

An initiative by
Solidere

 **Beirut Celebrates.**
END OF YEARS FESTIVITIES 2010

FROM 9 TILL 28 DECEMBER

BEIRUT CHANTS

THE 3RD FESTIVAL OF SACRED MUSIC
Free Entrance

THE 3RD FESTIVAL OF SACRED MUSIC

19 concerts from the 9th to the 28th of December
in the churches of Beirut Down Town

For more information contact us on 03 776187
Or check the festival's website: www.beirutsharedmusic.org

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In collaboration with


BASD
جمعية بيروت للتطوير الاجتماعي
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ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

The festival of sacred music in Beirut Down Town is a unique experience in Lebanon that joins Spirituality, Culture, and History:

Four factors make the charm of this festival: The music, the performers, the placement, and the season.

✦ The Music

The music performed in this festival has two main aspects: It is a spiritual and an ethnic traditional music.

✦ The Performers

All performers are professional international artists and choirs. They travel all around the world to present the Lebanese music traditions and the world traditions in a Lebanese special and authentic style.

✦ The Placement

Concerts of the festivals in Beirut down town are delivered in the churches of the region. All these churches are historical beautiful churches that were demolished in the civil war then refurbished after that. These churches testimony on the spirituality of Beirut's Christian families. Visiting these sites is in itself a spiritual experience that is not to be missed.

✦ The Season

All performers will be addressing the Nativity, each performer in its own style and background.

10 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS PARADE

The Christmas Parade
Mini Studio Characters
Official Lighting of the Christmas Tree

10 DECEMBER TILL 2 JANUARY CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES:

Santa's House
Christmas Workshops
Ukrainian Dancers shows

10 DECEMBER TILL 30 DECEMBER BEIRUT CHANTS

11 DECEMBER TILL 21 DECEMBER JAMAL EXHIBITION

Photography exhibition

31 DECEMBER NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS

Light and Music Shows
Countdown and Fireworks Shows

CONCERTS' LOCATION (Parking Available)

Saint Elias Church

Kantari, around 400m upward after Phoenicia Hotel

Saint George Orthodox Cathedral

Place de l'Étoile

Saint Louis Capuchin Church

Behind the Governmental Palace.

Saint George Maronite Cathedral

Place des Martyres behind Mohammad Al Amin Mosque.

National Evangelical Church

Facing the Governmental Palace.

Saint Maron Church

Gemmayzeh.

St Nichan Armenian Orthodox Cathedral

Near the main entrance of the Ministerial Palace



Concerts' program

Thursday 9 December | 20h Antonins University Choir (Classical)

The choir of the Antonin University performing classical music masterpieces under the direction of the Italian Maestro of the Opera of Rome Mr Marco Berdondini and with the participation of the Italian Soprano Anna Carnovall. *St. Maron Church, Gemmayzeh.*

Friday 10 December | 20h Saint Romanos choir of Beirut (Byzantine)

The Byzantine choir of the Orthodox Eparchy of Beirut performing the chants of the Nativity and Psalms. *St. Georges Orthodox Cathedral, Place de L'Etoile.*

Saturday 11 December | 20h Ghada Ghanem (Opera)

The international opera singer Ghada Ghanem singing Christmas in Beirut. *St. Louis Capuchin church.*

Sunday 12 December | 20h Fayhaa Choir (Lebanese)

Polyphonic, Accapella. The Fayhaa Choir - Tripoli - performing Lebanese songs without instruments. *St. Maron Church - Gemmayzeh*

Monday 13 December | 18h "Layali Al Charek" Choir and the Children Choir of the Lebanese School of the Blind-Baabda (Children)

A touching parafestival contribution by the choir of the blind children of Baabda chanting the nativity. *St. Louis Capuchin church.*

Tuesday 14 December | 20h Grace Medawar (Opera and Modern)

The Lebanese Soprano Grace Medawar performing Eastern and Western songs and chants for the nativity. *St. Elie Church Kantari*

Thursday 16 December | 20h Kamila and Zakar Kichichian (Armenian Instrumental)

An instrumental concert by the Armenian couple Kamila and Zakar Kichichian on modern and traditional Armenian instruments bringing back the special moments in the history of the Armenian culture. *National Evangelical Church*

Friday 17 December | 20h Choir of the holy Spirit University Kaslik (Traditional Syriac and Maronite)

The USEK Choir performing traditional Syriac and contemporary Maronite chants. *St. Georges Maronite Cathedral*

Saturday 18 December | 19h The Christian Community Choir (Hymns and Bells)

The choir of the Christian community Choir singing Christmas hymns with the Handbell Ringers group and the "Sing Children's Choir". *National Evangelical Church*

Saturday 18 December | 20h Notre Dame University Choir (Classical and Syriac)

The NDU choir performing classical, Syriac, and Maronite masterpieces in a classical arrangements. *St. Elie Catholic Cathedral - place de l'Etoile*



Sunday 19 December | 20h Samer Saleme (Opera)

The international opera singer Samer Saleme singing Christmas in Beirut. *St. Elie Catholic Cathedral - place de l'Etoile*



Monday 20 December | 20h Abeer Nehme (Syriac and Greek)

The international ethnic singer Abeer Nehme performing traditional Syriac and Greek, church liturgical and non liturgical chants. *St. Elie Church Kantari*



Tuesday 21 December | 20h Mount Lebanon Byzantine Orthodox Choir, SEM (Byzantine)

The Byzantine choir of the Orthodox Eparchy of Mount Lebanon performing the psalms of the nativity. A prime Greek international Byzantine soloist Yorgos Fanaras will be performing at the concert with the choir. *St. Georges Orthodox Cathedral*



Wednesday 22 December | 20h Tania Kassis (Opera and Modern)

The international singer Tania Kassis performing Classical and Jazzy songs for Christmas. *St. Elie Church Kantari*



Thursday 23 December | 20h Ghada Chbeir (Syriac)

The international ethnic music chanter Ghada Shbeir will be performing Syriac traditional chants from research. *St. Louis Capuchin church.*



Saturday 25 December | 18h Gargatch Children's Choir of Hamazkayin Educational and Cultural Society (Children)

The professional Garagatch children choir performing classical and Armenian polyphonic songs and chants. *St. Elie Church, Kantari*



Sunday 26 December | 20h 4 Knights known as EL Fersen el Arbaa (Lebanese)

The four famous Lebanese musketeers will be performing the Lebanese known chants and songs of Christmas. *National Evangelical Church*



Monday 27 December | 18h La Chanterie de Beyrouth (Children)

A parafestival educational contribution by the choir of the children of "La chanterie de Beyrouth" chanting the nativity. *St. Nichan Orthodox Armenian Cathedral*



Tuesday 28 December | 20h La Voix d'Antan or Sawt el Atik (Syriac & Maronite)

The traditional choir of «La Voix d'Antan» performing traditional and new Syriac chants of the Maronite church. *St. Louis Capuchin church.*

Music Traditions Performed at the Festival

✦ Syriac Music

It is one of the oldest styles of Christian Music Styles. The Syriac is a dialect of the Aramean language of our Lord Jesus Christ. Saint Ephraem (IVth century) played a major role in the history of Syriac music. He composed a large number of chants adapted to known popular melodies. His aim was to promote the correct believes of the Church as set by the Nicen council against the Gnostic sects.

Syriac music is known to be very simple. This is due mainly to the history of the Syriac people who lived in poverty and monastism. The Syriac music is mainly a music chanted by the whole congregation of believers attending liturgical services.

In the festival we address different traditions of the Syriac Music: The Syriac Maronite Music that is known only in Lebanon, The Syriac Catholic, and the Syriac Orthodox Music.

✦ Byzantine Music

Byzantine Music is known for its profound spirituality and grandiose effect. This music was organized for the first time by St John of Damas (VIIth century) in 8 modes. Its main aspects were developed during the era of Byzantine Empire. Accordingly, Byzantine music gained the grandiosity effects of the imperial court without compromising its spiritual aspect. In the XIVth century, Byzantine Music had its most ornamented compositions with the great masters of the Psaltic art.

Byzantine Music is a choir music. The number of chanters in the traditional Byzantine choir is 24 chanters according to the Constantinopolitan imperial decrees.

Byzantine Music is written with a special notation known as Psaltica.

✦ Armenian Music

Armenian chant, composed in one of eight modes, is the most common kind of religious music in Armenia. It is written in khaz, a form of indigenous musical notation. Many of these chants are ancient in origin, extending to pre-Christian times, while others are relatively modern, including several composed by Saint Mesrop Mashtots, who invented the Armenian alphabet.

Armenian religious music remained liturgical until Komitas Vardapet introduced polyphony in the end of the 19th century. Apart from his contribution to religious music, Komitas may be considered the founder of modern classical Armenian music. From 1899 to 1910, he travelled through the Armenian highlands and collected more than 3,000 folk tunes many of which he harmonized and transformed into Lieder.





✦ **Western Classical Music**

Western classical music was developed essentially after the fall of Constantinople in 1453 and the emigration of Byzantine artists and philosophers to the west. The western peoples were amazed by the Byzantine philosophy and secular (non church) music so they adopted it and developed it. The problem was that the west introduced these secular practices and concepts to the church.

Most compositions in western classical music use Christian church texts. This style of music is highly instrumental and polyphonic showing extreme beauty and majesty of the melody and the arrangement.

