

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**ABU DHABI MUSIC & ARTS FOUNDATION**

**Empowering the Nation**

January - December 2021



**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)



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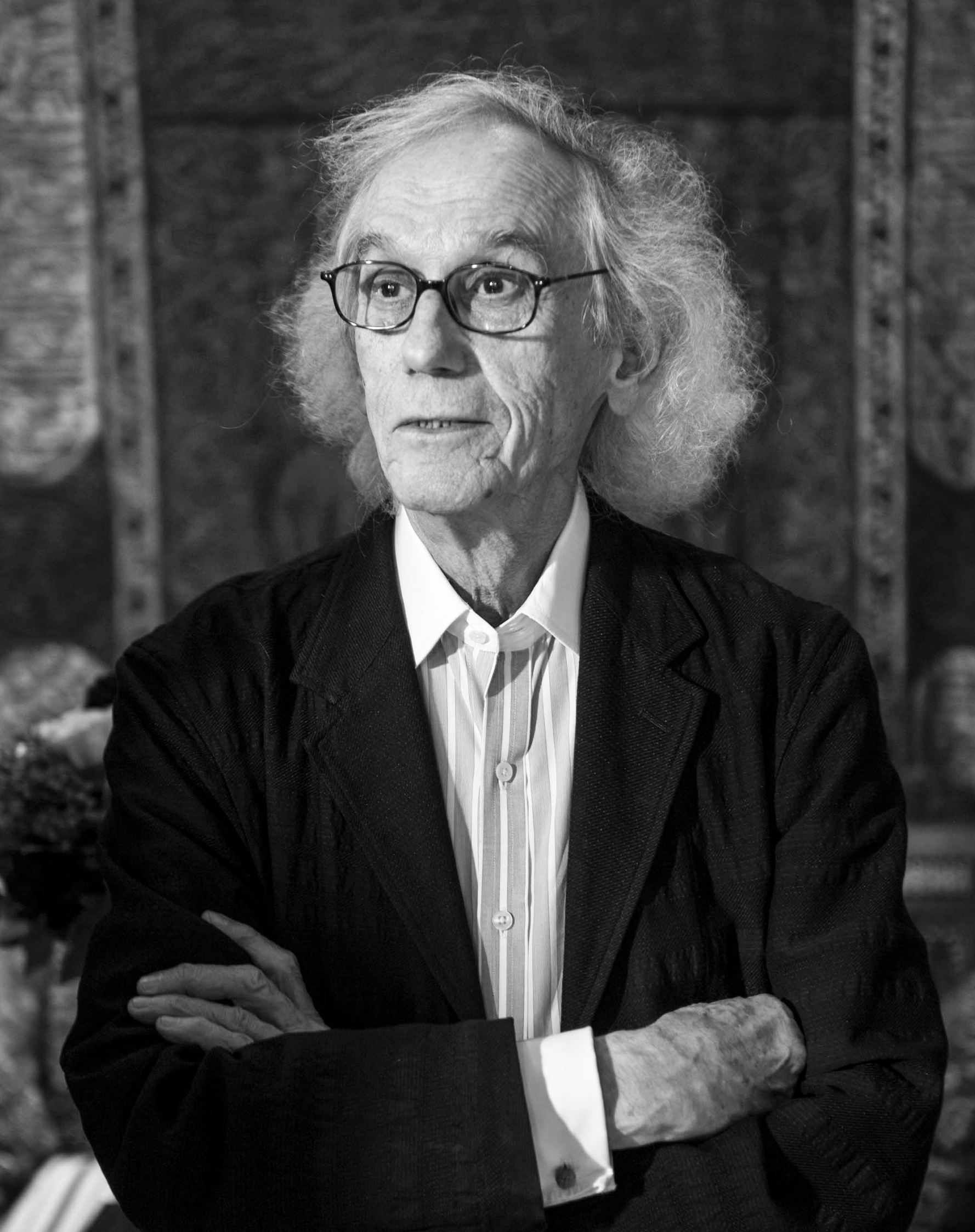
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**Legal Counsel**

Al Adala Legal Consultants



## CHRISTO: IN MEMORIAM

1935–2020

Last year, we lost a legendary artist and a dear friend. Christo was a creative genius, a generous spirit and an inspiring teacher, who along with his late wife Jeanne-Claude, redefined public art and showed us its true value. Together, with boundless tenacity, they accomplished the impossible—determined to share their creative vision with the world.

During his long-standing relationship with the UAE and ADMAF, Christo dedicated his time to supporting young people and encouraging their creative development. His mentorship often inspired the emerging artistic careers of our nation's youth. We established The Christo and Jeanne-Claude Award nearly a decade ago to reflect the world-renowned artist's commitment to supporting the next generation of artists and creative practitioners in the country and to encourage them to push the boundaries of their imaginations. Even after his passing, the award will continue to nurture young artists for generations to come.

At an award ceremony in Paris held late this year, against the backdrop of his final work, 'L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped', we honoured the acclaimed conceptual artist with the Abu Dhabi Festival Award, recognising a lifetime of extraordinary contributions he made to arts and culture and the incredible legacy he leaves behind.

Christo will forever be remembered, respected and loved for his remarkable work and generous mentorship, and we remain determined to work tirelessly to continue his vision of bringing beauty and joy to the world through art.



A woman with her hair styled in an updo, wearing a black lace dress, a pearl necklace, and large earrings, is seated on a plush red armchair with gold piping. She is looking down and to her right. The background is dark, and the floor is light-colored wood.

# The Future Starts Now

The year 2021 marked the UAE's Golden Jubilee, and our own Silver Jubilee. ADMAF began with a dream 25 years ago and was supported by the forward-thinking and wise leadership of the UAE which has always recognised the value of art and culture, deeming it essential for the development of the nation. With their encouragement, we have inspired established and emerging artists alike to bring new creations into being, to exchange ideas and experiences, and to cultivate resilience in the face of difficulties like the Covid-19 pandemic which placed the world in lockdown and made the future increasingly uncertain.

The 18th edition of Abu Dhabi Festival comes at a time of exceptional circumstances. The pandemic has changed our lives, and now more than ever, communities must come together to cultivate hope, spark creativity and nurture innovation through culture and the arts. Under the theme 'The Future Starts Now', this edition reaffirms the vital role the arts play in bringing humanity together in challenging times.

The past year has shown us the important role virtual events play in helping humanity cope with uncertainty. ADMAF's work is based on the value of art as an essential part of our human existence. The pandemic has only reinforced this, as digital art and cultural events became essential to helping us through lockdowns and isolation. Yet, we still long to gather under one roof to share experiences together, which is why we created a hybrid programme of innovative digital broadcasts and in-person events for Abu Dhabi Festival 2021.

In 2021, we looked towards the future as we continue to rise in the face of the challenges imposed by the pandemic by advancing our commitment to producing and commissioning new works, like Emirati composer Ihab Darwish's 'Hekayat: Symphonic Tales.' Performed by the acclaimed Beethoven Academy Orchestra, the first-of-its-kind performance virtually brought together 128 musicians from 20 countries like star tenor José Cura, international soloist and recording artist Sara Andon, renowned flamenco guitarist Carlos Piñana and many others at the Emirates Palace Auditorium. The innovative performance took 675 Zoom calls to create and was filmed separately in 21 cities around the world, demonstrating the will of music and the arts to prevail in spite of the pandemic's impact.

As we march forward into the future, we remain determined to keep the art and culture conversation alive. In the face of great strife, art serves as a beacon of hope, cultivating resilience and solidarity and inspiring us to invent and innovate for a better tomorrow. In the spirit of our nation's progress and commitment to a better future, we vow to continue supporting the arts and nurturing creativity, which will undoubtedly culminate in a brighter future for us all.

I would like to thank our patrons, our generous sponsors, advisors, partners, the entire ADMAF team, and all who have contributed to the success of Abu Dhabi Festival 2021.

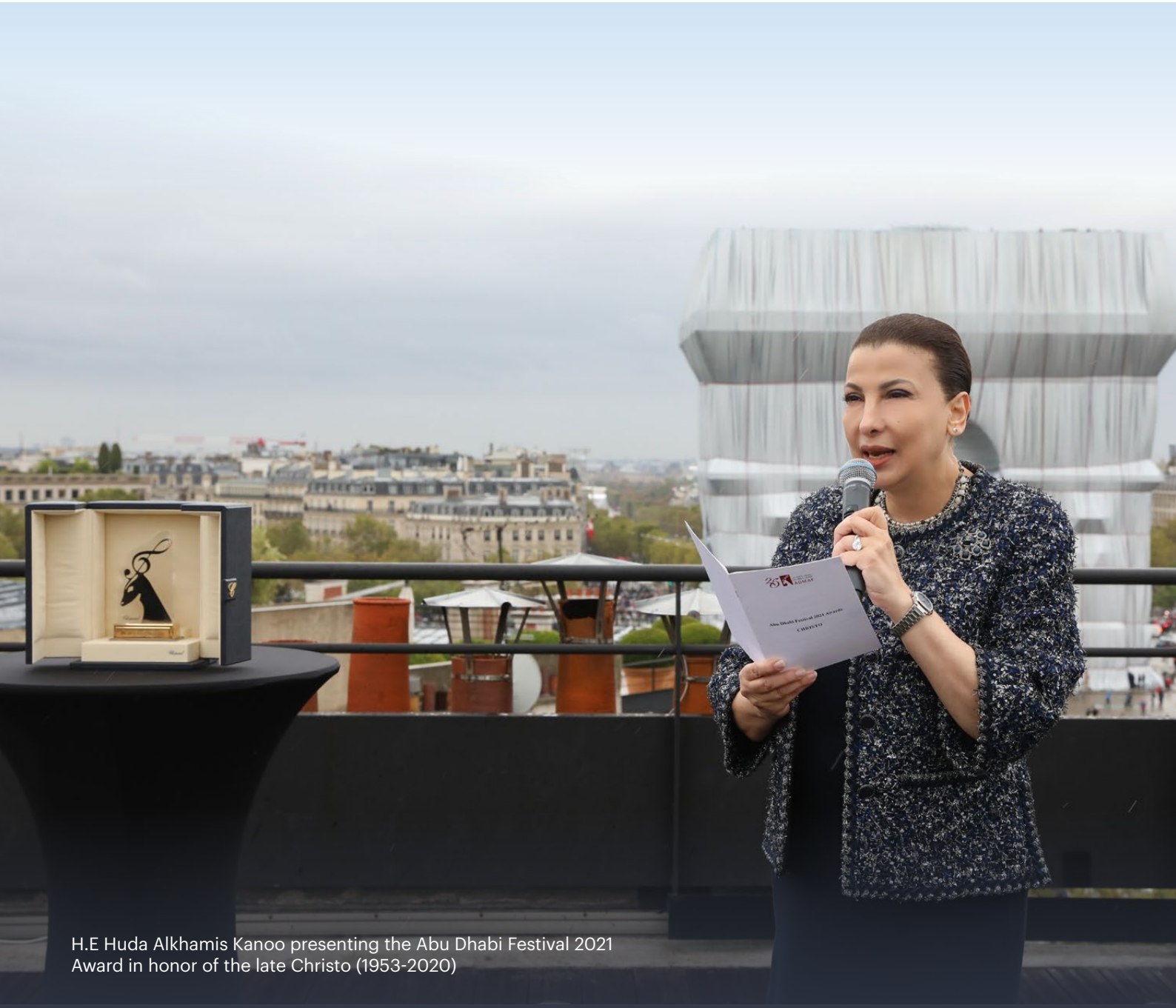


# Contents

MISSION & VISION	09
STRATEGIC PILLARS	10
PARTNERS	14
ACHIEVEMENTS	19
2021 ABU DHABI FESTIVAL	22
COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION	69
AWARDS	85
GRANTS	90
ABU DHABI FESTIVAL 2022	92
MARKETING	94
THE FUTURE STARTS NOW	96







H.E Huda Alkhamis Kanoo presenting the Abu Dhabi Festival 2021 Award in honor of the late Christo (1953-2020)

# Vision

ADMAF advocates for a global flourishing of culture and the arts in a progressive country, where the greatest works of our time become part of the history that builds our civilisation.

# Mission

Our mission is a calling to lead on creativity from the UAE and its capital, Abu Dhabi. It is a commitment to create, innovate, produce, preserve and present inspiring works of music and art. It is a promise to the youth of the nation to invest in and empower them to realize their dreams. And it is a conviction to give voice to our global presence through international partnerships that bring beauty to the world.



# Strategic Pillars

## 1. Advancing Abu Dhabi as a Global Beacon of Arts and Culture

Through its flagship, the annual Abu Dhabi Festival, ADMAF creates rich cultural experiences at home and abroad, furthering Abu Dhabi as a leading cultural capital and positioning it as a cultural and artistic destination. This festival of firsts presents the world's greatest artists and performers to the UAE. Additionally, by partnering with prominent cultural organisations abroad, the festival expands Abu Dhabi's contributions on the global stage, strengthening the city's and the nation's presence in the international creative conversation.

### Objectives

- Investing in creative potential in all art forms and advocating for cultural diplomacy
- Contributing to and taking part in the visual and performing arts at a global level
- Supporting the growth of the visual arts in the UAE and expanding our presence abroad

## 2. An Incubator for Arts and Creativity

As a gateway to knowledge, ADMAF invests in the youth of the nation, empowering them to realize their dreams and ambitions. In partnership with academic institutions, and through programmes that develop creative skills and free creative thinking, ADMAF drives innovation, supports artistic growth and rewards excellence to foster the development of the UAE's culture and creative industries.

### Objectives

- Providing a gateway to knowledge
- Developing creative leadership
- Rewarding excellence

## 3. An Active Force for Social Unity and Creative Communities

Engaging people of every background and ability in shared experiences to foster cultural expression, forge unity and support the vitality of our society.

### Objectives

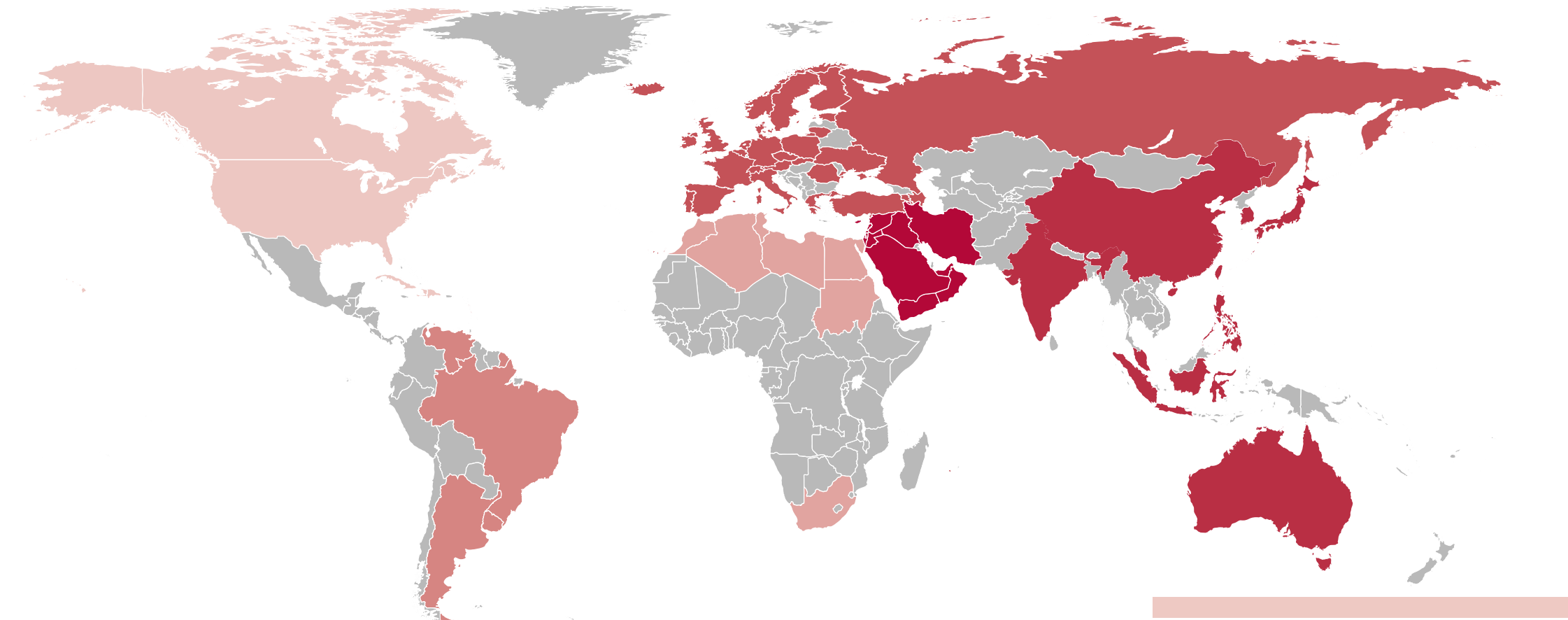
- Creating partnerships for social good and supporting health and wellness through the arts
- Providing platforms for cultural expression





# ADMAF World

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



## ADMAF World

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

**Iraq:** Sa'di Al-Hadithi (2003); Naseer Shamma (2004/5/7/8/10/12/17/18/21); Mohamed Ghani Hikmat (2007); Dia Al Azzawi (2009); Zaha Hadid (2011); Hassan Massoudy, Anwar Abudragh & Maqamat (2012); Nedim Kufi & Talal Refit, Saidk Kwaish, Mahmud Obaidi (2013); Layla Al Attar, Suad Al Attar, Rafa Al Nasiri, Shakir Hassan Al Said, Khudhair Shakirji, Khadhim Haydar, Ismail Fattah, Sadik Al Fraji; Sama Al Shaib (2015); Randa Abdul Jabbar (2016); Randa Abdul Jabbar (2016); Sadiq Jafar, Mohammed Al-Attar, Omar Mohammed Fadhil, Ahmad Shamma, Fawzi Monshed, Sami Naseem (2021)

**Iran:** Pari Saberi (2007); Parviz Tanavoli (2010), Sami Yusuf (2020)

**Jordan:** Mona Saudi (2008); Karim Said (2009); Macadi Nahhas (2011); Bassem Al Selawi, Maysoon Masalha (2014); Jordan Media Institute (ADMAF Partner); Alaa Shaheen (2021)

**Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:** Faisal Al Samra (2007, 2015); Shadia Alem (2007,2015); Jawhara Al Saud, Sami Al Turki (2013); Manal Al Dawayan, Ayman Yossri Daydban,Reem Al Faisal, Abdunasser Ghareem, Ahmed Mater (2013,2015); Mohamed Abdo (2017), Reem Al Tamimi (Tamtam), Marwan Fagi, Rami Basahih, Mohammed Khayran Al-Zahrani, Zain Al-Murhabai (2021)

**Kuwait:** Tarek Al Ghousesein (2007,2013,2015,2017); Basma Alsharif, Tamara Al Samerraei (2013); Munira Al Kazi, Jaffar Islah (2013,2014); Sami Mohammed, Khazaal Awad Qaffas (2014); Zahed Sultan (2018); Hashim Al-Qallaf, Dr. Fahad Al Bathali, Ya'acoub Jassim (2021)

**Lebanon:** Dr. Walid Gholmieh; Lebanese National Oriental Orchestra (2006); Elias Rahbani, Charbel Rouhana, Tarek Atrissi (2007); Marcel Khalife (2007/8); Zeina Basbous, Zakira Project, Roger Moukarzel, Nabil Al Helou (2008); Dr. Hiba Al Kawas (2008, 2020 and 2021); Magida El Roumi (2009); Abdel Rahman El Bacha, Bassam Lahoud, Compagnie Pauline Haddad, Soumaya Baalbeki; Hiba Tawaji, Wadih Abi Raad (2011); Oussama Rahbani (2011/13); Fadel Shaker, Babel Theatre (2012); Bechara El Khoury; Ayman Baalbaki, Doris Bittar, Nadim Karam (2013); The Asil Ensemble for Contemporary Arab Music, Michel Fadel; Chafic Abboud, Saliba Douaihy, Nabil Nahas, Paul Guiragossian (2014); Mayssa Karaa (2015 and 2021); Nabil Samer Mohdad, Camille Zakharia (2015); The Foundation for Arab Music Archiving & Research,

Baalbeck International Festival; Tarek Yamani (2017); Bechara Moufarrej; Sami Clark (2018); Samira Riachy, Nada El Hage and Member of the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra, Nazih Ghadban, Lina Abiad, Bernard Khoury, Etel Adnan (2021)

**Oman:** Royal Oman Symphony Orchestra (2003); Hassan Meer (2007,2013,2015); Anwar Sonja (2007)

**Palestine:** Kamanjati (2007); Laila Shawa (2008); Edward Said National Conservatory of Music (2010); Hazem Harb (2015,2017); Ashtar Theatre; Suleiman Mansour (2014); Ahmed Jadallah, Steve Sabella (2015); Faris Amin (2017), Omar Kamal & Big Band, United Strings of Europe (2018/19/20); Filasteen Young Musicians Orchestra, Samir Odeh-Tamimi (2021)

**Syria:** Rasha Arodaky (2004); Khalid Al-Saai (2007); National Symphony Orchestra (2009, 2011); Sawsan Al Bahar (2015); Ashraf Kateb, Hamsa Juris Al Wadi (2016), Kinan Azmeh (2017, 2021), Damascus Festival Chamber Players (2017), Syrian Expat Philharmonic Orchestra (2017); Safwan Dahoul (2013); Ahmed Nashat Al Zuaby, Mahmoud Hammad, Louay Kayyali, Fateh Moudarres (2014);Ammar Al Beik, Tammam Azzam (2015); Sawsan Al Bahar (2016); Ranim Orouk (2017); Fateen Kanaan, Jalal Kassam, Huosain Sabsaby, Nabil Hilaneh, Somar Al Nasser (2021)

**Turkey:** Istanbul Chamber Orchestra (2006); The Ottoman Court Collection from Dolmabahce Palace (2006); Göksel Baktagır (2012); Nicati Çelik, Kudsi Erguner (2021)

**Qatar:** Yousef Ahmed (2007,2013); Khalifa Al-Obaidly, Fatima Al Shebani, Ali Hassan (2007); Sheikh Khalid Bin Hamad Bin Ahmed Al Thani (2015)

**UAE:** Abdulla Al Saadi, Mohammed Ahmad Ibrahim, Mohammad Yousef Ali (2007); UAE Philharmonic Orchestra; Abu Dhabi Choral Group, The Voices of Harmony (2009); Moazza Mattar (2011); Ali Obeid and Takht Al Emarat (2013); Abdul Qader Al Rais (2014,2016); Lanya Gargash; Khalil Abdul Wahid (2013,2015,2016); Ali Al Abdan (2013,2014); Hassan Sharif, Hussain Sharif; Hamdan Al Shamsi, Mohammed Al Messabi, Farah Al Qasimi, Sarah Ibrahim Nasser, Maryam Al Suweidi, May Rashid Al Shamsi, Dana Al Mazrouei, Samira Musabih Al Noaimi, Mahmoud Ahmed, Saeed Khalifa, Afra Al Hamed; Maitha Demaitan, Ebtisam Abdulaziz, Hamdan Buti Al Shamsi (2013); Sara Al Agroobi, Ammar Al Attar, Khalid Al Banna, Amna Al Dabbagh, Eman Al Hashemi, Saeed Al Madani, Fatema Al Mazrouie, Hind Bin Demaitan,

Mohammed Ahmed Ibrahim, Aisha Juma, Layla Juma, Lateefa Bint Maktoum, Khalid Mezaina, Salama Nasib, Khalid Shafar; Zeinab Al Hashemi, Afra Bin Dhafer, Obaid Suroor, Ahmed Yousef, Mohamed Aljneibi; Afra Atiq (2016); Abdul Aziz Al Fadli; Abdul Aziz Al Musallam; Abdul Rahim Salem; Abdul Rauf Khalfan; Ahmed Zain; Ali Al Saloom; Amal Al Agroobi; Amel Al Marzooqi; Amna Al Fard; Azza Al Qubaisi; Dana Al Mazrouei; Aisha Bilkhair; Ebtisam Abdulaziz; Faisal Al Sari; Farid Al Rais; Fatma Lootah; Hamdan Al Abri; Hamdan Buti Al Shamisi; Jalal Luqman; Karima Al Shomali; Khawla Darwish; 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; Yousif 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); Shaikha Al Mazrou, Amer Aldour; Mohammed Fairouz (2017); Mohammed Mandi (2018); Dia'a Allam (2020); Emirates Youth Symphony Orchestra (2009/10/11/12/13/14/15/21); The Junction Dubai, Al Ain Film Festival, Ayesha Ali Al Ghais, Jemei Salem Al Dhanhani, Shaikha Al Jaberi, Mohammed Abdullah Noor Al Din, Mariam Jumaa Faraj, Luluwa Al Mansouri, Basima Mohammed Younis, Najat Al Dhaheri, Shaikha Al Mutairi, Habib Sayegh, Shaikha Al Mansouri, Maryam Al Adan, Al Sagheera Al Ameri, and Mohammed Shuaib Al Hammadi, Khulood Al Jabri, Mohamed Yousif, Obaid Albuodor, Saggaf Al Hashimi, Sumayyah Al Suwaidi, and Dr. Noura Al Mazroui, Yaser Al-Qerqawi, Habib Ghuloom, Arqam, Oriental Percussion, Emirati Choir (2021); Ihab Darwish (2018/21);

**Yemen:** Boushra Al Mutawakel (2015)

**Canada:** Gary Hoffman (2004); Russell Maliphant (2011); Michael Schade (2014); Jan Lisiecki (2015); Janet Belloto (2017); Louis Lortie (2018); Doug Beube (2021)

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

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

**Panama:** Billy Cobham (2012)

**Puerto Rico:** Ana Maria Martinez (2013)

**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); Wayne Marshall (2010); Al Jarreau; Michael Ching; Ensemble ACJW, Margaret Wolfson, Kevin Spacey, Yefim Bronfman (2011); Christo (since 2011); Natalie Cole, Declassified Ensemble; Miles Jaye (2012); Quincy Jones, Dominick Farinacci, Joshua Bell; Eugene Kohn (2013); Decoda Ensemble, Bill Fontana, Herbie Hancock, Renée Fleming, American Ballet Theatre (2014/20/21); Chicago Shakespeare Theater (2015); FotoFest International (2015); Yo-Yo Ma (2017); Deborah Voigt (2018); Pink Martini (2018); Dennis Russell Davies (2018); Benjamin Shwartz, Manuel Palazzo, Joyce DiDonato, Justin Kauflin (2019); Carnegie Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center (2020); American Ballet Theatre, The Metropolitan Opera (2020); Michael Rice, UN Chamber Music Society of the United Nations, Nada Shabout, Sara Andon, John Beasley, James Genus, Gregoire Maret, Terrior Gully (2021)

**Argentina:** Fernando Suarez Paz (2007); Escolaso Guitarra Tango Trio (2008); Gorosito-Cataldi-De La Vega Trio (2008); José Cura (2021)

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

**Colombia:** Edmar Castañeda (2012); Maestro Andrés Orozco Estrada (2021)

**Peru:** Juan Diego Florez (2015)

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

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

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

**China:** Yi Zhang, Haochen Zhang, Siqing Lu (2004); Monks from the Shaolin Temple (2012); YUNDI (2013); Lang Lang (2016), China's National Centre for the Performing Arts Orchestra (2017)

**India:** Anjali Srinivasan (2017); Rajeev Kumar; Raghu Dixit; Merchants of Bollywood; Tausree Shankar Dance Company; Ustad Amjad Ali Khan (2018); Javed Ali (2021)

**Japan:** King Gonta; Tokue Hisako (2007); Nobuyuki Tsujii (2010); Maki Namekawa (2018); Naochika Sogabe, KODO (2021)

**Malaysia:** Zulkarnain Yusof (2021)

**Singapore:** Dharni (2021)

**South Korea:** Sarah Chang (2008); Ah Ruem Ahn (2015), Kyung Wha Chung; Korean National Ballet; Korean Symphony Orchestra; Special Olympics Korea Ensemble; Sumi Jo; Chi-Yong Chung, Jae-Hyuch Cho (2019)

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

**Indonesia:** Joey Alexander (2016)

**Taiwan:** Steven Lin (2021)

**Armenia:** Hasmik Leyloyan (2010); Sergey Khachatryan (2016); Arsen Petrosyan (2021)

**Austria:** Ambassade Orchestra Vienna (2007); Salzburg Marionettes (2010); Sascha Goetzel (2014); 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); BOZAR & Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel (ADMAF Partners)

**Bulgaria:** Victoria Vassilenko (2018); Stoyan Stoyanov (2018, 2021); Ivan Volkov, Krassie Dzhambasov, Iva Georgieva, Diana Pandova, Alex Nushev (2021);

**Cyprus:** Cyprien Katsaris (2003)

**Czech Republic:** Gudni Emilsson (2004); Premier College Youth Symphony Orchestra (since 2010); Czech Philharmonic, Jiri Belohlávek (2013); Anna Fusek (2019)

**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; Gilles Chuyen (2018); Institut du Monde Arabe, Institut Français (ADMAF Partners); Paris Opera Ballet (2019); Pierre Audi, LUMA Foundation (2021)

**Germany:** Roswitha Lohmer (2003); Susanne Calgeer (2004); Patrick Simper, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin (2006); Kunst Museum Bonn (2007); Jonas Kaufmann, Andreas Gursky (2009); Arabella Steinbacher (2010, 2021); SemperOper Ballet, NDR Radiophilharmonie Hanover (2012); Dresden Philharmonic (2014); Anne-Sophie Mutter; A la cARTE Choir (2015); Hendrik Wahl (2017); The Barenboim-Said Centre for Music, Ensemble Modern (2021)

**Greece:** Vasilis Saleas (2012); Dr. Theodore Spyropoulos (2021)

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

**Hungary:** Gabor Takacs-Nagy; Ivan Fischer; 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); Cesare Picco (2012); Riccardo Muti & the Luigi Cherubini Youth Orchestra (2015); Roberto Lopardo (2017); Orchestre dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia – Rome, conducted by Sir Antonio Pappano with Beatrice Rana (2018); Vittorio Grigolo; Il Pomo D'Oro Orchestra (2019)

**Latvia:** Elina Garanča (2008); Kristine Opolaïs (2019)

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

**Montenegro:** Miloš Karadaglić (2014)

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

**Poland:** Katarina Peers (2003); Tomek Setowski (2007); Wojciech Czepiel; Franciszek Ryszard Mazurek (2008); Krzysztof Jablonski, The National Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra; Krzysztof Penderecki (2010); Szymon Brzóska (2012); Beethoven Academy Orchestra (2018/19/20/21); Maciej Pikulski (2016); Polish Radio Choir (2018); Aleksandra Świąt, Adam Goździowski, Krzysztof Książek, Szymon Nehring, Paweł Wojciechowski, Tymoteusz Bies, Edyta Krzemień (2021)

**Portugal:** Mariza (2017)

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

**Russia:** Anastasia Khitruk; Olja Kaiser (2006); State Hermitage Orchestra, Russian Youth Chamber (2007); Alexander Vernikov; Vladimir Jurovski, Anna Netrebko; Pavel Sorokin (2008); The Bolshoi Ballet & Orchestra (2008/9), Nina Kotova, Pavel Klinichev (2009); Maxim Beloserkovsky & Irina Dvorovenko, Dmitri Hvorostovsky, Valery Gergiev, ; Russian National Orchestra conducted by Ovs Yanikov; Nikita Boriso-Glevsky; Ekaterina Siurina (2011); Maxim Vengerov, St Petersburg Philharmonic, Yuri Temirkanov (2012);Victoria Yastrebova; The Mariinsky Orchestra conducted by Boris Gruzin; Irina Kohn (2013); Sergei Redkin (2018); Maxim Emelyanychev (2019); Mariinsky Theatre (ADMAF Partner)

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

**Spain:** Musica Antigua (2004); En Dos Palabra (2006); Angeles Blancas Gulin; Maestro David Gimenez; José Carreras (2007); José María Gallardo del Rey, Evru, Miguel Trillo, Miguel Oriola (2008); Niño Josele (2012); Plácido Domingo (2013); Juan Pérez Floristán, Tomatito (2017); MACBA; Compañía Nacional de Danza (2018); Queen Sofia College of Music, Grand Teatre del Liceu (ADMAF Partners); Sara Baras (2019); Freixenet Symphony Orchestra, Carlos Piñana (2021)

**Sweden:** Daniel Propper (2006); Mats Liljefors; Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra (2007); Dr. Johanna Sellman (2021)

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

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

**UK:** Karel Marc Chichon; British Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Roderick Dunk (2006); London Philharmonic Orchestra (2008); Matthew Barley & Between the Notes (2008/10); English National Ballet (2009); Live Music Now (2009/10/13); Birmingham Stage Company, London Symphony Orchestra, Sir Colin Davies (2010); Globe Education at Shakespeare's Globe (2010-13); The World Orchestra for Peace (2011); October Gallery (2011-12); Anoushka Shankar; David Coleman; Antony Gormley (2012); Big Bang; Kev Sutherland, Dez Skin; Engineering UK (2011); Scottish Opera (2012/13); Tim Rhys-Evans; Oily Cart, Trevor Kweku Blackwood (2014); Hugh Grant, Nick Lloyd Webber & James D. Reid; Marcus Nand (2015); The Heritage Orchestra conducted by Simon Lee; Ministry of Science Live!; Richard Saxel (2016); 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, Southbank Centre; Nicola Benedetti Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment (2018); Bryn Terfel (2013/19); Sinfonia Cymru conducted by Gareth Jones, Cŵr Choir (2019); Nicola Benedetti (2018/21), Patricia Millns, University of Cambridge's Centre for Strategic Philanthropy (2021)

**Ukraine:** The National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine (2007/13); Christia Hudziy & Maxim Ryzanov (2011); Volodymyr Sirenko (2013)

**Algeria:** Hamza Bounoua (2008); Rachid Koraichi (2011); Ammar Bouras, Driss Quadahi (2013); Baya, Mohammed Issiakhem (2014);Contemporary Ballet of Algiers (2014)

**Egypt:** Al-Oyoin Group Takht Orchestra; Nazih Girgis (2004); Cairo Symphony Orchestra; Hassan Sharara (2007); Susan Hefuna, Khaled Selim; Saeed Kamal (2008); Ahmed El Saedi; Bait Al Oud, Egyptian Philharmonic Society Orchestra, Adam Henein (2010); Sherine Tohamy & Najmaat Women's Ensemble, Dina El Wadidi; Armen Agop, Adel Siwi (2013); Abdul Hadi El Gazzar, Farghali Abdel Hafiz, Inji Efflatoun, Youssef Kamel, Kamel Moustafa, Hamed Nada, Mohammed Naghi, Effat Naghi, Mahmoud Said, Mohammed Sabry, Seif Wanly; Hosni Mojahed (2014); Khaled Hafez, Hazem Taha Hussein, Huda Lutfi, Youssef Nabil (2015); Nesma Abdul Aziz (2018); Sheikh Mahmoud Tohamy (2020); Sheikh Mahmoud Tohamy (2020 and 2021); Islam Taha, Eslam Abdelaziz, Salma Mokhtar, Amr Fawzy, Yousif Abbas, Dr. Duraid Al Khafaji, Hazem Shaheen, Mohamed Abozekry, Dr. Ahmed Al-Hinawi, Nehad El-Sayed, Dr. Karim Rashid, Farah El-Rafei, Ibrahim Fathi, Basam Sheiha, Art D'Egypte (2021)

**Libya:** Ali Omar Ermine (2008); Arwa Abououn (2013); Hisham Errish (2021)

**Morocco:** Asma Almona'ar (2008); Aisha Redouane (2010); Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui (2012); Mahi Binebine; Safaa Erruas, Mounir Fatmi, Najia Mehadij, Zakaria Ramhani (2013); Farid Belkhaia, Ahmed Cherkaoui, Mohammed Melehi (2014); Hicham Benohoud, Lalla Essaydi, Hassan Hajjaj (2015); Yann'sine (2016)

**Nigeria:** Mariam Kamara (2021)

**Tunisia:** Anouar Brahém (2003); Nja Mahdaoui (2008); Latifa Arfaoui (2009); Meriem Bouderbala, Nadia Kaabi-Linke, Nicene Kossentini (2013); el Seed (2020); Driss El Maloumi, Mohamed Briouel (2021); Bechir Gharbi, Bacem Yousfi, Dr. Mourad Sakli (2021)

**South Africa:** VOX Chamber Choir, Traditional South African Choir (2021)

**Sudan:** Muhammed Omar Khalil (2013); Ibrahim Salahi (2014); Ashraf Awad (2021)



# ADMAF 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 2021 it enjoyed collaborations with several companies operating in the UAE, from year-round educational programmes and award support, to major partnerships that make 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 as Lead Partner of the 2021 Abu Dhabi Festival. From initiatives to recognise and support emerging creative talent, to the commission of new compositions and recordings by leading Arab artists, like Ihab Darwish’s Hekayat: Symphonic Tales – traversing the globe in 13 compositions played by 128 musicians in 20 countries – which reached unprecedented audiences through a strategic digital release.


ADMAF was joined by new Energy Partner, GS Energy in 2021, supporting the Festival to deliver programs throughout the region and expanding the Festival’s reach abroad. Long-term Education Partners Gulf Capital and TotalEnergies continued their support, focusing on the professional development of young Emirates with initiatives recognising and rewarding creativity and innovation.

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

# Strategic and Corporate Partners


Abu Dhabi Music and Arts Foundation (ADMAF) celebrates our strategic and corporate partners. Sponsorship from our Abu Dhabi Festival 2021 partners directly supports our Youth Platforms and Community Programmes. We depend greatly on your support to ensure the youth of today become the future leaders of a prosperous UAE tomorrow.

STRATEGIC PARTNER



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
& INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION


STRATEGIC PARTNER




UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE & YOUTH

STRATEGIC PARTNER

دائرة الثقافة والسياحة  
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE  
AND TOURISM




LEAD PARTNER




MUBADALA


ENERGY PARTNER




AWARD PARTNER




EDUCATION PARTNER



EDUCATION PARTNER



EDUCATION PARTNER



## National Strategic Cultural Partners

ADMAF works in partnership with educational and cultural institutions across the UAE. These arrangements allow students and faculty bespoke access to ADMAF initiatives as well as ADMAF financial support for arts and cultural projects that complement studies, nurture academic performance, and develop professional skills.

جامعة الإمارات العربية المتحدة  
United Arab Emirates University

**UAEU**

UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH



كليات التقنية العليا  
HIGHER COLLEGES OF TECHNOLOGY

جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي  
NYU | ABU DHABI

جامعة أبوظبي  
ABU DHABI UNIVERSITY

جامعة زايد  
ZAYED UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITÉ  
PARIS  
SORBONNE  
ABU DHABI

Zayed Higher Organization  
for Humanitarian Care & Special Needs

## International Strategic Cultural Partners

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



**Bozar**

QUEEN MUSIC  
ELISABETH CHAPEL



INSTITUT  
FRANÇAIS



LE  
CO  
LE

OPÉRA  
NATIONAL  
DE PARIS

BARENBOIM-SAID  
AKADEMIE

Jordan Media Institute • معهد الإعلام الأردني



MARIINSKY THEATRE

Gran Teatre  
del Liceu

ESCUELA  
SUPERIOR  
DE MÚSICA  
REINA SOFÍA

TEATRO REAL

BRITISH  
COUNCIL

EDINBURGH  
INTERNATIONAL  
FESTIVAL

MANCHESTER  
INTERNATIONAL  
FESTIVAL

ROYAL  
OPERA  
HOUSE

THE PRINCE'S  
FOUNDATION

SOAS  
University of London

SHUBBAK  
ثقافة: نافذة على  
الثقافة العربية  
المعاصرة  
A WINDOW ON  
CONTEMPORARY  
ARAB CULTURE

SOUTHBANK  
CENTRE

ABT  
AMERICAN  
BALLET  
THEATRE

CARNEGIE HALL

Uristo and  
Jeanne-Claude

Cleveland Clinic  
Arts and Medicine Institute



Middle  
East  
Institute

Lang Lang®  
INTERNATIONAL  
MUSIC FOUNDATION

The Metropolitan Opera  
HD LIVE





# Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation Achievements

This year, the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation celebrated 25 years of nurturing creativity across the UAE. The milestone was marked by the designation of Abu Dhabi as a City of Music by UNESCO, which recognised ADMAF's contribution to the cultural development of the nation. The year also saw the forging of new partnerships and the strengthening of existing ones, and the Foundation's continued participation in the global conversation on the influence of culture and the arts in sustainable development.



## MoU signed with Ministry of Culture & Youth



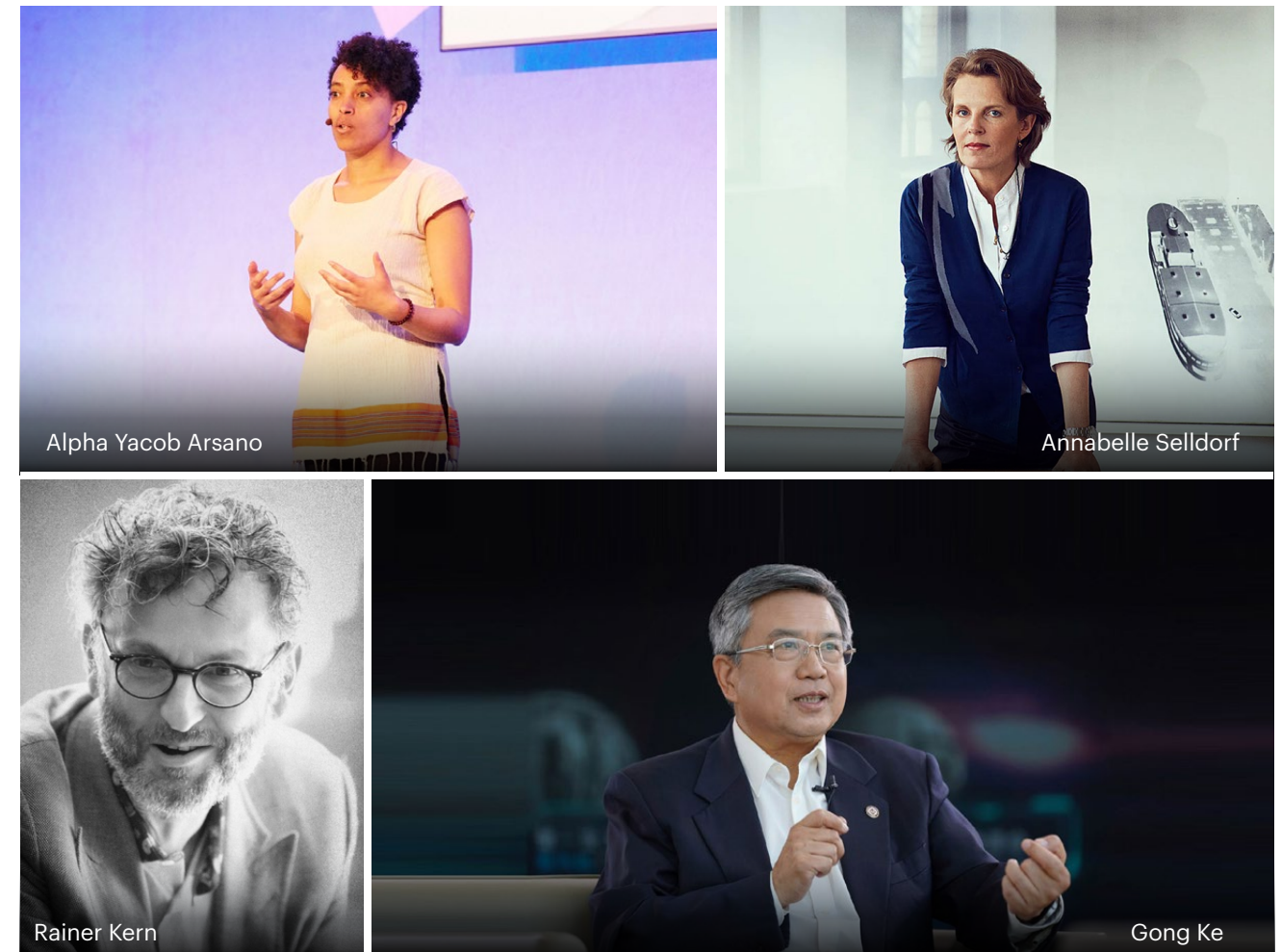
The Memorandum of Understanding between the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation and the Ministry of Culture and Youth signed in June reflected the Foundation's commitment to establishing strategic partnerships to support the cultural and artistic endeavours of the nation's youth. The MoU is in line with the Foundation's belief that investing in the talent of youth is critical in solidifying the UAE's role as a global leader in the sustainability of cultural, artistic and creative industries.

## Abu Dhabi Designated as UNESCO City of Music



With its mission to advance Abu Dhabi's cultural vision by nurturing creativity in society, and its continuous support for up-and-coming talents and musicians through Abu Dhabi Festival and other programmes, the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation was proud to play a part in the decision on 8 November to designate Abu Dhabi, a City of Music by the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. The designation reaffirms ADMAF's belief that music and the arts play an integral role in the success and sustainability of a nation.

## Virtual Forum on Designing Sustainable and Creative Cities



As part of its pledge to participate in the global conversation on culture and the arts, ADMAF's Founder H.E. Huda Alkhamis-Kanoo was among the panel of distinguished speakers who shared their ideas on the role culture and the arts play in connection with sustainability during the virtual forum organized by the Association of Melody for Dialogue among Civilizations and Northeastern University's College of Arts, Media and Design. Designing Sustainable and Creative Cities: A Coalition of Arts, Music and Architecture focused on generating innovative ideas on how arts and culture, along with music and architecture, can help humanity live in harmony with nature and ultimately make cities more livable.



# Abu Dhabi Festival 2021

As part of its continued effort to support culture and the arts, Abu Dhabi Festival returned in 2021 under the theme *The Future Starts Now*.

As the UAE reached its 50th year, the focus remained on the future with new investments in creativity and innovation paving the way for a better tomorrow. In 2021, the Festival utilised the latest digital solutions to continue its work advancing the profound development ignited at the nation's founding. In new interactive experiences, we presented the world's greatest works of art and culture, carrying the UAE's cultural vision forward into an innovative future.

# ABU DHABI FESTIVAL 2021

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THE FUTURE STARTS NOW



Opera

L'APOCALYPSE ARABE  
BY ETEL ADNAN

04-05 July 2021

Abu Dhabi Festival presented the opera based on the poems by the late Lebanese-American artist Etel Adnan (1925-2021) at the Parc des Ateliers in the French city of Arles. In partnership with Festival d'Aix-en-Provence and the Luma Foundation, L'Apocalypse Arabe was based on Adnan's work written in 1975 during the Lebanese Civil War, was directed by French-Lebanese theatre director Pierre Audi, with music and libretto by the Palestinian-Israeli composer Samir Odeh-Tamimi. Frankfurt's Ensemble Modern, an ensemble of musicians from across Europe and Asia, performed the opera, conducted by Ivan Volkov.



Etel Adnan (1925-2021)



Samir Odeh-Tamimi



Pierre Audi



## Contemporary Music

# HEKAYAT: SYMPHONIC TALES

30 March 2021

Composer Ihab Darwish's performance was as much a technological feat as it was a musical one. Through videographic magic, *Hekayat: Symphonic Tales* virtually brought together 128 musicians from 20 countries at the Emirates Palace Auditorium. The performance comprised 13 compositions by Darwish, fusing disparate genres such as hip-hop, Western classical music and Khaleeji rhythms. It was a celebration of global sounds with several renowned international musicians, including American flautist Sara Andon, Japanese drumming troupe Kodō, Spanish guitarist Carlos Pinana and Syrian clarinet player Kinan Azmeh. The performance also featured Poland's Beethoven Academy Orchestra and the Vox Chamber Choir.

*Hekayat* took 675 Zoom meetings to create after which each musician had their performance recorded. Darwish reviewed more than five terabytes of audio and video material and used innovative post-production technology to ensure the musicians appeared as one orchestra in the finished product.



Ihab Darwish







Tarek Yamani

## TAREK YAMANI AND SPEKTRAL QUARTET

28 October 2021

*Berytus*, award-winning composer and jazz pianist Tarek Yamani's latest composition, premiered in a digital broadcast. The work takes its name from the ancient Greek word for the Roman colony of present-day Beirut, the city of Yamani's birth and the inspiration for his first piece written for a string quartet. Composed specifically for the Chicago-based Spektral Quartet, *Berytus* was produced in an innovative digital residency through the University Musical Society of the University of Michigan, and was co-commissioned by the Society and Abu Dhabi Festival.



Spektral Quartet



# MOHAMED BRIOUEL AND KUDSI ERGUNER: ARAB-ANDALUSIAN AND FASL ENCOUNTER

11 November 2021

In a unique collaboration between two masters of the classical music traditions of their respective homelands in Morocco and Turkey, Erguner and Briouel premiered their collaborative performance in a coproduction with BOZAR at its prestigious Henri Le Bœuf Hall in Brussels, the oldest and largest arts centre in Belgium.

**BO  
ZAR**



BOZAR hall



Kudsi Erguner

Mohamed Briouel





## OMAR KAMAL SINGLE RELEASE AND WORLD TOUR

Abu Dhabi Festival continued its mission to support Arab artists on the global stage with the world-premiere release of Palestinian jazz singer and musician Omar Kamal's new single, *In the Wee Small Hours*. Premiering 21 February on Abu Dhabi Festival's website, Kamal's raw, emotional take on this jazz-world classic featured his soulful vocals backed by his core jazz band.

The new release offered a preview of both his coming EP, *Late Nights with Omar Kamal*, which was executively produced by Abu Dhabi Festival, and his ongoing world tour supported by the Festival.

The singer's tour took him to the Dubai Opera for a memorable performance at the prestigious performance venue.



Omar Kamal



## Classical Music

# LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN EASTER FESTIVAL – RECITAL SERIES

September - October 2021

Poland's most significant classical music festival, founded by Elżbieta Penderecki, presented a series of recitals featuring the nation's brightest young piano talents. In 2020, Abu Dhabi Festival co-produced the series in celebration of the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth and the 210th anniversary of Chopin's. Young pianists Aleksandra Świąt, Szymon Nehring, Krzysztof Książek, Tymoteusz Bies, Paweł Wojciechowski and Adam Goździewski played in a tour of five Polish cities.

Through shared engagement and cross-cultural dialogue between both cultural organisations and the diplomatic missions in both Poland and the UAE, the performances strengthened the enduring cultural ties between both countries.

Co-production with Ludwig van Beethoven Easter Festival

Warsaw, Poland



Elżbieta Penderecka



Krzysztof Książek performing at the 2021 Beethoven Easter Festival





Nicola Benedetti

## THE STORY OF THE VIOLIN

29 June 2021

One of the most sought-after and magnetic violinists of her generation, Nicola Benedetti brought her innate musicianship and spirited presence to Abu Dhabi Festival in a unique and personal virtual performance. Between solo performances of Biber, Bach, Paganini and Ysaÿe, and a special composition by Wynton Marsalis, Benedetti vividly described the little-known histories and intricacies of each seminal violin composition. The collaboration with the Benedetti Foundation was part of Abu Dhabi Festival's mission to bring history-making creative content to the world.





## THE REINA SOFÍA SCHOOL OF MUSIC FREIXENET ORCHESTRA'S 2021 EUROPEAN TOUR

In celebration of the esteemed classical music school's 30th anniversary, Abu Dhabi Festival supported the first-ever European tour of the Reina Sofía school's Freixenet Orchestra. With performances in Madrid, Bratislava, Budapest and Vienna, the orchestra played a repertoire of Albéniz, Prokofiev and Dvořák, led by renowned conductor Maestro Andrés Orozco Estrada and joined by leading international violinist Arabella Steinbacher.





## ABU DHABI FESTIVAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA: FILASTEEN YOUNG MUSICIANS ORCHESTRA

24-26 November 2021

The Ramallah-based Filasteen Young Musicians Orchestra toured cities and refugee camps across Palestine, performing for audiences and conducting music education workshops for children, in partnership with Abu Dhabi Festival.

Led by French conductor Rémy Ballot, the orchestra is the flagship of the Barenboim-Said Foundation, ADMAF's strategic partner, and was established to develop Palestinian musicians through mentorship with influential conductors and professional musicians. Established in 2003 by late Palestinian intellectual and scholar Edward Said and renowned pianist and conductor Daniel Barenboim, the Barenboim-Said Foundation's mission is to provide Palestinian children and young adults access to classical music education regardless of their social or economic background.





## ABU DHABI FESTIVAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA: EMIRATES YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

23 October 2021

The UAE's brightest young musicians showcased their unique talents, performing a repertoire of Beethoven, Camille Saint-Saëns and George Bizet at The Theatre at Dubai's Mall of the Emirates, produced by Abu Dhabi Festival. The orchestra was conducted by Maestro Riad Kudsi and featured young virtuoso violinist Guido Felipe Sant'Anna e Silva from Brazil.



Guido Felipe Sant'Anna e Silva



Emirates Youth Symphony Orchestra





# UN CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

## CONCERT IN CELEBRATION OF ARABIC MUSIC

17 December 2021

The accomplished musicians of the UN Chamber Music Society of the United Nations Staff Recreation Council (UNCMS), together with Abu Dhabi Festival, proudly held a concert in celebration of World Arabic Language Day (observed on the 18th of December) at the prestigious Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall.

One of the most widely spoken languages in the world, Arabic is a pillar of the cultural diversity of humanity. In celebration of World Arabic Language Day, and Arabic’s historic role in the development of art and science, the programme featured a variety of popular and classical music from the Arab region. Founded in 2016, the UN Chamber Music Society is dedicated to promoting the United Nations’ goals and values at large through the universal language of music.



**CARNEGIE HALL**



## YOUNG MUSICIANS WITH NICOLA BENEDETTI

15-17 November 2021

This year, Abu Dhabi Festival's Young Musicians programme provided youth in the UAE with an unprecedented opportunity to engage in a masterclass with virtuoso violinist Nicola Benedetti. In partnership with the Benedetti Foundation, the masterclass – developed specifically for youth to benefit from Benedetti's transformative orchestra-based approach — showcased what music education at its best can do.



Nicola Benedetti





Marwan Faqi



Mayssa Karaa



Mohamed Khayran Al-Zahrani



Tamtam



Sheikh Mahmoud El Tohamy

## SPIRITUAL MUSIC SERIES 2021

11 April 2021

Under the theme *Human Fraternity: Dignity and Hope*, Abu Dhabi Festival's second annual Ramadan Series of performances in April of 2021 was an unexpected intersection of the contemporary and the traditional, joining beauty and elegant creativity in the spirit of the blessed time of Ramadan. The series of world-premiere virtual performances united audiences in the spiritual values that transcend religion and culture.

In a range of disciplines, from opera to Sufi chant to genre-bending pop, the series exemplified the key qualities of the holy month which calls for tolerance, respect and love.

Saudi Arabian talents, Reem Al Tamimi, the soulful pop artist, singer and songwriter known as Tamtam; gifted traditional singer and composer Marwan Fagi with composer Rami Basahih; and emerging opera talent, countertenor Mohammed Khayran Al-Zahrani, performed under the mentorship of composer, soprano and academic, and founder of the Hiba Al Kawas Academy, Dr. Hiba Al Kawas.

They joined internationally-recognised Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter Mayssa Karaa with Javed Ali, and the magnificent devotional chanter, Sheikh Mahmoud El Tohamy—both known for deftly pairing Eastern and Western music styles—in stirring performances for the holy month.





### ***Wajd* by Marwan Fagi**

**20 April 2021**

A tenor with a warm, intimate voice, the singer and composer from Mecca, Marwan Fagi presented a performance reflecting a deeply spiritual message. Abu Dhabi Festival, in collaboration with Hiba Al Kawas Academy, featured Fagi's performance of *Ateehu Fika* (Lost in You), a poem by Nada El Hage, for which he composed music arranged by Rami Basahih. Wajd was a captivating weaving together of Fagi's natural high tones and soothing low tones, and his performance symbolised the birth of the new generation of singers and composers in Saudi Arabia.



### ***Ethereal* by Mohammed Khayran Al-Zahrani**

**24 April 2021**

Connecting two distinct worlds, countertenor Al-Zahrani honoured Saudi cultural artistic heritage while unifying it with the art of Western opera. Abu Dhabi Festival, in collaboration with Hiba Al Kawas Academy, featured Al-Zahrani's unique, ethereal voice accompanied by members of the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra. Abu Dhabi Festival was the first global stage to host Al-Zahrani, who sang *Aala Wa Amjad* (More and More Sublime), which was composed specifically to underline his unique vocal abilities by Hiba Al Kawas, with poetry by Hasan bin Thabit.



### ***A Dreamer's Serenade* by Tamtam**

**26 April 2021**

Representing the new generation of Saudi artists, singer and songwriter Tamtam, with her exceptional vocal abilities, performed enthralling spiritual songs that celebrated the values shared by all religions.

Putting Eastern and Western cultures in dialogue through music, Tamtam drew traditional and modern elements from Saudi Arabia's rich artistic and cultural heritage. Inspired by beloved Arabic poems, her music was accompanied by modern piano and violin stylings, which for her carry the spirit of Ramadan when played together. These original songs for the Ramadan Series reflected what she believes are the true meaning of Ramadan: gratitude and the beauty that stems from simplicity.



### ***Prayer* by Mayssa Karaa**

**29 April 2021**

Returning to Abu Dhabi Festival after her memorable 2015 performance, Lebanese-American Grammy-nominated singer and songwriter Mayssa Karaa presented *Doua'a* (Prayer), delivering a message of hope that expressed her belief in the deep connection between humans and religion. Accompanied by renowned chanter Javed Ali, she performed a masterpiece from Sufi heritage and Eastern spiritual chanting calling for tolerance, peace and love.



### ***A Call for Love* by Sheikh Mahmoud Al Tohamy**

**02 May 2021**

This stirring performance of Fus'ha Arabic music featured Sheikh Mahmoud Al Tohamy, the leading spiritual chanter in Egypt and the world, accompanied by Mohamed Tarek and Wael El Fashny. The songs drew inspiration from Arabic tradition and world heritage, presented in a contemporary format. The performance infused Fus'ha with the ever-evolving values of humanity, highlighting the cross-cultural aesthetics that tie the past, present and future.



# GLOBAL OUD FORUM

25 May - 26 June 2021

Abu Dhabi Festival brought an ancient instrument to a growing global audience in 2021 through a series of episodes that included talks and performances with the musicians, craftsmen and musicologists who make up the thriving contemporary oud scene.

The seven episodes were organised by Iraqi oud master Naseer Shamma and produced by Abu Dhabi Festival as part of the Festival's efforts to preserve the very best of traditional art and culture and provide platforms for the most talented Arab artists to present their work to international audiences.

The series brought together 30 of the world's most accomplished oud musicians for performances of traditional and original oud compositions. In each episode, viewers got an inside look into the workshops of the renowned oud makers from across the Arab world working to preserve a 5,000-year-old craft. Additionally, musicologists from the UAE, Iraq and more described the oud's rich history and discussed how performers today are being heard by global audiences in the digital age, as well as what the future holds for this timeless instrument.







## Episode I

25 May 2021

The first episode included performances by Faisal Al-Saari of the UAE, Bechir Gharbi of Tunisia, Sadiq Jaafar of Iraq, and the Egyptian oud trio of Islam Taha, Salma Mokhtar and Eslam Abdelaziz. Luthier Amr Fawzi who heads the Arab Oud House workshop in Abu Dhabi was interviewed, while academic Noura Al-Mazroui talked about the history of the oud in the Gulf region.

## Episode II

29 May 2021

Mohammed Al-Attar of Iraq, Sherine Tohamy of Egypt, Yousif Abbas of Iraq and Zulkarnain Yusof of Malaysia performed in Episode II, which also highlighted the work of luthier Omar Mohammad Fadhil, filmed at his workshop in Baghdad, Iraq. Iraqi academic Duraïd Fadhil Al-Khafaji discussed his research on the oud and the digital world, as well.

## Episode III

01 June 2021

Hazem Shaheen of Egypt, Mohammed Abozekry of Egypt, Ahmad Shamma of Iraq and Fateen Kanaan of Syria performed. Iraqi luthier Fawzi Monshed discussed oud making in his workshop, and academic researcher Ahmad Al-Hinnawi talked about the oud in relation to the modern music industry.

## Episode IV

05 June 2021

Luthiers Nehad El-Sayed of Egypt, Jalal Kassam of Syria, Ashraf Awad of Sudan and Naochika Sogabe of Japan performed. The featured report focused on the crafts of Huosain Sabsaby, a luthier based in Damascus, in addition to input from Sami Naseem from Baghdad around the oud instrument as it relates to the digital age.



## Episode V

08 June 2021

Performances from Driss El Maloumi of Morocco, Nabil Hilaneh of Syria, Alaa Shaheen of Amman and a duet between Somar al-Naser (Syria) and Bacem Yousfi (Tunisia), both based in France, were featured. The episode shed light on the crafts of Nazih Ghadban with a report from his workshop in Ras Baalbak, Lebanon. Additionally, Dr. Mourad Sakli walked audiences through the origins of the oud, how it integrates into today's music industry and how artists can achieve support for their work.

## Episode VI

12 June 2021

Necati Celik of Turkey, Hisham Errish of Libya, Hashem Qallaf of Kuwait and Zain Al-Marhabi of Saudi Arabia performed. The episode also discussed the works of Ya'aqoub Jasim, a luthier from Kuwait. Academic and writer Dr. Fahad Mohsen al Bathali, also from Kuwait, talked about other forms of entertainment that disrupt the preservation of heritage instruments such as the oud, when it comes to emerging generations.

## Episode VII

15 June 2021

The final episode featured oud virtuoso and Global Oud Forum organizer Naseer Shamma discussing the Forum's goals and aspirations with oud players featured in the Forum. Shamma also performed three musical pieces.



# KINAN AZMEH CITYBAND

18 & 20 June 2021

Virtuoso composer and clarinetist Kinan Azmeh's quartet played to a full house at Berlin's iconic Pierre Boulez concert hall. Azmeh, who won a Grammy in 2016 as a member of Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble, is known for creating spellbinding music by blending classical and jazz with the sounds of his Syrian homeland. The captivating performance continued the cultural dialogue that Abu Dhabi Festival creates through presenting Arab artists abroad and building bridges between nations.





## Ballet

# ABT TODAY: THE FUTURE STARTS NOW

20 December 2020

This online celebration featured four world premieres created in quarantined “ballet bubbles” and performed by ABT’s incredible dancers. The adventurous and imaginative creators included choreographers Gemma Bond, Darrell Grand Moultrie, and Pam Tanowitz.

This unique project toasted American Ballet Theatre’s 80 years, and Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation’s 25 years of creativity, innovation, and diversity.

## THE NUTCRACKER: PAS DE DEUX CO-PRODUCTION WITH THE AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE

23 December 2020

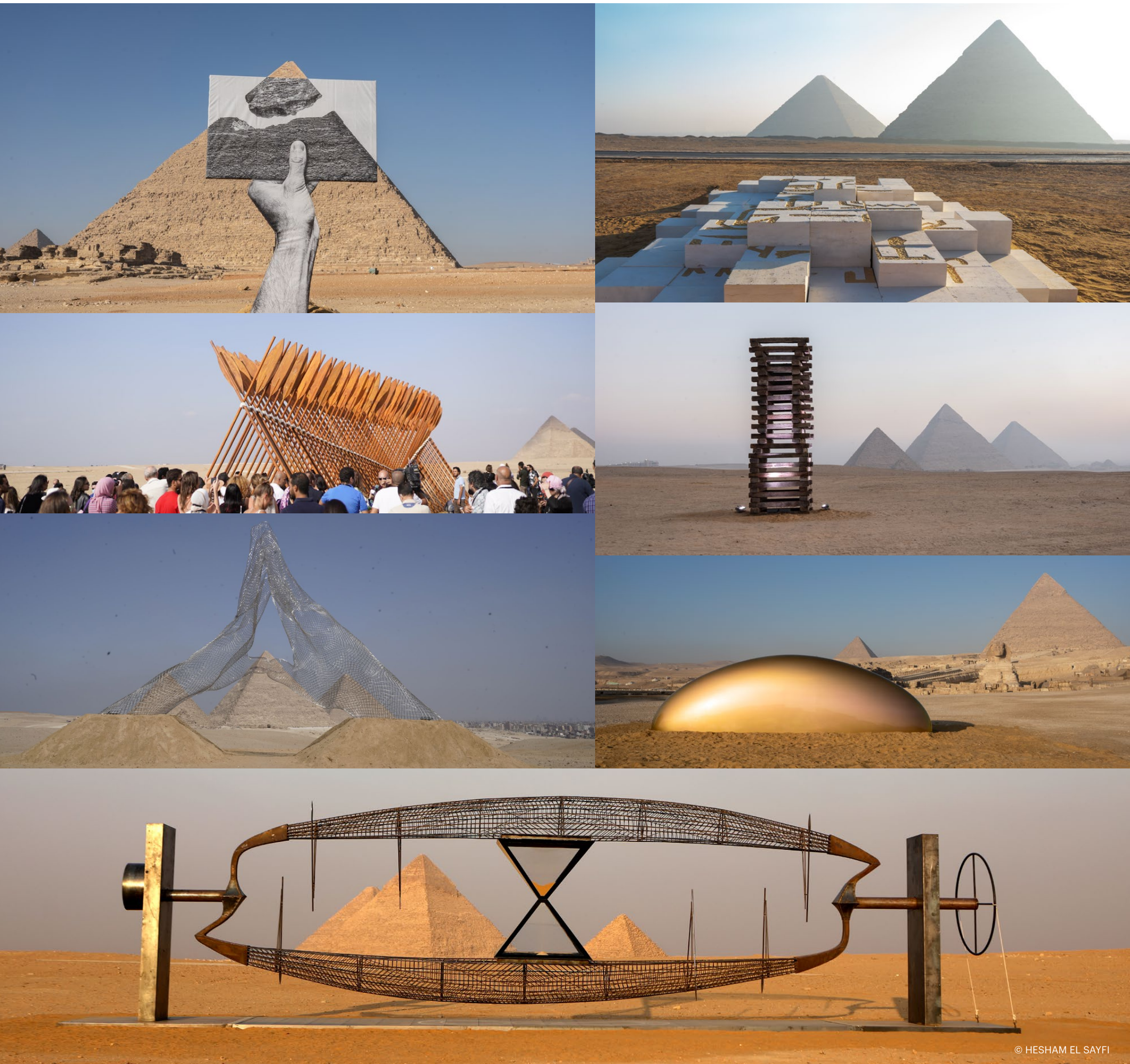
ADMAF and American Ballet Theatre proudly presented Alexei Ratmansky’s *The Nutcracker*, starring ABT Principal Dancers Isabella Boylston and James Whiteside, accompanied by Tchaikovsky’s timeless score.

This unique, world-premiere virtual performance of Alexei Ratmansky’s choreography was filmed at New York City’s Highline Hotel and featured choreography by Lev Ivanov from the original 1892 production of *The Nutcracker* as notated by Nicholas Sergeyev.

Adapted to meet Covid-19 restrictions, the virtual performance provided audiences with a beloved holiday cultural experience that was widely received across digital channels.







© HESHAM EL SAYFI

## Visual Art

# FOREVER IS NOW VISUAL ART EXHIBITION ART DÉGYPTE

21 October - 7 November 2021

Abu Dhabi Festival partnered with Art D'Egypte to mount the first international art exhibition to take place at the plateau of the Great Pyramids of Giza. The exhibition showcased the work of ten international contemporary artists and paid tribute to Egypt's greatest sculptor, the late Adam Henein. The exhibition was curated by Art D'Egypte along with a board of internationally renowned curators, among whom is Simon Watson.



ART D'ÉGYPTÉ



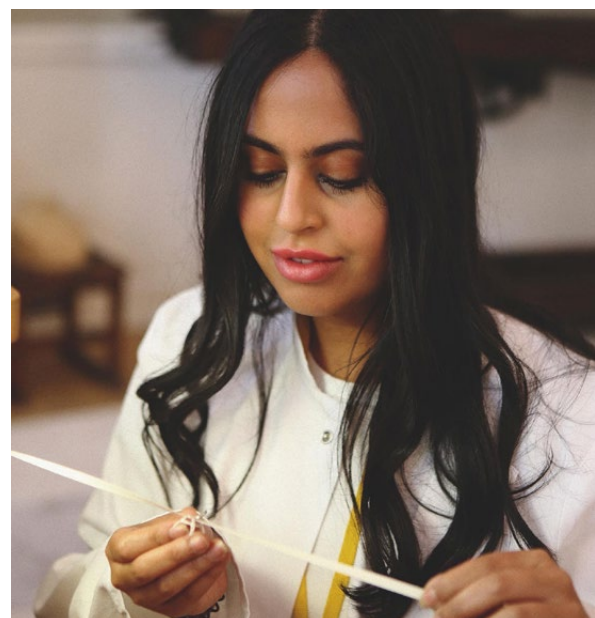
# ADMAF AT ABU DHABI ART



## PASSAGE BY NUJOOM ALGHANEM

17 November 2021

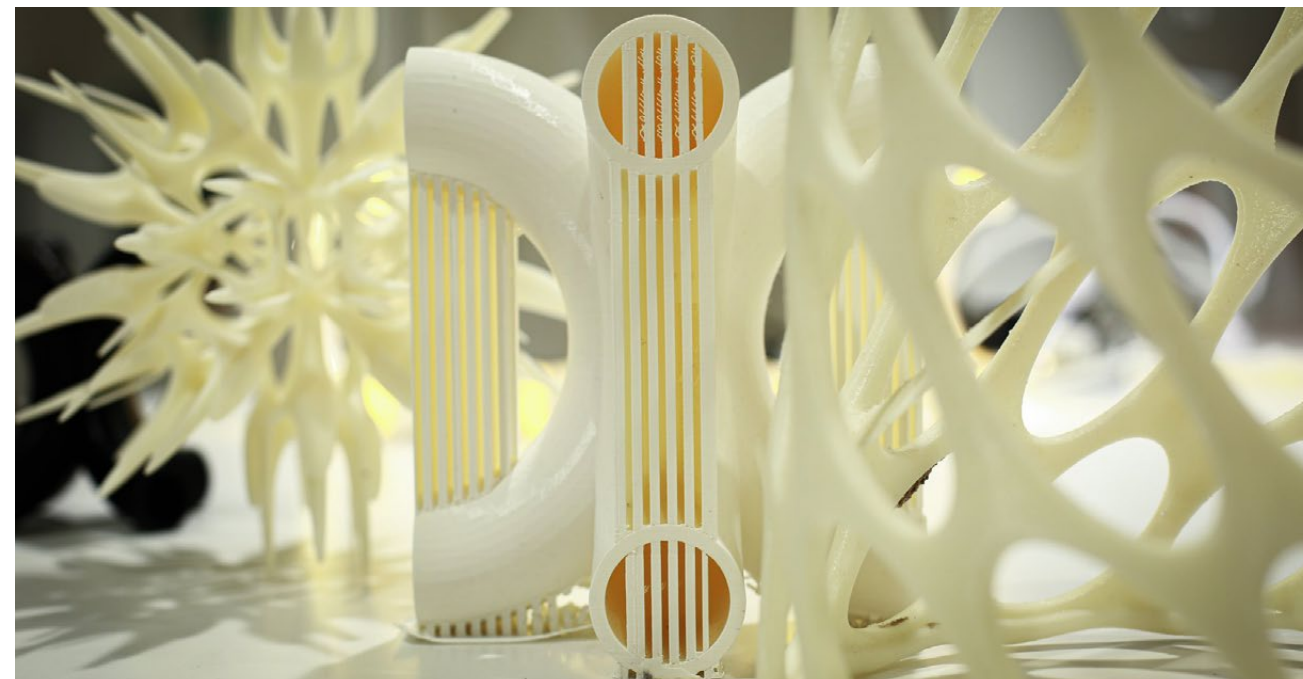
With the support of the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation, Emirati poet, filmmaker and artist Nujoom Alghanem's *Passage* was featured for the first time in the UAE as part of Abu Dhabi Art's Gateway section. The immersive sound and video installation explored the subject of displacement through contemporary Arabic poetry and the art of film, depicting three women – two in the “real” world and one in the imagined in two separate films simultaneously projected on opposite sides of the same screen. Originally developed for the 2019 National Pavilion UAE's exhibition at La Biennale di Venezia, *Passage* went on to be featured as part of Abu Dhabi Festival's 2022 exhibition *Portrait of a Nation II: Beyond Narratives*.



## TALK ON THE MAGIC OF SCENT

20 November 2021

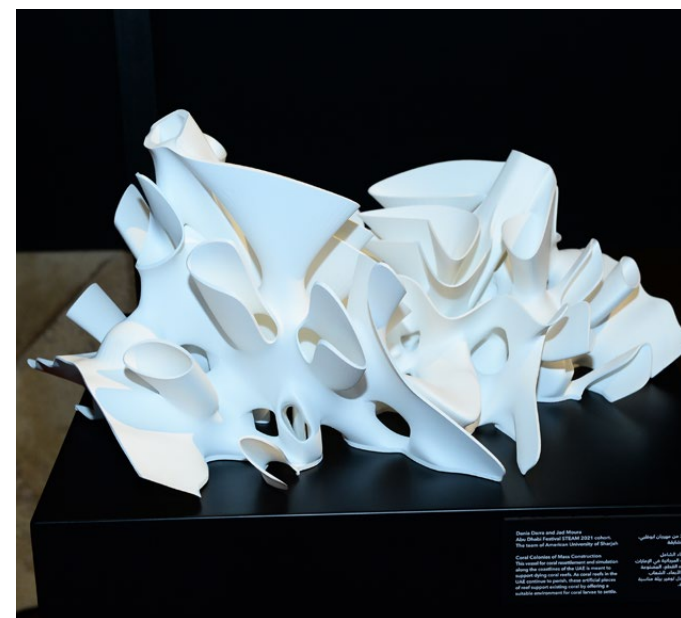
ADMAF's booth at Abu Dhabi Art hosted a talk with Noura Al Serkal, the winner of the ADMAF Design Fund supported by L'ÉCOLE Van Cleef & Arpels. Noura's work, *The Magic of Scent*, was exhibited at Abu Dhabi Art and explores the sense of smell as an integral part of being human, its connection to our memories, emotions and intimacy. During the talk, Noura discussed the impact of Covid-19 on this crucial sense.



## STEAM EXHIBITION

17-21 November 2021

On display at Abu Dhabi Art were the completed 3D-printed prototypes of ADMAF's STEAM cohort. The programme partnered with MIT to bring university students from a variety of disciplines together in teams for a specialized course in 3-D printing technology, mentored by a UAE-based 3-D printing expert. The course culminated in students from four UAE universities using the technology to collaboratively produce functional and sustainable designs for a variety of uses.



## TALK: CORAL COLONIES OF MASS CONSTRUCTION

20 November 2021

ADMAF's booth at Abu Dhabi Art hosted a talk with the team from the American University of Sharjah on their work as part of ADMAF's STEAM programme, displayed at the booth. The talk explored how their prototype could be used for coral resettlement and simulation along the coastlines of the UAE to support dying coral reefs by offering an attractive site for coral larvae to settle.





UAE Ambassador to Germany, HE Hafsa Al Ulama, Israel's Ambassador to Germany, HE Jeremy Issacharoff, with the organisers, Helina Hilderbrand and Britta Adler

## BEYOND BELIEF

Emirati artist Aisha Juma's work at the exhibition *Beyond Belief* launched the first of Abu Dhabi Festival's 2021 events abroad. In a partnership with Berlin's Haus Kunst Mitte, the exhibition brought together the works of 40 artists from diverse cultural backgrounds to show how spiritual experiences can foster a more tolerant society. The inauguration was attended by H.E. Hafsa Al Ulama, UAE Ambassador to Germany, and H.E. Jeremy Issacharoff, Israel's Ambassador to Germany, a year after the historic UAE Abraham Accords, further highlighting the Foundation's belief that art plays a vital role in advocating for a tolerant society by looking past entrenched differences to bring humanity together in peace and harmony.





## Film

# Al Ain Film Festival

23-27 January 2021

Abu Dhabi Festival collaborated for the second time with Al Ain Film Festival in a strategic cultural partnership to support the development of young filmmakers and spread the culture of cinema in the UAE. In addition to providing overall support for Al Ain Film Festival, the partnership was part of Abu Dhabi Festival's annual Young Filmmakers' Circle, a development programme for emerging Emirati and Emirates-based filmmakers.

In 2019, the Young Filmmakers Circle included a partnership with the world-renowned Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg and Orient Meets Occident. Emerging filmmakers in the UAE wrote and directed short films under the guidance of established filmmakers, two of which were screened at Al Ain Film Festival and entered into a competition, with one of them winning an award.

### ***The Plant* directed by Hamda Al Midfa**

In a playful domestic tale, a small child tries desperately to give nature a small role in her life, only to be blocked at every turn by the modern world. When a gardener comes into the picture, she discovers that cultivating human kindness is not only natural, but essential to happiness. Hamda Al Midfa won the Film Festival's Jury Prize in its Falcon Emirati Short Film Competition.

### ***The Last Meal* directed by Sachine Augustine**

In this somber short film, an inmate on death row asks his only friend, a prison guard, for a special last meal of baklava from his mother's pastry shop. When the guard finds that the inmate's mother has passed away, he is faced with an unimaginably difficult choice.

### **Workshops**

Abu Dhabi Festival also organised two live virtual filmmaking workshops as part of the Young Filmmakers Circle. The first was on the vocabulary of cinema and how to use it in the film industry. The second workshop offered an overview on making a film from developing an idea to screening it in theatres.

### **Screenwriting Competition**

As part of the strategic partnership between the two festivals, a screenwriting contest was held with an AED 20K prize. The winners were young Emirati writers Hamdan Al Ketbi for *Muwazi* (Parallel), Ali Lari for *Al Baytari Al Sagheer* (The Little Vet) and Saraa Abdul Aziz Al Shehhi for *Hulmun Sagheer* (A Small Dream). The competition aimed to highlight new talents and cultivate the next generation of Emirati screenwriters, part of Abu Dhabi Festival and Al Ain Film Festival's shared mission to foster the development of the film industry in the UAE and create a unique creative atmosphere.

The winning scripts were selected by a panel of experts headed by Emirati film director and playwright Saleh Karama, with Emirati screenwriter Ahmed Salmeen and Emirati director Dr. Hussein Ibrahim.



H.E. Sheikh DR. Saeed bin Tahnoun Al Nahyan, Amer Salmeen Founder and Director of Al Ain Film Festival presenting ADMAF's Young Filmmaker Hamda Midfa with the Falcon Emirati Short Film Award





## Community and Education

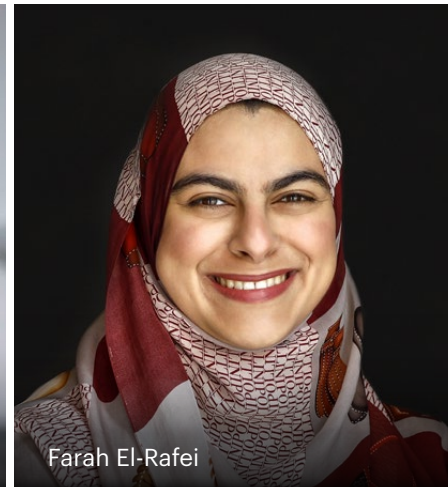




Bernard Khoury



Theodore Spyropoulos



Farah El-Rafei



Nujoom Alghanem



Doug Beube



Nada Shabout

## RIWAQ AL FIKR

Since its launch in 2010, Abu Dhabi Festival's annual discussion series has fostered insightful dialogue between leading intellectuals, experts, practitioners and the general public. Highlighting ADMAF's commitment to lifelong learning, Riwaq Al Fikr has become an integral part of Abu Dhabi Festival. In 2021, the Festival partnered with the American University of Sharjah to present a series of online talks and lectures for university students. World-renowned thought leaders, inventors and innovators brought students insights from the most inspiring leaders in their fields.

### Toxic Fluids: My City is Bleeding, Contaminating the Mediterranean Basin with its Toxic Fluids

Architect Bernard Khoury talked about Beirut as a striking example of a city that, over the last few decades, saw rapid and chaotic development and discussed the ways that architecture can take on another kind

of political responsibility in formulating a history that is non-consensual and not necessarily affirmative.

### Making Common Public Space

Architect Mariam Kamara discussed public space as a universal concept meaning freely accessible spaces, often embedded with a loose program, and spaces that are government-owned, each with explicit or subtle rules and regulations any good citizen must bow to. Kamara talked about the ways that citizens in so-called developing countries seem bent on ignoring those rules and expectations, systematically using any pocket of useable space in various (often creative) ways.

### The Medium & The Message in Our Time

Artist Doug Beube discussed his wide-ranging practice in sculpture, artist books, installation and photography, with a particular focus on how his conceptual considerations shape the medium for a given project.



### Towards a Participatory Architecture

Dr. Nada Shabout, professor of art history and coordinator of the Contemporary Arab and Muslim Cultural Studies Initiative at the University of North Texas, talked about how architecture can actively participate and respond as our contemporary world becomes ever more uncertain. Her lecture explored the possibilities of seeing architecture as a framework that examines a more participatory and enabled future, discussing architects through models that are behaviour-based, evolving a deep ecology of human and non-human entanglements.

### When Images Speak: Dialogues of Change and Hope in Arab Art

Artist, architect and educator Theodore Spyropoulos, who directs the Architectural Association's world-renowned Design Research Lab in London, discussed how the twentieth century in the Arab world was a decisive period of shifts. The result was new formations and meaning on every level, with

visual Arab modernism engaging with these dynamics in ways that allowed for intersections and conversations of hope and unity. He explored some of these engagements through examples on display at the exhibition When Images Speak: Highlights from the Collection of H.H. Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. The works in the exhibition featured some of the most influential and progressive artists who shaped the modern movements in the region as well as reflected the critical inquiries and social dynamics of their time.

### A Passage between Fiction & Reality through Poetry & Film

Poet, filmmaker and artist Nujoom Alghanem and Farah El-Rafei, Senior Exhibitions Coordinator at the National Pavilion UAE – La Biennale di Venezia, discussed the site-specific installation Passage, produced for the UAE Pavilion at the 2019 Venice Biennale. Their talk touched on the process of conceptualizing the artwork, producing visuals for the film, translating poetry and then installing it all at the Biennale.





## ART AMID COVID

26 January 2021

Abu Dhabi Festival presented a series of interviews, curated by Emirati artist Jalal Luqman, with leading creatives in the Emirates as part of the Festival's Riwaq al Fikr Talks Series. At a time when it feels as though everything has changed, our need to create, to express ourselves and to fill our lives with art that inspires passion and contemplation has become stronger than ever. Over five episodes, 10 Emirates-based creatives discussed how Covid-19 impacted their artistic practices in an online series of short documentaries.

- In Episode I, the artists talked about the ways Covid-19 changed how we see the importance of art and of the artists who create it.
- Episode II was a discussion about the effects of lockdowns and quarantines on how the work of artists is presented.
- Episode III answered the question, "will virtual exhibitions ever replace the in-person experience"?
- In Episode IV, artists offered forecasts about the future of art in the coming years of a post-Covid world.
- Episode V focused on patrons and collectors and their importance to the artworld in the context of the pandemic.
- The final episode of Art Amid Covid brought all the artists together for an online conversation inviting the public to take part in a live Q and A with them.



## YOUNG MEDIA LEADERS

15 March 2021 - 04 April 2021

The Young Media Leaders forum is designed to engage young media talents by exposing them to the multifaceted field of media to enable them to make informed career decisions, as well as to provide students with mentorship and internship opportunities to jumpstart their future in the media industry.

In 2021, the forum hosted a conversation between leading international journalists Richard Quest of CNN and Faisal Abbas of Arab News, who addressed the media's role in fighting the pandemic, and the challenges – and opportunities – in the new context created by Covid-19. The live virtual conversation was a partnership with American University of Sharjah to empower youth in developing the skills and knowledge to prepare for careers in the media industry.



# UAE THEATRE CIRCLE

Abu Dhabi Festival's annual UAE Theatre Circle aims to provide high-quality training to emerging theatre makers residing in the UAE as part of ADMAF's commitment to nurturing the national theatre sector. The programme inspires, informs and equips emerging theatre makers with the skills and knowledge to go forth and develop high-quality theatre projects that make a viable contribution to the national theatre sector.



## Talks Series

In 2021, a series of dynamic online seminars was organised in partnership with award-winning international author and director Karim Rashid and international leaders in theatre. Students and theatre enthusiasts were invited to attend talks that centred on the genre of interactive theatre and the future of theatre as an art form.



11 March 2021

The first talk was an introduction to interactive theatre led by **Dr. Karim Rashid**. It included individual interviews with five theatre artists, as well as presentations, videos and discussions, in addition to a Q&A session with attendees.



18 March 2021

**Yasser Al Qerqawi**, Director of Programmes and Partnerships at the UAE's Ministry of Tolerance, explored the artistic and cultural aspirations of younger generations in the UAE and how theatre can enhance or achieve them. Al Qerqawi looked at interactive theatre as a medium for cultural exchange in Arab societies, creating a new relationship between performers and audiences. He also discussed what cultural administrations do to invest in youth theatre as a means of supporting and promoting culture and high art.



22 March 2021

**Professor and theatre director Lina Abyad** spoke about theatre in today's Arab city, the division and tension between art and the public and how interactive theatre creates a new type of cultural exchange in Arab societies. She also examined the relationship between Arab theatre and international theatre in the future.



29 March 2021

Another talk was given by **Dr. Johanna Sellman**, assistant professor of Arabic literature at The Ohio State University and a researcher on migration, literature and theatre. She explored the issue of contemporary Arab theatre makers in diaspora feeling the need to navigate expectations of western audiences and looked at collaborations between professional theatre makers and local diasporic communities.



01 April 2021

The last talk in the UAE Theatre Circle programme provided an overview of the diverse theatre styles in local festivals with actor, writer and theatre and television director Habib Ghuloom. He looked at upcoming developments in theatre festivals, outcomes of the establishment of performing arts academies in the Emirates and the connections and divisions between art and the public in the UAE.

A final panel discussion brought all the speakers together for a conversation titled At the Threshold of the Future of Theatre, with Karim Rashid, Yasser Al-Qerqawi, Lina Abyad, Dr. Johanna Sellman and Habib Ghuloom.



# UAE THEATRE CIRCLE PRODUCTIONS

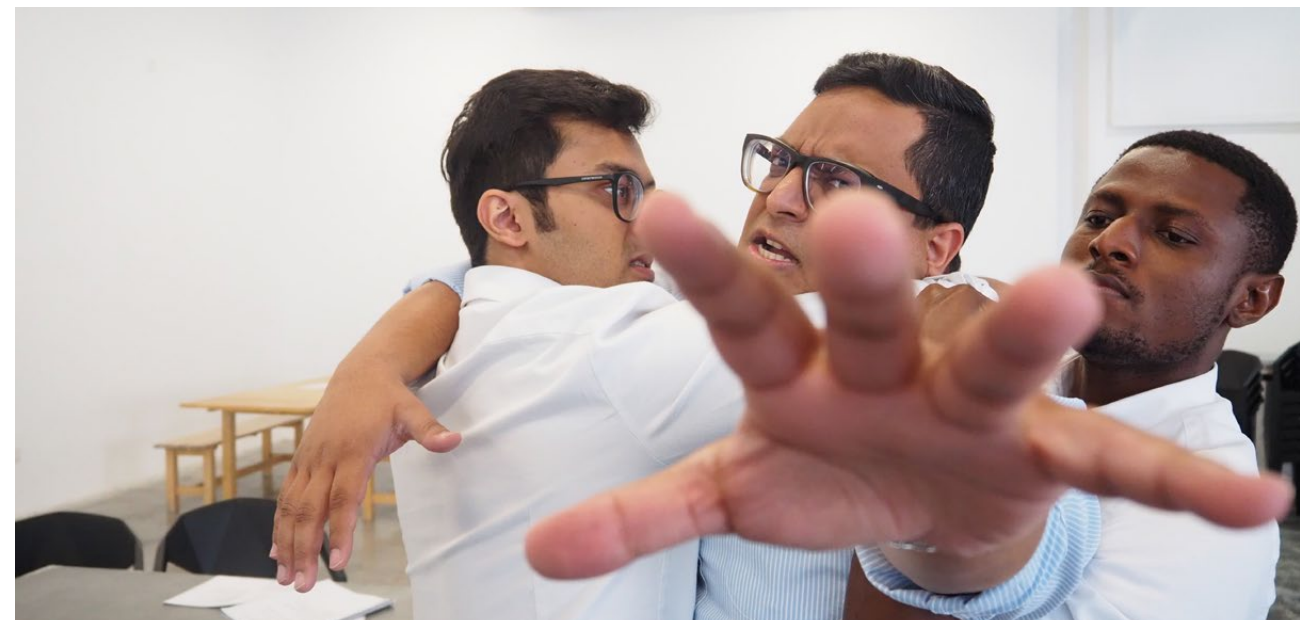
Three plays in Arabic and English were staged throughout 2021 as part of the UAE Theatre Circle's efforts to nurture the national theatre sector. In partnership with The Junction in Dubai's Alserkal Avenue, Abu Dhabi Festival produced Jeffrey Hatcher's English-language suspense thriller, *Holmes and Watson*, directed by Gautam Goenka, as well as *10%* in Arabic and *12 Angry Jurors* in English.



## Holmes and Watson by Jeffrey Hatcher

07-10 April 2021

In this production, Sherlock Holmes is presumed dead, but his body was never found. A number of frauds, fakes, and charlatans have come forward since to lay claim to his identity, and it falls to Dr. Watson to disprove them. Each of three shows at The Junction in Dubai saw a packed house.



## 12 Angry Jurors by Reginald Rose and Sherman L. Sergel

08-09 October 2021

This powerful play about seeking justice in a world filled with prejudice follows the trial of a teenage boy accused of killing his father. Players from The Junction gave three sold-out performances at Manarat Al Saadiyat in Abu Dhabi.



## 10% by Mohammed El Sawi

29-30 October 2021

Writer-director El Sawi introduced audiences to Darwish, the owner of a shop who grants wishes on the condition he receive 10% of whatever the wish may be. Staged in Arabic, the play provoked questions about desire, dignity, hope and free will.





## RIWAQ AL ADAB WAL KITAB TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

20-29 May 2021

Emirati writers Ayesha Ali Al Ghais and Mohammed Abdullah Noor Al Din discussed their new books in a live virtual conversation. Hypothetical Criticism: Between Theory and Practice, a discussion between Dr. Abeer Al Hosani and Dr. Fatima Al Maamari moderated by Hajar Raeisi. The talk explored literary criticism in the digital age, including criticism on social media, virtual criticism's impact in the real world and the role of cultural institutions in virtual criticism.

Fundamentals of Creative Writing was a workshop on writing short and very short stories, fiction, nonfiction and poetry with critic Sameh Kaawach and poet Ahmed Al Assim. Sameh Kaawach and Basima Younes hosted The Fundamentals of Children's Stories, a workshop on developing plots, writing narratives and building mature characters that stimulate children's imaginations in various age groups.

Shaikha Al Mutairi and Najat Al Dhaheri gave poetry readings followed by book signings, while Basima Younes and Luluwa Al Mansouri read from their short story collections. Sheikha Muhammad Al Jabri and Salem Al Dhanhani discussed their books in a talk organised by Nabati Publishing House, and Al Sagheera Al Ameri, Maryam Al Adan and Shaikha Al Mansouri discussed their new books in a panel hosted by Hamalil Publishing House, followed by a book signing.



## RIWAQ AL ADAB WAL KITAB

20-29 May 2021

Abu Dhabi Festival mounted the sixth edition of Riwaq Al Adab Wal Kitab at the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair. The programme cultivates and celebrates Arab literary creativity, supporting authors, writers and the UAE publishing industry through strategic partnerships.

Thirteen new literary works by Emirati authors were published in 2021, adding to the more than 60 books published in Riwaq Al Adab Wal Kitab. The new books were unveiled at the the 30<sup>th</sup> Abu Dhabi International Book Fair amid a programme of workshops, discussion panels, readings and book signings with the authors.

Riwaq Al Adab Wal Kitab's new releases for 2021 were published in partnership with the Emirates Writers Union, Nabati Publishing House and Hamaleel Publishing House.

- *When the Earth Was Sqaure* by Luluwa Al Mansouri
- *Planet 10* by Dr. Basima Younes
- *Used Cloud* by poet Najat Al Dhaheri
- *I Myself Think* by poet Shaikha Al Mutairi
- *Words of Loyalty in Habib Al Sayegh* by Mohammed Shuaib Al Hammadi
- *Your Love Has Owned My Heart* by Shaikha Al Mansouri
- *Behind the Silence* by Maryam Al Adan
- *Challenges with Oneself* by Al Sagheera Al Ameri
- *Al Ratab, The Summer's Beginning* by Ayesha Ali Al Ghais
- *The Rain in the Heritage of the UAE* by Jemei Salem Al Dhanhani
- *Partly Cloudy* by poet Sheikha Al Jaberi
- *Al Majedi bin Dhafer: A Journey of Wisdom & Emotions* by Mohammed Abdullah Noor Al Din





## TALENTS OF DETERMINATION

20-23 September 2021

Cultivating the creative talents of Abu Dhabi's people of determination, Abu Dhabi Festival partnered with the Zayed Higher Organization for People of Determination to bring art education into their homes in a unique new initiative. Talents of Determination hosted workshops on painting, drumming and puppetry, as well as workshops where students learned to make ocarina flutes using recycled household plastic refuse, led by musician Shady Rabab. Meanwhile, the public was invited to visit a virtual exhibition of 50 works by talented people of determination from across Abu Dhabi.

**Riwaq Al Fikr-Talks Series**

**Stories of Inclusion**

**In memory of Abdul Aziz Najm**

In 2021, we mourned the loss of pioneering blind Emirati journalist, Abdul Aziz-Najm. The talk series he founded and hosted in partnership with ADMAF continued this year in his honour.

Seven episodes recognising the achievements of people with determination, hosted this year by the UAE's first board-certified Behavior Analyst, Sharifa Yateem, explored the remarkable journeys of innovators, inventors, thought leaders, sports champions and brilliant minds while shedding light on the challenges they faced and how the inclusive environment of the UAE helped overcome them. The pre-recorded videos will be broadcast in 2022.



## YOUNG PHILANTHROPISTS

27-30 September 2021

In a ground-breaking partnership with the University of Cambridge's new Centre for Strategic Philanthropy, Abu Dhabi Festival brought the Centre's pioneering executive education programme to emerging philanthropists from the GCC and MENA region, guiding them to become global leaders in solving societal and environmental problems and catalyzing greater philanthropic impact in the world's fastest growing regions. The four-day programme empowered emerging philanthropists from the GCC and MENA region to solve social and environmental issues through strategic philanthropy. Then, an in-depth mentoring programme with leading academics and entrepreneurs around the world helped participants set their goals and work towards achieving them. The young cohort came from a range of organisations including start-up social entrepreneurs and well-established regional foundations. It was a first step towards building a region-wide community of young Arab practitioners who can network, share best practices and help to ensure that philanthropic capital is deployed for systemic change at scale.





## HEALING THROUGH THE ARTS

06-10 December 2021

In partnership with Ewa'a, the Abu Dhabi Shelter and Humanitarian Care Centre, Abu Dhabi Festival hosted a series of talks to raise awareness of human trafficking, violence towards women and global human rights issues. Local, regional and international human rights experts came together at Expo 2020's Women's Pavilion to discuss the problems, how to prevent them and how to assist victims.

Throughout the talks, an art installation created by women in Ewa'a's rehabilitation programmes, in an art therapy collaboration with the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation, was on view near the Women's Pavilion.

The Bowling Pins was an installation of ten human-sized fiberglass bowling pins that were designed and decorated in acrylic, ceramic and mosaic. The sculptures reflected the experiences of the human trafficking victims and their perception of themselves after surviving and restoring their confidence, dignity and psychological stability.



## STEAM (THE INTERSECTION OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS AND MATHS)

February-November 2021

In 2021, the first STEAM cohort took place in collaboration with MIT.

Teams from four UAE universities, Zayed University, Abu Dhabi University, American University of Dubai and American University of Sharjah took part in this 3D printing training programme. The designs were produced strictly using 3D printing technology, reflecting the UAE's vision for a sustainable, self-sufficient future. The completed works were displayed at Abu Dhabi Art.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH







Noura Alserkal

## ADMAF Awards

A central pillar of its education programmes, the ADMAF awards recognise the creativity, achievement and excellence of our nation's youth in the arts and design sectors. By providing financial assistance, training, and professional guidance, the awards stimulate young people and help launch their careers in the creative industries.

### NOURA ALSERKAL'S THE MAGIC OF SCENT

November 2021

The winning work of the first ADMAF Design Fund supported by L'ÉCOLE Van Cleef & Arpels, The Magic of Scent, was exhibited at Abu Dhabi Art. Young Emirati jewellery artist Noura Alserkal was the beneficiary of the award, which took her to Paris for a bespoke mentorship programme to enhance her skills and professional career.

The ADMAF Design Fund supported by L'ÉCOLE Van Cleef & Arpels supports UAE-based designers, medium-size start-ups and partner organisations on a transformative journey to create the future brands of the region and beyond.



# Abu Dhabi Festival Award

The Abu Dhabi Festival Award is presented each year to exceptional individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to arts and culture.



H.E Salem Khalid Abdullah Al Qasimi, Vladimir Yavachev and H.E Huda I. Alkhamis-Kanoo at the Abu Dhabi Festival 2021 Award Ceremony

The legendary late land artist Christo, together with his wife Jeanne-Claude, authored iconic works of environmental art, redefining what the world thought of as public art. Christo received the 2021 Abu Dhabi Festival Award for his uniquely creative work and his support of young people to develop their own creativity.

The Award honours Christo's invaluable contributions to visual art and the extraordinary legacy he leaves behind.

In association with

*Chopard*



H.E. Huda Alkhamis-Kanoo presenting Paloma O'Shea with the 2021 Abu Dhabi Festival Award

A hugely influential patron of the arts and a global philanthropist, Paloma O'Shea founded the coveted Santander International Piano Competition and the Reina Sofia College of Music, giving countless young musicians from around the world the opportunity to study with the great masters and to showcase their talent internationally. O'Shea received the 2021 Abu Dhabi Festival Award in recognition of her tireless devotion and remarkable contributions to classical music.



## 2021 CHRISTO AND JEANNE-CLAUDE AWARD UNVEILED

22 June 2021

The Christo and Jeanne-Claude Award 2021 was awarded to three architecture students from the American University of Sharjah.

Nour Elbery and Marawan Mahmoud, both from Egypt, and Rashid Modibbo, from Nigeria, were recognised for their submission Cocoon, an installation work that explores the idea of time – how yesterday and tomorrow merge into one another, reflecting on the individual and collective experiences during the pandemic. The work was unveiled in Abu Dhabi in November.

Established in 2012, The Christo and Jeanne-Claude Award is aimed at young artists in the UAE who wish to create public artworks. The couple behind the award was known for their environmental art and ambitious projects involving famous landmarks around the world. They were committed to supporting the next generation of artists and creative practitioners in the UAE, and the award was established almost a decade ago to cultivate creativity across the Emirates.

Presented by New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD) and the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation, under the patronage of Sheikha Shamsa bint Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Nahyan, the award provided the winning artists with \$10,000 (Dh36,700) to produce their work.

The Christo and Jeanne-Claude Award is open to UAE-based students and recent graduates and was established as a launchpad for visual artists across the Emirates. Each year, the Christo and Jeanne-Claude Award reaffirms the importance of arts and culture as well as ADMAF's mission to invest in the UAE's youth and unlock creative potential. The award is open to UAE-based students and recent graduates and was established as a launch pad for visual artists across the Emirates, encouraging new artwork and offering winners insight into professional life as an artist, from commission to exhibition.

جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي

 NYU | ABU DHABI



Cocoon by Nour Elbery, Marawan Mahmoud, and Rashid Modibbo



# ADMAF Grants

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.



## NAFAS ART MAGAZINE

29 January 2021

This year's grant to Nafas Art Magazine (Universes in Universe) played a crucial role in supporting the continued documentation, archiving, preserving and publication of content in Arabic on visual art.

Founded in 2003 by art historian Gerhard Haupt and artist Pat Binder, Nafas documented Abu Dhabi Festival's Portrait of a Nation exhibition mounted during Berlin Art Week in 2017.

The grant supports work for Nafas done by Syrian refugees hired from the project "Multaka" at the Museum of Islamic Art in Berlin, to proofread more than 600 articles in Arabic published between 2003 and 2016 and prepare them for archiving.



## UNCLE NAJI BY AHMED ZAIN AL HASHMI

26 October 2021

This co-production with established Emirati filmmaker Ahmad Zain Al Hashmi premiered in Dubai with a private screening for UAE film world VIPs. This new feature film is a comedy starring Ibrahim Al Meresi, social media influencer Mohammed Al-Kindi and a cast of Emirati actors. The film screened in cinemas across the UAE following the premiere.





Portrait of a Nation II Beyond Narratives



Festival in the Park



De Scheherazade A Yo, Carmen



Roberto Bolle and Friends

# Abu Dhabi Festival 2022: Emirates State of Mind: Creation, Innovation and Joy

In November, a press conference held at the Emirates Palace Auditorium in Abu Dhabi featured the Festival's Founder, Huda Alkhamis-Kanoo, joined by a panel including Emirati composer and musician Ihab Darwish, the American Robert Townson who is one of the world's most accomplished producers of recorded film music, renowned Egyptian Spiritual Chanter Sheikh Mahmoud El Tohamy and Emirati artist and filmmaker Nujoom Al Ghanem.

Together they announced the year-long 19th edition of Abu Dhabi Festival, held under the theme Emirates State of Mind: Creation, Innovation and Joy. The panel members discussed their roles in the upcoming 2022 festival and helped announce over 1,000 artists from around the world, who will present over 300 live and digital events, including two global tours and 17 world premieres.



# ADMAF Marketing



Advertising Value Equivalent (AVE):  
**AED 24,392,093**

PR Value:  
**AED 47,309,415**



Total engagements:  
**108,791**

Total new followers:  
**10,714**



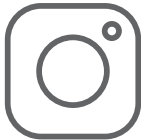
**+383,500**  
AbuDhabiFestival.ae page views

**+39,100**  
ADMAF.org page views



**41,710,000**  
Abu Dhabi Festival impressions

**104,000**  
ADMAF impressions



**3,900,000**  
Abu Dhabi Festival impressions

**53,600**  
ADMAF impressions



**183,600**  
Abu Dhabi Festival impressions

**217,000**  
ADMAF impressions



# The Future Starts Now

In the difficult times of the pandemic, it was never a question that ADMAF must support artists and bring to Abu Dhabi and the world art and culture when we need it most.

In spite of the challenges posed by Covid-19, we organised a robust programme of events and performances for the 2021 Abu Dhabi Festival.



**THE NUTCRACKER**  
Pas de Deux  
Featuring Isabella Boylston and James Whiteside  
**December 2020**



**ABT Today: The Future Starts Now**  
**December 2020**



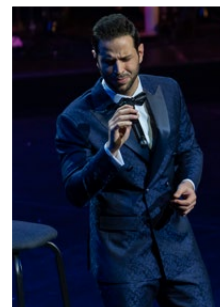
**The Story of the Violin**  
**June 2021**



**Al Ain Film Festival**  
**January 2021**



**Ludwig van Beethoven Easter Festival – Recital Series**  
**September-October 2021**



**Omar Kamal's World Tour**  
**2021**



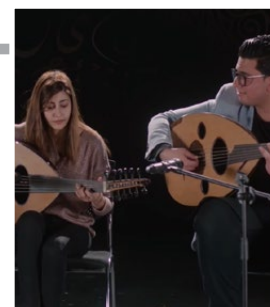
**Uncle Naji**  
**January 2021**



**Hekayat: Symphonic Tales by Ihab Darwish**  
**March 2021**



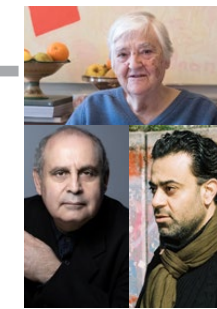
**Al Hayat by Naseer Shamma**  
**February 2021**



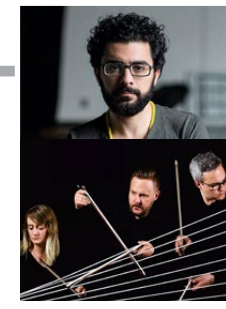
**Global Oud Forum 2021**  
**February 2021**



**Mohamed Briouel and Kudsi Erguner: Arab-Andalusian and Fasl Encounter**  
**June 2021**



**Opera L'Apocalypse Arabe**  
**July 2021**



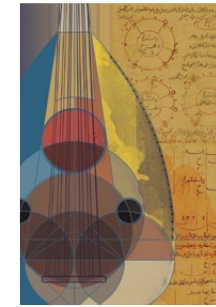
**Tarek Yamani and Spektral Quartet**  
**October 2021**



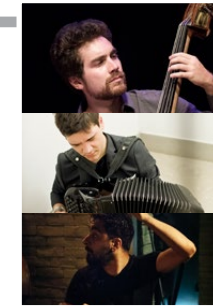
**Kinan Azmeh Cityband**  
**June 2021**



**Abu Dhabi Festival Youth Orchestra: Emirates Youth Symphony Orchestra**  
**October 2021**



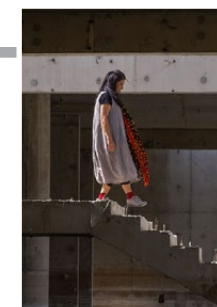
**A Journey with the Arabic Oud**  
**October 2021**



**Cairo Jazz Station**  
**October 2021**



**Forever Is Now**  
**October-November 2021**



**ADMAF Pavilion at Abu Dhabi Art**  
**November 2021**