قصر الإمارات: 7 مايو 2016

ثالث من الفنانات المحتفى بهم لهذا العام ناقشوا كيفية إبداعهم أعمالهم التشكيلية، واكتشف الجمهور كيف تنقلت سارة العدروبي بين الإمارات السبع لصنع منحوتتها المسمّاة ‘وردة الصحراء’، وكيف انطلقت عائشة جمعة في رحلة عاشتها في رحلة أنتجت عملها ‘رحلة إلى الداخل’، وكيف جمعت هنديّين بين حياكة السدو وشاشات إل سي دي في عملها المسمى ‘سدو بجسل’.

Back by popular demand, the Ministry of Science took the nation’s children into a world bursting with the inventors, engineers and theories that have shaped our understanding the modern world. Based on the UK touring production, Ministry of Science Live!

In association with Mubadala
Sharjah, Dubai, Al Ain, Madinat Zayed, Abu Dhabi:
18–25 April 2016

After the success of ‘Where Are the Neighbours?’ in 2015, the SEND students of Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services returned with a new production commissioned by the Festival. The children’s musical told a touching tale about a young boy who discovers he has wings and learns that each feather represents an element of the natural world that he must look after.

THE WINGS OF LIFE

In association with EGA
UAE THEATRE CIRCLE

twofour54: 3–21 April 2016

Led by the UAE’s leading theatremakers – Dr Habib Ghuloom Al Attar, Meri Al Halyan, Waleed Al Zaabi and Ala’a Al Nuaimi – a select group of budding actors, writers and directors embarked on intensive theatre training to develop their skills in scriptwriting, scenography, acting and reciting.

باشراها من رواد صناعة المسرح في الإمارات، الدكتور حبيب علوم العطار، مرعي الحليان، وليد الزعابي، وعاء النعيمى، وهي عبارة عن مجموعة مختارة من الممثليين الناشئين، والكتاب والمخرجين، وباشرت العمل في تدريب مسرحي مكثف لتطوير مهاراتهم في كتابة النصوص، والسينتوجرافيا، والتمثيل والإلقاء.
Adapted by Mohamed Refaat from a story by Tawfiq Al Hakim, this light comedy is about a newly married couple, presumably in love until they face a gun-toting psychopath who insists on shooting one of them. Love disappears and the couple realises that they love themselves more than each other.
DOCUMENTARY THEATRE PROJECT: MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD

Institute of Applied Technology: 6 April 2016

Created by Dr Nezar Andary and performed by a company of actors including Yara Bou Nassar, this fascinating theatre production presented poignant and personal monologues based on research into the childhood memories shared by mothers and grandmothers.
Mom worried about my safety
She protected me like I protect you, my daughter
Throughout this year’s Festival, ADMAF’s trainee journalists became the Festival’s roving reporters and so much more! In addition to presenting panel discussions, talks and performances, the team of undergraduates published two editions of the ADMAF Tribune, featuring the latest Festival news, reviews and interviews.
This first-of-its-kind training programme for the UAE creative and cultural industries brings together the best of emerging Emirati talent with established cultural leaders from the UAE, the UK and beyond. During the Festival, the elite group of Emirati pioneers and protégés attended workshops and performances.
In a fascinating lecture, the renowned French graphic designer (and the driving force behind the Louvre Abu Dhabi brand) presented a series of his latest designs – posters and logotypes – to illustrate his unique creative process.
RIWAQ AL FIKR: THE RISE OF THE CREATIVE AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN THE UAE
The 19th session of Riwaq Al Fikr was introduced by Ahmed Al Anzi (aka the Contemporary Bedouin). The floor was then given to four Zayed University undergraduate students who presented individual perspectives of the UAE creative and cultural industries.

Mariam Rashed Al Mansouri gave an overview of the UAE sector over the last 40 years, since the first visual art exhibition in 1972. Mariam referred to key milestones such as the launch of the Emirates Fine Arts Society and The Abu Dhabi Cultural Foundation, which was a thriving arts centre in the capital until 2009.

Hind Eissa Al Fahim examined the current status, referring to annual international initiatives such as the Art Dubai, Abu Dhabi Art, Sharjah Biennial and the UAE's presence at the Venice Biennale. Hind distinguished between the public, private and not-for-profit sectors and referred to the growth of arts and design university studies. Yet in terms of impact, the economic value of the UAE's creative and cultural industries is yet to be established.

Shaikha Fahed Al Ketbi invited us to think about the future of the UAE. At the 2015 Government Summit, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan said, “Our best bet at this period of time where we have wealth is to invest all our resources in education, because there will be a time, 50 years from now, when we load the last barrel of oil aboard the ship... If our investment today is right, I think we will celebrate that moment.”

Referring to the Abu Dhabi Vision 2030 and pointing out that the UAE has some of the highest internet usage in the world, Shaikha said that the optimisation of online platforms for creativity is needed not only to develop audiences for the arts at home but also to share Emirati culture with the world. With a nod to the US academic Richard Florida, Shaikha highlighted the necessity to invest in talent, technology and tolerance – the ingredients that enable a society to thrive.

Fatma Salam Al Braid took us on a journey into the gaming industry, which today is currently valued at $83 billion. According to data from twofour54, the MENA gaming sector is growing faster than the global average.

The floor was then given to John Newbiggin, Chair of Creative England who spoke about changing world dynamics. By 2025, for example, the middle class of China and India will exceed that of the entire population of the European Union. Newbiggin stated that those who possess the creative edge reap the benefits. One of the greatest achievements of Apple, for example, has been to fuse technology and art.
When the UK started thinking about the creative industries 20 years ago, the government termed it as those activities which have their origin in individual creativity, skill and talent and which have the potential for wealth and job creation through the generation and exploitation of intellectual property. (The UK Creative Industries Mapping Document). In 2014, the NESTA Manifesto for the Creative Economy simplified it as 'those sectors which specialise in the use of creative talent for commercial purposes'. The creative and cultural industries form a core part of many successful economies in the world. The 2008 Creative Economy Report by UNCTAD stated that the real value of world trade lays in intellectual property. However, the creative economy remains relatively invisible because it is a configuration of relationships.

In order to define the sector, one needs to look at assets rather than needs and grow from the existing community in which it is based. UNESCO stresses the point that the creative industries are not part of the old economies, they are part of the emerging cultures of all our societies. The more we use it, the more we grow.
Emirates Diplomatic Academy: 11 April 2016

Home to the next generation of the nation’s diplomats, the Emirates Diplomatic Academy played host to a Festival seminar introducing students to the concept, context, history and impact of the use of arts and culture in the diplomatic field.

Arabic:
居室於未來一代外交官的家園，阿聯酋外交學院在11日舉行了一場藝術與外交的專題研討會，讓學生們了解藝術在外交領域的益處、背景、歷史及影響。
VOX Cinema, Nation Towers: 7 April 2016

Having graced the film festivals of Dubai, Hong Kong and Edinburgh, the UAE was treated to the first UAE public screening of the award-winning documentary about the life of Fatma Al Hameli, the first female Emirati camel owner to attend the country’s camel beauty contests and auctions. Just when Fatma begins to lose hope, an unexpected award comes her way. ‘Nearby Sky’ is an ADMAF Grant recipient.

NEARBY SKY: A NUJOOM AL GHANEM FILM

بعد النجاحات المتميزة التي حققها في مهرجانات دبي وهونغ كونغ وأدانبرة، تم عرض الفيلم الوثائقي “سماء قريبة” لأول مرة للجمهور في الإمارات العربية المتحدة. يتناول الفيلم، الحائز على عدة جوائز، قصة حياة فاطمة الهاملي التي تعتبر أول مالكة إبل إماراتية تقرر دخول مسابقات "مزاينة الإبل" والمزادات الخاصة بالإبل، وحين تصل الحاملة إلى مرحلة اليأس وفقدان الأمل بالفوز، تنجح في حصد جائزة غير متوقعة. فيلم “سماء قريبة” هو أحد المشاريع الحاصلة على دعم مجموعة أبوظبي للثقافة والفنون.

Moderated by Nujoom Al Ghanem, a select group of emerging filmmakers learnt how to write, produce and direct a low-budget, independent film; from development, pre-production, production and post-production to distribution. All under the expert guidance of the team behind the Oscar-nominated film ‘Theeb’: Naji Abu Nowar (Director) and Rupert Lloyd (Producer).
Emirates Palace Gallery: 20 April 2016

In partnership with ADMAF’s strategic partner Emirates Writers Union. In collaboration with publishing houses Dar Al Hudhud, Dar Nabati and Dar Hamaleel, the second year of Abu Dhabi Festival’s new writing programme saw the release of six books by Emirati authors: ‘The Fantastic Hot Air Balloon’ by Shaima Al Marzouqi; ‘I Love My Mum’s Pretty Veil’ by Maitha Al Khayat; ‘The Bedouin Penguins’ by Asmaa Al Ketbi; ‘Dowan’ by Khawla Al Tayer; ‘Rubaiyat Al Khayyam’ by Mohammad Nouraldin and ‘Philosophical Insights in Governance and Equestrianism’ by Ali Abu Al Reesh.
Higher Colleges of Technology, Al Gharbia:
11 & 14 April 2016

The Western Region of Abu Dhabi is a land steeped in culture and history, where the people have a deep love of poetry. As part of Library Week, HCT students were introduced to modern Emirati poetry by Afra Atiq so they could begin to pen their own verses.
The Artists’ Studio is an online platform of interviews with the stars of stage and screen. It aims to inspire and inform young people about the value of creative thinking and artistic expression. At the 2016 Abu Dhabi Festival, ADMAF’s Young Media Leaders and Cultural Excellence Fellows interviewed Carlos Acosta and Lang Lang. Watch all 15 episodes online now.
Cranleigh School, 16 April 2016

Known as one of the most versatile concert pianists of his generation, the award-winning Steinway Artist (accompanied by Cranleigh Abu Dhabi piano prodigy Hanna Wu) presented an evening of Mozart, Debussy, Chopin, Bridge as well as Poulenc’s ‘Histoire de Babar, le petit éléphant’.

RICHARD SAXEL IN RECITAL
Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi: 21 & 26 April 2016

Inspired by a firm belief in the beneficial power of music, Abu Dhabi Festival 2016 played host to the April session of the year-round concert series exclusively for the patients, carers and employees of Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi. Layth Al Daene (oud) and Abdel Aziz AlTabbakh (guitar) delighted audiences with a programme of Arab favourites.
Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, Ras Al Khaimah: 3–4 & 6–7 April 2016

The Abu Dhabi Festival has been pioneering music in hospitals since 2009. This year, patients, families and caregivers in four hospitals across the UAE were treated to performances by Eman Al Hashimi, Mohammed Al Awadi and Sherine Tohamy.
The Galleria on Al Maryah Island: 3–10 April 2016
Continuing its pioneering work, Abu Dhabi Festival organised an exhibition of art created earlier this year by children with autism, including students of The New England Center for Children Abu Dhabi, The Future Centre for Special Needs, GOALS UAE and The Autism Society, in collaboration with START.

In association with Gulf Capital
Children at the Zayed Higher Organisation Abu Dhabi Autism Centre participated in a series of seven weekly music workshops led by Emirati and UAE-based musicians guided by Music For Autism International.
THE DRAMA PROJECT OPEN WORKSHOP SHOWCASE

New York University Abu Dhabi: 12 April 2016

The finale of NYUAD’s Drama Project involving 10 children from the Abu Dhabi Autism Centre at the Zayed Higher Organisation for Humanitarian Care & Special Needs, NYUAD students and led by Dubomedy’s Mina Liccione.

James University of New York (Abu Dhabi)舉辦了一個涉及十位來自阿布達比自閉症中心的學生、紐約大學阿布達比的學生以及杜邦梅蒂的米娜·蕾奇奧的最後一場劇作展覽。
STORYTELLING TOUR!

Ajman, Umm Al Quwain, Fujairah: 12–14 April 2016

Two storytellers toured four nurseries to engage young children up to four years old in the wonderful world of literature and creativity.

عجمان، أم القيوين، الفجيرة: 12-14 أبريل 2016

حال اثنان من رواة القصص على 4 من دور الحضانة بغية تفعيل مشاركة الصغار من الفئة العمرية ما دون 4 سنوات في الاستمتاع بالقصص التي تعكس على المشهد الأدبي والإبداعي الإماراتي المتميز.
FESTIVAL IN THE PARK:
WHERE CREATIVITY BLOSSOMS

Umm Al Emarat Park: 29–30 April 2016

Abu Dhabi’s oldest park came alive with music and workshops for all during the final weekend of Abu Dhabi Festival. Children set their imaginations free during art workshops in the park’s hall, while the SAMA Quartet, Mohammed Al Awadi and Eman Al Hashimi entertained the masses at the open-air amphitheatre.

Patron: HH Sheikha Shamsa Bint Hamdan Al Nahyan
وهناك

ACCESS ALL AREAS
ACCESS ALL AREAS
H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahyan views ADMAF’s 20th Anniversary wall

H.E. Mohammed Al Mubarak, Chairman of Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority, visits ‘Portrait of a Nation’ – the festival exhibition
H.E. Khaldoon Al Mubarak, Chairman of the Executive Affairs Authority of the Government of Abu Dhabi admires the work of Khalil Abdul Wahid at ‘Portrait of a Nation’

Lang Lang, adorned in ceremonial bisht and ghutra

معالي خلدون المبارك، رئيس جهاز الشؤون التنفيذية في إمارة أبوظبي، يطلع على عمل الفنان خليل عبد الواحد ضمن معرض "إمارات الرؤى"

لاذغ لانغ يرتدي الزي التقليدي الاماراتي البشت والغتره
About ADMAF

ADMAF Patron
H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahyan
UAE Minister of Culture & Knowledge Development

ADMAF Honourable Patrons
H.H. Sheikha Shamsa bint Hamdan Al Nahyan & H.H. Sheikha Sheikha bint Saif Al Nahyan

Primary Strategic Partners

Through arts education, community arts and special projects, the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF) has been nurturing creativity across the UAE since 1996. For two decades, it has been at the forefront of the UAE’s arts sector, inspiring young people, the public and artists. It enables artistic expression through a wide range of programmes and projects. By bringing together audiences and institutions, the Foundation has helped embed arts and culture in the heart of the nation.

Inspiring Learners
ADMAF Community & Education fosters the development of children and young people through the arts, shaping critical thinking and broadening horizons. Through a diverse range of lectures, workshops, field trips, exhibitions, concerts, productions and other initiatives, students receive ‘hands on’ experience that allows them to enhance their academic performance, strengthen their creativity and develop life skills essential for later life.

Engaging Audiences
Community & Education also reaches out to citizens and residents across the UAE, providing access to the arts for everyone, regardless of age, ability or location. Each year, it works with groups and associations to bring people together and address issues such as health, welfare and the environment. Its initiatives seek to empower people so that they are able to uphold their customs, preserve their traditions and share their riches with the world.

Empowering Tomorrow
The arts are an effective tool in preparing tomorrow’s workforce creatively. ADMAF helps to shape the next generation through workshops that harness essential soft skills such as teamwork, communication and problem solving. From the texts of Shakespeare to the oral traditions of the UAE, ADMAF is using the arts to nurture the leaders of the future. Through its professional development programmes, it is also training tomorrow’s media mavens, artists and cultural entrepreneurs.

Celebrating Excellence
Every year, ADMAF’s awards galvanise young, talented citizens and residents and turn the spotlight on outstanding endeavours in the visual arts, performing arts, literature and film. The Foundation also supports independent cultural projects across the UAE through its Grants Scheme. As the cultural sector of the UAE continues to flourish, ADMAF is proof that not-for-profit organisations have a major role to play in embedding the arts in society and in turn, nurturing creativity and innovation.

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H.E. Hoda Al Khamis-Kanoo

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H.E. Khaldoon Al Mubarak
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Emirates Fine Arts Society
LA Philharmonic
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The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi

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ADMAF96
نبذة عن مجموعة أبوظبي للثقافة والفنون

رمز الثقافة وتميّز المبادرة

الرئيسان الفخريان لمجموعة أبوظبي للثقافة والفنون

সমুদ্র শাহীন শীর্ষে নিম্ন হামার আনন্দ ও সুসম্ভাব্য শ্রেষ্ঠ বিষয়ে যে সুন্দর জীবন আনন্দ

المؤسس مجموعة أبوظبي للثقافة والفنون

مراعي مجموعة أبوظبي للثقافة والفنون

معالج الشيخ هديان مبارك آل نهيان

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Abu Dhabi Music and Arts Foundation

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천상에 대한 인식, 추천 및 비평 기술

تعتز مجموعة أبوظبي للثقافة والفنون في طلعت مؤسسات

الفنون التي تتعامل مع حلول الفنون في دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة، بالإضافة إلى تطبيقات،

الجهود. وتشمل المبادرات في الدولة، المنطقة، والعالم. تشمل المجموعة مشاريع للعمر في

حلول الفنون وشبكة خدمات من خلال مجموعة من البرامج والموارد، مما يتيح

أنشئ رابطة معرفي مهنية من خلال مشاريع الفنون والثقافة في كل مجاور الإمارات، من خلال جميع المؤسسات

الفنون.

المجموعة التعليمية

تستهدف المبادرات التعليمية المختلفة التي تنفذه مجموعة أبوظبي للثقافة والفنون، الفنون، الفنون، الفنون، الفنون، الفنون، الفنون، الفنون، الفنون، الفنون.

إلهام المتعلمين

تساعد البرامج التعليمية والمجتمعية التي توفرها مجموعة أبوظبي للثقافة والفنون، الأطفال والشباب

على فهم الفنون والثقافة، وتعزز الفنون والثقافة، وتعزز الفنون والثقافة، وتعزز الفنون والثقافة.

عوامل":

是否会说话

تتعاون مجموعة أبوظبي للثقافة والفنون مع المواطنين والمقيمين في مختلف إمارات الدولة،

وتصل إلى الفنون سعياً للمجتمع، وتتركز على العربية، أو المكان، وتعمل

المجموعة في كل عام مع مجموعة من البرامج والموارد، وتشمل برامج للآداب، وبرامج للفن، وبرامج للثقافة،

تحت رعاية مهنيين، وتشمل برامج للآداب، وبرامج للفن، وبرامج للثقافة.

تمكين قادة الغد

الفنون أدوات فعالة لإعداد قادة المستقبل بشكل إبداعي، وسانتياغو أدوات وتقنيات تعليمية

على مدى عقود من الزمن، كانت مجموعة أبوظبي للثقافة والفنون في طلبة مؤسسات

الفنون التي تتعامل مع حلول الفنون في دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة، بالإضافة إلى تطبيقات،

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انطلاق أفاراد الفنون في قلوب الجمهور.

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انطلاق أفاراد الفنون في قلوب الجمهور.
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Al Amal School for Deaf
Al Dana Private Nursery
Al Muna Primary School
Al Shohub School
Al Shorouq Private School
Al Tumooh School
Al Yasmina School
American Community School
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Bright Riders School
Cambridge High School
Choueifat School
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Kids Park Nursery
Lycée Français Théodore Monod
Manar Al Ilm
Mushrif School
Ruqeyya Secondary School
Secondary Technical Schools
Zayed Al Khair School

Participating Universities & Colleges
American University of Sharjah
The Petroleum Institute

Participating Organisations & Institutions
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HENA
Abu Dhabi Vocational Education & Training Institute
Al Jalila Cultural Centre For Children
Dar Al Ber Society
Dar Zayed for Family Care
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The team hails the end of the 13th edition of the Abu Dhabi Festival
فريق عمل مهرجان أبوظبي يحتفلون باختتام دورته الثالثة عشرة