

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**ABU DHABI MUSIC & ARTS FOUNDATION**

**Empowering the Nation**

January - December 2018



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**H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan**

UAE Minister of Tolerance

ADMAF Honorary Patron

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**H.H. Sheikha Shamsa Bint Hamdan Al Nahyan**







ADMAF Honorary Patron

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**H.H. Sheikha Sheikha Bint Saif Al Nahyan**



مجموعة أبوظبي  
للاثقافة والفنون

**ADMAF**

**Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation**

**P.O. Box** 47488, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

**T:** +971 2 333 6400

**F:** +971 2 641 1055

**E:** [info@admaf.org](mailto:info@admaf.org)

**W:** [www.admaf.org](http://www.admaf.org)



Abu Dhabi Music  
& Arts Foundation



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ADMAF96

ADMAF Founder

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# YEAR OF ZAYED

As the National Year of Giving led into the centenary celebrations of the Founding Father's birth with the 'Year of Zayed', ADMAF's Founder reflects on a legacy of tolerance, cultural development, innovation, and the meeting of tradition and modernity

Sheikh Zayed, the UAE's Founding Father, famously said: "Science and culture are the cornerstone of civilisation, progress and nation-building."

This belief was the very cornerstone of his visionary achievements. For us to truly appreciate the significance of his outlook, we must travel back one hundred years, to Al Ain in 1918, the year of his birth. Amid the expanse of a desert stood a beautiful green jewel of date palms clustered around clear pools of water. Here, existence was focused on survival in the extreme dry environment. Yet, despite the adversity of such an environment, Sheikh Zayed would become a young man determined to make a difference for his people, a man who shaped the vision of a great nation. He dreamed of bringing together the peoples of the desert and those from the coast, inspiring harmony between tribes and traders. He chose, amid those harsh conditions, to forge a nation built on tolerance and inclusion. Throughout this voyage, he never departed from his own traditions, yet he also accepted the cultures of all who came to call that desert land home.

This spirit lives on today – with more than 200 different nationalities calling the UAE home, Sheikh Zayed's vision has realised an enlightened and happy society where all can prosper.

The Year of Zayed is a natural celebration for a cultural organisation such as the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation. Indeed, a lot of what we take for granted today was far from being obvious many years ago. Our organisation has always celebrated the diversity within unity that this nation stands for. This diversity is evident in the seven Emirates complementing each other, but also in the cultural diversity of the country, home to so many different nationalities, living side by side in harmony and prosperity.

Look at the extraordinary cultural institutions that Abu Dhabi is home to, including the Louvre Abu Dhabi, and soon the Sheikh Zayed National Museum, which will trace the history of the arts both national and universal. We also see the Sharjah Biennial and the many diverse museums, Dubai Opera House, each bringing different visions of the world to an ever-growing audience, and the

Abu Dhabi Festival, which continues its journey of discovery, education, and enjoyment. One must pause and appreciate what Sheikh Zayed has granted us and how all these magnificent institutions of culture and creativity were made possible by the Founder of this nation, at a time when it took vision, determination and audacity to choose unity over division, to choose diversity over the reassuring comfort of a closed society.

As we celebrated the Year of Zayed, we honoured a great leader of the past; we also sought out a bright path to the future. If one looks at the suffering of so many in the Arab World, the many dangers we face in the very heart of our shared heritage and faith of Islam, we must realise that the message of Sheikh Zayed to the world is one that has become more urgent than ever. This message is one of hope, for it is also a challenge to our generation: as Sheikh Zayed succeeded, along with the other leaders with whom

he built this nation, it becomes our duty to choose tolerance and hope over fear and exclusion. It is for us to carry on weaving the elegant and intricate balance between tradition and modernity. And this is precisely what culture is about.

During the Year of Zayed, Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation was moved by this enduring spirit, inspired to embody a mix of tradition and modernity, and to be rooted in our own culture while opening our minds and hearts to the world. Sheikh Zayed did not merely invest in education, he invested in his people, for the people are the true strength of a nation.

I end with a beautiful verse from the poetry of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai: "Zayed was not one of us. In fact, Zayed was all of us. We are the children of the nation of Zayed; we carry his dream and we all strive towards furthering and fulfilling his vision."

As we celebrated the Year of Zayed, we honoured his memory, his spirit, through our endeavours. And as he did, we chose to believe in the future. In education, in culture and in ourselves.

***"What we take for granted today was far from being obvious many years ago. Our organisation has always celebrated the diversity that this nation stands for"***





زاييد



YEAR OF  
ZAYED



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The winning submission for 2018's  
Christo and Jeanne-Claude Award: *Qasa'ed*



# ADMAF VISION

## MISSION

The Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF) is a non-profit organisation that seeks to nurture the arts, education, culture and creativity for the benefit of society and the advancement of Abu Dhabi's cultural vision.

With a commitment to education and community engagement, it aims to complement Abu Dhabi's cultural vision by upholding the highest standards of excellence in the field of social responsibility.

## VISION

Culture is the key that unlocks a nation's creativity. It is the food that nurtures the soul of mankind. It is the language that transcends borders. It is the anchor that unites a nation.

ADMAF believes in the fundamental right for every person, regardless of age or ability, to access, understand and appreciate cultural expression. Established in 1996 by Huda I. Alkhamis-Kanoo, ADMAF undertakes a broad range of initiatives and events each year, bringing together audiences of diverse origins often in partnership with leading national and international institutions.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Through the practice and teaching of the arts and culture, embed creativity and innovation among the people of the UAE
- Enable access to the arts and culture and advocate their impact in the areas of educational development and community cohesion
- Raise the level of awareness and understanding of the culture and heritage of the UAE
- Contribute to the positioning of Abu Dhabi as a prominent international cultural destination
- Engage young nationals in the future of the UAE's cultural and creative industries and nurture their professional development in this sector
- Facilitate cross-cultural dialogue through national, regional and international partnerships
- Develop a permanent collection of modern and contemporary art from the United Arab Emirates and beyond

# THE ADMAF TIMELINE

Calendar of  
the Foundation's  
activities in 2018

## JANUARY

ADMAF Founder H.E. Huda I. Alkhamis-Kanoo addresses audiences at the Abu Dhabi Publishing Forum, outlining the importance of literature to cultural identity



## FEBRUARY

The world premiere of Barrie Kosky's *Carmen* takes place at the Royal Opera House - a co-commission with Abu Dhabi Festival

© ROH. Photo by Bill Cooper



## MARCH

The 15th Abu Dhabi Festival celebrates the Year of Zayed, with a diverse international programme that includes the world premiere of Emirati composer Ihab Darwish's *Waves of My Life*



## NOVEMBER

On 4th November, *From Ashur to Seville*, a co-production between Abu Dhabi Festival and Barcelona's Teatro del Liceu, made history with its world premiere



## OCTOBER

ADMAF Ambassadors lead The ADMAF Roadshow to 13 colleges across the seven Emirates. Students get inspired and informed on grants, commissions and awards



## APRIL

ADMAF returns to the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, and launches Jalal Luqman's *Armagondas*



## MAY

ADMAF Founder H.E. Huda I. Alkhamis-Kanoo attends strategic partner The American Ballet Theatre's Spring Gala at the Lincoln Center, New York City



## JULY

Mona Al Ali, winner of Mubadala Design Commission 2016, travels to La Biennale di Venezia and the European Cultural Academy as part of her award

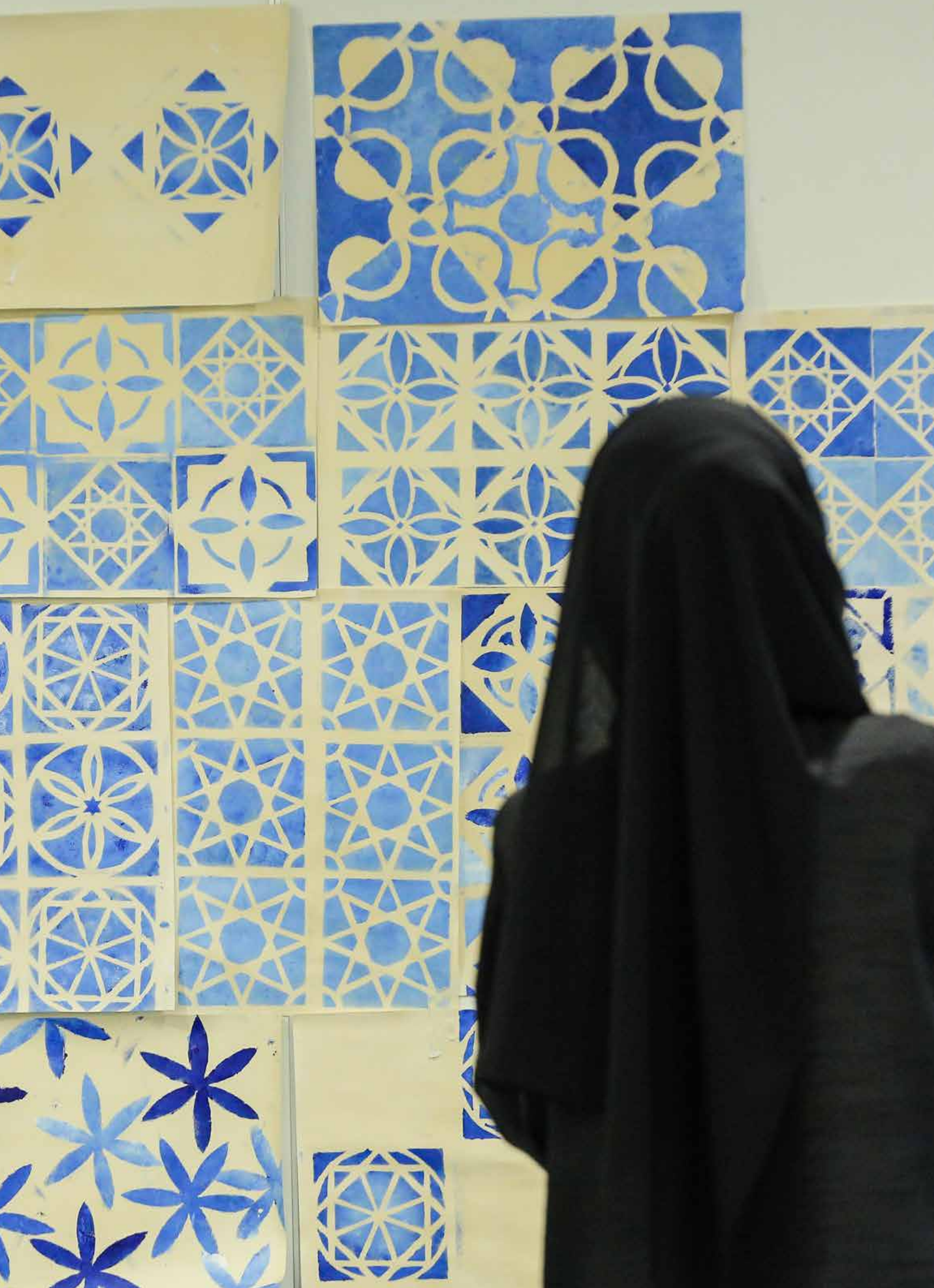


## JUNE

The second cohort of Cultural Excellence Fellows finish their journey, after 14 sessions and 98 hours of training over two years by nine trainers, nine pioneers and nine protégés







# IN REVIEW

Highlights from  
the Foundation's activities  
January - December 2018

## Year of Zayed

In 2018, ADMAF joined the UAE in celebrating 100 years since the birth of the nation's Founding Father.

## Diplomacy and Cultural Exchange

The Foundation continued to back the power of cultural diplomacy, with international endeavours that further strengthen Abu Dhabi's position on the global map. ADMAF believes steadfastly that cultural dialogue and exchange are fundamental to cultural openness.

## Cultural Identity

From visual artists to filmmakers, writers to musicians, ADMAF continued to support a breadth of art forms and the ambit of creative expression. No art form was left untouched as aspiring, emerging and established Emirati talent lead the way across multiple initiatives, both at home and abroad – participating in professional development programmes, delivering educational projects as well as presenting and performing their own work.

## Professional Development

Marking a decade of the pioneering Young Media Leaders' programme, ADMAF worked with its education partners to deliver the YML Forum, staging panels and discussions that brought together generations of media leaders. The second cohort of ADMAF's Cultural Excellence Fellowship continued their two-year training programme, which included a workshop on public speaking, networking and presentation skills, as well as a 'majlis' discussion session with Celeste Schenck, President of the American University of Paris.

## Music

An Abu Dhabi Festival first saw the world premiere of *Waves of My Life* by Emirati composer Ihab Darwish – a symphony of east meets west that stunned the capacity audience at Emirates Palace. Following the 2017 Abu Dhabi Festival debut, Tarek Yamani continued the world tour of *Peninsular* – a celebration of Khaleeji rhythms.

## Theatre

Members of the UAE Theatre Circle undertook an intensive three-week training course under the skillful guidance of Dr. Habib Ghuloom Al Attar, staging a performance inspired by the work of beloved Kuwaiti actor, the late Abdulhussain Abdulrehda. Emirati female spoken word artist, Afra Atiq toured the Emirates as part of The ADMAF Roadshow.

## Literature

Celebrating Arabic literature, the annual Riwaq Al Adab Wal Kitab programme culminated in 2018 with the launch of 16 new works by Emirati authors, including books for children and fiction for adults.

## Film

The Young Filmmakers' Circle returned for a third year with screenings of award-winning short films by Arab directors and workshops looking at the art form. ADMAF grants supported visionary Emirati filmmaker Ahmed Zain with his new project *Fareej Al Taybeen*.

## Calligraphy

Riwaq Al Khatt Al Arabi launched, a brand-new initiative that celebrates the beauty of calligraphy through workshops, professional courses for school teachers, talks and discussion groups, exhibitions as well as an annual competition and award. In its inaugural year, audiences at Emirates Palace witnessed a special collaborative exhibition created by Emirati master Mohammed Mandi with Indian calligrapher Rajeev Kumar.

## Visual Arts

The Abu Dhabi Festival Exhibition 2018 entitled *From Barcelona to Abu Dhabi – Works from the Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art (MACBA) in dialogue with the Emirates* featured over 70 international works, over nine decades from MACBA, alongside works by 20 Emirati artists, brought together in a pioneering exhibition that explored what defines us as humans. Accompanying this headline exhibition was the Abu Dhabi Festival's Visual Arts Education Programme, aimed at inspiring and encouraging creative engagement amongst the country's emerging artists as well as university and school students through a series of interactive talks, guided exhibition tours and dynamic creative sessions led by renowned Emirati artists featured in the exhibition.





# BILAD AL KHAIR

## THE LAND OF BLESSINGS

### COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION

ADMAF Community & Education seeks to establish partnerships and platforms of inspiration for young people and society, to develop creative thinking and nurture the nation's cultural sector

During 2018, the EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY team continued to embed arts and culture across every level of society, with extensive and rigorous professional training programmes equipping the talent of tomorrow, engaging educational programmes in schools and healthcare facilities, ever-strengthening partnerships with the nation's higher educational institutions and a vibrant programme of community activities for all ages.

#### Youth Platforms

With a renewed focus on Emirati youth platforms, ADMAF celebrated the nation's up-and-coming talent, supporting creatives across diverse disciplines, as they become the leaders of tomorrow. This commitment was galvanised by a year of exceptional milestones for the UAE's cultural industry. Epitomised by the opening of the Louvre Abu Dhabi, which was an unprecedented, international celebration of culture's power to unite humanity and reject division. Abu Dhabi is a beacon for cultural openness, the next generation of creative professionals will take the industry to even greater heights. ADMAF continued to support young Emiratis through diverse professional training programmes: the pioneering Young Media Leaders celebrated a decade of supporting the nation's aspiring journalists with the YML forum; filmmakers and theatremakers were supported with professional skills development; and the nation's resource and register for visual artists, The Nation's Gallery, exceeded 130 members.

*With a renewed focus on Emirati youth platforms, ADMAF celebrated the nation's up-and-coming talent*

#### Recognising Excellence

ADMAF's awards continue to be a central pillar of its education programmes – as the voices of tomorrow are strengthened, the very best are also recognised for their achievements and excellence. This year's award-winners included Amira Al Zaarooni for 'Jood Volunteering Programme', and Ahmed Al Tunaiji for his film *Arasian*. The Christo and Jeanne-Claude Award in 2018 was won by Abu Dhabi University's Maram Kassab and Mariam Ayoub for their work, *Qasa'ed*, while the Visual Arts Award went to Arwa Najem, a student at Zayed University for Al Zahiyah.

These leaders, in turn, inspire and nurture by leading workshops, appearing on panels and acting as ambassadors for ADMAF's work – this cross-generational inspiration was seen last year when spoken word poet Afra Atiq, winner of the 2017 Gulf Capital Creativity Award, visited universities across the nation as part of the ADMAF Roadshow, meeting more than 1,420 Emirati students, to inspire the next generation with her own story of success, connecting them with the resources that ADMAF offers.



# MAKING AN IMPACT

ADMAF Education and Community data  
January - December 2018

## ADMAF COMMUNITY - AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

Year-on-Year Comparison

2014



2015



2016



2017



2018



 Estimated Emirati Participation  Audience Number

Source: ADMAF



# 140 events

## Events by Target Audience



12  
Families



6  
Vulnerable & Patients



16  
Children

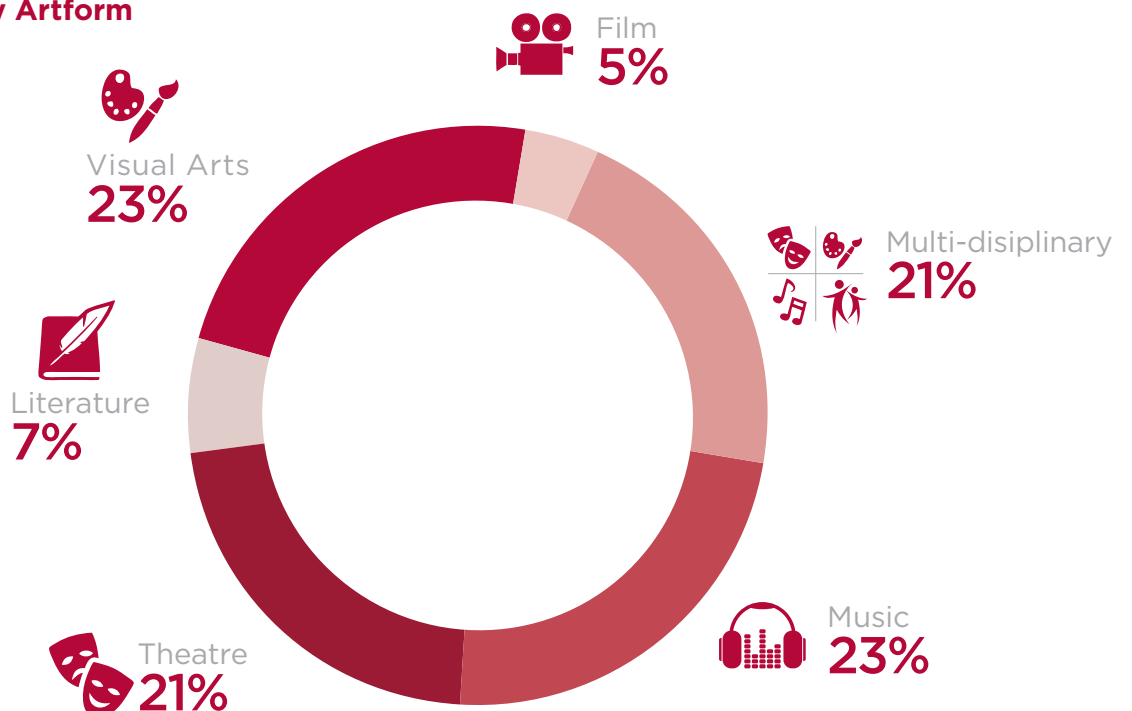


99  
Youth (18-35)



7  
Adults

## Events by Artform



# NATIONAL STRATEGIC EDUCATION PARTNERS

ADMAF enjoys official partnerships with a range of educational institutions in the UAE. These arrangements allow students and faculties bespoke access to ADMAF initiatives as well as ADMAF financial support for departmental projects that complement academic studies



# CREATIVE COLLABORATORS

In 2018, ADMAF involved students and teachers of the following universities, schools and centres in arts-based education initiatives

By 2018, ADMAF had brought together a network of nine strategic education partners, comprised of the leading universities across the seven Emirates. These partnerships allow students and faculties bespoke access to ADMAF initiatives, as well as its financial support for departmental projects that complement academic studies.

In the 2018 academic year, ADMAF supported these institutions to realise major projects including the Graduates Fashion Show at Dubai Fashion Week. Also in the realm of art and design, it assisted with the Student Contemporary Photography Exhibition at Higher Colleges of Technology Women's College.

In 2018, ADMAF worked with the following organisations to deliver education and community programmes across the seven emirates:

Abu Dhabi Indian School	International Music Institute
Abu Dhabi Women's College	Manarat Al Saadiyat
Al Ghadeer UAE Crafts	MitOst
Al Jalila Cultural Centre for Children	Nabati Publishing
Al Serkal Avenue	New York University Abu Dhabi
American University in Dubai	Paris Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi
American University of Sharjah	Prince's School of Traditional Arts (PSTA)
Art for All	RAK Hospital
British Council	Sheikh Khalifa Medical City
Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi	Tawam Hospital
Dr. Habib Ghuloom Al Attar	The American Community School of Abu Dhabi
Emirates Autism Society	The British School Al Khubairat
Emirates Writers Union	The New England Center for Children
European Cultural Foundation	The Petroleum Institute
Ewa'a Shelters	twofour54 Creative Lab
Film & New Media Department, New York University Abu Dhabi	UAE University
GOALS UAE	Umm Al Emarat Park
Hamad Centre for Special Needs	University of Sharjah
Hamaleel Printing & Publishing	Zayed Higher Organisation for Humanitarian Care, Special Needs & Minor Affairs
Higher Colleges of Technology	Zayed University
Imperial College London Diabetes Center	

# CREATIVE LEADERSHIP

Enabling young UAE Nationals to develop their skills and prepare for careers in the global creative and cultural industries



Celeste Schenck, President of the American University of Paris, addresses students during the Cultural Excellence Fellowship

## Cultural Excellence Fellowship | June, 2018

in partnership with



The second cohort of this first-of-its-kind training programme for the UAE creative and cultural industries continued their development throughout the 2018 academic year, graduating from the programme in June after 14 sessions and 98 hours of training over two years. During Abu Dhabi Festival, the elite group of Emirati pioneers and protégés attended performances and workshops, including a discussion with Celeste Schenck, President of the American University of Paris (opposite).

**Participants: 22 (ages 18–35)**

## Young Filmmakers' Circle | March, 2018

In partnership with



### Roundtable Discussions

The third Young Filmmakers' Circle included roundtable discussions, screenings and seminars targeted at emerging industry practitioners, from scriptwriters to directors. This year, the programme was led by Jordanian director, writer and producer Zaid Abu Hamdan, who shared his extensive experience working in the regional and Hollywood film industries, on his short film *Baram and Hamza*, which was a hit on the international festival circuit, as well as his extensive TV experience regularly working on *Iftah Ya Simsim*, the Arabic adaptation of the kids' favourite *Sesame Street*. Hamdan led sessions on screenwriting, with participants working on their own scripts with a view to developing them in the future with the knowledge learnt during the programme. Mohammed Al Jneibi, judged to have produced the best script by Hamdan and a panel of industry experts, was also able to work on the script through a major professional development opportunity.

**Participants: 6 (ages 25–30)**

### Public Screenings

Members of the public joined some of the Young Filmmakers' Circle for a short film screening night, followed by a panel discussion on the art form moderated by artist and writer Hind Mezaina, with filmmaker Amena Al Nowais, educator Greg Unaru, and partner of MAD Solutions, Abdallah Al Shami. The evening focussed on short films from the Arab world. It began with *Omnia*, Amna Al Nowais' powerful short film that explores the psychological and physical effects of female circumcision. Next up was *Ave Maria*, a comedy telling the story of the nuns of the Sisters of Mercy. Located in the West Bank wilderness, their daily routine of silence and prayer is disrupted when a family of religious settlers crash their car into the convent's wall. It concluded with *Ayny*, an animated short film about two young boys who have run away from their mother's protection into war, following their dream of playing an oud.

**Audience: 70 (ages 20+)**

## Young Media Leaders Forum | March, 2018

In association with



The cross-country, multi-venue networking event brought together alumni from across 11 years of the Young Media Leaders programme. The YML11 Forums, hosted during 2018 at four different universities (UAE University, University of Sharjah, HCT Abu Dhabi Women's College and Zayed University), celebrated the pioneering talents who have graduated from the innovative platform, staging discussions and panels, as well as facilitating introductions and networking with leading media organisations.

**Participants: 227 (ages 18+)**

**Audience: 432 (ages 18+)**

## UAE Theatre Circle | January – February, 2018

In association with



Workshops and performance opportunities bring together the emerging theatre-makers of tomorrow with the masters shaping Arab and Emirati stagecraft. Each year, the intensive programme focuses on a different skill – from acting to directing and script writing – with a different theme, culminating in a public performance where the aspiring talents showcase all they have learnt. This year, Dr Habib Ghuloom Al Attar led an intensive three-week theatre training course, supporting a select group of budding actors to develop their skills in improvisation, voice, movement and character development, which culminated in a performance inspired by the late-Kuwaiti comedic legend Abdulhussain Abdulrehda.

**Participants: 18 (ages 20+)**

**Audience: 120 (ages 4+)**

## The Artists' Studio | September, 2018

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 2018 Abu Dhabi Festival, members of ADMAF's Creative Leadership programmes interviewed Nicola Benedetti, Ihab Darwish, Denzil Smith from Merchants of Bollywood, Sir Antonio Pappano and Beatrice Rana, Deborah Voigt, Omar Kamal, Thomas Lauderdale and China Forbes from Pink Martini, and José Carlos Martínez, Artistic Director of Compania Nacional de Danza.

Watch all 18 episodes online now via ADMAF's YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/admaf96](http://www.youtube.com/admaf96)

**Audience: Online (all ages)**

## Tandem Al Emarat | December, 2018

A capacity building and mentoring programme for cultural professionals and managers to acquire skills and stimulate creativity, developing future arts and culture industry leaders, Tandem Al Emarat is an initiative by ADMAF, MitOst and the European Cultural Foundation.

The programme – launched in December 2018 with a Forum attended by partners – will run until 2020, facilitating long-term partnerships within the UAE. The Tandem process provides hands-on opportunities for getting real insights into the cultural scenes in all seven Emirates, with the aim of building meaningful and sustainable creative collaborations that grow the artists' vision, fostering enthusiasm and joy in creative discovery.

**Participants: 13 (ages 20+)**



Participants in one of the UAE Theatre Circle's workshops



# REWARDING EXCELLENCE

Celebrating outstanding creativity by students and recent graduates across the Arts

## The Gulf Capital – ADMAF Creativity Award | March, 2018

In association with  **GulfCapital**  
Partners in Growth

The 2018 Creativity Award went to Ahmed Al Tunaiji for his film *Arasian*; the runner up was Shaima Al Mazrouei with her film *The Risk*. *Arasian* was played in the Emirates Palace auditorium foyer and seen by festival guests. The award was presented by Patron H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, UAE Minister of Tolerance, in the presence of Dr. Karim El Solh, Co-Founder and CEO of Gulf Capital, and ADMAF Founder H.E. Huda I. Alkhamis-Kanoo.

**Participants:** 3 (ages 20+)

**Audience:** 30 (ages 20+)

## The Gulf Capital – Abu Dhabi Festival Visual Arts Award | March, 2018

In association with  **GulfCapital**  
Partners in Growth

Launched in 2013, the award was established to support the growth of the UAE visual-arts scene, nurturing the creativity of Emirati students and emerging artists by fostering engagement with the Abu Dhabi Festival's annual exhibitions. This year, students explored and responded to *From Barcelona to Abu Dhabi*. The winner was Arwa Najem from Zayed University who submitted a multimedia installation titled *Al Zahiyah* (presented as photos)

**Participants:** 25 (ages 18 - 25)

## Total Design Commission | March, 2018

In association with  **TOTAL**

Launched in 2013, the Total Design Commission recognises the outstanding innovation and achievement of young Emiratis in the field of design. Amira Al Zaarooni, a senior at HCT Women's College Sharjah, won the 2017/2018 Award for the 'Jood Volunteering Programme'. The programme is an innovative volunteering scheme that enables organisations to assign different responsibilities according to the experience of the volunteers, which is reflected in the Jood Volunteer Card. This programme encourages and supports volunteers to contribute to their society.

**Participants:** 2 (ages 20+)

## Christo & Jeanne-Claude Award | November, 2018

Open to UAE-based students and graduates within the past seven years, The Christo and Jeanne-Claude Award was established to encourage the creation of new artwork in the UAE, acting as a launch pad for visual artists across the Emirates and offering winners an insight into professional life as an artist from commission to exhibition. Under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Shamsa bint Hamdan Al Nahyan, NYU Abu Dhabi, in partnership with ADMAF, unveiled the winning submission of the sixth edition of the award at the University's campus on Saadiyat Island.

Crafted by Abu Dhabi University undergraduate architecture students, Maram Kassab and Mariam Ayoub, the award-winning, socially interactive pavilion inspired by Emirati poetry, *Qasa'ed*, was displayed at NYU Abu Dhabi and Umm Al Emarat Park. The winning artists both received \$5,000 from Christo to help advance their careers.

**Participants:** 2 (ages 18+)

**Audience:** 500 (ages 18+)

# ENHANCING EDUCATION

A gateway to knowledge that strengthens academic performance, inspiring and nurturing an appetite for learning across the entire educational spectrum



Children take part in Ministry of Science at Festival in the Park

## Best of Ministry of Science LIVE! In Arabic | Feb – March, 2018

In association with



MUBADALA

Back by popular demand, this time in Arabic, the science team showed children how we all have the potential to be the next scientist, inventor or engineer and change our world for the better. Attendees enjoyed exploding volcanoes, G-force CO2 spinning chairs, fire tornados and lots more as the team looked at the world which we all share, and some of its greatest scientific wonders.

**Participants: 176 (ages 6 - 15)**

**Audience: 1,431 (ages 6 - 15)**

## Training Programme at La Biennale di Venezia and the European Cultural Academy | July, 2018

In summer 2018, Mona Al Ali, winner of Mubadala Design Commission 2016, travelled to La Biennale di Venezia and the European Cultural Academy as part of her award, furthering her design education with training programmes, while she built connections to the international industry.

## ADMAF Roadshow | Sept – Oct, 2018

The tour of 13 colleges across the Emirates informed students about ADMAF's programmes. The team was joined on the road by ADMAF ambassadors, who communicated their personal stories to provide first hand, relatable insights into how they had benefitted from grants, commissions or awards.

**Participants: 780 (ages 18 - 25)**

## Abu Dhabi Art – Talks and Tours | Nov, 2018

The ADMAF Pavilion at Abu Dhabi Art 2018 welcomed more than 150 students from six of the UAE's leading universities and colleges who participated in tours and talks, such as students from HCT Woman's College Abu Dhabi, HCT Fujairah, HCT Women's College Sharjah, Zayed University and Abu Dhabi University.

**Participants: 150 (ages 18 - 25)**



## Riwaq Al Fikr | March, 2018

Returning to the Abu Dhabi Festival to connect thinkers, diplomats and cultural leaders with students and the general public, Riwaq Al Fikr 2018 provided students at Zayed University and Paris Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi with opportunities to explore the worlds of leadership, arts management and education.

### ‘Women’s Leadership in the 21st Century’ with Celeste Schenck

On the occasion of International Women’s Day, Celeste Schenck – President of the American University of Paris (AUP) – discussed ‘Women’s Leadership in the 21st Century’ with students of Zayed University, providing insight from her great breadth of working experience accumulated over 25 years in the European education industry. The event also encouraged discussion and input from students, in a debate highlighting the importance of women’s participation and leadership across various sectors.

**Participants:** 100 (ages 18 - 23)

### ‘The World of Arts Management’ with Mauro Buccarelli

The second session enabled students at Paris Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi to enter the world of arts management, with Mauro Buccarelli, Artistic Manager of the Orchestra dell’Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia – an eminent orchestra marking its Arabian Gulf debut with its headline performance at the Abu Dhabi Festival.

**Participants:** 26 (ages 24+)

### Panel Discussion: ‘Collecting Contemporary Art – Public vs Private in Europe and the Middle East’

Barcelona-based art critic and curator Montse Badia, an expert on the MACBA Collection, joined Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi, writer and founder of Barjeel Art Foundation, to discuss contemporary collecting contexts. The wide-ranging discussion explored European and Middle Eastern perspectives, from the public to the private, considering both traditional models and the innovations of the 21st century. Moderated by the art advisor Ranya Ghandour of Ruth|Catone

**Audience:** 79 (ages 18+)



Panel discussion as part of 2018's Visual Arts Exhibition

## Festival in Focus | March, 2018

Students from across the nation connected with the international Abu Dhabi Festival headliners with a look behind the scenes through special open rehearsals and backstage activities. This year, students had exclusive encounters with Merchants of Bollywood, Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia with Beatrice Rana, Pink Martini and Compania Nacional de Danza and Pianographique.

**Participants: 400 (ages 6+)**

## Back to School | March, 2018

In association with



Once-in-a-lifetime inspirational learning opportunities featuring masterclasses, mini-performances, and workshops from Abu Dhabi Festival headline artists including Merchants of Bollywood, Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia with Beatrice Rana, Deborah Voigt, Omar Kamal (below), Pink Martini, choreographer Gilles Chuyen, the Raghu Dixit project, Compania Nacional de Danza and Cori Olan from Ars Electronica.

**Participants: 110 (ages 4-40)**

## Creative Workshops | February - March, 2018

One of the most effective tools for learning is to be able to meet artists in person and to receive practical tuition, which ADMAF arranges through its Creative Workshops

### Less Sticks, More Bricks

Young artists met Shaikha Al Mazrou (below), learning all about her epic sculptures that are filled with tension and balance, including *Balance I*, one of the exhibition's most astonishing works. Using wooden skewers and bricks, children learnt how to imagine and create their own constructions, exploring basic building skills and getting hands-on with ideas from Minimalism and Conceptual Art.

**Participants: 11 (ages 10 - 16)**

### Art Trilogy: Figure, Environment, Form

In her practice, Emirati artist Al Anood Al Obaidly uses everyday items to consider how objects become invested with meaning and how they accumulate to shape our physical and emotional environments. She shares this material preoccupation with the late artist Hassan Sharif - both observing and processing the transformation of objects into subjects and art. She led a workshop exploring the exhibition's three themes including exercises with found materials, paying special tribute to the work of Sharif.

**Participants: 1 (ages 18+)**



Creative Workshop with Emirati artist Shaikha Al Mazrou

## Pre-and Post-Concert Talks | February – March, 2018

Accompanying each international performance of Abu Dhabi Festival, practitioners, academics and writers gave audiences insight into each artist, their context and their repertoire.

**Audience: 390 (ages 16+)**

## Curators' Tours | February and March, 2018

The *From Barcelona to Abu Dhabi* exhibition was bookended by tours from the curators. On the opening day, curator Ferran Barenblit (Director, MACBA) and co-curator Nasser Abdullah (Chairman, Emirates Fine Arts Society) led a tour of the exhibition, discussing their collaborative curatorial project, and giving audiences insight into the works. The curators were joined by Abu Dhabi-born and New York-based artist, photographer and musician, Farah Al Qasimi, whose works examining urban environments, labour and cycles of consumption were found in the exhibition. Farah discussed her work and her recent residency, supported by Abu Dhabi Festival and Maraya Art Centre, at the Delfina Foundation, London. A farewell look at the exhibition saw a tour with co-curator Nasser Abdullah. The tours covered the exhibition's nine decades, exploring some of the most pioneering visual arts of the 20th and 21st centuries.

**Participants: 73 (ages 5+)**

## The Diplomacy of Culture | May, 2018

H.E. Huda I. Alkhamis-Kanoo addressed the Emirates Diplomatic Academy students as keynote speaker on the panel discussion 'The Diplomacy of Culture' with H.H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan bin Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, H.E Sheikh Sultan Sooud Al Qassimi, and Manuel Rabate, Louvre Abu Dhabi Director, moderated by Joud Al Marar from the Louvre Abu Dhabi.

**Participants: 700 (ages 18+)**

## Mohammed Bin Zayed Majlis for Future Generations | October, 2018

Over two days in October, ADMAF presented extensive learning experiences and networking opportunities with local and international experts, entrepreneurs, champions of innovation and future leaders of the UAE at the second Mohammed Bin Zayed Majlis for Future Generations, held at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC).

Building on its commitment to nurturing young talent within creative industries in the UAE, ADMAF brought together leading experts, intellectuals, and educators for three immersive learning sessions. The interactive panel talks discussed the importance of art and culture in nation building and cultural diplomacy, while exploring the importance of youth philanthropy, and the challenges and opportunities for young people in today's thriving media sector.

**Participants: 70 (ages 18+)**



ADMAF Nation's' Gallery members, Sarah Al Agroobi and Hussain AlMoosawi, with Mohammad AL Oteib, Founder of Syndication Bureau Media Services, as they lead discussions with students at Mohammed Bin Zayed Majlis for Future Generations

# CULTURAL EXPRESSION

Celebrating and supporting the  
cultural identity of the UAE



Drawing Rhapsody Workshop

## **Drawing Rhapsody - Form and Harmony: Freehand Drawing Workshop with Live Oud Accompaniment | February, 2018**

Mattar Bin Lahej's work synthesises music, collective and personal cultural contexts in an elegant harmony of form and material. In a specially staged, teacher-led drawing experience, participants encountered this Emirati artist's work with live oud accompaniment by Emirati oud player Nasser Al Marzouqi.

**Participants: 9 (ages 18+)**

## ***Sharp Tools* - Reflecting on Filmmaking and Friendship | February, 2018**

Documentary film *Sharp Tools* tells the story of the pioneering artist Hassan Sharif, and traces the creative friendships and collaborations that shaped his career. Emirati director, Nujoom Al Ghanem, shared excerpts from the documentary, discussing her work as a filmmaker and the challenges and privileges of creating this intimate portrait. Nujoom was joined by Mohammed Kazem, a prominent Emirati artist and student of Hassan Sharif and Nasser Abdullah, co-curator of the exhibition and chairman of the Emirates Fine Arts Society.

**Participants: 47 (ages 5+)**



# TREASURING TRADITION

Celebrating the heritage and traditions of the Emirates, contributing to a national identity founded on tolerance and respect



H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan with archivist, Mohamed Al Jneibi, at The Young Collector event in March

## From Sharjah to Abu Dhabi | February, 2018

Nasser Abdullah, co-curator of *From Barcelona to Abu Dhabi* led a day trip between the Emirates with tours of two exhibitions. Beginning at the Sharjah Art Museum with a visit to the 35th Annual Exhibition of the Emirates Fine Arts Society, the tour then travelled to Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, to experience *From Barcelona to Abu Dhabi*.

**Participants:** 16 (ages 18+)

## The Young Collector | March, 2018

Mohamed Al Jneibi is an archivist preserving vivid stories of cultural life in the Emirates. His vast private archive includes collectables that chart the history of Arab music and he provided a glimpse into the past with his fascinating trove of vinyl records, cassettes, magazines and newspapers.

**Audience:** 1200 (all ages)

## Riwaq Al Khatt Al Arabi: Exhibition | March, 2018

Arabic calligraphy has a storied history – from the earliest Kufic scripts of the most ancient manuscripts to contemporary expressions in 21st century brand identities. Riwaq Al Khatt Al Arabi is a brand-new initiative that celebrates and sustains the beauty of this timeless, versatile and striking art form through workshops, professional courses for school teachers, talks and discussion groups and exhibitions, as well as an annual competition and award. In its inaugural year, audiences at Emirates Palace witnessed a special collaborative exhibition created by Emirati master, Mohammed Mandi, with Indian calligrapher Rajeev Kumar.

**Audience:** 1600 (all ages)

## Riwaq Al Khatt Al Arabi: Workshop | March, 2018

This one-day workshop, led by preeminent Emirati calligrapher Mohammed Mandi, introduced participants to the history and styles of Arabic and Islamic calligraphy through a close look at this master's work.

**Participants: 12 (ages 18+)**

## Islamic Art Workshops with Prince's School of Traditional Arts | March, 2018

*Investigating the Platonic Solids – Introduction to Building Blocks of Three Dimensional Forms*  
*Introduction to Geometry and Nabati Ornamentation*  
*Geometry and Nabati Ornamentation*

Extending an ongoing collaboration, this year's workshops brought together tradition and innovation, pairing Islamic arts with 3D printing to realise designs like never before. University students took a look at Islamic geometry, Emirati design, traditional Islamic patterns, biomorphic design and calligraphy in traditional manuscripts, revealing the richness and beauty of the country's unique artistic heritage and preserving these precious traditions for future generations through inventive new approaches.

**Participants: 93 (ages 16+)**



A university student taking part in an Islamic Art Workshop



Riwaq Al Adab wal Kitab

## Riwaq Al Adab wal Kitab | year-round

In association with



Presented in association with ADMAF's strategic partner, Emirates Writers' Union, and in collaboration with local publishing houses Nabati Publishing and Hamleel Media Foundation.

Celebrating Arabic literature, the annual programme culminated in 2018 with the launch of 16 new works by Emirati authors, including material for children and fiction for adults. During the signing event, fans met the authors, discussed their works and received signed copies of their books (above). This year's programme also encompassed a series of eight creative writing and reading workshops taking place across the Emirates.

**Participants: 325 (ages 7+)**



# SOCIAL UNITY

Supporting and building bridges between  
social groups and cultural foundations  
across the seven Emirates



Choreographer Gilles Chuyen performing in Festival in the Park at the capital's Umm Al Emarat Park

## Festival in the Park | March, 2018

In association with



The capital's outdoor musical celebration returned with three days of workshops, film screenings and eclectic live performances in the relaxed setting of Umm Al Emarat Park. Throughout the Festival, visitors could buy wares from local artisans, including Al Ghadeer, which sold hand-made traditional Emirati goods.

On Thursday, crowds partied with Indian exuberance and flair, learning the best of Bollywood dance in a workshop with prolific choreographer Gilles Chuyen (facing page), before one of India's most exciting live acts took to the stage. Acclaimed by The Guardian as 'India's biggest cultural export' and having played in over 1,500 concerts in 30 countries, The Raghu Dixit Project's infectiously energetic live extravaganza readied the crowds for a joyful evening.

On Friday, two pioneering Arab musicians took to the stage. Multimedia artist Zahed Sultan presented his latest work *Hiwar*, an audio-visual reinterpretation of traditional Khaleeji songs with contemporary arrangements for percussion, piano and cello, brought to life with interpretive dance and a vivid light show. Next up, Egypt's marimba queen, Nesma Abdul Aziz, brought her spirited fusion of contemporary and classical music to the park with her group, reinvigorating international and Arab classics. The Festival closed on Saturday with a special performance from the UAE Theatre Circle.

**Participants: 608 (all ages)**

**Audience: 3,325 (all ages)**





Locally produced handicrafts from Al Ghadeer

## Al Ghadeer UAE Crafts | March, 2018

In association with



Al Ghadeer is a UAE Red Crescent micro-financing initiative that seeks to empower underprivileged women through the use of indigenous arts and crafts. By giving them the skills and resources to create unique handcrafted gifts, Al Ghadeer helps to create a much-needed additional source of income. Al Ghadeer products are inspired by the rich heritage, culture and traditions of the UAE.

## Al Jalila/ADMAF LoC Signing | October, 2018

In October ADMAF signed a Letter of Cooperation (LoC) with the Al Jalila Cultural Centre for Children (AJCCC) in Dubai. Both parties will work on identifying opportunities to enhance the strategic value of individual cultural exchange projects, paving the road for a professional future for the country's youth.

The LoC will encourage cultural exchange and dialogue opportunities to foster a greater understanding of all aspects of cultural practices development in young children. As such, the partnership will see the co-production of cultural and educational initiatives by leading practitioners in the industry, as well as the development of joint educational initiatives aimed at facilitating cultural expression and creativity among young people.

## Ewa'a Shelters Exhibit | November, 2018

ADMAF's ongoing collaboration with Ewa'a Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking in Abu Dhabi resulted in an emotive and unique piece of art being displayed in its Pavilion during the Abu Dhabi Art fair in November. Conceptualised by the artist Jennifer Simon in collaboration with ADMAF, *Skittles* was the result of an intense two years of work by more than 20 survivors of human trafficking.

It featured 10 individually painted and decorated, human-sized bowling pins standing before a ball featuring the word 'life' in English and Arabic. The artwork embodies the struggles of the survivors who, like skittles, can be figuratively knocked down, inspiring them to rise up in the face of adversity. Ewa'a Shelters has always included art therapy as a major tool in the healing process for the victims it helps rehabilitate.

# ARTS & ENVIRONMENT

Raising levels of environmental awareness and understanding



Photography Walk with Emirati artist Ammar Al Attar

## Street Photography Walk | February, 2018

A photographer and mixed media artist, Ammar Al Attar's (above) work documents and translates the everyday, using these observations as vivid records of life in the Emirates. Aspiring photographers joined him on a walk through Downtown Abu Dhabi to encounter the daily life of the city, providing new perspectives on its people and places as they learnt how to see and record stories from the world around them.

**Participants: 20 (ages 18+)**

## Recycling Workshop | March, 2018

During Festival in the Park, everyone got creative with workshops using recycled materials – considering the planet while they had fun making!

**Participants: 83 (ages 3 - 15)**

# PEOPLE OF DETERMINATION

Developing the skills of People of Determination and providing local opportunities to actively participate in society in a spirit of inclusion



Children with Autism creating a permanent mural during Festival in the Park

## World Autism Day | March, 2018

In association with



During Festival in the Park, painting workshops for children with autism saw the creation of a beautiful permanent mural for all to enjoy. To mark World Autism Day, a film celebrating the creation of the mural was released across ADMAF's digital channels.

**Participants: 90 (all ages)**



# HEALTH DEVELOPMENT & WELL-BEING

Raising awareness of the importance of arts and culture in patient healing and recovery



Above and right: Performing for patients at Sheikh Khalifa Medical Centre

## Music in Hospitals | March, 2018

In association with  WAHA CAPITAL

Continuing the Festival's pioneering work in hospitals, the live music programme picked up the beat with musicians performing exclusively for patients at RAK Hospital, Tawam Hospital, Sheikh Khalifa Medical City and Imperial College London Diabetes Centre. The tour ended with a very special concert at Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi.

**Participants: 295 (ages 5+)**





ABU DHABI FESTIVAL

يقدم

# الموسيقى في المستشفيات

يقدم

الوادي  
FESTIVAL





# THE NATION'S GALLERY

## THE NATION'S GALLERY

A dedicated resource that advocates Emirati visual art practice nationally and internationally, and provides access to opportunities, information and support

ADMAF's Nation's Gallery - Riwaq Al Fan Al Emirati - is for artists, collectors and art lovers - a network that connects and informs, bringing together people and opportunities. Registration connects members to opportunities and grants access to a comprehensive art resource.

Launched in 2010, this permanent initiative comprises a research centre, online directory, education hub, advocacy and an information resource that supports Emirati artists, seeking to raise understanding of the national arts sector among gallerists, curators and the wider public.

### Advice and Professional Development

One-to-one sessions for Emirati artists offering advice on their professional development paths, from portfolio development to pricing and representation. Throughout 2018, ADMAF continued to hold advice sessions, both at the ADMAF offices and as part of studio visits.

### Online Directory

An expanding digital library of Emirati artists' profiles targeting curators, gallerists, collectors, academics and art consultants. Membership of The Nationals' Gallery now exceeds 130.

### Opportunities

ADMAF creates opportunities for Emirati visual artists. Sharing and facilitating prospects including commissions, exhibiting opportunities, residencies and competitions. From September 2018, nine artists were supported with commissions and residency opportunities.

ADMAF also facilitated more than 50 Emirati artists showing their work internationally at Berlin Art Week.

### Funding

ADMAF Grants Scheme offers financial support to emerging and established Emirati arts practitioners, among other individuals and organisations, wishing to undertake further studies, research or exhibitions. ADMAF continued its financial support of Sarah Al Agroobi as she completed her Master's degree at Royal College of Arts, London.

### Exhibitions & Commissions

ADMAF creates exhibitions and publications to deepen the appreciation of Emirati visual arts and facilitate knowledge. The Foundation also commissions artists whose works enhance national cultural identity.

In 2018, the Abu Dhabi Festival Exhibition *From Barcelona to Abu Dhabi - Works from the MACBA Art Collection in Dialogue with the Emirates*, saw the first Arab World presentation of one of Europe's most significant collections. Structured as a dialogue between 70 works from the Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art and 20 Emirati artists, the pioneering exhibition explored what defines us as humans.

Facing page: H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan with artist Shaikha Al Mazrou and curator Nasser Abdullah at the opening of *From Barcelona to Abu Dhabi*





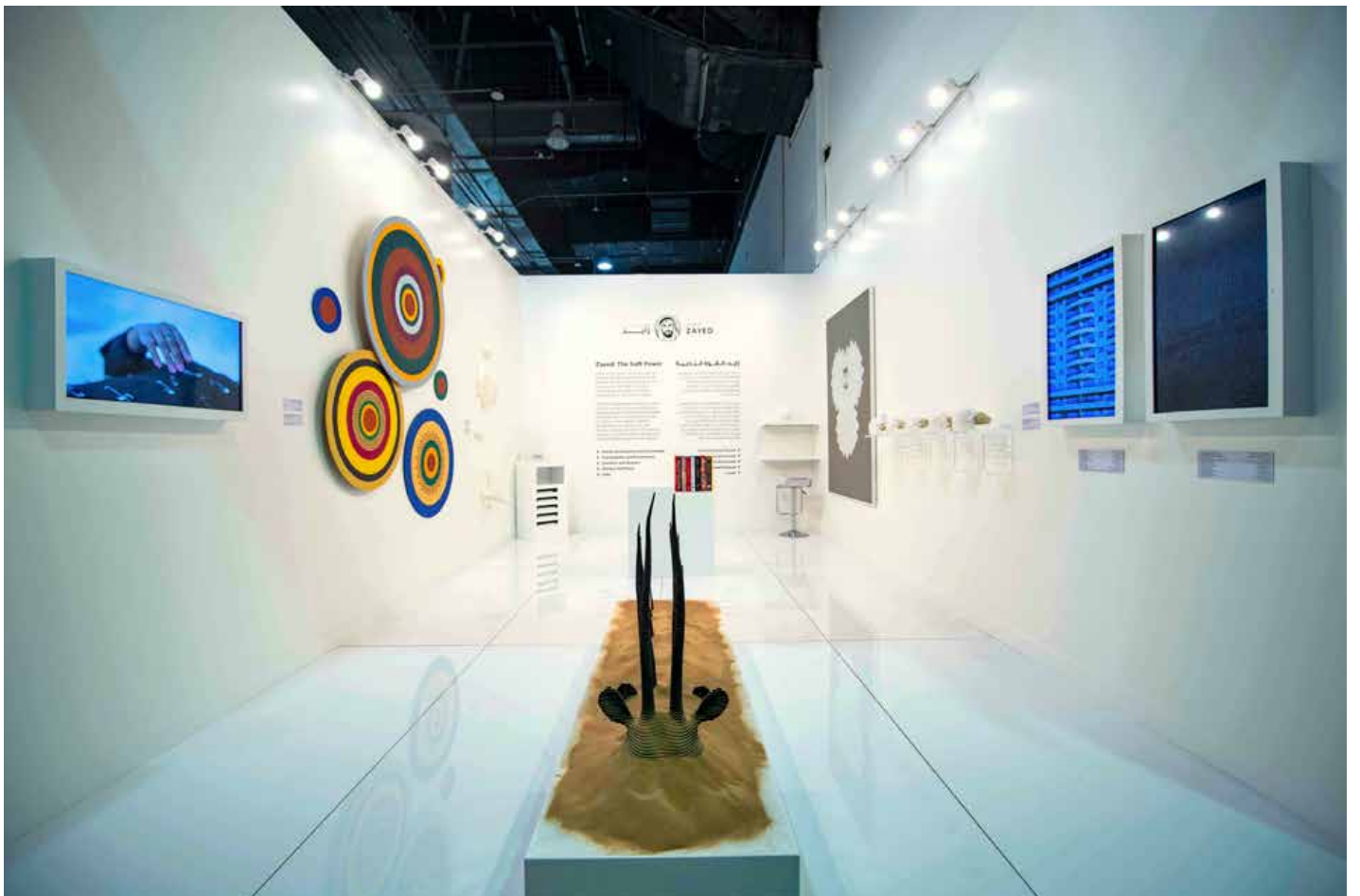


**The ADMAF Nation's Gallery Members | More than 130 members |  
January – December 2018**

Abdul Aziz Al Fadli	Fatma Lootah	Moza Al Matrooshi
Abdul Qader Al Rais	Ghanim Mubarak	Nabeel Al Mehairbi
Abdul Rahim Salem	Hamdan Buti Al Shamsi	Nada Al Ameri
Abdul Rauf Khalfan	Hashel Al Lamki	Najat Makki
Afra Al Dhaheri	Hind Bin Demaitan	Nasser Al Marzouqi
Afra Al Hamed	Hussain AlMoosawi	Nassra Al Bunainain
Ahmed Al Dhaheri	Hussain Sharif	Nayef Eisa Al Baloushi
Ahmed Al Faresi	Jalal Bin Thaneya	Noor Al Suwaidi
Aisha Juma	Jalal Luqman	Noora Al Ameri
Alaa Edris	Jamal Al Suwaidi	Noora Ramah
Ali Al Abdan	Kaltham Bint Mohamed	Nouf Al Ajami
Alia Bin Omair	Karima Al Shomely	Noura Al Ali
Amal Al Ali	Khalid Abdulrahman Al Hashimi	Noura Ali Al Ramahi
Amer Aldour	Khalid Al Banna	Obaid Suroor
Amira Al Awadhi	Khalid Mezaina	Reem Falaknaz
Ammar Al Attar	Khalid Shafar	Saeed Al Madani
Amna Al Dabbagh	Khalil Abdul Wahid	Saeed Khalifa
Amna Al Fard	Khawla Darwish	Saggaf Al Hashemi
Amna Al Maamari	Lamya Gargash	Salam Al Mazrouei
Arwa Al Salami	Layla Juma	Salama Al Mansouri
Ayesha Hadhir	Maha Al Abdulla	Salama Nasib
Azza Al Qubaisi	Maha Amiri	Saoud Al Dhaheri
Badria Al Maazmi	Mahmoud Ahmed	Sara Salim
Dana Al Mazrouei	Maisoon Al Saleh	Sarah Al Agroobi
Dhabiya Al Romaithi	Maitha Abdalla	Sarah Ibrahim
Ebtisam Abdulaziz	Maitha Al Kaabi	Shaikha Ahmed Salem
Eman Al Hammadi	Maitha Al Muhairy	Shaikha Al Mazrou
Eman Al Hashemi	Maryam Al Falasi	Shamma Al Assiry
Esra Al Farsi	Mattar Bin Lahej	Shamsa Al Dhaheri
Faisal Abdulqader	May Rashed Al Shamsi	Sheikha Alyazia Bint Nahyan Al Nahyan
Faiza Mubarak	Mohamed Al Astad	Sheikha Fatima Bint Hazza' Bin Zayed
Farah Al Fardh	Mohamed Al Mazrouei	Al Nahyan
Farah Al Qasimi	Mohamed Aljneibi	Sumayah Al Suwaidi
Farid Mohammed Al Rais	Mohammed Ahmed Ibrahim	Taqwa Al Naqbi
Fatema Al Mazrouie	Mohammed Al Qassab	Wafa Khazendar
Fatima Al Budoor	Mohammed Kazem	Yousif Al Harmoudi
Fatma Al Tunji	Mohammed Mandi	Zeinab Al Hashemi



Layla Juma's *Settlement* (sculpture) and Alaa Edris Reem *Dream* (photographs), part of *From Barcelona to Abu Dhabi*



The ADMAF Pavilion at 2018's Abu Dhabi Art fair

## Farah Al Qasimi – Delfina Foundation

Abu Dhabi Festival supported Farah as she undertook a residency at the Delfina Foundation, London. An Abu Dhabi-born and New York-based artist, photographer and musician, Farah's work examines urban environments, labour and cycles of consumption. During her residency, Farah explored Arabic language from *Sesame Street* to menus.

In March, Farah discussed her residency with audiences at the Abu Dhabi Festival during a special curators and artist tour of *From Barcelona to Abu Dhabi*, the landmark exhibition, which featured Farah's work.

## From Barcelona to Abu Dhabi – Works from the MACBA Art Collection in Dialogue with the Emirates | February – March, 2018

The first Arab World presentation of one of Europe's most significant collections saw a dialogue between 70 works from the Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art and 20 Emirati artists, in a pioneering exhibition that explores what defines us as humans.

Curated by Ferran Barenblit (Director, MACBA) and co-curated by Nasser Abdullah (Chairman, Emirates Fine Arts Society) *From Barcelona to Abu Dhabi* proposed a journey where audiences contemplated the role of art – as a means to reflect, as a space for ideas and emotions and as a place to be and to share.

To deepen visitors' understanding of the exhibition, Abu Dhabi Festival delivered a comprehensive educational programme for all ages, including:

### Workshops:

- Rope, Paper, Scissors
- Express Art!
- Less Sticks, More Bricks with Shaikha Al Mazrou
- Street Photography with Ammar Al Attar
- Drawing Rhapsody with Mattar Bin Lahej
- Art Trilogy with Al Anood Al Obaidly

### Curators' Tours:

- From Sharjah to Abu Dhabi
- From Barcelona to Abu Dhabi: The End of the Journey

### Panel Discussions and Film Screenings:

- Sharp Tools (panel discussion and screening)
- Collecting Contemporary Art – Public vs. Private in Europe and the Arab World (panel discussion)

## Abu Dhabi Art Pavilion | November, 2018

ADMAF displayed a selection of eight artworks by Emirati and UAE-based artists – five of whom are part of the Nation's Gallery – at 2018's Abu Dhabi Art fair, all of which reflected some of the core values of the late Sheikh Zayed. Under the theme of Zayed: The Soft Power, the Foundation's Pavilion commemorated five of the Founding Father's core values: Wisdom and Peace, Tolerance and Respect, Sustainability and the Environment, Human Development and Knowledge, and Unity.

Located in Gallery S at Manarat Al Saadiyat, the Pavilion was open for the duration of the fair, between 14th and 17th November, attracting more than 3500 visitors over the four days.



Mohammed Kazem, *Scale*, 2012  
Courtesy of the artist and Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde  
Part of the ADMAF Art Collection



# THE ADMAF ART COLLECTION

Since its inception, ADMAF has been privileged to work with the leading proponents of the visual arts sector; the collection is reflective of this vantage, demonstrating the diversity of contemporary Emirati and Arab artistic expression.

Consisting of acquisitions and donations, The ADMAF Art Collection places an emphasis on Emirati practice and seeks to highlight artistic expression from the Arab world. By exhibiting the collection in its offices and through exhibitions and loans, ADMAF promotes the achievements and oeuvres of each artist – engaging, educating and informing the public about the region’s art scene.

A flexible resource with no permanent gallery, ADMAF welcomes enquiries from institutions interested in loans from the collection. Gifts by individuals and organisations are gratefully received and are assessed based on factors such as condition, provenance, storage and cultural value.

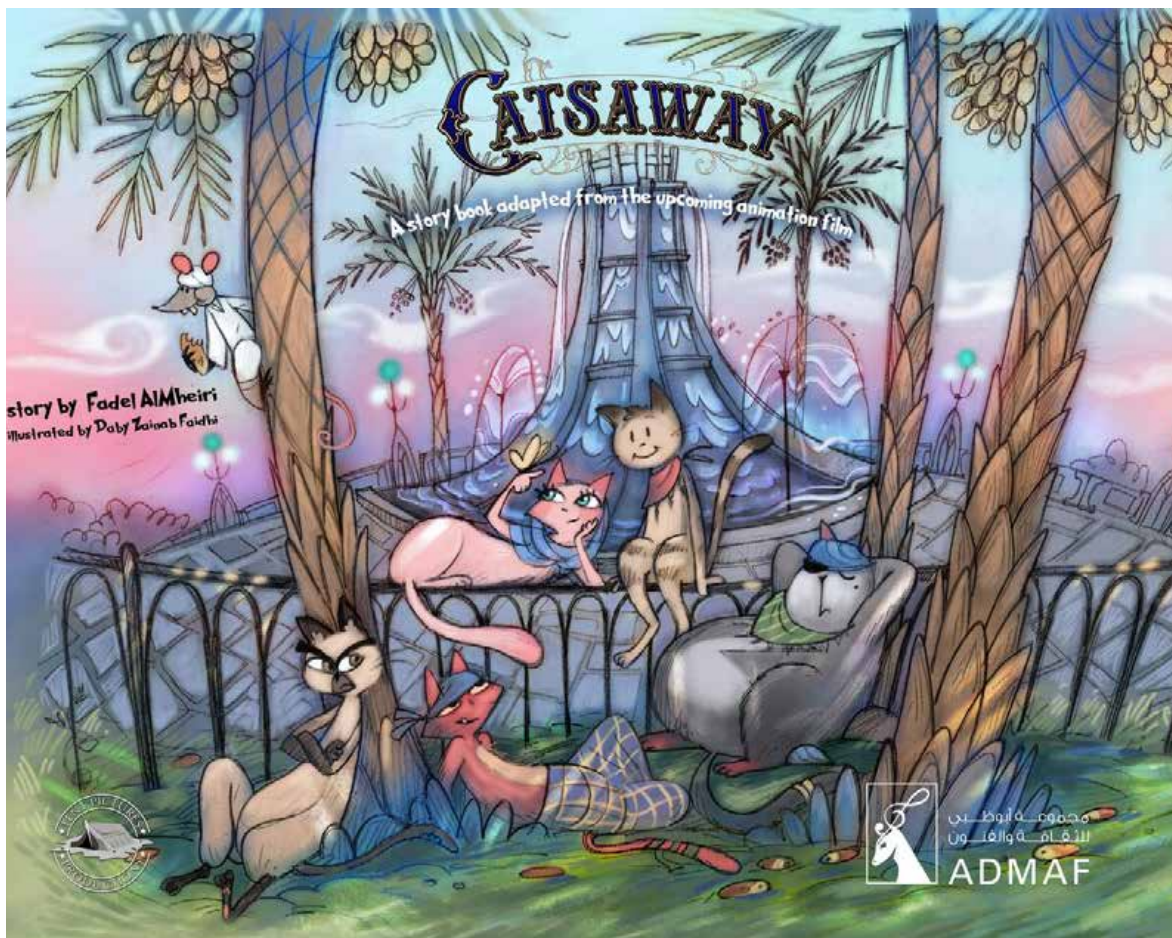
Acknowledgement is given to donors through ADMAF’s website and catalogues.

The ADMAF Art Collection consists of more than 140 works. During 2018, it commissioned and acquired 17 new works:

- Ebtisam Abdul-Aziz, *Women’s Circles #14*
- Farah Al Qasimi, *Sandcastles*
- Hussain AlMoosawi, *Growth*
- Hussain Sharif, *Untitled*
- Layla Juma, *Settlement*
- Maha Ali Abdulla, *Surrounding the Sarood*
- Mohamed Al Mazrouei, *Hypnosis*
- Mohammad Ahmed Ibrahim, *Untitled*
- Mohammed Kazem, *Scale*
- Mohammed Mandi & Rajeev Kumar, *Quote by His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan*
- Mohammed Mandi, *Peace*
- Mohammed Mandi, *Tolerance*
- Nasir Nasrallah, *Useless Machines*
- Nayef AlBlooshi, *Machine No 003*
- Rajeev Kumar, *OM - SHANTI - Peace*
- Rajeev Kumar, *SAHISHNUTA - Tolerance*
- Shaikha al Mazrou, *Balance I*



Support for Maysoon Al Pachachi's film, *Another Day In Baghdad*



A miniseries of short story books about the street cats of Abu Dhabi

# ADMAF GRANTS

## ADMAF GRANTS

Enabling independent cultural practice, study and research for the benefit of the UAE and beyond

ADMAF Grants facilitate artistic and cultural projects that would otherwise not be possible. Through financial assistance and advice, grants support individuals and organisations who seek to further artistic practice and add value to UAE society.

ADMAF welcomes applications from across the UAE and awards grants in a number of categories:

### **Cultural Citizenship**

ADMAF supports UAE nationals, as individuals or groups, to uphold local cultural expression and contribute to the ongoing development of the national arts sector.

### **Community Arts**

ADMAF supports initiatives by, and for, a wide variety of social groups across the UAE, regardless of age, class or ability. ADMAF believes access to the arts provides an important voice to the underprivileged as well as those located in remote areas.

### **Arts Education**

ADMAF provides support to individuals, educational institutions and educational groups to enhance the academic syllabus, extra-curricular programmes and capital projects.

### **Grantee Update**

In 2018, ADMAF awarded six grants for projects covering the fields of music, film, literature, visual arts, as well as further education and professional development.

Previous beneficiaries of the ADMAF Grant scheme saw their projects come to fruition with past grantees achieving major success with their ADMAF supported projects. Nujoom Al Ghanem's *Sharp Tools* won Best Emirati Feature at DIFF. *Honey, Rain and Dust* was screened as part of Imagine Science Festival at NYUAD. *Going to Heaven* by Saeed Salmeen was screened at the prestigious Malmo Arab Film Festival in Sweden and represented the UAE in the Arab Camera Festival in Rotterdam. Jalal Luqman's *Armanagondas*, the acclaimed artists' new graphic novel, was launched at Abu Dhabi International Book Fair with a special talk and signing.

Finally, Tarek Yamani's *Portraits in Khaleeji Rhythms & Jazz*, which premiered at Abu Dhabi Festival in 2017, was performed in Berlin as part of 'Portrait of a Nation – Berlin' before embarking on an international tour in 2018.





Fatema Al Hashemi now holds an MA in Performing Arts Management after graduating in November 2018



Artwork concepts from Jalal Luqman's graphic novel *The Armagondas*



**Ahmed Zain****Fareej Al Taybeen 1980 | Film**

A film by Emirati director Ahmed Zain, documenting life in UAE in the 1980s, the work reflects the beauty of living a simple life, as well as charting the unique habits and traditions which shaped Emirati culture in a transformative decade in the nation's history.

**Fadel Al Mheiri****Catsaway | Literature**

A miniseries of children's short story books, telling the tale of street cats in Abu Dhabi. Weaving together history and culture, the film follows the cats' adventures as Abu Dhabi grows around them, following their search for a place to live as the city changes and evolves.

**Jalal Luqman****The Armagondas | Literature**

ADMAF supported the publication of artist and filmmaker Jalal Luqman's debut literary work, *The Armagondas*, a limited edition graphic novel that tells an epic story of other realms. The book is primed to be a novel, TV series, a video game or even a big screen movie.

**Maysoon Al Pachachi****Another Day in Baghdad | Film**

Following the real-life experiences of two female authors in post-invasion Iraq, *Another Day in Baghdad* tells the story of a community of ordinary people facing extraordinary and unpredictable threats of violence, curfew and struggles for resources. Co-written by award-winning filmmaker Maysoon Pachachi, the film provides a personal narrative of Iraqi citizens in the wake of events which, more than a decade on, continue to have repercussions in the Middle East and the rest of the world.

**Mustafa Alaydaroos****BA in Film and Media | Education**

ADMAF is supporting Emirati filmmaker, Mustafa Alaydaroos, with his education in Budapest, the Hungarian capital city. Having already pursued an arts and classical music education in the United States, this talented student is now developing his skills as a filmmaker in Europe.

**Umayma Al Shunnar****Emirates Youth Symphony Orchestra****| Music**

Umayma is undertaking a 10-month training programme as a violinist and, with the support of ADMAF, has her sights set on becoming a young Emirati pioneer, representing the UAE in musical performances worldwide as part of the Emirates Youth Symphony Orchestra. Umayma will be presenting her final work at the end of the training to a representative from the Premier Music College of Prague.

**Fatema Al Hashemi****MA Performing Arts Management****| Further Education**

Support for the musician and talented pianist to study for a Master's of Performing Arts Management at Paris Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi. The programme considers performing arts as an integral component of every society, developing the professional skills to nurture and enrich the field. Fatema will attain the skills and resources to form, support and enhance cultural organisations and activities through basic theories, specialised courses and internships.

**Sarah Al Agroobi****MFA Painting | Further Education**

ADMAF continued to support Sarah Al Agroobi in the second year of her Master's degree at the Royal College of Art, London, UK. A visual communications graduate of the American University of Sharjah, she has been awarded two Sheikha Manal Young Artist Awards and has received critical acclaim on the film festival circuit, including a screening at the short film corner at Cannes. Her artwork has been exhibited at Salone del Mobile, Milan (2012), Istanbul Design Week (2014) and The Venice Biennale (2011, 2014).



World premiere of Barrie Kosky's *Carmen* at the Royal Opera House London

# ADMAF INTERNATIONAL

## ADMAF INTERNATIONAL

Arts and culture are the glues that bind societies. Together with its international partners, ADMAF is creating the ideal climate for meaningful cross-cultural dialogue and exchange

Throughout 2018, ADMAF continued its contribution to opening and strengthening the nation's cultural channels by co-commissioning and supporting performances internationally. One of the Foundation's major initiatives saw *Portrait of a Nation* - an exhibition of contemporary UAE art featuring 50 Emiratis - travel to Germany, opening during Berlin Art Week. Twenty-seven of the participating Emirati artists travelled with ADMAF for the event.

When Louvre Abu Dhabi opened in November 2017, it was a landmark moment in the development of the UAE and Arab World's cultural sector. It also marked a significant advancement in Franco-Emirati relations, when H.E. Huda I. Alkhamis-Kanoo was awarded the Chevalier Insigna in the French National Order of the Legion of Honour, decreed by the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron and conferred by the French Minister of Culture, Françoise Nyssen.

The honour was awarded in recognition of ADMAF's Founder's significant contribution to the development and promotion of the UAE's cultural sector and its cultural cooperation with France. The autumn also saw a trip to New York, where the primary engagement was H.E. Huda I. Alkhamis-Kanoo's appointment to the board of the Lang Lang International Music Foundation, later attending Lang Lang's performance during the opening Gala of Carnegie Hall. Whilst in New

York, she also had appointments with: Mr. Joseph Polisi, President of The Juilliard School of Music in the presence of H.E. Lana Nusseibeh, The UAE Permanent Representative to the UN and The President of UN Women; Mr. Andrew Hamilton FRS, President of New York University; and the senior directors of New York Philharmonic - Bill Thomas, Executive Director, Miki Takebe, Vice President Operations and Michele Balm, Global Academy Director. Meetings were also held with ADMAF Strategic Partners, Christo, Wynton Marsalis, Founder and Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center and Kara Medoff Barnett and David Lansky from American Ballet Theatre.

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 collaboration and creative exchange. In partnership with leading global organisations, Abu Dhabi Festival enables the creation of cultural initiatives that unite countries. The latest cultural diplomacy endeavours by Abu Dhabi Festival also seek to further strengthen Abu Dhabi's position on the global cultural map. This happens both at home and abroad - in November, a special pre-festival performance, in collaboration with the Embassy of Uruguay, asserted Abu Dhabi Festival's commitment to harnessing the cultural diversity and riches of the United Arab Emirates, a truly unique melting pot where some 200 nationalities coexist in harmony.





Naseer Shamma and The Bait Al Oud Orchestra in the World Premiere of From Ashur to Seville



History was made in Spain's magnificent Teatre Del Liceu, where Naseer Shamma was the first ever Arabic artist to perform



Since 2008, Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation 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. These complement the international nature of the Festival at home each year – presenting world-class international artists to UAE audiences and celebrating the cultural ties with its country of honour. In 2018, the Festival announced a series of international co-commissions and events. This began at the Abu Dhabi Festival Press Conference, where Christina Scheppelmann, Artistic Director of Gran Teatre del Liceu, joined the panel to announce the co-commission of *From Ashur to Seville: Naseer Shamma & The Bait Al Oud Orchestra* which had its world premiere on 4th November 2018.

In February 2018, the world premiere of Barrie Kosky's *Carmen* took place at the Royal Opera House, supported by Abu Dhabi Festival. There were 12 performances from February to March 2018 and live streaming to 493 screens in the UK, as well as 558 screens in 27 countries.

Throughout the year, the Tarek Yamani Tour continued, as he took his Abu Dhabi Festival-commissioned work *Peninsular: Portraits in Khaleeji Rhythms and Jazz* to new audiences in Egypt, France and United States of America.

H.E. Huda I. Alkhamis-Kanoo continued her international engagements with cultural leaders and influential policy makers. In February, she met with Senator Catherine Morin-Desailly, President of the Culture, Education, and Communication Commission of the French Senate. April saw a trip to Spain that included attendance at the annual international circle meeting at The Reina Sofía School of Music, in the presence of H.M. Queen Sofía, followed by the end-of-year graduating performance directed by Anne-Sophie Mutter and culminated in the signing of a Letter of Cooperation with Teatro Real, one of Spain's most important cultural institutions. May included travel to North America, and meetings with Kara Medoff Barnett, Executive Director of American Ballet

Theatre (ABT) and Russell Granet, President of the Lincoln Center, at the ABT Spring Gala at The Metropolitan Opera House, which took place at the Lincoln Center.

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.

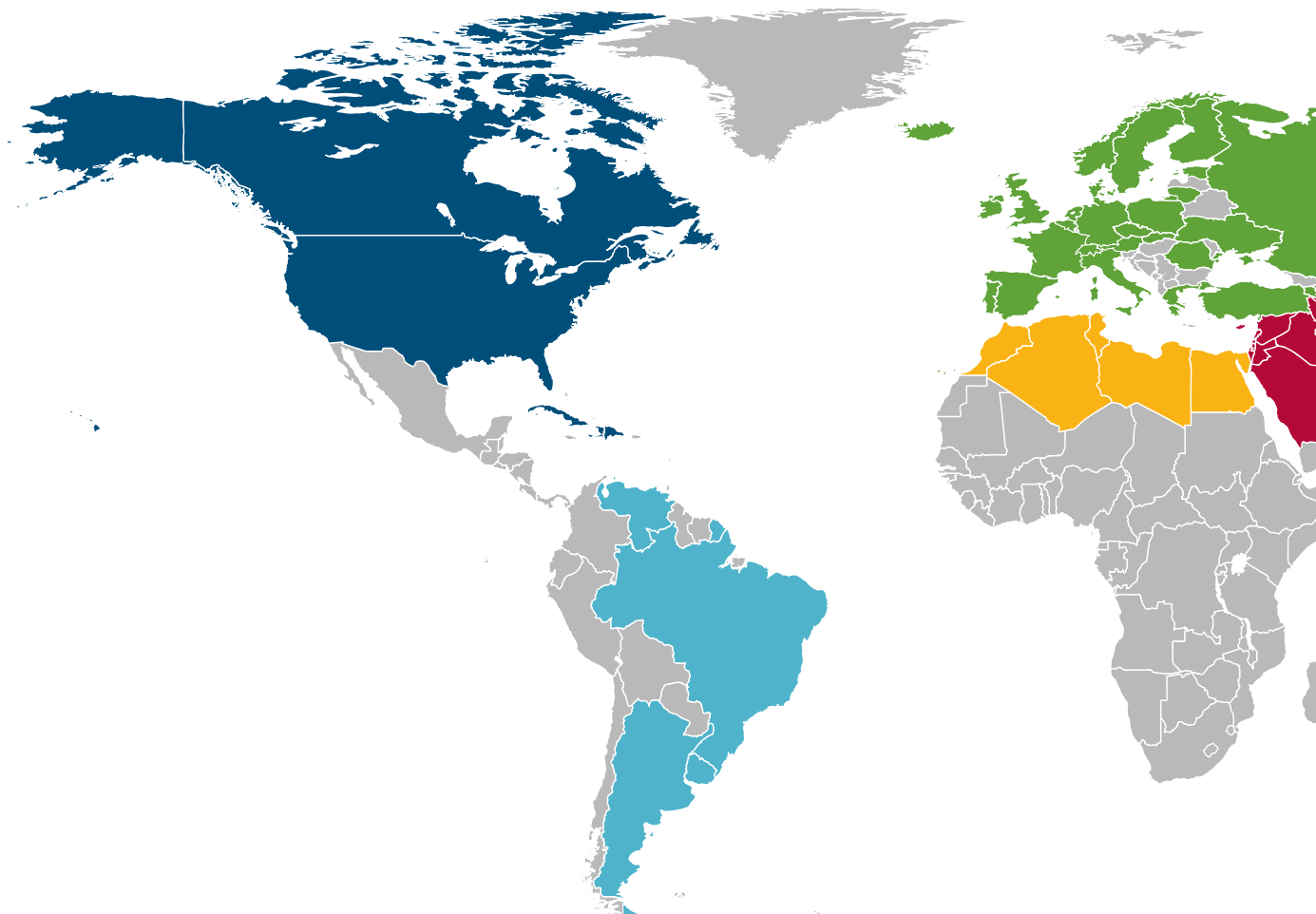
A major highlight of the year, and recognition of the Foundation's work in the realm of Cultural Diplomacy, was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, signifying a joint commitment to enriching the cultural vision of Abu Dhabi and the UAE, consolidating the efforts of the two organisations as they continue to support the UAE's pioneering cultural industries.

Rounding off 2018 in spectacular style, Abu Dhabi Festival's co-commission with Spain's historic Teatro del Liceu in Barcelona saw the world debut of *From Ashur to Seville* – a concert presented by oud virtuoso, Naseer Shamma and the prestigious alumni of Beit Al Oud. More than 30 musicians performed a number of Shamma's newest compositions to a full house in this historic event on 4th November, sharing a message of peace, tolerance and unity.

Immediately following the Barcelona performance, ADMAF's Founder, H.E. Huda I. Alkhamis-Kanoo, travelled to Washington D.C. where she was awarded the esteemed Middle East Institute Visionary Award in a special ceremony hosted at the Institute's 72nd Annual Awards Banquet and Conference at the Capitol Hill Hotel. The Middle East Institute Visionary Award recognises an Arab individual or institution for outstanding work in the region, and Her Excellency was awarded for her dedication to the art and culture industry in the Middle East, inspiring artists to create, generations to innovate, and communities to unite and prosper.

# ADMAF WORLD

Bringing the world to  
Abu Dhabi and taking  
Abu Dhabi to the world



**Canada:** Russell Maliphant (2011); Michael Schade (2014); Jan Lisiecki (2015); Louis Lortie (2018)

**USA:** Rosamund Mack, Neil Rutman (2003); David Korevaar (2005); Waleed Howrani (2006); CATCUNY (2009); Wynton Marsalis Ensemble (2010 and 2017); Cleveland Clinic Arts & Medicine Institute (since 2010); Ensemble ACJW, Margaret Wolfson, Kevin Spacey, Yefim Bronfman (2011); Christo (since 2011); Natalie Cole, Declassified Ensemble (2012); Quincy Jones, Dominick Farinacci, Joshua Bell (2013); Decoda Ensemble, Bill Fontana, Herbie Hancock, Renée Fleming, American Ballet Theatre (2014); Chicago Shakespeare Theater (2015); FotoFest International (2015); Carnegie Hall, Jazz at Lincoln, The Metropolitan Opera, American Ballet

theatre (ADMAF Partners), Deborah Voigt (2018); Pink Martini (2018); Dennis Russell Davies (2018)

**Dominican Republic:** National Symphony Orchestra; José Antonio Molina (2011); Aisha Syed Castro (2015)

**Cuba:** Carlos Acosta, Alfredo Rodríguez (2016)

**Venezuela:** Gustavo Dudamel & The Simon Bolivar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela; Simón Bolívar Music Foundation (2014)

**Brazil:** Gilberto Gil (2013); Sérgio Mendes (2015)

**Uruguay:** Erwin Schott (2008); Héctor Ulises Passarella (2018)

**Argentina:** Gorosito-Cataldi-De La Vega Trio (2008)

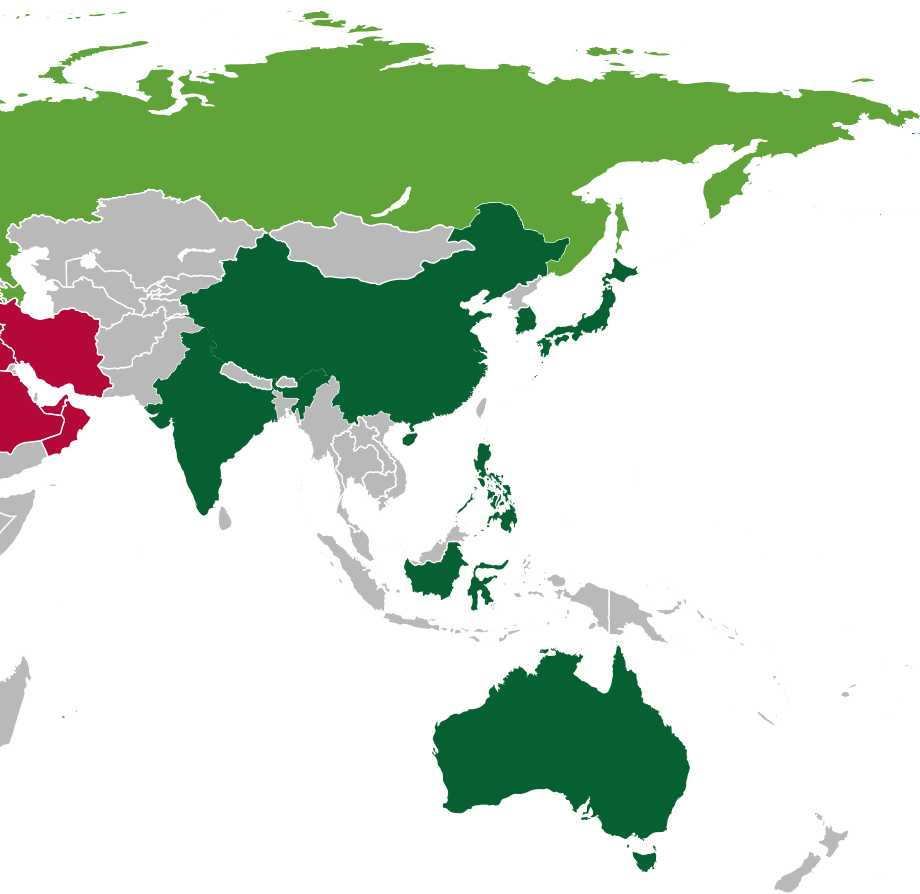
**Morocco:** Asma Al Munawar (2008); Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui (2012)

**Algeria:** Hamza Bounoua (2008); Rachid Koraïchi (2011); Contemporary Ballet of Algiers (2014)

**Tunisia:** Anouar Brahem (2003); Nja Mahdaoui (2008); Latifa (2009)

**Libya:** Ali Omar Ermes (2008)

**Egypt:** Nazih Girgis (2004); Cairo Symphony Orchestra (2007); Susan Hefuna, Khaled Selim (2008); Bait Al Oud, Egyptian Philharmonic Society Orchestra, Adam Henein (2010), Sherine Tohamy, Dina El Wadidi (2013); Hosni Mojahed (2014)



**Bahrain:** Beit Al Quran (2007); Abdulla Al Muharraqi, Jamal Abdul Rahim (2008)

**Iraq:** Sa'di Al-Hadithi (2003); Naseer Shamma (2004/5/7/8/10/12/17/18); Mohamed Ghani Hikmat (2007); Dia Al Azzawi (2009); Zaha Hadid Pavilion (2011); Hassan Massoudy, Maqamat (2012)

**Iran:** Pari Saberi (2007); Parviz Tanavoli (2010)

**Jordan:** Mona Saudi (2008); Karim Said (2009); Macadi Nahhas (2011); Bassem Al Selawi, Maysoon Masalha (2014); Jordan Media Institute (ADMAF Partner)

**Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:** Mohamed Abdo (2017)

**Lebanon:** Lebanese National Oriental Orchestra (2006); Elias Rahbani, Charbel Rouhana, Tarek Atrissi (2007); Marcel Khalife (2007/8); Nabil Helou, Zeina Basbous, Zakira Project, Roger Moukartzel, Hiba Al Kawas (2008); Magida El Roumi (2009); Abdel Rahman El Bacha, Bassam Lahoud, Compagnie Pauline Haddad, Soumaya Baalbeki (2011); Oussama Rahbani (2011/13); Fadel Shaker, Babel Theatre (2012); Bechara El Khoury (2013); The Asil Ensemble for Contemporary Arab Music, Michel Fadel (2014); Mayssa Karaa (2015); The Foundation for Arab Music Archiving & Research, Baalbeck International Festival (ADMAF Partners).

**Oman:** Royal Oman Symphony Orchestra (2003)

**Palestine:** Kamanjati (2007); Laila Shawa (2008); Edward Said National Conservatory of Music (2010); Ashtar Theatre (2014); Faris Amin (2017).

**Syria:** National Symphony Orchestra (2009, 2011); Sawsan Al Bahar (2015); Ashraf Kateb, Hamsa Juris Al Wadi (2016); Kinan Azmeh (2017); Damascus Festival Chamber Players (2017); Syrian Expat Philharmonic Orchestra (2017).

**Turkey:** Istanbul Chamber Orchestra (2006); The Ottoman Court Collection from Dolmabahce Palace (2006); Göksele Baktagır (2012)

**UAE:** Abdul Aziz Al Fadli; Abdul Aziz Al Musallam; Abdul Rahim Salem; Abdul Rauf Khalfan; Ahmed Zain; Al Ghadeer; Ali Al Saloom; Amal Al Agroobi; Amel Al Marzooqi; Amna Al Fard; Azza Al Qubaisi; Bait Al Oud; Dana Al Mazrouei; Aisha Bilkhair; Ebtsam Abdulaziz; Emirates Youth Symphony Orchestra; Faisal Al Sari; Fantasia Ballet; Farid Al Rais; Fatma Lootah; Habib Ghuloom Al Attar; Hamdan Al Abri; Hamdan Buti Al Shamisi; Ihab Darwish; Jalal Luqman; Karima Al Shomaly; Khawla Darwish; Maitha Demithan; Mattar Bin Lahej; Mohammad Al Madani; Mohamed Al Buraiki; Mohamed Al Mazrouei; Mohammed Al Astad; Mohammed Al Harmoudi; Mohammed Al Hashimi; Mohammed Kazem; Nabeel Al Mehairibi; Najat Makki; Noor Al Suwaidi; Nujoom Al Ghanem; Qais Sedki; Rawia Abdullah; Resuscitation Theatre; Saeed Salmeen Al Murry; Saoud Al Dhaheri; Shamsa Al Omaira; SAMA Quartet; Sara Al Nuami; Sara Al Qaiwani; Sougha; START; Sultan Al Amimi; Summayah Al Suwaidi; Takht Al Emarat; Yousef Al Harmoudi, Barjeel Art Foundation, among others; Zayed University, New York University Abu Dhabi, UAE University, Higher Colleges of Technology, Sharjah University, UAE Red Crescent (ADMAF Partners), Mohammed Fairouz (2017)

**Armenia:** Hasmik Leyloyan (2010); Sergey Khachatryan (2016)

**Austria:** Ambassade Orchestra Vienna (2007); Salzburg Marionettes (2010); Cori O' Lan (2018)

**Azerbaijan:** Azerbaijan Opera (2003); Azerbaijan State Symphony Orchestra (2005)

**Belgium:** José Van Dam (2009); Orchestre Royal de Chambre de Wallonie, Isabelle de Borchgrave (2011); Julien Libeer (2015); Orchestre dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia – Rome, conducted By Sir Antonia Pappano with Beatrice Rana (2018) BOZAR & Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel (ADMAF Partners)

**Bulgaria:** The Beethoven Academy Orchestra (2018); Victoria Vassilenko (2018)

**Cyprus:** Cyprien Katsaris (2003)

**Czech Republic:** Premier College Youth Symphony Orchestra (since 2010); Czech Philharmonic, Jiri Belohlávek (2013)

**Denmark:** Nikolaj Znaider (2008)

**Estonia:** Kristjan Järvi (2010); Paavo Järvi (2016)

**France:** French Art Festival, La Semaine Francophone (2008); Jean-Yves Thibaudet (2008/9); Roberto Alagna (2009); Le Capitole Opera (2010); Augustin Dumay, Sylvie Guillem, Jean-Guihen Queyras (2011); Ibrahim Maalouf (2012); Gautier Capuçon (2014); Natalie Dessay & Laurent Naouri, Thierry Escaich, Xavier Phillips, Orchestre de Paris (2016); Frank Braley, Josquin Otal, Jonathan Fournel (2018); Institut du Monde Arabe, Institut Français (ADMAF Partners)

**Germany:** Roswitha Lohmer (2003); Patrick Simper, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin (2006); Kunst Museum Bonn (2007); Jonas Kaufmann, Andreas Gursky (2009); Arabella Steinbacher (2010); SemperOper Ballet, NDR Radiophilharmonie Hanover (2012); Dresden Philharmonic, Sascha Goetzel (2014); Anne-Sophie Mutter (2015)

**Holland:** Tübingen Chamber Orchestra (2004); Bernadeta Astari (2008); Rem Koolhaas (2015)

**Hungary:** The Budapest Festival Orchestra (2015)

**Iceland:** Vladimir Ashkenazy (2014)

**Ireland:** Sir James Galway (2009); National Youth Orchestra of Ireland (2011)

**Italy:** Armonia Quartet (2005); Daniela Lojaro (2007); Amato Ionata Organic Jazz Band (2008); Andrea Bocelli (2009); Puccini Festival Opera & Orchestra (2010); Nicola Luisotti (2011); Riccardo Muti & the Luigi Cherubini Youth Orchestra (2015); Orchestre dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia – Rome, conducted By Sir Antonio Pappano with Beatrice Rana (2018)

**Lithuania:** The Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra (2008)

**Montenegro:** Miloš Karadaglić (2014)

**Norway:** Leif Ove Andsnes (2015)

**Poland:** Katarina Peers (2003); Krzysztof Jablonski, The National Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Beethoven Academy Orchestra (2018); Krzysztof Penderecki (2010); Szymon Brzóska (2012)

**Portugal:** Mariza (2017)

**Romania:** Angela Georgiu (2009); Ion Marin (2009)

**Russia:** Anastasia Khitruk (2006); State Hermitage Orchestra, Russian Youth Chamber (2007); Vladimir Jurowski, Anna Netrebko (2008); The Bolshoi Ballet & Orchestra (2008/9); Nina Kotova (2009); Maxim Beloserkovsky & Irina Dvorovenko, Dmitri Hvorostovsky, Valery Gergiev (2011); Maxim Vengerov, St Petersburg Philharmonic, Yuri Temirkanov (2012); Sergei Redkin (2018); Mariinsky Theatre (ADMAF Partner)

**Slovakia:** Eugen Prochac (2005); The Keleman Trio (2007)

**Spain:** Musica Antigua (2004); En Dos Palabra (2006); José Carreras (2007); José Maria Gallardo del Rey, Evru, Miguel Trillo, Miguel Oriola (2008); Plácido Domingo (2013); Juan Pérez Floristán (2017); Tomatito (2017); Compañía Nacional de Danza (2018); Queen Sofia College of Music, Grand Teatre del Liceu (ADMAF Partners)

**Sweden:** Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra (2007)

**Switzerland:** Luzia von Wyl (2016)

**Finland:** In Time Quintet (2007)

**UK:** British Philharmonic Orchestra (2006); London Philharmonic Orchestra (2008); Mathew Barley (2008-10); English National Ballet (2009); Live Music Now (2009/10/13); Birmingham Stage Company, London Symphony Orchestra, Wayne Marshall, Sir Colin Davies (2010); Globe Education at Shakespeare's Globe (2010-13); The World Orchestra for Peace (2011); October Gallery (2011-12); Anoushka Shankar (2012); Kev Sutherland, Dez Skin (2011); Engineering UK (2011); Scottish Opera (2012/13); Tim Rhys-Evans, Bryn Terfel (2013); Oily Cart, Trevor Kweku Blackwood (2014); Hugh Grant, Nick Lloyd Webber & James D. Reid (2016); Nicola Benedetti and The Orchestra of The Age of Enlightenment (2018), European Union Youth Orchestra, University of London SOAS, Prince's School of Traditional Arts; Manchester International Festival, Edinburgh International Festival, Royal Opera House, British Council, Shubbak Festival (ADMAF Partners), Southbank Centre (ADMAF Partner)

**Ukraine:** The National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine (2007/13)

**Australia:** Slava & Leonard Grigoryan (2005); Claudia Zorbas (2007); Sydney Opera House (2015)

**China:** Monks from the Shaolin Temple (2012); YUNDI (2013); Lang Lang (2016); China's National Centre for the Performing Arts Orchestra (2017).

**India:** Merchants of Bollywood (2018); Tausree Shankar Dance Company (2018); Ustad Amjad Ali Khan (2018)

**Japan:** Tokue Hisako (2007); Nobuyuki Tsujii (2010); Maki Namekawa (2018)

**South Korea:** Sarah Chang (2008); Ah Ruem Ahn (2015); Kyung Wha Chung (2018)

**Philippines:** Bayanihan National Folk Dance (2007)

**Indonesia:** Joey Alexander (2016)

# INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC CULTURAL PARTNERS

ADMAF's global network aims to generate long-term benefits for the UAE's creative and cultural industries



H.E. Dr. Anwar Mohammed Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and ADMAF Founder, H.E. Huda I. Alkhamis-Kanoo, at the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two Entities





Artist Christo Vladimirov Javacheff, more popularly known as Christo and famed for his environmental works of art, signed a Letter of Cooperation with ADMAF in 2018, formalising many years of collaboration through the Christo & Jeanne-Claude Award. The partnership will focus on joint educational activities that foster learning and development of the visual arts, particularly for students and young people of the UAE.



ADMAF has engaged in two co-commissions with the world's first festival of original, new work and special events, which takes place biennially in the UK. The Zaha Hadid Pavilion portable performance space was premiered in Manchester in 2009 and in Abu Dhabi in 2011. *Music Boxes* was premiered in Manchester in 2011 and in the UAE capital in 2012.

## CARNEGIE HALL

ADMAF has worked with the New York music landmark since 2010. In 2011/12, Ensemble ACJW delivered workshops and performances, reaching over 500 Emirati pupils. The Declassified ensemble followed in 2013 accompanied by Carnegie Hall Executive and Artistic Director, Sir Clive Gillinson, who delivered the Festival lecture at Zayed University. Since 2014, Carnegie Hall affiliated ensembles have run an annual, highly successful residency with a concert performance during the Abu Dhabi Festival.



Signed in the presence of the Lord Provost of Edinburgh in August 2012, ADMAF's historic partnership with one of the most exciting (and oldest) arts festivals in the world, is expected to lead to the commissioning of new works, education and vocational development opportunities for Emirati undergraduates and graduates, as well as cross-marketing collaboration.



London's festival of contemporary Arab culture joined the network in 2015 to collaborate on more co-commissions, as well as audience development and arts education in the future. July 2015 saw three co-commissions by the Abu Dhabi Festival revealed: *Burda*, *Homage to Sami Al Shawa* and *THE NOMAD*. Abu Dhabi Festival collaborated with Shubbak once again in 2017 to deliver co-commissions and events: *Tarek Yamani Trio*, *Woman at Point Zero* and *Four Arab Composers*.



The UK opera house and performing arts venue became a valued partner in 2011, which led to the commissioned revival of the 2009 production *Beloved Friend* for the 2012 Abu Dhabi Festival. The partnership is expected to continue to flourish in the form of commissions as well as education and vocational opportunities for young Emiratis.



AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE

The New York City classical ballet company with an annual season at the Metropolitan Opera House joined ADMAF in 2011 and made its debut appearance in Abu Dhabi at the 2014 Festival.



Founded in Paris in 1980 by 18 Arab countries, IMA joined forces with ADMAF at the end of 2011. The first manifestation of the partnership was the exhibition *25 Years of Arab Creativity* at the 2013 Abu Dhabi Festival.

## The Metropolitan Opera

HD LIVE

ADMAF has been a partner of the New York City opera house's network since 2010, and has screened productions at the Abu Dhabi Festival: Gounod's *Hamlet* (2011) and Wagner's *Ring Cycle* (2012).



Sharing a common goal to foster youth musicianship, the two parties signed an agreement upon the debut appearance of the EUYO at the Abu Dhabi Festival in March 2015.



MARIINSKY THEATRE

Led by Maestro Valery Gergiev, The Mariinsky Theatre is a symbol both of St Petersburg and of Russia. Since it was founded 200 years ago, the Mariinsky Theatre's glory and international fame have been grounded in three things: its Opera, Ballet and Orchestra. In 2013, Abu Dhabi Festival welcomed the Mariinsky Ballet & Orchestra in its first ever appearance in the UAE.

## SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Southbank Centre, the world's largest festival site, home to the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery, and four world-class orchestras, joined the network in 2018. Acknowledging common principles, goals and areas of common interest for joint collaboration in culture and education, the partnership's inauguration was marked by a Festival Lecture by Jude Kelly, Artistic Director of the Southbank Centre.

## QUEEN MUSIC ELISABETH CHAPEL

Since 2010, QMEC has collaborated on programming such as *An Evening with José Van Dam* (2009); *Mozart Masterpieces* with Orchestre Royal de Chambre de Wallonie, violinist *Augustin Dumay and Chapel laureates* (2011); *Julien Libeer in Recital* (2015); Abu Dhabi Festival Lecture *Music Transmission* (2015). In 2018, esteemed pianists from the QEMC, including masters Louis Lortie and Frank Braley, returned to Abu Dhabi for *The Bach Project*.



The non-profit media and journalism educational institution founded by HRH Princess Rym Ali. Since 2012, ADMAF has invigilated admission exams for UAE applicants to JMI, while professors support ADMAF's Young Media Leaders programme.



Signed in 2012, the first joint initiative launched in 2014. The Cultural Excellence Fellowship provides world-class training to emerging and established Emirati cultural managers and creative entrepreneurs. It also collaborates on the Festival's international programme such as in 2015's Shubbak Festival concert *Burda: Asil Ensemble & Karima Skalli* at the Barbican.



ADMAF signed a letter of cooperation with Daniel Barenboim Stiftung in 2017. As the first step in a long-term partnership with the Daniel Barenboim Stiftung, which includes the Barenboim-Said Akademie-ADMAF supported Palestinian cellist Faris Amin on a three-year scholarship. The Akademie's first collaboration with a country from the Arab world, the first year of the partnership also saw a series of concerts at the newly inaugurated concert hall the Pierre Boulez Saal (opened March 2017).



The collaboration began in 2013 with the music project *Debussy: Poet of the Avant-Garde* featuring Emirati soprano Sara Al Qaiwani and French pianist Hugues Leclerc.



Since 2011, the collaboration with Jazz at Lincoln Centre has initiated joint programmes in music education, such as in 2015 when Dominick Farinacci (trumpet) and Richard D. Johnson (piano) ran interactive jazz workshops. It also collaborates on the programming of the Abu Dhabi Festival.



## Gran Teatre del Liceu

ADMAF's cooperation with the Barcelona opera house was initiated in 2015 and comes to fruition via performances and co-commissions. At the Abu Dhabi Festival 2018 press conference, Artistic Director Christina Scheppelmann joined the panel to announce the co-commission *From Ashur to Seville: Naseer Shamma & The Bait Al Oud Orchestra*, which premiered in Barcelona on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2018.



## THE PRINCE'S SCHOOL OF TRADITIONAL ARTS

ADMAF and PSTA have been working together since 2009, holding annual workshops to nurture Islamic arts practice in Abu Dhabi schools and universities. In 2014, the organisations signed a partnership and continue to devise training and teaching resources for the UAE's students and teachers.



Signed in 2013, ADMAF has established scholarships for two eligible Emiratis who wish to pursue an MA in Art & Architecture of the Islamic Middle East or Music in Development. Academic staff also participate in Abu Dhabi Festival's Riwaq Al Fikr lecture series.



## Cleveland Clinic Arts and Medicine Institute

Collaborating on symposia, lectures, exhibition and in-hospital recitals since 2009, a new era began in 2015 with the opening of Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi and the subsequent launch of the Alhan Recital.



The collaboration with the annual international music festival commenced with the co-commission of *Kalila wa Dimna* by Moneim Adwan, which toured internationally throughout 2017.



The Queen Sofía School of Music, founded by Paloma O'Shea, partnered in 2015 on devising educational and performance opportunities which to date have benefited Emirati soprano, Sara Al Qaiwani, and award-winning South Korean pianist, Ah Ruem Ahn.



AMAR assists in the preservation of rare music archives from Egypt, Lebanon and Syria. Since 2014, the collaboration has led to album releases: *Early Singers from Bilad Al Sham: Syria, Lebanon, Palestine*; *Sami Al Shawa: Prince of the Violin*; *Burda*; and 'Mohamed Al Qasabgi' as well as Abu Dhabi Festival presentations of *The Asil Ensemble of Contemporary Arab Music* at the 2014 Abu Dhabi Festival and at Shubbak 2015 at London's Barbican.



In 2018, ADMAF signed a letter of cooperation with Spain's leading opera house, one of the most important cultural institutions in the country. The agreement acknowledges common principles, goals and areas of interest for joint collaboration in performing arts and cultural creativity, and will go on to explore opportunities in artistic productions, developmental activities and joint commissions across music and opera.

## BO ZAR

In 2017, Abu Dhabi Festival supported *Salaam to Syria*, with Lubana Al Quntar, soprano; Kinan Azmeh, clarinet; Jihad Jazbeh, violin; Olsi Leka, cello; members of the Belgian National Orchestra; conducted by Ghassan Alaboud. at The Centre for Fine Arts in the heart of Brussels. In future, the partnership is expected to include co-commissions, as well as cross-marketing and educational initiatives for students and graduates.



Barri Kosky's *Carmen* being performed at London's Royal Opera House, a valued ADMAF partner



ADMAF's wide range of publications provide important information on the region's cultural sector



# ADMAF PUBLICATIONS

## ADMAF PUBLICATIONS

ADMAF is a source of information, providing important commentary on the UAE and Middle Eastern cultural sectors. Available in print, many publications are also accessible online

ADMAF published a wealth of information in 2018 on Arab world cultural practice, as well as on its own activities across the UAE and beyond. Presenting artistic content, the back catalogue of ADMAF publications charts the development of the country's cultural sector, as well as the achievements and activities of the Foundation. Taking this archive to the public, ADMAF returned to the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair to present its complete catalogue.

### From Barcelona to Abu Dhabi

A limited edition bilingual publication marking ADMAF's major collaboration with the Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art (MACBA) for the landmark exhibition *From Barcelona to Abu Dhabi*. Featuring introductory essays by the exhibition's curators, MACBA Director, Ferran Barenblit and Nasser Abdullah, Chairman, Emirates Fine Art Society as well as works by the masters of 20th and 21st century contemporary art, from the UAE and across the world.

### Abu Dhabi Festival Guide

The ultimate guide to the Abu Dhabi Festival is distributed nationwide, providing bilingual information on the entire Festival programme; from ADMAF productions to independent arts initiatives taking place across the UAE and beyond.

### Abu Dhabi Festival Programmes

Commemorative programmes are exclusively available to ticket holders of Abu Dhabi Festival's headline performances and exhibitions. Each one offers a detailed insight into the history of the works presented and performed, as well as biographies of the participating artists and companies.

### Abu Dhabi Festival in Review

Each year, this bilingual, limited edition publication looks back at the latest edition of the Gulf's largest cultural event. Featuring memorable moments from a multitude of performances, concerts, exhibitions, education and community initiatives, it demonstrates the impact and value of ADMAF's flagship initiative.

### ADMAF Yearbook - Annual Report

ADMAF's Yearbooks review the activities of one of the largest not-for-profit arts organisations in the Arab world. Packed with fascinating facts and figures, these visually dynamic, bilingual annual reports clarify the breadth and depth of ADMAF's work throughout the UAE and internationally.





Abu Dhabi Festival press conference at Emirates Palace

# ADMAF MARKETING

## ADMAF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

The ADMAF marketing machine plays an important role in developing audiences for the arts and highlighting the significance of the Foundation's work

Between January and December 2018, ADMAF activities attracted extensive press attention. Press releases generated 1,442 pieces of coverage about the Foundation and its initiatives across print, online, television and radio. Two opinion-editorials were published in Al Ittihad and The National in addition to prime coverage in international titles International Piano, Art & Deal, La Vanguardia, Platea, RaiNews 24, Opera Actual, EFE Press Agency, ABC, Classical Music, and Il Messaggero.

### Going Global

In February 2018, the world premiere of Barrie Kosky's *Carmen* at The Royal Opera House London highlighted the cross-cultural collaborations of Abu Dhabi Festival with its network of international strategic partners. Promotion of the world tour of Tarek Yamani's *Peninsular*, an Abu Dhabi Festival commission, took the Foundation's work global.

### Abu Dhabi Festival

During the Abu Dhabi Festival 2018, efforts by the Marketing and Communications team resulted in over-capacity and sold out audiences, with 94% attendance to main programme performances. Seventeen regional and international journalists were invited to cover the Festival, taking the total annual number of journalists covering Abu Dhabi Festival's work to 244 media attendees. A total of 151 interviews were conducted with the media during the year.

### Beyond Promotion – Communications in Youth Platforms

The Marketing team also played an integral role in activating the Foundation's Youth Platforms, supporting in the organisation of the YML Forums – a major media initiative at the nation's universities, as well as engaging the cultural and media leaders of tomorrow in the Artists' Studio.

### Social Media and Digital Channels

Social media continues to be a key aspect of the Foundation's digital strategy providing a number of engagement platforms. From January to December 2018, ADMAF's total reach on social media was 1,372,900 and Abu Dhabi Festival's total reach was 10,383,000. Festival email campaigns reached 106,240 people, ADMAF videos were viewed 185,000 times and Abu Dhabi Festival videos were viewed 690,000 times. The ADMAF website was viewed 105,000 times, with the Abu Dhabi Festival website achieving 247,086 page views.

As a result of the efforts of ADMAF's Marketing and Communication team, the Foundation's Advertising Value Equivalent (AVE) stood at \$5,184,591 between January and December 2018, with an overall reach of more than 700 million.



Advertising Value Equivalent (AVE):

**AED 19 Million**

Overall reach:

**+700 million**



Total Social Media impressions:

**11,835,900**

Total video views:

**875,000**



**247,086**

AbuDhabiFestival.ae page views

**105,000**

ADMAF.org page views





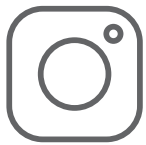
**7,200,000**

Abu Dhabi Festival impressions

**1,253,000**

ADMAF impressions

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**3,000,000**

Abu Dhabi Festival impressions

**88,200**

ADMAF impressions

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**183,000**

Abu Dhabi Festival impressions

**111,700**

ADMAF impressions

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**106,240**

People received marketing emails

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Source: ADMAF

## STRATEGIC PARTNERS



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
& INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE &  
KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT



## CORPORATE PARTNERS

### LEAD PARTNER



MUBADALA

## EDUCATION & COMMUNITY PARTNERS



## MEDIA PARTNERS

## OFFICIAL VENUE

## FESTIVAL AWARD



## SUPPORTERS



Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF) celebrates our corporate partners. Sponsorship from the Abu Dhabi Festival 2018 directly supports our Youth Platforms & Community Programmes. We depend greatly on your support to ensure the youth of today become the future leaders of a prosperous UAE tomorrow!

# ADMAF PARTNERS

## CORPORATE PARTNERS

An association with creative excellence and national identity offers an effective way to address a corporate social responsibility agenda and stand out in a competitive marketplace

ADMAF has partnered with many businesses since its establishment in 1996. In 2018 it enjoyed collaborations with several companies operating in the UAE, from year-round educational programmes and award support, to major partnerships that make the Abu Dhabi Festival possible, reaching across the seven Emirates and the world.

Mubadala remained ADMAF's largest corporate partner, supporting a range of activities for all ages and levels of creative ability. From initiatives to recognise and support emerging creative talent such as Mona Al Ali, a former winner of the Design Commission, who went on a trip to Europe where she worked with leaders in the industry to develop her career, to engaging educational activities for children like the explosive Ministry of Science – this year presented in Arabic for the first time – World Autism Day activities, and Back to School, which saw the luminaries of the international music world work with and inspire the school students of Abu Dhabi.

Dolphin Energy returned as Education & Community partner, supporting a range of activities across the

seven Emirates. They were joined by Total, who focused on professional development of young Emiratis. A pillar of the Festival's 'Youth Platforms', Total supported the delivery of the landmark Young Media Leaders' Forum, celebrating a decade of the pioneering project at Universities across the seven Emirates and The Design Commission – launched in 2013, the award recognises outstanding innovation and achievement in the field of design. EGA supported the return of the UAE Theatre Circle, with workshops and performance opportunities bringing together the emerging theatre-makers of tomorrow with the masters shaping Arab and Emirati stagecraft. This year, Dr Habib Ghuloom Al Attar, Abeer Wakil and Mahmoud Abu Al Abbas led an intensive three-week theatre training course inspired by the late comedic legend Abdulhussain Abdulrehda. Finally, Waha Capital supported Music in Hospitals, bringing performances to the nation's hospitals.

Together with Chopard, the Abu Dhabi Festival Award partner, these visionary businesses are ensuring that ADMAF's impact on society continues to flourish.

A wide-angle photograph of a grand concert hall. In the center, a large orchestra is performing on a stage, illuminated by blue and purple lights. The stage is framed by a large, ornate, arched structure with a central emblem featuring an eagle. The audience, seen from behind, fills the foreground and middle ground, seated in rows. The overall atmosphere is formal and celebratory.

# ABU DHABI FESTIVAL 2018

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YEAR OF ZAYED



# ABU DHABI FESTIVAL 2018

Under the patronage of  
H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Tolerance

## YEAR OF ZAYED

عام  
زايد



YEAR OF  
ZAYED

We embarked on the 15th Abu Dhabi Festival with a fortuitous and inspiring theme: the 'Year of Zayed', paying tribute with the whole nation to one man, whose vision has allowed us to arrive where we are today.

Much of what we take for granted was far from apparent many years ago, when we first began, and when our wise Founding Father first set in motion his vision for the nation.

As we look at the extraordinary cultural institutions that Abu Dhabi and the United Arab Emirates are home to, tracing the history of the arts both local and universal, bringing different visions of the world to an ever-growing audience, Abu Dhabi Festival continues to play its part in this journey of discovery, education, enjoyment

and sharing. As we do so, we must take pause and appreciate what Sheikh Zayed granted us – recognising that

these magnificent institutions of culture were made possible by the Founder of this nation, at a time when it took vision, determination and audacity to choose unity over division, to strive for diversity over the reassuring comfort of a closed society.

Celebrating the Year of Zayed honoured a great man of the past while also appealing to the future.

***Much of what we take  
for granted was far  
from apparent many  
years ago when our  
wise Founding Father  
first set in motion his  
vision for the nation***

Looking to the suffering of the Arab World, considering the threats we face in the very heart of our shared heritage and faith, we realise that Sheikh Zayed's message to the world has become more urgent than ever. It is a message of hope and a challenge for all. We must have confidence in the tolerance and diversity that shapes this nation; we must believe in this spirit of tolerance in the face of prejudice and violence – choosing understanding and hope over fear and rejection of the 'other'. To do so, we must continue to weave the elegant and intricate balance between tradition and modernity pioneered by Sheikh Zayed in the founding of our nation – and culture remains our most effective route.

The 'Year of Zayed' was celebrated throughout the 2018 Festival programme, just as it informed our existence. We paid homage as we reaffirmed our commitment to contribute to the work of Sheikh Zayed in our own humble way.

And as he did, we choose to believe: to believe in the future, to believe in education, to believe in ourselves, and to believe and thrive in culture.

**H.E. Huda I. Alkhamis-Kanoo**  
Founder and Artistic Director, Abu Dhabi Festival

# ABU DHABI FESTIVAL 2018

Social & economic impact study on  
the emirate of Abu Dhabi undertaken  
by Nielsen\*

7

إمارات  
Emirates

59

يوماً  
Days

حجم التأثير على حركة الاقتصاد في أبوظبي  
Affected the Movement of within  
Abu Dhabi's Economy

60\*

مليون درهم  
Million Dirham

39

مكان عرض  
Venues

3,200\*

عدد الحضور تحت 23 عاماً  
للفعاليات التعليمية والمجتمعية  
Education and community events  
Attendees under the age of 23

29,300\*

جمهور المهرجان في أبوظبي  
Festival audience in Abu Dhabi

3,831

مجموع الحضور والمشاركين من الشباب الإماراتي  
في البرامج المجتمعية والتعليمية  
Attendance and Participation of Emirati youth

8,708

مجموع حضور الفعاليات التعليمية والمجتمعية  
Total attendance of the education and  
community initiatives



156\*

فعالية  
بين 1 فبراير - 31 مارس  
Events  
between february 1<sup>st</sup> -march 31<sup>st</sup>






8

مبادرات بإشراف إماراتي  
Emirati-led initiatives

55

مدرسة ومركز وجامعة مشاركة  
Participating schools,  
centres & universities

## Abu Dhabi Festival Audience

2010		24,000	2014		29,100
2011		26,000	2015		28,613
2012		30,000	2016		35,972
2013		29,000	2017		21,545
			2018		62,848



22  
جنسية مشاركة  
Nationalities represented



10m  
مليون مشاهدة عبر مواقع  
التواصل الاجتماعي  
Social media reach



94%

نسبة الحضور في عروض  
مسرح قصر الإمارات  
Capacity of mainstage  
performances

33,548

الجمهور المشارك في الفعاليات الدولية والتي دعمها مهرجان أبوظبي  
Audience attendance of international initiatives supported by Abu Dhabi Festival



10

أعمال تكليف حصري  
Commissions

244

إعلامي مشارك  
Journalists

151

مقابلة  
Interviews



حضور من  
Attended by

86\*

جنسية مختلفة  
Different Nationalities



15

عروض على خشبة  
مسرح قصر الإمارات  
Main stage performances

# 2018 COUNTRY OF HONOUR: REPUBLIC OF INDIA

The Abu Dhabi Festival Country of Honour highlights the enduring bonds of friendship and cultural cooperation

Each year, the country of honour marks the Festival's contribution to bilateral cultural relations. Previous designates have been Saudi Arabia (2017), France (2016), Italy (2015), United States of America (2014), Spain (2013), UK (2012), Belgium (2011), Poland (2010), France (2009), Lebanon (2008, 2006), and Egypt (2007).

The 2018 Abu Dhabi Festival recognised the deep cultural wealth of India, reflecting on the historical ties between the UAE and the subcontinent – ties expressed through a long tradition of cultural exchange. The Festival welcomed artists from India across visual arts, film, theatre, music and dance, allowing audiences to explore the depth and diversity of contemporary Indian culture.

His Excellency Ambassador Navdeep Singh Suri said: "In the troubled times in which we live, cultural diplomacy is more important than ever.

What we see in societies around the world is a feeling of mistrust, of suspicion, of paranoia. That paranoia manifests as violence and hate, impacting policies in various countries. The only antidote to that trend of paranoia and hate is to create better understanding amongst different cultures. When you see the one you don't know, the other, with suspicion, it's because you don't know that person. When you understand that person, you understand that they are not very different from you."

## ABU DHABI FESTIVAL AWARDS

In recognition of their outstanding contributions to arts and culture, in 2018 Abu Dhabi Festival recognised Krzysztof Penderecki, Philip Glass, Sir Antonio Pappano and Abdulhussein Abdulrehda

In association with

*Chopard*

Presented with Chopard, the Abu Dhabi Festival Award is given annually to individuals for outstanding lifetime contributions to arts and culture. It 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 Gholmieh (1938–2011), and was received by H.E. Fouad Siniora, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Lebanon and Dr Gholmieh'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).

In 2016, awards were given to dancer and conservationist Sylvie Guillem, the Oscar-winning composer Gabriel Yared and renowned author Amin Maalouf.

In 2017 awards were given to The Silk Road Ensemble and Yo-Yo Ma, Moahmed Abdo, Wynton Marsalis and Dr. Ghassan Salamé.

In 2018, the Abu Dhabi Festival Award recognised the following pre-eminent cultural leaders for lifetime contributions to their respective fields:

Krzysztof Penderecki in celebration of his prolific career as a composer and conductor, recognising the cultural significance of his works for which he has won international awards, including five Grammys, and has been hailed as Poland's greatest living composer.

Philip Glass for his iconic contributions to 20th and 21st-century music, recognising his influence in redefining the parameters and reception of contemporary classical music.

Sir Antonio Pappano for his services to music including as Music Director of the Royal Opera House, London, and Principal Conductor of Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia.

Abdulhussein Abdulrehda, the late comic legend from Kuwait, for his iconic and beloved work, his artistic achievements and the impact he left on Khaleeji theatre and television.



# ABU DHABI FESTIVAL COMMISSIONS

Since its early days, ADMAF has been investing in the creation of new work by established and emerging creatives of multiple disciplines. In 2018, activity in this area was seen across the main programme and Youth Platforms, demonstrating the Foundation's commitment to new works by practitioners at every stage of their careers

## Visual Art Commissions

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. Presenting works by Emiratis alongside the collection of the Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art (MACBA), ADMAF commissioned two new pieces by leading female practitioners. Layla Juma's towering sculptural work *Settlement* embodies the ever-growing and accelerating development of the UAE's urban landscapes, both abstracting and resembling the world in which we live. Shaikha Al Mazrou is one of the most important young artists working in the UAE today, her work *Balance I* extends the artists investigations into minimalism and conceptual art. Based on simple gestures, the work calls attention to the physical representation of tension, weight and physical space.

## Abu Dhabi Festival Composers' Platform

Each year, the Festival supports practitioners of Arab origin to create new works, publications and recordings through the Abu Dhabi Festival Composers' Platform. The work of gifted musicians and composers – past, present and future – are released in order to build new audiences for Arab music. Two major projects were realised through The Composers' Platform in 2018; one with its world premiere in Abu Dhabi as part of the Festival's headline programme. *Waves of My Life: Every Real Story Begins with a Note* by Emirati composer Ihab Darwish brings together classical and contemporary influences, with soaring music of bold cinematic vibrancy. The debut album of this talented Emirati features original scores. The pieces saw works of their world premiere during Abu Dhabi Festival 2018, performed by Beethoven Academy Orchestra conducted by Stoyan Stoyanov. The acclaimed Syrian composer Dia Succari opened new avenues in Arabic music. *Dia Succari: Composer from my Aleppo* by academic, teacher and prolific musician Ashraf Kateb, bridges boundaries between East and West. Originally released in 2010, the year of Succari's death, only 1,000 copies of the recording survived after all others were destroyed in Aleppo.

## International Co-Commissions

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

In collaboration with international strategic partner Royal Opera House London, Abu Dhabi Festival supported a major new production of Bizet's much-loved opera *Carmen*, directed by Barrie Kosky and conducted by Jakub Hrůša. A story of jealousy, love and tragedy as Don José forsakes Micaëla for the fiercely independent Carmen. Sacrificing everything to be with her, Don José will make the ultimate transgression to prevent her from leaving him. The production ran for 12 performances at Royal Opera House London in early 2018. During the 2018 press conference, a significant co-commission with another of ADMAF's international strategic partners was announced. In November 2018, the world premiere of *From Ashur to Seville: Naseer Shamma & The Beit Al Oud Orchestra* took place at the Gran Teatre del Liceu. An exploration of cross-cultural dialogue through the shared roots of the oud and the guitar, the concert premiered seven new compositions by the Iraqi Oud master and United Nations Artist for Peace, as well as three existing works. The concert was the continuation of a concept premiered at Abu Dhabi Festival (UAE) in 2005, followed by Baalbeck International Festival (Lebanon) in 2010.

Tarek Yamani's *Peninsular: Portraits in Khaleeji Rhythms and Jazz*, commissioned by Abu Dhabi Festival in 2017, continued its world tour with dates in Cairo, Paris and New York, USA.

## Youth Platforms

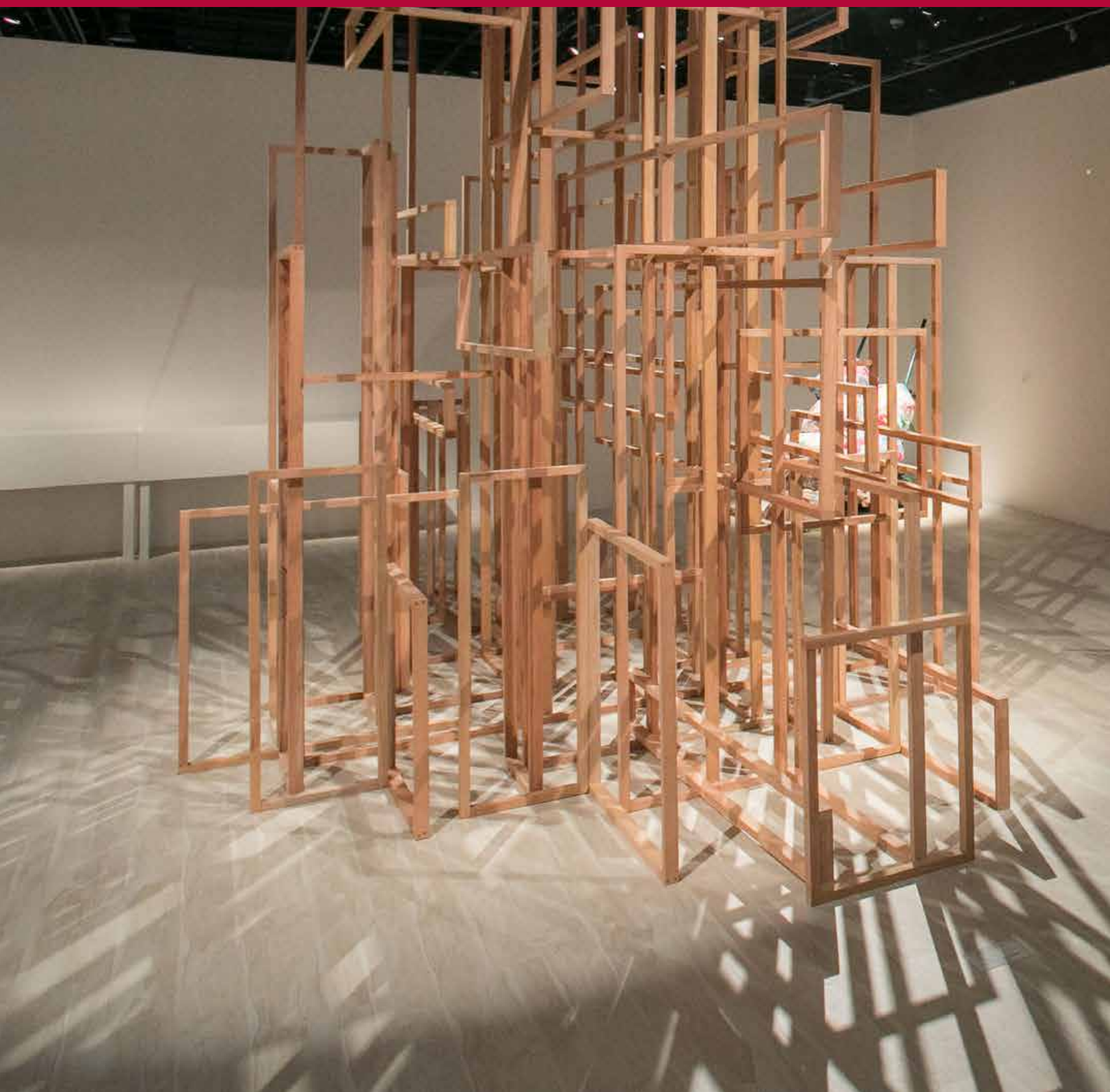
Commissions extended across Youth Platforms this year, supporting innovation across all levels of creative excellence. These included 'The Best of Ministry of Science: Live in Arabic' as well as a cross-cultural collaboration between Emirati master calligrapher Mohammed Mandi with Rajeev Kumar from India for Riwaq Al Khatt Al Arabi.

**ABU DHABI FESTIVAL**

**FROM BARCELONA TO ABU DHABI**  
**WORKS FROM THE BARCELONA MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY**  
**ART (MACBA) IN DIALOGUE WITH THE EMIRATES**

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Manarat Al Saadiyat, Saadiyat Island  
Arab World Premiere



مهرجان أبوظبي

# من برشلونة إلى أبوظبي

أعمال فنية من متحف برشلونة للفن المعاصر  
في حوار مع الفن الإماراتي

منارة السعديات

العرض الأول في العالم العربي





**ABU DHABI FESTIVAL**

# **NICOLA BENEDETTI AND THE ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT**

---

Emirates Palace Auditorium  
Arab World Debut





مهرجان أبوظبي

# نيكولا بينيديتي برفقة أوركسترا عصر التنوير

مسرح قصر الإمارات  
العرض الأول في العالم العربي





**ABU DHABI FESTIVAL**

# **MERCHANTS OF BOLLYWOOD**

---

Emirates Palace Auditorium  
Abu Dhabi Festival Debut





مهرجان أبوظبي

# ميرشانتس أوف بوليوود

مسرح قصر الإمارات  
العرض الأول في أبوظبي





**ABU DHABI FESTIVAL**

**ORCHESTRA DELL'ACCADEMIA  
NAZIONALE DI SANTA CECILIA – ROME**

**CONDUCTED BY SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO WITH BEATRICE RANA  
(PIANO) AND KYUNG WHA CHUNG (VIOLIN)**

---

Emirates Palace Auditorium  
Arabian Gulf Debut





مهرجان أبوظبي

# أوركسترا أكاديمية سانتا تشيتشيليا الوطنية . روما

بقيادة السير أنطونيو بابانو مع عازفة البيانو بياتريتشي رانا  
وعازفة الكمان كيونغ وا تشانغ

مسرح قصر الإمارات  
العرض الأول في الخليج العربي



**ABU DHABI FESTIVAL**

# **WAVES OF MY LIFE: EVERY REAL STORY BEGINS WITH A NOTE**

**COMPOSED BY IHAB DARWISH WITH THE BEETHOVEN ACADEMY  
ORCHESTRA, CONDUCTED BY STOYAN STOYANOV**

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Emirates Palace Auditorium  
World Premiere





مهرجان أبوظبي

# أمواج حياتي: كل قصة حقيقية تبدأ بنوثة

للمؤلف الإماراتي إيهاب درويش مع أوركسترا أكاديمية بيتهوفن  
بقيادة ستويان ستويانوف

مسرح قصر الإمارات  
العرض العالمي



**ABU DHABI FESTIVAL**

# **OPERA IN CONCERT: DEBORAH VOIGT AND BECHARA MOUFARREJ**

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Emirates Palace Auditorium  
Arab World Debut





مهرجان أبوظبي

# أمسية الأوبرا: ديورا فويت وبشارة مفرّج

مسرح قصر الإمارات  
العرض الأول في العالم العربي



**ABU DHABI FESTIVAL**

# **SINGING THE LEGENDS: A NIGHT OF JAZZ WITH OMAR KAMAL**

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Emirates Palace Auditorium  
UAE Debut



مهرجان أبوظبي

# عودة الأساطير: أمسية الجاز مع عمر كمال

مسرح قصر الإمارات  
العرض الأول في الإمارات العربية المتحدة





**ABU DHABI FESTIVAL**

# **WE THE LIVING**

**TANUSREE SHANKAR DANCE ACADEMY**

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Emirates Palace Auditorium  
UAE Debut



مهرجان أبوظبي

# نحن الأحياء

أكاديمية تان سري شنكر للرقص

مسرح قصر الإمارات  
العرض الأول في الإمارات العربية المتحدة





**ABU DHABI FESTIVAL**

# **PINK MARTINI – LIVE IN ABU DHABI**

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Emirates Palace Auditorium  
UAE Debut





# مهرجان أبوظبي بينك مارتيني

مسرح قصر الإمارات  
العرض الأول في الإمارات العربية المتحدة



**ABU DHABI FESTIVAL**

# **PIANOGRAPHIQUE**

**WORKS FOR TWO PIANOS BY STEVE REICH, MAURICE RAVEL AND  
PHILIP GLASS PERFORMED BY DENNIS RUSSELL DAVIES AND  
MAKI NAMEKAWA WITH LIVE VISUALISATION BY CORI O'LAN**

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Emirates Palace Auditorium  
Arab World Debut





مهرجان أبوظبي

## بيانوغرافيك

أعمال على آلتى البيانو لستيف راىخ، موريس رافيل وفيليب غلاس، أداء دينيس راسل ديفيز وماكي ناميكافا مع عروض بصرية حية لكوري أولان

مسرح قصر الإمارات  
العرض الأول في العالم العربي





**ABU DHABI FESTIVAL**

# **THE SAROD MASTER: AMJAD ALI KHAN**

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Emirates Palace Auditorium  
Abu Dhabi Festival Debut



مهرجان أبوظبي

# سيد السارود: أمجد علي خان

مسرح قصر الإمارات  
العرض الأول في أبوظبي



**ABU DHABI FESTIVAL**

# **FESTIVAL RECITAL SERIES: THE BACH PROJECT**

**THE COMPLETE CONCERTOS FOR TWO, THREE AND FOUR PIANOS  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH QUEEN ELISABETH MUSIC CHAPEL  
AND THE ARTS CENTER AT NYUAD**

---

Red Theater at the Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi  
Arab World Debut





مهرجان أبوظبي

# أمسيات مهرجان أبوظبي للعزف المنفرد: مشروع باخ

أعمال الكونشيرتو الكاملة لباخ لاثنتين وثلاث وأربع آلات بيانو  
بالشراكة مع كلية الملكة إليزابيث للموسيقى ومركز الفنون بجامعة  
نيويورك أبوظبي مع عروض بصرية حية

المسرح الأحمر في مركز الفنون بجامعة نيويورك أبوظبي  
العرض الأول في أبوظبي





**ABU DHABI FESTIVAL**

# **DON QUIXOTE**

**COMPAÑÍA NACIONAL DE DANZA**

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Emirates Palace Auditorium  
Arab World Debut





مهرجان أبوظبي

# دون كيشوت: الفرقة الوطنية الإسبانية للرقص

مسرح قصر الإمارات  
العرض الأول في العالم العربي

