



*For the Attention of the Culture / News Department  
Press Release  
For immediate release*

## **Abu Dhabi Music and Arts Foundation Founder Speaks at UNESCO-affiliated World Forum on Music and Signs Historic Agreement with Paris Opera**

- *ADMAF's Founder explores the future of music and importance of artistry development and communication, as part of UNESCO-affiliate International Music Council's 'Five Music Rights'*
- *ADMAF signs Letter of Cooperation with Opéra National de Paris (Paris Opera) to further joint opportunities as strategic international partners*

**(Abu Dhabi, UAE: 5<sup>th</sup> October 2019):**

### **UNESCO-affiliate International Music Council 6th World Forum on Music**

Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF) joined with global organisations and institutions at the prestigious International Music Council's (IMC) 6th World Forum on Music, held from 28 September to 1 October in Paris, France, where the Founder was a featured guest speaker.

The 2019 programme of this influential forum celebrated the 70th anniversary of UNESCO's affiliate, the International Music Council, and hosted a diverse array of professional representatives of the global music sector, who explored the theme: **'Give Me Five! The Five Music Rights in Action'**.

The Forum included a speech delivered on 30 September by **H.E. Huda Ibrahim Alkhamis**, on the fourth of the Council's 'five music rights', entitled: **'The right for all musical artists to develop their artistry and communicate through all media, with proper facilities at their disposal'**. Her Excellency provided meaningful, practical, real-world perspectives on the challenges and opportunities experienced by music practitioners, such as copyright infringement, funding and education, while outlining the practical ways in which musical artists can be assisted, through investment, school and further education programmes, access to quality instrumentation and impactful media coverage.

Following the conclusion of the 6th World Forum on Music, **H.E. Huda Ibrahim Alkhamis said:** "Our participation at the 70th anniversary of the International Music Council, during the 6th World Forum on Music, reflects the UAE's keen interest in embracing creative expression through music. ADMAF continues to set standards in investing in young artists through, not only financial aid, but comprehensive and far-reaching education and community programmes."



**Her Excellency** added: “The importance of recognising talent and opportunities for musicians to flourish cannot be overstated and we must continue to assist musical artists, invest in their creativity and provide platforms from which their compositions are given the opportunity to shine. As an industry, we must pull together, united in our resolve to remove obstacles from our musicians, regardless of their background or nationality. We must partner with one another and nurture those who produce music, which is one of our greatest gifts.”

**Emily Achieng’ Akuno, IMC’s outgoing President**, said: “The 6th World Forum on Music is very special for a number of reasons. First and foremost, because it celebrates IMC’s 70 years of existence and its transformation into the largest global network of music institutions and organisations worldwide. Second, because it is dedicated to the Five Music Rights – the core values that animate our everyday work and that of all IMC members worldwide. They are our statements of the value and place of music in the lives and livelihoods of human beings, providing a blueprint for achieving the harmonious existence envisioned at the inception of the IMC.

“Being in Paris is not a coincidence,” she added. “It is a symbolic way to look back to IMC’s origins, acknowledge the instrumental role that UNESCO has played in the creation of our organisation and in its development, but also a way to look towards a bright future.”

**Akuno concluded:** “We feel deeply honoured by the presence of Her Excellency Huda Ibrahim Alkhamis at the World Forum on Music. Her speech offered insight into the livelihood of artists in the Arab world and inspiration as we were led to appreciate how the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation addresses the objectives of the Fourth Music Right of the International Music Council: ‘The Right for All Musical Artists to develop their artistry and communicate through all media with proper facilities at their disposal.’”

#### **About UNESCO International Music Council**

The International Music Council, founded in 1949 by UNESCO, is the world's largest network of organisations and institutions working in the field of music. It promotes access to music for all and the value of music in the lives of all peoples. Through its members and their networks, IMC has direct access to over 1,000 organisations in some 150 countries and to 200 million persons eager to develop and share knowledge and experience on diverse aspects of musical life.

IMC’s ‘five music rights’ are:

- The right for all children and adults to express themselves musically in all freedom
- The right for all children and adults to learn musical languages and skills
- The right for all children and adults to have access to musical involvement through participation, listening, creation and information
- The right for all musical artists to develop their artistry and communicate through all media, with proper facilities at their disposal



- The right for all musical artists to obtain just recognition and fair remuneration for their work

### **ADMAF and Opéra National de Paris**

On 3 October 2019, Stéphane Lissner, Director of Opéra National de Paris (Paris Opera) and Founder of ADMAF and Artistic Director of the Abu Dhabi Festival, H.E. Huda Ibrahim Alkhamis, jointly signed a historic Letter of Cooperation (LoC) in the presence of H.E. Ali Abdullah Al Ahmed, UAE Ambassador to France and Aurélie Dupont, Director of Dance at the magnificent Palais Garnier in Paris.

This historic strategic partnership is the first for any international and Arab cultural organisation and will enhance the international cultural achievement and presence of Abu Dhabi and the UAE, by enabling both institutions to share experiences, identify and develop knowledge and broaden expertise. It will also enable co-productions, co-commissions and performances with which to create new dimensions of artistic collaboration while fostering development and growth of cultural and artistic works in Abu Dhabi Festival and beyond.

Speaking after the LoC signing ceremony, **Her Excellency** said: “The relationship between ADMAF and Paris Opera has always been strong and impactful, and the signing of this Letter of Cooperation between our two organisations will enable us to go on to even greater heights in identifying and developing activities that foster growth of cultural and artistic works, particularly with regards to our youth. Partnerships such as this serve to increase Abu Dhabi and the UAE’s presence on the world stage and strengthen cross-cultural understanding.”

### **Opéra National de Paris**

Opéra National de Paris (Paris Opera) is the principal opera and ballet company of France and its roots can be traced back as far as 1661, with the founding of the Académie Royale de Danse (Royal Academy of Dance) by Louis XIV, with the purpose of training dancers and formalising choreographic art. Eight years later, in 1669, Louis XIV founded the Académie d'Opéra, and shortly thereafter was placed under the leadership of Jean-Baptiste Lully and officially renamed the Académie Royale de Musique, but continued to be known more simply as the Opéra.

Classical ballet as it is known today, arose within the Paris Opera as the Paris Opera Ballet and has remained an integral and important part of the company. Now officially known as the Opéra National de Paris, it mainly produces operas at its modern 2700-seat theatre Opéra Bastille which was commissioned by then President of France, François Mitterrand, and opened in 1989. It also produces ballets and classical operas at the 1,970-seat Palais Garnier, which opened in 1875.



As well as running the two houses, the company employs a large number of permanent staff, including an orchestra of 170, a choir of 110 and the *corps de ballet* of 150. Each year, the Opéra presents about 380 performances of opera, ballet and other concerts, to a total audience of approximately 800,000 people.

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**About the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation**

*Patron: H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, UAE Minister for Tolerance*

Founded in 1996, ADMAF is one of the oldest, not-for-profit cultural organisations in the Arabian Gulf. Pioneering new artistic practices, it seeks to deepen global cross-cultural dialogue and inspire a renewed interest in the creativity of the UAE and Arab world. Often in partnership with leading national and international institutions, ADMAF delivers multidisciplinary initiatives for people of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities through the Abu Dhabi Festival, year-round youth platforms and community programmes.

For more information, please visit [www.admaf.org](http://www.admaf.org)