



**CAMILE
& RHONA SABA**



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
IN LEBANON



Embassy of the Czech Republic in Lebanon



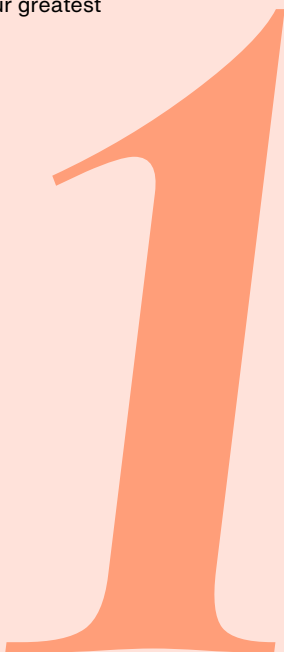
It is with great determination and passion that we launch the 15th edition of Beirut Chants. And thanks to you, our dear supporters and friends, music will resonate once again in the struggling city to inspire and empower its people.


Fifteen years ago, we envisioned making music accessible by organizing more than 24 concerts every year, free of charge. Here we are, 15 years on, still faithful to you, still true to ourselves, and as rooted as ever in our values. Since we began, we have pledged to offer free, valuable music to all. The changing times did not change us - we have stood firmly by our people since 2007 and continue to do so every December of every year, always carrying a sincere message and sharing hope - our greatest

enduring strength - with our audience and supporters. Today, on behalf of the Beirut Chants team, I would like to express our love and respect for the Festival's audience, this music-loving community that never deserted the churches and theaters, even in the darkest times. They, You, are the true custodians of our mission and the fiercest defenders of the Festival's existence.

We meet in Beirut, the city we cannot live without; we meet to warm up our winter with music and chants.

Micheline Abi Samra
Founder





This 15th season year's program builds upon Beirut Chants vision and mission reuniting local and international artists alike to step into Christmas light, reconnect the city's past with its present, celebrate despite everything, enjoy a rich program and remember that we are an enabler that transform and develop the Culture in our city.

Let's look through the eyes of each performance, in knowing what Beirut Chants is, being a meeting place where we share quality moments, musical enchantment and joyful melodies.

Toufic Maatouk o.a.m
Artistic Director

Beirut Chants Festival



El Sistema

To our esteemed Beirut Chants Audience,

It is with great pleasure and honor that we announce the launching of a new project called “Beirut Chants El-Sistema” which is an initiative to implement the world-famous social action music program, known as “El-Sistema” in Lebanon.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the US Embassy in Lebanon and especially to Her Excellency Ambassador Dorothy Shea for supporting this project and for Her Excellency’s determination to empower culture in our country.

The objective of this initiative is to create a symphony orchestra made of a group of youth between the ages of 8 and 15 from struggling and marginalized communities across the country. The youth will be instructed by professional musicians, who themselves are under severe hardship in our collapsed economy.

El-Sistema started in 1975 thanks to the efforts of Maestro Jose Antonio Abreu in Venezuela specifically in the slum and Barrio areas and has since spread

worldwide. The power of intensive and joyful “music-making”, as a vehicle for social development, to advance culture and to bring communities together has been proven by the El-Sistema method of “group practice” and “collective learning”.

Our aim is to fine tune and advance the musical skills of less fortunate youth from all backgrounds by educating, training, instructing, and rehearsing and even more rehearsing to ultimately create a symphony orchestra and choir of up to 100 youth that can perform in Beirut Chants in our next season and other cultural events.

We aim to launch in three different locations within three months and invite schools, communities, and any interested parties to contact us through our website to see how we can collaborate together. We also encourage local NGOs, especially those concerned with human rights, gender equality, child protection and others to reach out to us as well to help them spread their message.

We aim to unite communities and educate our youth to the unifying power of “ensembles”, to appreciate

the purity of classical music, and to witness firsthand the amazing positive impact from collaboration to overcome socio-economic, religious, ethnic and cultural differences.

We hope this program will be a shining example of what is possible in spite of the darkness we live in: "One note and one student at a time"

Richard Azouri
Program Acting Director

El Sistema / Belgian National Orchestra





IN COLLABORATION WITH



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Embassy of Switzerland to Lebanon and Syria

**Camile & Rhona
Saba**



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programs at beirutchants.com**

Chantal Balestri, Piano

Chantal Balestri is an Italian-Swiss pianist known worldwide for her solo and chamber music concerts. She received Master's of Music degrees from both the Lucca Conservatory in Italy and New York University, the latter with honors for her extraordinary achievement. She has participated in multiple collaborations with other artists and orchestras, including Metropolitan Opera tenor Francesco Anile, the Brooklyn Symphony Orchestra, and her recent tour with violinist Leonardo Moretti, in addition to her highly sought-after solo performances at various musical festivals and international concert halls. She is currently a staff pianist at New York University and has been appointed NY President of the World Piano Teachers Association.

Toufic Maatouk, Conductor

Toufic Maatouk, is one of the most compelling conductors of his generation. In the 2012 season, Maatouk began his tenure as Artistic Director of the Beirut Chants Festival in Lebanon. He is also Guest Conductor of the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra since 2013 and a Guest Conductor of the

01

J.S.BACH MAGNIFICAT IN D W.A.MOZART PIANO CONCERTO N.23 IN A

CHANTAL BALESTRI, PIANO
CATERINA DI TONNO, SOPRANO
FEDERICA CARNEVALE, MEZZO-
SOPRANO
MIRA AKIKI, SOPRANO
CHARLES EID, TENOR
CESAR NASSY, BASS-BARITONE
ANTONINE UNIVERSITY CHOIR
& NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY CHOIR
MEMBERS OF THE LEBANESE
PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
TOUFIC MAATOUK, CONDUCTOR

8:00 PM

**ST. JOSEPH
CHURCH, MONOT**

Romanian Radio Chamber Orchestra since 2017. Maatouk was appointed Artistic Director and Choir Master of the Antonine University Choir, in August 2005 and Head of the vocal department in the Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of Music since October 2015. Maatouk has been Head of Academy of the Saudi Music Hubs in Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) founded by the Saudi Ministry of culture and been selected as Academic Board member at the Global Leaders Program (USA). Lately, he was appointed Executive Manager for Programming at the Abu Dhabi Festival (UAE).

In 2020, Maatouk was knighted by the President of the Italian Republic as “Cavaliere dell’Ordine Della Stella d’Italia” and been nominated by the Peace and Prosperity Trust (UK) as Artistic adviser to the Trust.

He collaborates with many Orchestras such as Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra (Lebanon), Orchestra del Teatro di San Carlo (Italy), Orchestra Giovanile Mediterranea (Italy), Roma Sinfonietta (Italy), New England Symphonic Ensemble (USA), Los Angeles Sinfonietta Orchestra (USA), Saint Petersburg Symphony Orchestra (Russia), Kiev Symphony Orchestra (Ukraine), Romanian Radio Chamber Orchestra (Bucharest).

Lately, he has been Jury member at the 21st edition of the Ottavio Ziino International Competition in Italy (September 2022). Upcoming schedule includes two concerts with the Radio Romania Chamber Orchestra (March 2023).

Caterina di Tonno

Born in Naples but raised in Rome, Caterina Di Tonno began her musical studies at a very young age as a pianist and violinist. Later on, she

took up voice studies with Maria Luisa Carboni and graduated from the Conservatorio of Pescara. She perfected her education under the guidance of Shirley Verrett and Alfonso Antoniozzi.

Her versatility led her often to experiment with non-strictly classical vocal techniques in projects such as the soundtrack by Carlo Crivelli for the tv movie *Virginia la monaca di Monza* directed by Alberto Sironi and Gershwin songs with the famous jazz pianist Giorgio Gaslini.

Her extensive baroque, chamber, oratorio and concert experience include Mendelssohn’s *Ein Sommernachtstraum* (in Naples conducted by Jeffrey Tate and in Milan conducted by Antonello Manacorda), Bach’s *Magnificat* (MiTo Festival, conducted by Manacorda), Rossini’s *Stabat mater* (Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra in Beirut).

Federica Carnevale

Federica Carnevale, after an artistic career in experimental theater and a degree in Literature and Philosophy achieved with honors in 2001 at the University of L’Aquila, in 2002 she graduated with honors as Opera Singer under the guidance of Maestro Mario Machi at the Conservatory of Music “A.Casella” of L’Aquila.

In 2010 he won the First Prize at the International Sacred Music Competition in Rome. She therefore developed his career above all in the repertoires of Baroque, Mozart and Rossini opera: she sang, among others, works by Vivaldi (“*L’Olimpiade*” in Basel, Herne, and at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam), Galuppi (“*L’inimico delle donne*” at the Opéra Royal de Wallonie in Liège), Traetta (“*Armida*” at the Itria Valley Festival in Martinafranca), Porpora (“*Orfeo*” at the Itria Valley Festival).

Mira Akiki

Mira Akiki, a Lebanese coloratura Soprano, known for mastering Vocal and Acting techniques with high agility. She discovered her passion for music when she was 5, every time she heard her father playing the piano. After joining the NDU choir at the age of 11, her piano teacher discovered her vocal power.

She joined the Lebanese Higher Conservatory of Music six years later, and graduated in Opera Singing in 2015 with honors, class of Fr. Toufic Maatouk.

Charles Eid

Charles Eid, aged 24 years old, is a Lebanese Tenor. He's the student of Toufic Maatouk. For the last 7 years, he studied opera at the Antonine University Music Conservatory, attended several masterclasses from various professional opera singers, gaining a large set of skills.

Charles has a wide and professional music repertoire as a soloist and performed in many operas (Mozart's *Le Nozze Di Figaro*, Donizetti's *L'Elisir D'Amore...*), sacred works (Gounod's *St. Cecilia Mass*, Handel's *Messiah...*) and other events in several countries around the world.

Cesar Naassy

Known for his striking stage presence and deep warm voice, Cesar finds himself particularly well in the works of Mozart. His notable vocal agility and cantabile voice, also allow him to tackle the Belcanto repertoire of Rossini, Bellini and Donizetti.

Some of the roles he performed on stage include Raimondo in "*Lucia di Lammermoor*", Sarastro in "*Die Zauberflöte*", The king of Scotland in "*Ariodante*" and newer works, such as Superintendent Bud in Benjamin Britten's "*Albert Herring*"...

Antonine University Choir

One of the leading choirs in Lebanon, Antonine University Choir was founded in Baabda-Lebanon 1978. It has contributed since the eighties in the cultural enrichment of the Lebanese musical life with its repertory. UA choir has performed in Rome, Milan, Nice, Lyon, Monaco, St. Étienne, Doha, Dubai, Al Aïn in United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Tbilisi, Paris, New York, Los Angeles, Muscat, Naples, Venice, Helsinki and Manhaus Brazil. It made its Los Angeles debut in April 2014, performing at the LA City Hall. In November 2016, the choir also made its debut at the San Carlo opera house. In addition, the choir has represented Lebanon in the opening of the Lebanese Pavilion at the 57th Venice Biennale in May 2017.

Notre Dame University Choir

With more than a dozen concerts per season, numerous recordings and publications, and many international awards, the Notre Dame University Choir is one of Lebanon and the region's outstanding choirs. A broad repertoire, a richly warm sound, an unmistakable interpretation all contributes to make it a permanent partner of the international festivals, and the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra and its conductors, where it functions as a musical ambassador for Beirut in the great concert halls around the world. Since its establishment in 1993, it has been shaped by Reverend Khalil Rahme, a Maronite Mariamite monk, who returned to Beirut after completing his music studies in Rome, to found the choir and the School of Music at Notre Dame University, in addition to his numerous entrusted tasks at the Lebanese National Conservatory of Music.



africell

The Classical Music Club at the American University of Beirut was officially established in 2019 by AUB students that share a common enthusiasm for Classical Music. Its mission is to advance the culture of listening to Classical Music and make it more accessible to the general public, particularly the youth.

It has so far organized thirteen Classical Music Concerts including two in Baskinta with the performers mainly being AUB Students and Alumni. Among those concerts were two Christmas Concerts, one Claude Debussy Piano Recital, and one Organ Recital. The club's plans for the future include organizing more concerts, masterclasses, and lectures on various topics pertaining to listening to music.

Cabinet:

Mahdi Anani (President and Co-founder)
Jawad Haddad (Vice President)
Wiaam Haddad (Musical Director and Co-founder)
Karim Chehab (Secretary)
Ryan Dib Nehme (Treasurer)
Khalil Chahine (Member at large)

02 AUB Classical Music Club

JAWAD HAMADANI, PIANO
ANTONIUS CHEDID, VIOLIN
KHALIL CHAHINE, PIANO
MAYA MAALOUF, VIOLIN
MUSTAPHA SAHILI, CELLO
RITA ASDIKIAN, VIOLIN
WIAAM HADDAD, PIANO

8:00 PM

**ASSEMBLY HALL
AUB**



AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF BEIRUT

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IN COLLABORATION WITH



With flawless technique and compelling expressiveness, **Giuseppe Gibboni** won over the jury & audience of the Paganini Violin Competition in Genoa in October 2021. The violinist, born in 2001, was the first Italian in 24 years to win the overall prize, as well as the audience choice prize and special prize for the best interpretations of Niccolò Paganini's Capriccios and Violin Concerto. Subsequently, the now 21-year-old musician has begun an extensive concert career. He made his debut with Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto with the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia under the direction of Lorenzo Viotti. Shortly thereafter, he played with guitarist Carlotta Dalia at the invitation of Italian President Sergio Mattarella at the Quirinal Palace in Rome; the concert was broadcast live on Italian radio.

Born in Tuscany in 1999, guitarist **Carlotta Dalia** is attracting attention with her passionate and deep interpretations, carried by a round and powerful tone. Since giving her first solo concert at the age of 12, she has won over 40 national and international competitions, including first prizes in Uppsala, Hong Kong, Miami, and Madrid, as well as at the International Competition Niccolò Paganini in Parma. Carlotta Dalia completed postgraduate studies as a student of Laura Young at the Mozarteum Salzburg in 2022 and has been a D'Addario Artist since 2016. She is supported by the Si-Yo Music Foundation in New York and the Adopt a Musician Foundation in Lugano. Carlotta Dalia performs on a guitar by Andrea Tacchi.

03

Giuseppe Gibboni / Violin

FIRST PRIZE PAGANINI
COMPETITION 2021

Carlotta Dalia / Guitar

8:00 PM

ST. MARON CHURCH
GEMMAYZEH

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**Camile & Rhona
Saba**

04

Abeer Nehme

8:00 PM

**BEIRUT SOUKS
DOWNTOWN**

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Abeer Nehme's exceptional vocal talents and her unique performances of various traditional Arabic, Western and World music, labelled Abeer as one of the best singers to rise from the Middle East. Her musical experience goes beyond being a performing artist, she is also a professional music composer with a rich portfolio of achievements. She is the first artist from the Middle East to sign an international record deal with Universal Music MENA. (2017-2018).

Till date, Abeer has recorded 3 studio albums produced by Universal Music MENA and is working with them on her fourth album. Being the main Middle Eastern artist at Universal Music, Abeer has filmed and released already 5 music videos along various lyric videos with 3 others in the pipeline schedule until 2022.

Abeer Nehme's extensive musical culture that came due to her substantial career, travels and deep knowledge of different arts & customs, made of her a researcher, musicologist, performer and singer who traveled the world singing with prominent indigenous artists on major theaters and concert halls.

She is undoubtedly the only Arab singer – and one of the few singers worldwide - to perform in more than twenty-seven languages. Abeer understands, lives and sings each language. This makes of her the emissary of cultural and musical dialogue in the region. Her advanced knowledge and art position her as a true messenger of civilizational, cultural and artistic dialogue that transcends boundaries and attracts lovers of all musical styles.



Since graduating in 2009 from his master degree in Music in Lebanon he commenced his studies further in Italy and subsequently joined the opera studio back in his home town in Beirut in 2013.

Bechara has collaborated with Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Bayerische State Orchestra, the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra, the Filarmonica Romana, Welsh National Orchestra and the Orchestra Giovanile Italiana under the baton of conductors like P. Toufic Maatouk , Gianlucca Marcianò , Lubnan Baalbaki , Alberto Maniaci and Nicola Pascovski and many others.

His most recent appearances include opera houses and festivals in Qatar, Dubai, Canada, Italy, UK , New York and the Opera de Paris in France. In 2013, Bechara performed the role of Don Jose in Bizet's Carmen at the Cirque d'Hiver in Paris and subsequently undertook the role of Don Basilio in Mozart's Le nozze di Figaro, Ferrando in Mozart's Cosi fan tutte and Conte d'Almaviva in Rossini's Il Barbiere di Siviglia, Jago in Otello di Rossini.

This was in collaboration with the Antonine University in Beirut , the Lebanese Conservatory and Al Bustan Festival.

After his great success as Conte d'Almaviva in Beirut, his engagements in the same role took him to such places as the Teatro Giulio di Lucca, Teatro Goldoni in Livorno, Teatro Verdi in Pisa. His future engagements include the opening song of the World cup 2022 in Qatar, Rigoletto in Holland Park Festival.

05

Opera meets oriental

Bechara Moufarrej

8:00 PM

BEIRUT SOUKS
DOWNTOWN

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06

St. Stephanos the Melode Choir

FR. ROMANOS OSTA
CONDUCTOR

8:00 PM

ST. ELIAS MELKITE
GREEK CATHOLIC
CATHEDRAL

The Saint Stephanos Choir was founded in 2009 by Father Romanos (Bachir) Osta, head of the Saint Stephanos Patriarchal School of byzantine Music.

Fr. Romanos is also the first chanter of the See of Antioch. He gathered a large number of skilled chanters in the Eparchy of Beirut, Jbeil, then extended to South and reached all the Lebanese Eparchies.

Moreover, he founded the Saint Stephanos female choir in 2012 that is currently under the direction of Miss Josiane El Hindi.

The Choir presented many recitals, 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 of Byzantine music, as well as students of the Saint Stephanos Patriarchal School, who gradually enter the Choir upon acquiring all required skills and knowledge.

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Raffi Mandalian is a composer, arranger, and leading jazz guitarist. He is also a university music instructor at the Lebanese American University.

Born in Beirut, he received classical guitar training when he was sixteen at the Lebanese National Conservatory and pursued a Master's degree in Musicology from The Holy Spirit University of Kaslik.

Raffi followed his passion for Jazz and Latin Music by learning from jazz pianist Arthur Satyan. He quickly established himself as a rising talent in the Beirut jazz scene since 2005, thanks to his musical gift, creativity, and interpretive performances.

Raffi's versatility in playing different styles of music from classical to rock, jazz, Latin, funk, pop and Arabic music paved for him the way to perform and record with some of the most venerable names in the Lebanese music industry, as well as internationally-acclaimed jazz performers. These include Ziad Rahbani, Majida el Roumi, Fayrouz, Gabriel Yared, Abboud Saade, Victor Bailey, Hiba Tawaji, Anthony Wonsey, Oussama Rahbani, JD Walter, Khaled el Habr, Walid Tawil and Faya Younan just to name a few.

In 2016, he produced and performed his first official concert with more than 10 musicians on stage coming from Armenia, Lebanon, Switzerland and the USA.

Raffi believes that quality music should be accessible to everyone. He also believes that music should be enabled to reach the audience's hearts and create a unique communication and emotional state.

07

Raffi Mandalian Jazz Quintet

RAFFI MANDALIAN, GUITAR
THOMAS HORNIG, SAXOPHONE
RAMI ABOU KHALIL, KEYBOARDS
CARLOS ABOU CHABKE, BASS
ABDO SAWMA, DRUMS

8:00 PM

**BEIRUT SOUKS
DOWNTOWN**

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Under the direction of Sr. Marana Saad, Philokalia Choir, (known till 2018 as Saint Rafqa Institute Choir), has established its reputation as one of the leading choirs in Lebanon.

Philokalia choir has covered a varied repertoire ranging from sacred to secular music, from oriental to Arabic and classical music, the most notable works: Syriac Maronite repertoire "traditional and modern", Mozart's "Requiem", Palestrina's "Missa Brevis", Vivaldi's "gloria", Iyad Kanaan Hymns and songs, Toufic Succar "Maronite and Lebanese polyphonic songs", Old Mouwashahat, Rahbani Brothers repertoire, Zaki Nassif repertoire, Sayyed Darwish, Phelemon Wehbe, Marcel Khalife, Charbel Rouhana, etc. and new songs composed especially for Philokalia's choir.

The Choir provides education in the field of music for both choral and solo. Philokalia Choir has received invitations to international festivals and big celebrations and events, such as: Crossroad Festival in Cyprus (2013/2018), Saint Anthony Maronite Catholic Church festivities in Virginia – U.S.A. (2016/2018), Celebrations of Saint Maron's feast in Germany (2018) and Italy (2016), World Youth Day with The Pope Francis in Poland (2016) and Lebanese International Choir Festival (2018/2015).

Philokalia Choir has also presented an operetta with live orchestra in Rafqa's musical theatre written and directed by Georges Khabbaz (2014), and participated in big events with different orchestras in concerts with prominent Lebanese and international artists.

08

Philokalia Choir

SR. MARANA SAAD, CONDUCTOR

8:00 PM

ST. GEORGE MARONITE
CATHEDRAL

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MAN
ENTERPRISE

With more than a dozen concerts per season, numerous recordings and publications, as well as many international awards, the Notre Dame University Choir is one of Lebanon and the region's outstanding choirs. A broad repertoire, a richly warm sound, an unmistakable interpretation all contribute to make it a permanent partner of the international festivals, and the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra and its conductors, where it functions as a musical ambassador for Beirut in the great concert halls around the world.

Along with the symphonic choral central repertoire, the annual season programming of the choir includes a wide range of Lebanese music, in close cooperation with celebrated composers, such as Iyad Kanaan, Gabriel Yared and Valentino Miserachs Grau, with the aim of developing and growing the Lebanese choral repertoire. Furthermore, Notre Dame University Choir is constantly developing new and unusual ways of experiencing choral music.

Since its establishment in 1993, it has been shaped by reverend Khalil Rahme, a Maronite Mariamite monk, who returned to Beirut after completing his music studies in Rome, to found the choir and the School of Music at Notre Dame University, in addition to his numerous entrusted tasks at the Lebanese National Conservatory of Music. During this concert, the choir will perform Valentino Miserachs' "Stephanus" —an oratorio for soloists, mixed choir and orchestra; in addition to several motets by the same composer.

09

Notre Dame University Choir

KHALIL RAHME, CONDUCTOR

8:00 PM

ST. GEORGE MARONITE
CATHEDRAL

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10 La Chanterie de Beyrouth Children Choir

NOHA HATEM, CONDUCTOR
ISABELLE, KEYBOARD

5:00 PM

NOTRE DAME DES
DONS, ACHRAFIEH

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Founder and Choirmaster of « la Chanterie de Beyrouth », Noha Hatem established this Lebanese children's choir around 20 years ago with the mission of promoting and nurturing young musical talent. La Chanterie de Beyrouth has been since then contributing to the Lebanese cultural scene by performing in various musical events throughout the country and becoming a regular participant at Beirut Chants. This choir amounts to about 30 children of different ages, from 6 to 15 who come from different backgrounds and are united in their love for singing. They sing for fraternity, a peaceful world and a better humanity in multiple languages: French, English, Arabic and Spanish, celebrating thus the joyful spirit of Christmas. Noha Hatem studied musicology and pedagogy in Paris and Lyon at the institute of Musicology, and has participated in several internships in London, Germany and France completing thus a degree in the training direction and musical initiation of Children's choirs. Her dedication as Choirmaster of la Chanterie de Beyrouth has won her the Chevalier des Palmes Académiques from the French Government and the Medal of Order of Isabel the Catholic from the Spanish Government. Under her conducting skills and the artistic direction of the pianist Isabelle Issahakian, the children of la Chanterie de Beyrouth will carry this year again their audiences, thanks to their innocent spirits, to the purity of their world through a large selection of classical Christmas songs, in addition to many carols from around the world.



IN COLLABORATION WITH



10 Marián Lapšanský

Piano

8:00 PM

ASSEMBLY HALL
AUB



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Marián Lapšanský first made a name for himself while still a student at the Bratislava Conservatory, and subsequently at the Academy of Music in Prague, when he took the top prize in the Smetana Piano Competition in Hradec Králové and the Prize for best interpretation of the works of Mozart (1971), and later also the Anda-Bührle Prize (1972) whilst attending master classes headed by Géza Anda in Zurich. The awards which contributed to his rapid rise as a concert performer also included the Czech Critics Prize, a Gold Medal from the Katia Popova Laureate Festival (Bulgaria), and the 1st prize at the International Tribune of Young Performers under the aegis of UNESCO, held during the Bratislava Music Festival.

At present, Marián Lapšanský is a regular guest on nearly every prestigious concert platform in the world, appearing with such celebrated orchestras as the Czech Philharmonic, the Prague Symphony Orchestra, the Prague Chamber Orchestra, the Slovak Philharmonic, the Orchestre de la Radio Suisse Romande, the Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, and many others. He has given many solo recitals at leading festivals such as the Wiener Festwochen, the Salzburger Festspiele, the Prague Spring, the Berliner Festtage, the Summer Festival of Dubrovnik, among others.

Marián Lapšanský is not only an outstanding soloist, but his intelligent sense for music has led him to become one of the most sought-after chamber players on the contemporary scene.



IN MEMORY OF ABDALLAH TAMARI

By the blessings of His Eminence Elias Audi, Metropolitan of Beirut, the "Saint Romanos Choir of Beirut" was founded in the year 2000.

Members of the choir are essentially graduates of "The Saint Romanos School of Ecclesiastical Music" in Beirut where they study, for 5 years, everything related to Byzantine Ecclesiastical music starting from the basics.

On the 5th year, the students prepare their diploma in Ecclesiastical music, then travel to Greece to sit an exam before a jury led by the Protopsaltis Spyridon Pavlakis. After finishing all the necessary studies, the students may be members of the choir led by the very reverend father Romanos Joubran.

Our choir's purpose is to perform well known chants, especially those composed by the late Antiochian Protopsaltis Mitri Al Murr, and those composed by the late Protopsaltis of the Saint George Cathedral of Beirut Andraos Mouaikel. In addition, there are always some new compositions written by the choir's leader Fr. Romanos.

The choir performed many services in Arabic, Greek and English. Also, it has many published works performed by itself or in collaboration with other Orthodox choirs

Currently, the choir contains around 50 members, both males and females. They performed on several stages and in many churches, inside Beirut and throughout Lebanon, as well as in Syria, Greece, the United States of America, and lately in Romania.

11

Let us Rejoice with the Virgin Mary, for the Lord is Born

St. Romanos the Melodist Choir of Beirut

FR. ROMANOS JOUBRAN,
CONDUCTOR

6:00 PM

ST. GEORGE
ORTHODOX
CATHEDRAL

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11

ملك السلام أتي

Ghada Shbeir

ELIE HARDAN, PIANO
PAUL ABOU GHARIB, VIOLIN
MARIA MAKHOUL, QANOUN
MAROUN ABOU SAMRA,
PERCUSSION

8:00 PM

ST. ELIE CHURCH
KANTARI

Ghada Shbeir holds a PHD in Musical Sciences as well as a diploma in Arabic singing from the Holy Spirit University- Kaslik.

Today, she teaches oriental Arabic singing and its theories as well as the history of Arabic music at the same university. She is also the director of the Oriental Arabic choir at the Holy Spirit University- Kaslik.

In 1997, she was awarded the first prize at the Best Arabic Song Competition in Egypt. She was also awarded the BBC World Music Award for both the Middle East and North Africa for her CD entitled "Mouachahat" in 2007. In addition to that, she won the first international award prize for the interpretation of Andalusian chants (Mouachahat).

Later on, Ghada Shbeir released several Arabic CDs entitled "Qawaleb", "Al Qasida", "Andalusia", and numerous Syriac Chants CDs; « Syriac Chants », « Passion », « Chants Syriaques-Noel » and « Chants Syriaques- Vol 4 ».

She has recently launched a book entitled "Al Mouashahat"; an academic curriculum for oriental singing students distributed over five years.

Her second book will be released soon as well and it's entitled "Al Maqamat Al Arabiya"; an academic curriculum for oriental singing students distributed over four years.

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IN COLLABORATION WITH

EMBASSY OF
BRAZIL
BEIRUT

ISTITUTO
italiano
di CULTURA
1987



12

Raquel
Paulin / Soprano
Fabio
Centani / Piano

8:00 PM

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
MONOT

Brazilian coloratura soprano, **Raquel Paulin** dedicated ten years of her career to musical theater. Graduated from Escola Municipal de Música de São Paulo, she also studied with Walter Chamun, Laura de Souza and Rafael Andrade. She was part of the cast from Theatro São Pedro Opera Academy from 2016 to 2018, actively participating as a soloist in the theater season. She sang under the baton of conductors such as Luiz Fernando Malheiro, André dos Santos, Marco Boemi, Abel Rocha, Rubens Ricciardi, Gabriel Rhein-Schirato and Cláudio Cruz.

Fabio Centanni is one of the internationally most sought after collaborative pianists in Italian Opera and Instrumental music.

Since 2006 he has closely collaborated alongside with Renata Scotto at the Opera Studio of Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia where he has performed in numerous concerts at the Auditorium Parco della Musica as well as internationally supported by the Italian Embassy. Mr. Centanni served as Korrepetitor for the International Opernstudio in Zurich, Deutsche Oper am Rhein in Dusseldorf, Orchestra Sinfonica di Savona, Grand Théâtre de Genève. For Radio3 Programm "La Barcaccia" he accompanied Raina Kabaivanska, Katia Ricciarelli, Daniela Dessi, Fabio Armiliato, Amarilli Nizza, and Roberto de Candia. In 2008 he served as accompanist for Natalie Dessay while preparing La Traviata with Renata Scotto.

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IN COLLABORATION WITH



13

Les Sonates Libanaises

Mario Rahi / Violin
Georges Daccache / Piano

8:00 PM

ST. MARON CHURCH
GEMMAYZEH

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Born in Lebanon in 1983, **Mario Rahi** started the violin at a very young age. He pursued his diploma studies at the Santa Cecilia Conservatory of Rome with Maestro Claudio Cornoldi. In 2011, Mario Rahi was awarded his master's degree, with the maximum vote from the Accademia Nazionale Santa Cecilia with Prof. Domenico Nordio and Sonig Tchakerian. During his studies, Mario attended several master classes for solo, chamber and orchestral music with renowned professors such as Salvatore Accardo at the Accademia Chigiana of Siena. He was appointed concert master at the World Youth Orchestra from until 2010, and performed with famous Italian artists such as Bruno Giuranna and Stefano Montanari. Mario was admitted to the Roma Sinfonietta Orchestra, established by the legendary film-music composer Ennio Morricone.

Pianist living in Paris since 2004.

Georges Daccache is graduated from the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik-Lebanon (Laure Akiki's class), the Russian Conservatory "Serge Rachmaninoff" in Paris (Claire Lizé Mélonie's class) and the Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris. After obtaining his diploma from the European Suzuki association in London he became a specialist in teaching music for toddlers starting three years old. He also got his French State Diploma in piano from the "Pôle supérieur de musique, Ile-de-France". He is a confirmed concert artist. As a soloist, chamber musician, organist and choirmaster he gave several concerts in Lebanon, France, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, Hungary, Colombia and Venezuela.



IN COLLABORATION WITH



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
IN LEBANON

Gold medalist of the Fifteenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, Yekwon Sunwoo has been hailed for his “unfailingly consistent excellence” (International Piano) and celebrated as “a pianist who commands a comprehensive technical arsenal that allows him to thunder without breaking a sweat” (Chicago Tribune). A powerful and virtuosic performer, he also, in his own words, “strives to reach for the truth and pure beauty in music”.

The first Korean to win Cliburn Gold, Yekwon’s 21/22 season includes appearances with the Kaliningrad Philharmonic, Seoul Philharmonic, Colorado Springs Philharmonic, as well as recitals in Great Barrington, Key West, Dallas, Prescott, and his debut at Beethovenfest Bonn.

An avid chamber musician, Yekwon’s collaborators include Benjamin Beilman, Linus Roth, Andrei Ioniță, Sebastian Bohren, Isang Enders, Tobias Feldmann, Gary Hoffman, Anne-Marie McDermott and the Jerusalem and Brentano Quartets. He has also toured Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama with the Kumho Asiana Cultural Foundation and performed at Chamber Music of Lincoln Center’s Inside Chamber Music Lectures.

In addition to the Cliburn Gold Medal, Yekwon won first prizes at the 2015 International German Piano Award, the 2014 Vendome Prize held at the Verbier Festival, the 2013 Sendai International Music Competition and the 2012 William Kapell International

14

Yekwon Sunwoo / Piano

GOLD MEDAL AT THE CLIBURN
COMPETITION 2017

8:00 PM

ASSEMBLY HALL
AUB



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programs at beirutchants.com



15

J.S.Bach

Complete Suites for Cello

Benedict Kloeckner

Cello

8:00 PM

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
MONOT

Benedict Kloeckner, born in 1989, is one of the outstanding artists of his generation. He has won numerous competitions and awards, most recently the OPUS Klassik 2021. He performs worldwide as a soloist with renowned orchestras such as the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra London, the Deutsche Radiophilharmonie, the NDR Radiophilharmonie, the MDR Symphony Orchestra, the Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie, the Kremerata Baltica, the Camerata Oslo and the Munich Chamber Orchestra and works with renowned conductors such as Daniel Barenboim, Christoph Eschenbach, Ingo Metzmacher, Michael Sanderling, Clemens Schuldt, Heinrich Schiff and Sir Simon Rattle.

He appears in concert halls such as the Berlin Philharmonie, Carnegie Hall New York, Kennedy Center Washington, Symphony Hall Chicago, Arts Center Seoul, Musikverein Vienna, Gewandhaus Leipzig, Tonhalle Zurich, Gasteig in Munich, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Rudolfinum Prague, Athenaeum Bucharest and Barbican, Cadogan and Wigmore Hall London

Championed by such maestros as Daniel Barenboim and Sir Simon Rattle, he performs at venues including the Berlin Philharmonic Hall, Carnegie Hall in New York, Symphony Hall in Chicago, John. F Kennedy Center in Washington, Tonhalle Zurich, Cadogan Hall and the Barbican Centre in London, Athenäum Bukarest, Concertgebouw Amsterdam and Musikverein Wien.

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Poet, vocalist and intellectual, the Lebanese Diva **Jahida Wehbe** is considered one of the most prominent singers in the Arab world. She has a unique style that sets her apart from other contemporary Arab singers; as her performances represent a skillful combination of both authenticity and innovation.

She holds a BA in Psychology from the Lebanese University and a Degree in Oriental Singing from the Higher Institute of Music; where she studied operatic singing in Arabic; Syriac and Byzantine chanting; Quranic recitation and how to play the oud (traditional Arabic lute). She holds as well a Postgraduate Diploma in Acting and Directing from the Lebanese University – School of Fine Arts.

A full-rounded artist, she not only enchants audiences with her outstanding voice, but also composes her own melodies with delicate arduousness and highly professional music along with her band comprising top-notch musicians from around the world, overlooking great Arab and international poets and Writers.

In 2013, she was selected as one of the “2000 Outstanding Intellectuals of the 21st Century” by The International Biographical Centre in Cambridge. Her music style is wide-ranging, including everything from classical and Sufi music to Arab fusion. She has headlined at the most prestigious venues across the globe and has worked with prominent Arab artists.

16

هَلِّي بِيروت

Jahida Wehbe

8:00 PM

BEIRUT SOUKS
DOWNTOWN

Read full biographies and concerts
programs at beirutchants.com



MAN
ENTERPRISE

Based in Zouk Mosbeh, **NDU Children Choir** offers a musical home to around 50 young singers, from 5 to 18 years old, providing a challenging, rewarding, and enjoyable experience through collaborative singing and performing.

Weekly rehearsals take place at NDU School of Music, where children enjoy an extensive vocal and choral training while performing an eclectic repertoire ranging from Gregorian chant to jazz.

Founded in 1993 by Fr. Khalil Rahmeh, the choir gives approximately four yearly performances, alone and with the adult choir. Since then, the choir has grown into a unique group, with a mission to inspire the world through the power of children's voices.

Founded in 2011, under the direction of Celine Hjeily, **Saint Rafqa Children Choir** developed into one of the finest ensembles.

17

NDU

Children Choir & St. Rafqa Children Choir

KHALIL RAHMEH, CONDUCTOR

5:00 PM

ST. ELIAS AND
ST. GREGORY THE
ILLUMINATOR
ARMENIAN CATHOLIC
CATHEDRAL

Read full biographies and concerts
programs at beirutchants.com



IN COLLABORATION WITH



Embassy of the Czech Republic in Lebanon

17

Jaroslav Svěcený

Violin

Lucie Tóth

Piano

8:00 PM

ST. MARON CHURCH
GEMMAYZEH

Read full biographies and concerts
programs at beirutchants.com

Jaroslav Svěcený, the native of Hradec Králové is one of the most important and best-known contemporary Czech violinists. He studied at the Prague Conservatory and the Academy of Performing Arts under professors František Pospíšil and Václav Snítíl. He completed his education with master classes with world virtuosos Nathan Milstein and Gidon Kremer. He is considered a famous popularizer of the violin. His concert tours and festival performances have been admired by listeners in the USA, throughout Europe, Mexico, Chile, Russia, Morocco, Indonesia, India, Thailand and many other countries. He recorded 44 CDs and DVDs with works by world and Czech authors. Many of them have been awarded both gold and platinum. He was the first Czech violinist to record a CD for the world-famous Sony Classical record company.

Jaroslav Svěcený was responsible for the creation and dramaturgy of the now successful festivals: Smiřické svátky muzdy, Klášterecké hudební prameny, Prague's Tony Chodovské tvrze, Kocianovo Ústí (Ústí nad Orlicí) and Jihočeské Nové Hrady. As the only violinist, in 2009 he organized a remarkable exhibition called FAMOUS EUROPEAN VIOLINS, which took place in Prague's Municipal House.

At the same time, he also published a very erudite publication of the same name. He also does not neglect projects with performers of other genres: he created a Czech-Slovak project with the world-famous orchestra Cigánski diabli, also presents the music of Astor Piazzolla on the already platinum album Signed of Tango.



18

Matteo El Khodr

Countertenor

8:00 PM

**BEIRUT SOUKS
DOWNTOWN**

Born in Beirut of Greek-Lebanese origins, Matteo moved to Paris to take singing lessons with several teachers, including David Kaufmann, then joined the Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris in the class of Agnès Mellon. He signed a contract with Universal Music France and released two albums followed by European concert tours. In 2007, he introduced baroque music and the non-existent back then countertenor voice to Lebanon and the Middle East and sang in several festivals to then is invited to the Doha Opera House in Qatar with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2020, he represents his country in THE VOICE France where he will dazzle the 4 chairs of the juries.

Holder of several international singing prizes including the Prix du Public du Concours International de Chant Baroque de Froville, he played several title roles in world premieres including Apollo and Hyacinth by Mozart at the Cité de la Musique in Paris with Les Folies Françaises then triumphed in Ormindo by Cavalli in Morocco and Berlin with the Wiesbaden Orchestra.

PEARL BRANDS

ONLINE



Fayha National Choir conducted by Maestro Barkev Taslakian, was established in 2003 in Tripoli, North Lebanon. In 2016, the choir established his second branch in Beirut. It also has set foot outside Lebanon in 2017 and founded another branch in Cairo, Egypt. In 2018 it started his fourth branch in Chouf, Mount Lebanon.

In 2022 Fayha was declared by the Lebanese ministry of culture to be the first National choir of Lebanon. The choir is internationally recognized as a standard for Arabic Acapella singing. Its repertoire is composed of Latin, Armenian, French, and English, but mainly Arab music from different heritages which include Lebanese, Syrian, Egyptian, Palestinian, Iraqi, Bedouin, Andalusian, Kuwaiti, Saudi, Tunisian, Moroccan...

Fayha became the first resource of choir arrangements for Arab Music from different Arab regions.

The choir includes about 100 singers, who represent the Lebanese and Arab community with most of its spectrum and religious, political, social and geographical affiliations.

The Choir aims to:

Develop and spread Arabic Music and express its richness

Reflect the real and civilized image of Lebanon the Arab Countries through promoting its music

Promote collective singing in the Arab region

19

Fayha National Choir

MAESTRO BARKEV TASLAKIAN,
CONDUCTOR

8:00 PM

ST. MARON CHURCH
GEMMAYZEH

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IN COLLABORATION WITH



ICI ▶ BEYROUTH

20 Jonathan Fournel / Piano

FIRST PRIZE QUEEN ELISABETH
COMPETITION

8:00 PM

ASSEMBLY HALL
AUB



Read full biographies and concerts
programs at beirutchants.com

« Fournel is a tiger. He has its power, majesty, flexibility, velocity, ferocity and elegance . » Bachtrack August 21. Jonathan Fournel was revealed with brilliance to the top international scene in the spring 2021 as he won the much-coveted International Queen Elisabeth competition Grand Prix-Queen Mathilde Prize at 27. In addition, Jonathan won the Musiq3 Audience prize and the Canvas-Klara prize. «A natural, musical and poetic playing in Mozart's 18th concerto performed with majestic purity and lyricism as well as Brahms' Variations and Fugue on a theme by Haendel led with intensity and an unquestionable sense of story-telling. » Marie-Aude Roux writes in Le Monde. A few years earlier, Jonathan had won First Prizes at the Scottish International Piano Competition in Glasgow and the International Viotti competition in Vercelli, both at the age of 20.

What strikes most in Fournel's playing besides his stunning technique and extraordinary spectrum of colours is this balanced mix of exquisite refinement and wild instinct, his natural lyricism and the bright clarity of his interpretations shining light on details with a very mature understanding of the work.

He is the guest of such venues and festivals as the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Rheingau Musik Festival, Verbier Festival, Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad, Klavier Festival Ruhr, La Roque d'Anthéron festival, Luxembourg Philharmonie, the Royal Glasgow Concert Hall, Bozar Brussels, Louisiana Museum in Denmark, Kumho Art Hall Seoul, Tongyeong Concert Hall, Sala São Paulo.



IN COLLABORATION WITH



Ayman Jarjour studied at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Madrid and holds a Master of Music degree from The Juilliard School in New York. He has performed in the Middle East, Europe, the United States, Africa and the Far East. His solo appearances with orchestra include the world premiere of *Olympus* (concerto for guitar and orchestra) by Evis Sammouris and Rodrigo's two masterpieces *Concierto de Aranjuez* and *Concierto Andaluz*.

21

Ayman Jarjour

La Guitarra Española

8:00 PM

ST. MARON CHURCH
GEMMAYZEH

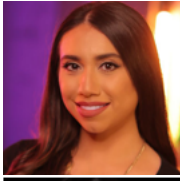
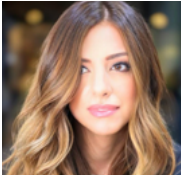
Ayman has given concerts in London, Edinburgh, Brussels, Beirut, Amman, Madrid, Manchester, Bonn, Tunis, Khartoum, Valletta, Basel, Cairo, Alexandria, Istanbul, Prague, Budapest, Berlin, Los Angeles, Lagos, Abuja and Taipei, the last attended by the Taiwanese President. He has appeared on many TV channels in interviews and concert broadcasts. In New York, he gave a concert to standing ovation at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall as winner of Artists International's Special Presentation Award.

He served on the faculty of the High Institute of Music in Damascus and has lived and taught in the UK, Spain, Sudan, Belgium and the US. Ayman is currently based between Britain and Lebanon. His involvement with many charities includes being Arts and Culture Ambassador for the Scottish Refugee Council.

His repertoire includes works with Spanish, Latin American, Classical, Middle Eastern and Modern flavours.

He plays an instrument made by Egyptian luthier Jean-Paul Hagggar.

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**SPECIAL THANKS
TO MR. NABIL
BUSTROS**



Mira Akiki, a Lebanese coloratura Soprano, with more than 10 years of professional experience, known for mastering Vocal and Acting techniques with high agility and delicacy. She discovered her passion for music when she was 5, every time she heard her father playing the piano. After joining the NDU choir at the age of 11, her piano teacher discovered her vocal power.

Mira was spotted performing in different local and international festivals and events including Beirut Chants festival, Al Bustan festival, the Lebanese National Museum, Expo Milan, The Opera house of Muscat, Al Hussein Cultural Center in Jordan. Mira enjoys ensemble works. She is currently member and soloist in the Antonine University Choir since 2016. Her passion and knowledge led her not only to perform, but also to share her vocal experience with new talents. Her approach to teaching is drawing on a strong background in vocal pedagogy and deep knowledge of vocal system anatomy, and based on more than 10 years of experience in teaching and mentoring singers of all levels, ages and musical styles, and choirs. In 2019, she launched her online classroom, offering customized courses and trainings in complete vocal techniques for singers from all over the world.

Louisa El Khoury is a Lebanese opera singer and pianist. She started learning piano at the age of 8 and singing opera at the age of 18, coached by Toufic Maatouk, and had master classes by international artists Catherina Di Tonno and Joyce Khoury. Having a powerful Dramatic Soprano

22

Voices of Beirut Chants

MIRA AKIKI, SOPRANO
LOUISA EL KHOURY, SOPRANO
CHARLES EID, TENOR
CESAR NAASSY, BASS BARITONE
MARC REAIDY BAZ, TENOR

8:00 PM

**ST. MARON CHURCH
GEMMAYZEH**

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voice, a stunning vocal range, and a passion for performing, she has been able to establish a strong connection with her audience and build an incredible reputation in the industry that enabled her to succeed on local and regional levels.

Louisa has been a soloist with the Lebanese Orchestra, 2013-2016, and with the USJ choir, 2016-2019 where she regularly performed at high-profile events and ceremonies. In the past years, Louisa has been numerous featured in international events and performed in Italy and Saudi Arabia. In 2020, Louisa joined the NDU Choir and has been an active member ever since.

Charles Eid, aged 24 years old, is a Lebanese Tenor. He's the student of Toufic Maatouk. For the last 7 years, he studied opera at the Antonine University Music Conservatory, attended several masterclasses from various professional opera singers, gaining a large set of skills.

In spite of his young age, Charles has a wide and professional music repertoire as a soloist and performed in many operas (Mozart's *Le Nozze Di Figaro*, Donizetti's *L'Elisir D'Amore*...), sacred works (Gounod's *St. Cecilia Mass*, Handel's *Messiah*...) and other events in several countries around the world. He was a vocal coach at the Conservatory in Bikfaya - Lebanon for 3 years.

Adding to his musical career, Charles is an accomplished Software Engineer.

Known for his striking stage presence and deep warm voice, **Cesar Naassy** finds himself particularly well in the works of Mozart. His notable vocal agility and cantabile voice, also allow him to tackle the Belcanto repertoire of Rossini, Bellini and Donizetti.

Some of the roles he performed on stage include Raimondo in "*Lucia di Lammermoor*", Dulcamara in "*Elisir d'amore*", Don Alfonso in "*Così fan tutte*", Bartolo in "*Le nozze di Figaro*", Sarastro in "*Die Zauberflöte*", The King of Scotland in "*Ariodante*" and newer works, such as Superintendent Bud in Benjamin Britten's "*Albert Herring*"...

He has had the privilege to work with world renowned directors such as Charles Binamé, and has studied with international artists such as, Elisabeth Norberg Schultz, Caterina Ditunno, Cinzia Forte, Roberto Frontali and Toufic Maatouk.

Marc Reaidy studied classical singing at Ecole des Arts Ghassan Yammine, with Russian Professor Galina Khaldeeva. Currently, he is working with Professor Arax Chekidjian. He attended many vocal and dramatic workshops and master classes mainly in Lebanon, Russia, France and the United States.

Marc Reaidy's repertoire includes oratorio and opera music from different composers; mainly Italian, French, English... (Puccini, Leoncavallo, Mascagni, Cilea, Rossini, Bizet, Gounod, Handel, Haydn etc.) Given his Russian Professor and fluency in Russian language, he also enjoys a rich operatic and lied repertoire of Russian composers such as Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, Sviridov, Glinka etc.

In 2013, He sang the leading role of Don José in *Carmen de Bizet*, an opera produced by The Lebanese Higher National Conservatory with the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra.

In June 2015, and given his dramatic abilities, he participated in Beirut spring festival whereby he played and sang the role of the Turkish Pasha (in Turkish Language), under the direction of Yvan Caracallah.



23 Guy Manoukian

8:00 PM

BEIRUT SOUKS
DOWNTOWN

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Lebanese Armenian musician, composer and pianist, Guy Manoukian has been a key musical player both locally and internationally for the last 30 years. Not only has he worked with the biggest names in the US, but his fusion of oriental melodies with modern arrangements has taken him all over the world, selling out concerts in London, Singapore, Cairo, Dubai Opera House, Kuwait, Mexico, Chile, Abu Dhabi, Monaco, Los Angeles, Yerevan the Sydney Opera House, The Beiteddine and Byblos International festivals, The London Palladium, The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center in Athens, Greece, The Historical Olympia Hall in Paris and many more.

Guy Manoukian started playing piano at the age of four. Mentored by the best classical music teachers, he first appeared on television when he was six years old and was only seven when he performed at the presidential Palace! He started composing music a year later, winning his first competition.

While attending elementary school, Guy also joined a music school where he participated in concerts. Though

his original dream was to become a professional basketball player, Guy was dedicated to his craft, and at 16, he played his first solo concert. Expecting 400 people, he was surprised to find the venue packed with over 1000 attendees. This first taste of success made him realize that music was truly his calling. Little did he know then, that he'd later be the first artist from the Middle East to get endorsed by Yamaha pianos and be their brand ambassador!, today Guy represents International brands like Maserati and many more.

He started performing professionally in 1997: now in his early twenties, he played at the Jeita grotto followed by two sold-out concerts at the UNESCO palace. The turning point in Manoukian's career came when he started fusing Arabic with modern contemporary arrangements. He attributes the unique flavor of his music to his rich culture. "Armenian culture was at the core of my existence and hence my music", he says. "My music is modern in arrangement but very classical in spirit; my albums which are studio recorded are very club oriented whereas my performances are live and directed for a broader audience."

Guy is the recipient of many awards but the ones he cherishes the most are the Armenian Music Award that he received in Los Angeles for Best Dance Album, and the Best Arabic Tune of the Year Award for "Harem" which he earned in Lebanon in 2002 in addition to the Best Dance Album at the Arabian Music Awards held in Dubai in 2003.

Performing all over the globe, from Chile to Sydney, Manoukian still finds time to work with the biggest pop acts: he recorded "On Tour" with Wyclef Jean, worked with 50 Cent, French rapper Diams, Raul Di Blasio and the Gipsy Kings.

In 2019 he performed a sold out concert at the world renowned Greek National Opera (The Stavros Niarchos) followed by 6 sold out concerts in 2019, 2020 and 2021 at the spectacular Dubai Opera in addition to a sold out concert at the magnificent Pallas Theater Athens in April 2022 and a sold out concert at world renowned Olympia in Paris.

In 2021 he was one of the key elements in creating which is now the world renowned The Theater in Dubai.



**CAMILE
& RHONA SABA**



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
IN LEBANON



ICI ▶ BEYROUTH



Embassy of the Czech Republic in Lebanon



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ONLINE



Admission is Free and by Ticket only.
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Concerts will be streamed live
on Beirut Chants Festival's Youtube
& Facebook Channels.