



1-25
DECEMBER
2012

SEASON 5

BEIRUT FESTIVAL
CHANTS
2012

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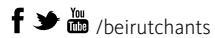
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BEIRUT CHANTS TEAM

Micheline Abi Samra
Fr Toufic Maatouk
Richard Azoury
Nayla Abou Aziz
Samer Younes
Sibylle Tarazi
Abbas Fares
Mosbah Assi
Katia Yazbeck



St Elie Kantari | Beirut | Photo Mosbah Assi | 2012

Founder's Letter

Dear Friends and Fans,

Over the past four years your enthusiasm in Beirut Chants has given us the drive to always strive for better and reach for new heights, to bring you memorable and breathtaking performances.

It is with great pleasure that we announce our acceptance into the European Festivals Association (EFA), one the most prestigious festival associations in the world, comprised of top international festivals, all thanks to your goodwill and support.

We look forward to your participation in this year's Beirut Chants, which will surely surprise you with novel performances, some for the first time in Lebanon, by local and internationally renowned artists that are sure to please even the most demanding music lover.

The team and myself would like to reiterate our thanks for all the passion you have shown in Beirut Chants.

We hope you will join us this December for an unforgettable holiday season filled with love and joy.



Micheline Abi Samra
Beirut Chants Founder



Antonine University Choir | Beirut Chants Festival 2011 | Photo Mosbah Assi | 2011

A Fascinating New Season

You are warmly welcomed to the 5th Beirut Chants Festival. Again this year, our team has deployed all efforts to present a fascinating show to the Lebanese audience. Numerous renowned Lebanese and international artists will consecutively perform musical programs, which we hope to be enchanting as much as interesting.

As in the past years, 2012-2013 Beirut Chants Festival will be presenting concerts where different Christmas sacred music will be performed: the Syro Maronite, Byzantine and Armenian musical traditions, as well as the Western art music of different eras and the Arabic art music.

This year Beirut Chants Festival stamps its membership in the European Festivals Association by hosting famous musicians, namely, La Scala di Milano Sextet, the Lebanese pianist Abdel El Rahman El Bacha, performing Beethoven's sonatas and the talented Lebanese singer Ghada Chbeir, with the qanun player Iman Homsy, performing a new work inspired by the Syro Maronite musical traditions. We are proud to present you the Austrian conductor Manfred Müssauer, who will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Italian Composer Verdi, conducting the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO), the Antonine University Choir and the NDU Choir, with the participation of the Lebanese soprano Rima Tawil, who will conclude the 2012-2013 Beirut Chants Festival by signing her new album based on Massenet melodies (a program that has recently known a great success at Salle Gaveau in Paris).

The significant ensembles and choirs who perform the Eastern sacred musical traditions take an important part in this program: the School of Ecclesiastic Music Byzantine Choir, the "Ancient Voice" Choir, St Stephen Choir, St Romanos Choir and the Arabic Classical Music Ensemble of the Antonine University. We are very much honored to have them all again with us in this year's Festival to perform beside several new musical ensembles and soloists who will be joining us for the first time, among whom are Children Choirs (Maîtrises) singing Christmas songs, as well as the Beirut Chants Orchestra created by the Festival, which will accompany many of these concerts.

Fr Toufic Maatouk
Artistic Director



St Romanos Choir | Beirut Chants Festival 2010 | Photo Mazen Jannoun | 2010



01 DECEMBER 20H00	02 DECEMBER 20H30	03 DECEMBER 20H00	04 DECEMBER 20H00	05 DECEMBER 20H00
06 DECEMBER 20H00	07 DECEMBER 20H00	08 DECEMBER 20H00	09 DECEMBER 20H00	10 DECEMBER 20H00
11 DECEMBER 20H00	12 DECEMBER 20H00	13 DECEMBER 20H00	14 DECEMBER 20H00	15 DECEMBER 20H00
16 DECEMBER 20H00	17 DECEMBER 20H00	18 DECEMBER 20H00	19 DECEMBER 20H00	20 DECEMBER 20H00
21 DECEMBER 20H00	22 DECEMBER 18 20:30	23 DECEMBER 18 20:30	24 DECEMBER	25 DECEMBER 20H00

Season 5 program

December 1-25

Saturday 1	• St Maron Gemmayzeh Sestetto dell'Accademia della Scala di Milano 20:00
Sunday 2	• St Maron Gemmayzeh Ensemble Correspondances 20:30
Monday 3	• All Saints Church The Lebanese School for the Blind & Deaf Choir 20:00
Tuesday 4	• St Elie Greek Catholic Cathedral Rania Younes 20:00
Wednesday 5	• St Louis Capuchin Church Kamila & Zakar Keshishian 20:00
Friday 7	• Armenian Catholic Cathedral Lara Jokhadar & Marc Reaidy 20:00
Saturday 8	• St Louis Capuchin Church Abdel Rahman El Bacha 20:00
Sunday 9	• St Georges Maronite Cathedral Joumana Medawar** 20:00 with special thanks to Mr Thomas Rizkallah
Monday 10	• St Elie Greek Catholic Cathedral St Stephanos the Melode Choir 20:00
Tuesday 11	• St Elie Kantari Beirut Chants Festival Gala Concert** 20:00
Wednesday 12	• Armenian Catholic Cathedral Evangelical Armenian Community Choir 20:00
Thursday 13	• St Elie Greek Catholic Church Ensemble de Musique Classique Arabe, conducted by Nidaa Abou Mrad 20:00
Friday 14	• St Georges Orthodox Cathedral School of Ecclesiastic Music (SEM) 20:00 with special thanks to Mr Abdallah Tamari
Saturday 15	• St Elie Kantari Imane Homsy & Ghada Chbeir** 20:00

DOORS CLOSE 10 MINUTES PRIOR TO PERFORMANCE TIME



Sunday 16	• St Georges Maronite Cathedral Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra with Antonine University & NDU Choirs conducted by Manfred Müssauer Rima Tawil, soprano 20:00 with special thanks to Mr Michel Abi Nader
Monday 17	• St Elie Kantari Abeer Nehme** 20:00
Tuesday 18	• St Elie Kantari NDU Children's Choir** 20:00 • St Georges Orthodox Cathedral St Romanos Choir Beirut 20:00 with special thanks to Mr Jacques Sarraf
Wednesday 19	• St Maron Gemmayzeh Nadine Nassar & Matteo El Khodr with Antonine University Choir** 20:00
Thursday 20	• St Nichan Church La Voix D'Antan** 20:00
Friday 21	• St Elie Kantari Mirna Chaker 20:00 with special thanks to Mr Carlos Abou Jaoude
Saturday 22	• Armenian Catholic Cathedral La Chanterie de Beyrouth 18:00 • National Evangelical Church Four Knights 20:30
Sunday 23	• National Evangelical Church Gargatch Choir 18:00 • St Louis Capuchin Church Samar Salamé with La Sagesse St John choir 20:30 with special thanks to Mr Joseph Ghossoub
Tuesday 25	• St Elie Kantari Rima Tawil with Jeff Cohen & Carine Balit 20:00

**ACCOMPANIED BY THE BEIRUT CHANTS ORCHESTRA

01
DECEMBER
20H00

IN COLLABORATION WITH
ISTITUTO ITALIANO
DI CULTURA LIBANO



PERFORMERS

Livio Troiano, violin
Francesco Bonacini, violin
Paolo Fumagalli, viola
Jacobo Pigi, viola
Alejandro Mariangel Pradenas, cello
Francesco Sacco, cello

PROGRAM

Luigi Boccherini, sestetto in Fa minore
Giuseppe Verdi – Pietro Mascagni, ciceri
Puccini, crisantemi per quartetto d'archi
Strauss, capriccio



ACCADEMIA
TEATRO ALLA SCALA

ST MARON GEMMAYZEH

**SESTETTO DELL'ACCADEMIA
DELLA SCALA DE MILANO**

GRAND OPENING

This year's Beirut Chants kicks off in a grand fashion with La Scala di Milano. The sextet of the Accademia di Teatro alla Scala di Milano brings together six of the most talented musician of La Scala Orchestra who will perform, for the very first time in Beirut, a wide repertoire from Boccherini, Verdi, Mascagni, and Strauss' Capriccio.



PERFORMERS

Juliette Perret, soprano
Caroline Bardot, soprano
Marie Pouchelon, mezzo
Lucile Richardot, mezzo
Myriam Rignol, viole
Diego Salamanca, théorbe
Sébastien Daucé, virginal,
orgue & direction

COMPOSERS

Antoine Boësset, Etienne Moulinié,
Henry Dumont, Guillaume
Bouznac

INSTITUT
FRANÇAIS

02
DECEMBER
20H30

IN COLLABORATION WITH
INSTITUT FRANÇAIS

ST ELIE KANTARI

ENSEMBLE CORRESPONDANCES*

L'ARCHANGE & LE LYS

French Sacred Music from the 1630's for the Annunciation, program by Boësset, Moulinié, Dumont and Bouznac. One enters the world of France's 17th century convents, where audiences from across France, united in the same faith as the religious sisters, were able to listen in wonder to heavenly voices. Boësset's music (Deslauriers manuscript), is the only surviving sacred music score by one of the most important French composers of the 17th century.

* L'Ensemble Correspondances receives the support of Fondation Orange, as well as subsidies from Région Rhône-Alpes, DRAC Rhône-Alpes, City of Lyon, SPEDIDAM, ADAMI and the French Institute. They commenced a two year residency at Festival Musique & Mémoire in 2011.

03
DECEMBER
20100

ALL SAINTS CHURCH
**LEBANESE SCHOOL FOR
THE BLIND & DEAF CHOIR**

The choir of the Lebanese School for the Blind & Deaf is presenting
Lebanese folkloric Christmas carols.



04
DECEMBER
20100



ST ELIE GREEK CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL
RANIA YOUNES
AL 'USHQ AL ILAHI

A selection of traditional Christmas Maronite repertoire will be performed by Rania
Younes enhanced by her sensibility, interpretation and technique.

05
DECEMBER
20H00

ST LOUIS CAPUCHIN
KAMILA & ZAKAR KESHISHIAN
ARMENIAN MOSAIC III

This year's program will include a wide selection of Armenian sacred, classical, folk and contemporary masterpieces, played on the piano, as well as with Armenian wind instruments, such as the Duduk and the Shvi.



POSTPONED

18
DECEMBER
20H30

ST GEORGES ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
ST ROMANOS CHOIR, BEIRUT

For this edition, the Saint Romanos choir is presenting an array of Orthodox Christmas chants from the Orthodox Byzantine tradition.

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO
MR JACQUES SARRAF



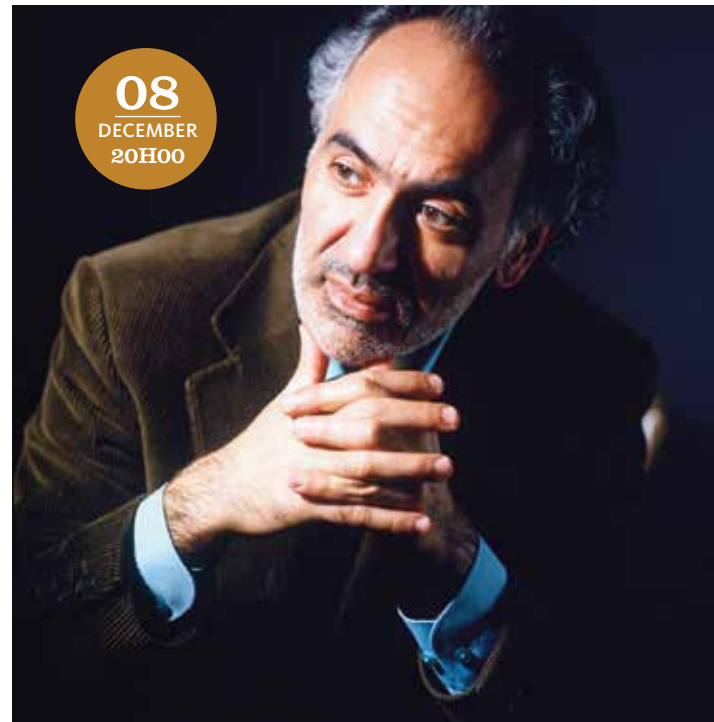
07
DECEMBER
20H00

ARMENIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

LARA JOKHADAR & MARC READY

ETOILES DE NOËL

Lara Jokhadar and Marc Ready, two new Lebanese talents will perform a Christmas repertoire including operas and carols with pianist Olga Bolun.



ST LOUIS CAPUCHIN

ABDEL RAHMAN EL BACHA

AN EVENING WITH BEETHOVEN

Abdel Rahman El Bacha is a man who gives us his passions and feelings. The opposite of violent interpretation, his play is smooth and clear. His technical expertise and sensitivity make him a great interpreter of Beethoven. His concert will take us through famous sonatas such as Pathétique, Clair de Lune and Appassionata.



ST GEORGE MARONITE CATHEDRAL

JOUMANA MEDAWAR

COMPOSER JOSEPH KHALIFÉ

ACCOMPANIED BY BEIRUT CHANTS ORCHESTRA

PEACE ON EARTH!

Joumana is considered one of the most popular Lebanese religious singers. With an average of 50 concerts per year, she has performed in Europe, USA, Africa, Australia and the Arab World. Her light vocal weight brings out the best in her interpretative art. Her voice is particularly associated with the music of Joseph Khalifé, who composed her best repertory. This year Joumana's performance will be accompanied by the Beirut Chants Orchestra, a premiere specially created for our Festival's Season 5.

PREMIERE

09

DECEMBER
20H00

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO
MR THOMAS RIZKALLAH



ST ELIE GREEK CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

ST STEPHANOS THE MELODE CHOIR

The Saint Stephanos choir was founded in 2009 by Mr Bachir Osta, head of the Saint Stephanos Patriarchal School of Byzantine Music and first chanter of the See of Antioch, who gathered a large number of skilled chanters in the Eparchy of Beirut and Jbeil, as well as students of the School. The Choir presented many recitals (mainly in the Pierre Abou Khater Theater – Saint Joseph University) and served many masses and prayers (parochial masses and prayers, ordination of priests and bishops, joint recitals with other choirs).

All members of the choir are experienced chanters in Byzantine music, as well as students of the Saint Stephanos Patriarchal School, who are gradually entering the choir upon acquiring all required skills and knowledge. The Choir is currently preparing many events in Lebanon and abroad.

10

DECEMBER
20H00



ST ELIE KANTARI
**BEIRUT CHANTS FESTIVAL
GALA CONCERT**
ACCOMPANIED BY BEIRUT
CHANTS ORCHESTRA

PERFORMERS
Caroline Solage, soprano
Nadine Nassar, soprano
Bechara Moufarrej, tenor
Roger Abi Nader, bass-bariton
Mario Rahi, violin
Toufic Maatouk, conductor

PROGRAM
Arias from: Mozart, Rossini, Verdi,
Bizet

The Festival is proud to present this year the Gala concert featuring Lebanese and international soloists, accompanied by Beirut Chants Orchestra, under the baton of Toufic Maatouk performing a wide repertoire of Mozart and Verdi's operas.

ARMENIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL
**EVANGELICAL ARMENIAN
COMMUNITY CHOIR**
CONDUCTED BY GARO AVEDISSIAN
ARMISS

The program of this concert involves both classical pieces, related to the Advent, and traditional Christmas carols. The goal is to furnish the audience with the treasures of the classical music within the joy and happiness of God's gift to the humanity. The pieces are mostly accompanied by the piano and are sung in three different languages: Latin, Armenian and English. The concert duration is one hour without an intermission, in addition to the instrumental music played by the ensemble of the choir, which creates a beautiful variety in between the choral and the instrumental atmospheres and timbres.



13
DECEMBER
20100



ST ELIE GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH
**ARABIC CLASSICAL MUSIC ENSEMBLE
OF THE ANTONINE UNIVERSITY**
CONDUCTED BY NIDAA ABOU MRAD
LEVANTINE CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

PERFORMERS

Nidaa Abou Mrad, violin
RF Jihad Abou Mrad, Mohamad
Ayach, Naim Asmar, chanting
Mustafa Said, chanting and 'ūd
Ghassan Sahhab, qanun

Cantillation and modal monodical chants of Mašriqian type taken from the New Testament, the musical traditions of Maronite, Orthodox and Latin Churches, a meditation of Archbishop Georges Khodr and a Sufi poem of Ibn 'Arabī, performed by the Arabic Classical Music Ensemble of the Antonine University.



ST GEORGES ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
SCHOOL OF ECCLESIASTIC MUSIC (SEM)
WITH SPECIAL GUEST PROTSPALTIS
FOTIS KETSETZIS
THIS IS OUR GOD

14
DECEMBER
20100

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO
MR ABDALLAH TAMARI

This year's SEM concert, in the context of the 5th Beirut Chants Festival of Sacred Music, will feature a world premiere Byzantine Oratorio for the Nativity, the first of its kind in Byzantine music, inspired from the liturgical dialogue of the Virgin Mary and the Angel Gabriel on the day of the Annunciation. Special guest Fotis Ketsetzis will be the hosted Protspaltis of the Oratorio.

The text of the Oratorio is a compilation done by Josph Yazbeck, comprised of centennial texts arranged to form several dialogues between the Virgin Mary, Jesus, the Magi and St Josph, pertaining specifically to the Nativity. The aim was to breathe new life into these texts, making them accessible to audiences while maintaining the texts original meaning and deep spiritual connotations.

Musically, this translates into a composition true to the Byzantine ecclesiastic musical tradition, with melodic continuity and solo alternations representing the different characters, forming a complete musical scene of the Nativity.



ST ELIE KANTARI

IMANE HOMSY, QANUN & GHADA CHBEIR, CHANTING

ACCOMPANIED BY BEIRUT CHANTS ORCHESTRA

WATAR WA SAWT

This years' appearance of Ghada Chbeir and Iman Homsy will be as a duo, performing Syriac chants from "Fanqit" and the Maronite repertoire. The Syriac word "Fanqit" signifies volume. The combined performance is the fruit of much research on the artists' part, presenting eight musical volumes in a series of tableaux that combine, vocal and string melodies in a medley of complementary rhythms with deep musical passion. The volumes are interspersed by solo instrumental sequences providing a transition from one to the other.

16
DECEMBER
20H00

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO
MR MICHEL ABI NADER



ST GEORGES MARONITE CATHEDRAL

LEBANESE PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA WITH ANTONINE & NOTRE-DAME UNIVERSITY CHOIRS

CONDUCTED BY MANFRED MUSSAUER

RIMA TAWIL, SOPRANO

VIVA VERDI!!

December 2012 marks Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi's birth bicentenary and the closing of French composer Jules Massenet's centenary. The festival will feature arias and famous choruses from Aida, Nabucco and Trovatore interpreted by Lebanese Soprano Rima Tawil, joined by Antonine University and NDU choirs, accompanied by the LPO, conducted by Manfred Müssauer.



17
DECEMBER
20H00

ST ELIE KANTARI
ABEER NEHME
ACCOMPANIED BY BEIRUT CHANTS
ORCHESTRA
CHOUBHO LHAO QOLO
GLORY TO THE WORD

Abeer Nehme is bringing to the festival a new form of Syriac music, which is developed according to a theoretical model, followed by other traditions of sacred music that had evolved in imperial societies. The performance will be a world premiere that will take place for the first time in Beirut Chants this year.

18
DECEMBER
20H00

ST ELIE KANTARI
NDU CHILDREN'S CHOIR
ACCOMPANIED BY THE BEIRUT CHANTS
ORCHESTRA

The Children's Choir of Notre-Dame de Louaize School is directed by Rev. Fr. Khalil Rahmé, Maronite Mariamite Order.





19
DECEMBER
20H00



ST MARON GEMMAYZEH

**NADINE NASSAR, SOPRANO
& MATTEO EL KHODR, COUNTER-TENOR
WITH ANTONINE UNIVERSITY CHOIR**

ACCOMPANIED BY THE BEIRUT CHANTS ORCHESTRA
CONDUCTED BY TOUFIC MAATOUK

A VIVALDI CHRISTMAS!

The sacred music festival of Beirut presents a bouquet of Baroque repertoires, featuring Antonio Vivaldi's Gloria and various other works of that period.

ST NICHAN CHURCH

LA VOIX D'ANTAN

CONDUCTED BY FR. MILED TARABAY

ACCOMPANIED BY THE BEIRUT CHANTS ORCHESTRA

SHOUBHO LMAWLODKH (AL MAJDOU LI MILADIKA)

20
DECEMBER
20H00

Assawt Al Atiq Choir gained its importance from the quality of its interpretation in worshipping God. For this performance, they will perform a bouquet of the Maronite Christmas sacred traditional hymns in Syriac and Arabic, under Fr. Tarabay.





FOR CHILDREN

22
DECEMBER
18H00

ARMENIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL
LA CHANTERIE DE BEYROUTH
CHILDREN'S CHOIR
CONDUCTED BY NOHA HATEM

This year, the Chanterie's children choir performs a bouquet of Christmas hymns from the world tradition to celebrate Christmas in Beirut.

21
DECEMBER
20H00

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO
MR CARLOS ABOU JAOUDE

ST ELIE KANTARI
MIRNA CHAKER

The program celebrates the Christmas ambiance, in an exquisite combination of religious and non religious songs, in Arabic, English and an exquisite French medley.



22
DECEMBER
20H30

NATIONAL EVANGELICAL CHURCH
FOUR KNIGHTS - AL FURSAN AL ARBAA

The four knights, popular vocal ensemble is presenting an evening of Christmas tradition including a repertoire from the eastern liturgy.



23
DECEMBER
18H00

NATIONAL EVANGELICAL CHURCH
GARGATCH CHILDREN CHOIR
CONDUCTED BY ZAKAR KESHISHIAN
A MAGICAL CHRISTMAS!

This year the Gargatch children's choir of Hamaskayin will perform traditional and sacred Christmas songs in many languages.



23
DECEMBER
20H30

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO
MR JOSEPH GHOSSOUB

ST LOUIS CAPUCHIN

SAMAR SALAMÉ, SOPRANO
WITH LA SAGESSE ST JOHN CHOIR

ACCOMPANIED BY THE BEIRUT CHANTS
ORCHESTRA

TOUFIC MAATOUK, DIRECTOR

NELLY MAATOUK, CHOIR MASTER

LE CHANT DES ANGES!

Under the direction of Father Toufic Maatouk, Samar Salamé and La Sagesse St John children's choir will be chanting in unison classical hymns and popular folk songs.



24
DECEMBER
SEASONS
GREETINGS

25
DECEMBER
20100

ST ELIE KANTARI

RIMA TAWIL, SOPRANO

JEFF COHEN, PIANO

CARINE BALIT, CELLO

CLOSING FESTIVAL CONCERT

World renowned French-Lebanese soprano Rima Tawil is once again in Beirut, where she will be closing this year's Beirut Chants Festival with a bouquet of arias and melodies, and signing her two latest CD releases, interpreting works by Jules Massenet. Accompanying her is the exceptional Jeff Cohen on the piano and the talented Carine Balit on the cello.





St Georges Orthodox Cathedral | Beirut | Photo Klavdij Sluban | 2010

The Historic Venues



ST ELIE KANTARI
Fakhreddine Street



ST MARON GEMMAYZEH
Georges Haddad Street



ST LOUIS CAPUCHIN
CHURCH
Capuchin Street



ST GEORGES MARONITE
CATHEDRAL
Amir Bachir Street



NATIONAL EVANGELICAL
CHURCH
National Evangelical Street



ARMENIAN CATHOLIC
CATHEDRAL
Saifi



ST ELIE GREEK CATHOLIC
CATHEDRAL
Nejmeh Square



ST GEORGES ORTHODOX
CATHEDRAL
Nejmeh Square



ST NICHAN CHURCH
Grand Serail Hill



ALL SAINTS CHURCH
Ahmad Chawki Street



St Elie Greek Catholic Cathedral | Beirut Chants Festival | Photo Mazen Jannoun | 2010

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Gargatch Children's Choir | Beirut Chants Festival 2011 | Photo Mosbah Assi

