

Beirut Chants Festival

An artistic oil painting of a hand holding a baton against a vibrant, textured background of teal, orange, and purple. The hand is dark-skinned and wears a dark suit sleeve with a light-colored cuff. The baton is thin and dark, pointing upwards. The background is a dynamic, abstract composition of brushstrokes in various colors, creating a sense of movement and energy.

SEASON 18

29 NOV _____

23 DEC 2025

FREE ENTRANCE



We dedicate this edition to his spirit which taught us that music is an uncompromising virtue, and that what stems from the heart is everlasting

نُهدي هذه الدورة إلى روحه التي علمتنا أن الموسيقى
قيمة لا يُساوم عليها وأن ما يأتي من القلب يبقى

لا حزن روح
زياد الرحباني

CAMILE & RHONA SABA

solidere



PEARL BRANDS
ONLINE

**AKRAM
SAFA**

**ISABELLE AND
PHILIPPE HELOU**

L'Orient-Le Jour



**TAMARI
FOUNDATION**

Arabia
INSURANCE

africell



**ISTITUTO
italiano
di CULTURA**
Beirut



**Cooperación
Española**



**RAFI
MANOUKIAN**



Institut National de l'Agriculture
Beirut

ISTBML
Beirut

**ELIAS AND MICHELLE
ABOU SAMRA**



AM BANK

BOB

WARDE

**Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra**
Embassy of Switzerland in Lebanon and Syria

SNA

LAU
Lebanese American University

**MAN
ENERGY**

**Université
Antoine**

HASBI



Tinol

**EMBASSY of the REPUBLIC of CYPRUS
in BEIRUT**

**Embassy
of the Republic of Poland
in Beirut**

el sistema



MEIA ihjoz

Beirut has its own rhythm, shaped by its people, streets, and its cultural pulse.

This year, Beirut Chants brings that rhythm to the forefront once again, reminding us how music restores balance, unity, and hope to a city constantly reinventing itself.

Behind this heartbeat is a small group of volunteers who work quietly and tirelessly to keep culture accessible, where art is not a privilege, but a shared human experience.

This year, the festival embodies the spirit of Pope Leo XIV, who spread the message of peace and coexistence, a cause we've supported for 18 years, creating a platform beyond music. In this space, people, despite their differences, can find common ground beyond labels.

As we launch this edition, Beirut longs for **Ziad Rahbani**, an artist whose integrity remains unparalleled, and whose music and plays have touched generations. We owe him profoundly for what he has offered to the music scene in Lebanon and beyond. He set the bar so high and reshaped the artistic landscape. This year, we dedicate our festival as a humble tribute to his spirit: sincere, uncompromising, and forever resonant.

Micheline Abi Samra
Founder

18



29 NOV

Antonine University Choir & Notre Dame
University Choir
Lebanese Orchestra
Toufic Maatouk OAM. Conductor

Camille Saint-Saëns –
Oratorio de Noël. Op.12

In celebration of the
190th anniversary of
the birth of Camille
Saint-Saëns

FANNY SOYER, SOPRANO
ROSA BOVE, MEZZO-SOPRANO
GRACE MEDAWAR, ALTO
JEAN MIANNAY, TENOR
MARIO TAHTOUH, BASS-BARITONE

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart –
Davide Penitente, K.469

ANA MARIA LABIN, SOPRANO
ROSA BOVE, MEZZO-SOPRANO
JEAN MIANNAY, TENOR

8:00 PM

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
MONOT

CAMILE & RHONA SABA



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 Lebanese musical life with its repertory. UA choir has participated in the Classical Music Festival of Al Ain (United Arab Emirates 2008-2009), Al Bustan International Festival (2009 to 2019), Byblos International Festival (2010-2011-2013-2014), Baalbeck International Festival (2011-2018-2020), Beirut Chants Festival-Lebanon (2008 to 2023), Ehdeniyat (2016), Tbilisi Opera Festival (2012), Festival d'Ile de France (2012-2013), and Bahrain International Music Festival (2013). In May 2010, April 2013 and May 2015, the choir performed at the legendary Carnegie Hall in New York. The choir performed Lately Mozart's Requiem for the Beirut Chants Festival with the European Young Orchestra conducted by Paolo Olmi. This season marks the 45th season of the Choir.

NDU 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.

Established in 1993, the Notre Dame University Choir has been shaped by reverend Khalil Rahme o.m.m., who returned to Beirut after completing his music studies in Rome, to found the choir and the School of Music at Notre Dame University.

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.

Fanny Soyer's international journey has shaped her into a versatile and expressive artist. Studying abroad allowed her to embrace diverse cultures and artistic perspectives. In 2025, she won the *McGill-UdeM Piano-Vocal Arts Residency Prize* and took home the Audience Prize at the Montreal International Music Competition. The year before, she earned Second Prize at the Canari Competition in Corsica.

This French soprano was part of the Favart Academy at Opéra Comique for the season 2024–2025, where she starred in Cherubini's "Médée" and will return for "Iphigénie en Tauride" under the baton of Louis Langrée.

In 2023, she contributed vocals to Wim Wenders' documentary Anselm, recording with the Slovak Philharmonic.

Fanny regularly collaborates with pianists Manuel Vieillard and Kunal Lahiry, blending deep musical partnerships with creative exploration.

French tenor **Jean Miannay** was a

member of the Opéra National du Rhin studio during the 2023–2024 season, where he notably performed the role of Flavio in Norma.

Jean Miannay studied voice in Lausanne with Brigitte Baileys and in Berlin with Scot Weir. He gained early recognition by winning the Grand Prize at the 4th Raymond Duffaut "Opéra jeunes espoirs" Competition, followed by awards at the Clermont-Ferrand Competition, the Kattenburg Competition, the Vienna International Music Competition, and most recently at Lyrichoregra 20 in Canada.

He made his French debut as Beppe (Pagliacci) at the operas of Massy, Avignon, and Clermont-Ferrand.

In 2020, he appeared for the first time at the Chorégies d'Orange and returned for the next three years, performing in the Emerging Stage recital and in the roles of Isepo (La Gioconda) and Remendado (Carmen).

In 2022, he made his German debut as Orpheus in Orpheus in der Unterwelt at Theater Magdeburg. Jean Miannay has been represented by the RSBA agency since 2023. Member of the Opéra National du Rhin studio for the 2023–2024 season, French tenor Jean Miannay played the role of Flavio (Norma) on the main stage.

In 2022, he made his German debut as Orpheus (Orpheus in der Unterwelt) at the Theater Magdeburg. Jean Miannay has been represented by the RSBA agency since 2023.

October 2025 - Not to be altered without permission. We update our biographies regularly. Please contact RSB Artists before reproducing the biography.

Toufic Maatouk has earned global recognition for leading major ensembles such as the Romanian Radio Symphony Orchestra, Romanian Radio Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra del Teatro di San Carlo in Napoli, Orchestra Giovanile

Mediterranea, Roma Sinfonietta, Orchestra Sinfonica di Sanremo, Los Angeles Sinfonietta, Korean National University of Arts Symphony Orchestra in Seoul, and Académie de l'Opéra de Paris. He made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2015 and has performed at renowned festivals and venues such as the Festival d'Île de France, Radio Romania Hall in Bucharest, and Manaus Opera in Brazil. In 2018, he was first invited to conduct at the Baalbeck International Festival—the oldest musical festival in the Middle East, set against the breathtaking backdrop of ancient Roman ruins.

In 2012, he took on the prestigious position of Artistic Director at the acclaimed Beirut Chants Festival. A year later, he became Guest Conductor with the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra, and in 2017, he started a yearly collaboration with the Romanian Radio Orchestra.

Maatouk has been praised for his insightful direction and consummate command of the orchestra. Opera Magazine gave him a rave review for conducting Verdi's Requiem at the Baalbeck International Festival: "His musical sensitivity was immediately evident from the first sounds of the cellos and the care in the search for a specific and symbolic sound. Right from those first thrilling moments, one could find the nuances that brought a distinctive feature to his enlightened reading".

The Abu Dhabi Festival, of which Maatouk has been Programming Executive Manager and Deputy Executive Director, was voted by BBC Magazine as best classical programming in the Middle East. In his role as member of the Academic Board at the Global Leaders Institute in Washington, D.C., Maatouk has been recognised for his leadership in

shaping significant musical projects across the Middle East.

The conductor is renowned for his meticulous voice work with singers, especially in the Italian and French repertoires. Noteworthy performances include working with great artists such as Maria Agresta, Joyce El Khoury, Jessica Pratt and Daniela Barcellona. He conducted at the prestigious Puccini Festival in Torre del Lago and the XXVI Mese Pucciniano on the Centennial of Puccini. He debuted this year at the Tirana Opera House Orchestra & Choir in Albania. Maatouk is a jury member for prestigious competitions including the Ottavio Ziino International Lyric Competition and Voce Verdiane International Competition.

For his valuable contribution to the arts, he was knighted with the "Cavaliere dell'Ordine Della Stella d'Italia" by the President of the Italian Republic in 2020. In 2023, the French Ministry of Culture similarly bestowed upon him the title of "Chevalier des arts et des lettres."

Maatouk studied conducting under Ennio Nicotra and Donato Renzetti. He holds a Ph.D. in Musicology from the Pontificio Istituto di Musica Sacra in Rome and has various publications with Éditions Geuthner in France. He has recorded 13 albums focusing on Maronite liturgical compositions, aiming to preserve this ancient musical tradition.

Lately, Maatouk made his debut at the Abu Dhabi Festival, conducted Donizetti's Rita at the Bucharest Opera Festival, and led a new production of Carmen at the Baalbeck International Festival. Upcoming engagements include his debut with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra in May 2026, among several other projects.



30 NOV

Abigeila
Voshtina/

Violon

Alberto
Ferro/ Piano

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
CHAMBER MUSIC SEASON
ANTONINE UNIVERSITY

8:00 PM

OUR LADY OF SEEDS
CHURCH | ANTONINE
UNIVERSITY | BAABDA

Abigeila Voshtina, a talented violinist, began her violin studies at the age of 6 in Tirana. In 1992, she graduated from the Artistic High School "Jordan Misja" and continued her musical formation at the University of the Arts, the College of Arts Institute, the renowned Scuola di Musica di Fiesole, and the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena, where she received several distinctions.

Her career began as first violin in important orchestras such as Teatro alla Scala and the Orchestra Sinfonica Verdi in Milan. She also distinguished herself as soloist with the ensemble "Solisti Laudensi".

In recognition of her artistic and cultural contribution, she was awarded the title Knight of the Order of the Star of Italy in May 2021.

Born in Italy in 1996, **Alberto Ferro** achieved his Master's degree (2018) under the guidance of Prof. Epifanio Comis, at the "Vincenzo Bellini" State Conservatoire of Music in Catania. He also attended several piano masterclasses held by very important pianists such as Leslie Howard, Eliso Virsaladze, Joaquín Achúcarro, Richard Goode, Boris Berezovsky, Jörg Demus and Vladimir Ashkenazy.

He recorded for some important labels such as Brilliant, Warner, Da Vinci and Muso. He is currently Professor of Piano at the "Franco Vittadini" State Conservatoire of Music in Pavia.



02 DEC Quartetto di Cremona

CRISTIANO GUALCO, VIOLIN
PAOLO ANDREOLI, VIOLIN
SIMONE GRAMAGLIA, VIOLA
GIOVANNI SCAGLIONE, CELLO

ORGANIZED BY THE ITALIAN
CULTURAL INSTITUTE

8:00 PM

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
MONOT

Since its formation in 2000, the **Quartetto di Cremona** has established a reputation as one of the most exciting chamber ensembles on the international stage.

Among the most important engagements of the past seasons: performances at the Wigmore Hall (London), at the Concertgebouw (Amsterdam), at the Elbphilharmonie (Hamburg), at the Konzerthaus in Berlin, at the Brucknerhaus (Linz), in Geneva, Stockholm, Mumbai, Beijing, at the Schubertiade in Schwarzenberg, at the String Quartet Festival in Salzburg, in Prague and for the main Italian festivals and concerts societies.

Prized in 2019 with the “Franco Buitoni Award” by the Borletti Buitoni Trust for their constant contribution to the promotion of chamber music in Italy and around the world, they are ambassadors for the international project “Friends of Stradivari” and honorary citizen of Cremona, a title awarded to the Quartet in 2015. They also endorse “Le Dimore del Quartetto” and Thomastik Infied Strings. Cristiano Gualco - violin Nicola Amati, Cremona 1640 Paolo Andreoli - violin Paolo Antonio Testore, Milano ca. 1758 (Kulturfonds Peter Eckes) Simone Gramaglia - viola Giovanni Paolo Maggini “Joyce”, Brescia ca.1625 (Fondazione Pro Canale, Milano) Giovanni Scaglione - cello Dom Nicola Amati, Bologna 1712 (Kulturfonds Peter Eckes)



03 DEC

Chiara
Skerath/
Soprano

Hélio Vida/
Piano

Head of OperAvenir
Basel Opera House

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND TO
LEBANON AND SYRIA



AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF BEIRUT

8:00 PM

ASSEMBLY HALL | AUB



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Tinol

Embassy of Switzerland to Lebanon and Syria

Praised by Opera Magazine for her “brilliant technique” and her “velvety timbre,” Swiss soprano **Chiara Skerath** has recently made acclaimed debuts as Eurydice in Gluck’s *Orphée et Eurydice* at Zürich Opera House, as Ilione in Campra’s *Idoménée* at the Staatsoper Berlin as well as Micaela (*Carmen*) at Opéra National de Bordeaux.

Chiara’s recent engagements include the title role of *Mélisande* in Debussy’s *Pelléas et Mélisande* at the 2024 Aix-en-Provence Festival, her debut as Armida in Handel’s *Rinaldo* at the Festival d’Opéra Baroque de Beaune, as well as her debut as Donna Elvira in a new production of *Don Giovanni* at Opéra de Lille conducted by Emmanuelle Haim, marking the continuation of her journey towards the lyric soprano repertoire.

Franco-brazilian pianist **Hélio Vida** is the Head of OperAvenir - Opera Studio at the Theater Basel, Switzerland. During this season he was musical director of the productions of Gianni Schicchi and Don Pasquale. He was répétiteur and pianist of the Opera Graz (Austria) and member of the Opernstudio at the Opera Zürich (Switzerland). Hélio Vida won the First Prize at the 23rd Claudio Arrau International Piano Competition in Chile and the Accompanying Pianist Prize at the Felix Mendelssohn Singing Competition in Berlin.

In May 2022 he will make his conducting debut in Rossini’s *Barber of Seville* at the Theater Basel.



CAMILE & RHONA SABA



EMBASSY of the REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
In BEIRUT

04 DEC

“For our Sake is Born a Young Child” Hymns from the Nativity

"لأنه قد وُلد من
أجلنا طفلٌ جديدٌ"
تراتيل ميلاديّة

St. Romanos The Melodist
Choir of Beirut
Rev. Romanos Joubran/
Conductor

8:00 PM

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX
CATHEDRAL | BEIRUT

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 chanters from the Eparchy of Beirut and Jbeil which later expanded to all Lebanese Eparchies.

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.

The Choir performs many recitals through the year along with masses and prayers, ordination of priests and bishops etc.

Since 2022, the choir is cooperating with Saint Theophanis choir (founded by Fr. Romanos in the eparchy of Saïda and Deir Al Qamar), Panayia Melkite choir (founded by Fr. Romanos under the auspices of the Greek Melkite Patriarch), Saint Romanos School - Zahle (under the direction of the First Chanter of Zahle Georges Riachi), and the Patriarchal Music School in Damascus, Syria (under the direction of Levon Abajian).

Today, the choir performs several liturgical and religious events under the direction of Dr. Alain Osta, the first chanter of Beirut eparchy.



Embassy
of the Republic of Poland
in Beirut



TAMARI
FOUNDATION

05 DEC

Krzysztof Książek/ Piano

Multi-Award Pianist

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
REPUBLIC OF POLAND IN BEIRUT

8:00 PM

ST. MARON CHURCH
GEMMAYZEH

Krzysztof Książek

Awarded and appreciated for his performance of Fryderyk Chopin's music and Polish music. The artist has performed at numerous festivals in Poland and abroad, among others: International Chopin Festival in Duszniki Zdrój, Festival "Chopin and His Europe", Festival Chopin à Paris, New Year Music Festival in Gstaad, Ludwig van Beethoven Easter Festival in Warsaw. He has given concerts in Europe, Africa, the United States and Asia. He has performed under the baton of such conductors as Antoni Wit, Jacek Kaspszyk, Tadeusz Strugała, Grzegorz Nowak, Václav Luks, Jose Maria Florencio, Yu Feng, George Tchitchinadze, Łukasz Borowicz and Ewa Strusińska.

The pianist's discography includes, apart from the aforementioned, records with Chopin's music and suites for two pianos by Anton Arensky and Sergey Rachmaninov. Krzysztof Książek is a graduate of the Academies of Music in Kraków and Bydgoszcz in the class of Professor Stefan Wojtas. Currently, as part of his postgraduate studies in the class of Professor Arie Vardi, he is studying at the Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien Hannover. He was a recipient of the "Młoda Polska" scholarship programme. In March 2014, he was awarded the Krystian Zimerman Scholarship. Krzysztof Książek is represented by the Ludwig van Beethoven Association.



06 DEC

Yossif
Ivanov / Violin

Philippe
Ivanov / Piano

First Prize at the Montreal
International Competition
Second Prize at Queen
Elisabeth Competition in
Brussels

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
EMBASSY OF BELGIUM

8:00 PM

ST. MARON CHURCH
GEMMAYZEH



Acclaimed as “a player of impressive authority and presence” (The Strad), **Yossif Ivanov** quickly established himself after winning First Prize at the Montreal International Competition aged 16, and Second Prize, as well as the Public Prize, two years later at the Queen Elisabeth Competition, Brussels. He has performed with orchestras such as Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, London Philharmonic Orchestra (tours in the UK and USA), Philharmonia Orchestra, Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, Konzerthausorchester Berlin, NDR Radiophilharmonie, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, as well as all major Belgian Orchestras.

Yossif's recording catalogue boasts high critical acclaim, including a Diapason d'Or de l'Année for his collection of Belgian sonatas (Ambroisie/Naïve), as well as a Diapason d'Or in 2020 for the recording of a newly discovered Ysaÿe concerto (Fuga Libera). Other recordings include concerti by Bartók, Shostakovich, Dutilleux, D'Haene and Vieuxtemps. His latest recording for Warner Classics include the Tchaikovsky & Stravinsky concerti with Brussels Philharmonic.

As well as his regular recital partner Philippe Ivanov, Yossif's chamber music partners have included Itamar Golan, Javier Perianes, Ingrid Fliter, Frank Braley, David Kadouch, Lily Maisky, Maxim Rysanov, Mischa Maisky, Edgar Moreau, Pieter Wispelwey. Yossif's recording catalogue boasts high critical acclaim, including a Diapason d'Or de l'Année for his collection of Belgian sonatas (Ambroisie/Naïve), as well as a Diapason d'Or in 2020 for the recording of a newly discovered Ysaÿe concerto (Fuga Libera). Yossif studied with Zakhar Bron, Igor Oistrakh and Augustin Dumay.

Since 2008 he teaches at the Queen Elisabeth College of Music, as well as at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels, where he is head of the violin department. He plays on a 1710 Carlo Tononi violin, kindly lent to him by the Queen Elisabeth College of Music

Since making his debut with orchestra at the age of nine, performing Mozart's Piano Concerto Kv.467, Belgian pianist of Bulgarian origin **Philippe Ivanov** (°1988) has been a soloist of the Royal Flemish Philharmonic, the Brussels Philharmonic, the Sofia Soloists Chamber Orchestra, the Bulgarian "New Symphony" Orchestra and the Bulgarian National Radio Symphony Orchestra. He has appeared at various venues and festivals around Europe, the United States and Canada including Palais des Beaux Arts in Brussels, MIDEM 2004 in Cannes, "Festival de Música Clàssica Castell Santa Florentina" in Barcelona, Orford Festival in Montréal, the Ottawa Chamber Music Festival and was also featured at the "Musical treasures of

Bulgaria" at New York's Weill Recital Hall - Carnegie Hall in 2009.

With his brother, violinist Yossif Ivanov, he forms a duo that occurs worldwide, most recently in Europe (London Wigmore Hall in 2017), Asia (Taipei National Theater & Concert Hall, Yokohama Minato Mirai Hall in 2018) and South America (Sala de Conciertos de la Biblioteca Luis Ángel Arango, Bogota, in 2017).

In March 2013 he won 3rd Prize at the 17th Hamamatsu International Piano Academy Competition in Japan. He is a Semifinalist of the 59th International Piano Competition "Premio Ferruccio Busoni" in Bolzano.

He has graduated with High Honors from the Royal Conservatory of Brussels as a student of Daniel Blumenthal and pursued postgraduate studies at the "Mozarteum" University in Salzburg (Austria) as a student of Pavel Gililov.

Since 2015 he serves as a collaborative pianist of the violin department at the "Institut supérieur de Musique et de Pédagogie" in Namur, Belgium.



بلدية بيروت
Municipalité de Beyrouth

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 Lebanese musical life with its repertory. UA choir has participated in the Classical Music Festival of Al Ain (United Arab Emirates 2008-2009), Al Bustan International Festival (2009 to 2019), Byblos International Festival (2010-2011-2013-2014), Baalbeck International Festival (2011-2018-2020), Beirut Chants Festival-Lebanon (2008 to 2023), Ehdeniyat (2016), Tbilisi Opera Festival (2012), Festival d'Ile de France (2012-2013), and Bahrain International Music Festival (2013). In May 2010, April 2013 and May 2015, the choir performed at the legendary Carnegie Hall in New York. The choir performed Lately Mozart's Requiem for the Beirut Chants Festival with the European Young Orchestra conducted by Paolo Olmi. This season marks the 45th season of the Choir.

07 DEC

Christmas Tree Lighting

Antonine University Choir

6:00 PM

MARTYRS' SQUARE

TICKETS NOT REQUIRED



07 DEC

Tribute to Umm Kulthum

Firas Andari

MOHAMMED NAHHAS, QANOUN &
BACKING VOCALS
TONI JEDOUN, VIOLIN
KHALIL AL BABA, VIOLIN
MAKRAM ABULHOSN, DOUBLE BASS
SAMAH ABOULMONA, ACCORDION &
BACKING VOCALS
BAHAA DAO, RIQ
MAZEN MALAEH, TABLA & BACKING
VOCALS



8:00 PM

ASSEMBLY HALL | AUB

Arabia
INSURANCE



غرفة التجارة والصناعة والزراعة
Chamber of Commerce Industry
and Agriculture
في بيروت وجبل لبنان

Firas Andari is a Lebanese singer and composer who has a contemporary musical language that is rooted in the authentic Arab musical heritage, scooping from its historical repertoire without borrowing from other musical genres.

He studied among the great masters of traditional music and excelled in playing the oud and various musical instruments, and today he is one of the few elite who maintain this type of music in singing, playing, composing and teaching. His aim is not only to preserve the musical heritage, but also to develop new Arabic music from within this heritage. Thanks to his unique performances of traditional maqams and his own compositions, he is regularly present on the stages of his home city, Beirut, and beyond. Andari acquired from Said a rich auditory repertoire that Said had also learned by ear from the pillars of traditional singing in Egypt, also known as Sheikhs. This gave Andari access to a music culture that is all but lost: the notation of Arabic music at the beginning of the twentieth century caused it to lose much of the variable microtones that made its richness, simply because western standard notation cannot express the exact intonations in the maqam music. Andari also learned the origins of each maqam, its habitual phrases and melodic development, as well as the different maqam dialects that were passed down orally from generation to generation and not taught by music schools.



IST BML
Istisharat

08 DEC
Cindy Latty
Sings Wadiah Al Safi

MOHAMMED NAHHAS, QANOUN
MOHAMAD EDELBE, ORGUE
CHRISTIAN BEJJANI, PIANO BASE
GEORGES BOUTROS, TABLE
TAYM SAFAFI, NAY
MOHAMAD ITANI, DAF



8:00 PM

ASSEMBLY HALL | AUB

Cindy Latty is a Lebanese singer and oud player celebrated for her soulful interpretations of classical Arabic music and her deep connection to the golden era of Tarab. With a voice that blends power, emotion, and authenticity, she brings to life the timeless works of legends such as Umm Kulthum, Wadiah Al Safi, Abdel Halim Hafez, and Mohamed Abdel Wahab, captivating audiences across the Arab world.

Cindy has performed on some of the region's most prestigious stages, including the Dougga Roman Theater in Tunisia, where she paid tribute to Umm Kulthum, the Mohammed V Theater in Morocco, major cultural venues in Kuwait and Amman, and the acclaimed Vocally Festival in Riyadh. In her home country of Lebanon, she has headlined numerous concerts and cultural events, earning a reputation as one of the most authentic voices of modern Tarab.

Beyond her vocal artistry, Cindy is also a talented oud player, an instrument that deepens her connection to the heritage of Arabic music. Her performances are marked by emotional depth, technical mastery, and a nostalgic aura that revives the spirit of the golden musical era while resonating with contemporary audiences.

Cindy Latty continues to build her artistic journey with passion, elegance, and a profound respect for the legacy of Arabic music's greatest icons.



09 DEC
Fayha
National
Choir &
Ziad El
Ahmadie

Barkev Taslakian/Conductor

8:00 PM

ST. MARON CHURCH
GEMMAYZEH

PEARL BRANDS

ONLINE

Fayha National Choir is a mixed Lebanese a cappella choir internationally renowned for revolutionizing Arabic choral music. It was founded in 2003 by Maestro Barkev Taslakian, who remains its principal conductor. The choir was originally based in Tripoli and adopted the city's local nickname 'Fayha'. After branching out across Lebanon to Beirut and Chouf, the choir was named the first Lebanese National Choir in 2022.

It has a rich and unique repertoire that revives classics from across the region – offering new interpretations that blend Western harmony with Arabic musical tradition.

The choir has amassed an extensive archive, making it the prime resource worldwide for Arabic choral arrangements, today performed by choirs all over the world in order to promote Arab Music.

Ziad El Ahmadie is a Oud player and composer who started his career during his study at Lebanese American University majoring in Communication Arts.

Ziad composed soundtracks for 16 TV series, 6 films, and 10 documentaries (2000 till present).

He collaborated with "Metro Al Madina" as arranger, performer and composer since 2013 in "Hishik Bishik Show", "Bar Farouk" and "The Political Circus".

Beside his musical career, he works as coordinator and instructor for music courses in Lebanese International University (2013 till present).



10 DEC

Ghada Shbeir

& Imam Sadr
Foundation School
Choir

8:00 PM

ST. ELIE CHURCH
KANTARI

A renowned Lebanese musician, singer, and researcher, **Dr. Ghada Shbeir** holds a PhD in Musical Sciences and is recognized for her dedication to preserving and reviving traditional Arabic and Syriac chants. She teaches Oriental Singing at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK), where she also directs the Oriental Choir. Dr. Shbeir has released several acclaimed albums that showcase the depth and beauty of Middle Eastern musical heritage and has authored significant research on traditional and sacred music. Her talent and research have earned her several awards, including the BBC World Music Award.

The melodic voices of the **Imam Sadr Foundation school choir** girls have echoed far beyond the city of Tyre and its surroundings, enchanting all who have heard them and establishing the choir as one of the most distinguished in Lebanon. Originally, the choir was composed of students with special needs, driven by the recognition that music could be a powerful tool in rehabilitation programs. Music's profound impact on their performance was quickly evident, prompting a decision in the following years to train the teaching staff on using music as an educational tool. Interest in the choir rapidly grew, expanding to include students from all the schools under the Imam Sadr Foundation's umbrella.



11 DEC

Influences

Mario
Rahi / Violin

Fabio
Centanni /
Piano

8:00 PM

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



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. He is currently a violin teacher at the Lebanese National Conservatory of Music. He also contributed to the development of the "Conservatory Youth Orchestra" that he has been coaching with great passion and dedication until today.

Fabio Centanni is one of the internationally most sought-after collaborative pianists in Italian Opera and Instrumental music. Recognition and honors include the First Prize Winner the 2nd Concorso di Terzo d' Acqui (Alessandria) and 10th Concorso pianistico " Città di Velletri", Third Prize winner of Città di Sulmona" and the Critics' Prize in the 38th Concorso pianistico "A.Speranza".

Recent engagements as a collaborative pianist include the International Festival in Verbier (CH) from July 2009 until July 2012 where he accompanied Opera Masterclasses held by Claudio Desderi (2009), and Nelly Miricioiu (2010) , the International Violin Competition "Città di Brescia" in October 2010, the International Violin Competition "A. Postacchini" in May 2012, in May 2013 and in June 2014 .



12 DEC

Sacred & Festive Harmonies

Bechara Moufarrej/
Tenor

Notre Dame University
Choir & Orchestra

Fr. Khalil Rahme/
Conductor

8:00 PM

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
MONOT

With more than a dozen concerts per season, numerous recordings and publications, as well as many international awards, **NDU 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.

After completing his studies in philosophy, theology and music in Rome, **Fr. Khalil Rahme** returned to Beirut in 1993 to found the Notre Dame University Choir and School of Music, in addition to his entrusted tasks at the Lebanese National Conservatory of Music (choir director and music formation instructor). As a renowned composer, his catalogue lists several motets, oratorios, and chamber and film music. Rahme is also founder and artistic director of the Lebanese Pipe Organ Week (SOL Festival), a yearly festival promoting pipe organ music.



13 DEC
Leticia
Moreno / Violin
Josu de
Solaun / Piano

IN COLLABORATION WITH
THE EMBASSY OF SPAIN IN LEBANON

8:00 PM

ST. MARON CHURCH
GEMMAYZEH

Recognized as a truly exciting and versatile violinist, **Leticia Moreno** “captivates audiences and critics alike with her natural charisma, virtuosity and deep interpretative force”.

She has appeared with the most renowned conductors such as Zubin Mehta, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Paavo Jarvi, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Christoph Eschenbach, Yuri Temirkanov, Krzysztof Penderecki, Andrés Orozco-Estrada, Josep Pons, Juanjo Mena, Gustavo Gimeno, Peter Eötvös, and Andrey Boreyko amongst others.

Leticia studied with Zakhar Bron, Maxim Vengerov and Mstislav Rostropovich at Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofía in Madrid, the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz in Cologne and Guildhall School in London, and was the youngest member of the prestigious Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung. Leticia Moreno has won international violin competitions such as Szeryng, Concertino Praga, Novosibirsk, Sarasate, Kreisler, as well as the being awarded with the Echo Rising Star.

Born in Spain of Peruvian descent, Leticia Moreno has developed strong ties with Latin America, especially

with her country of origin where she returns every season to perform and which has as a corollary her recent World Premier of Jimmy Lopez's new violin concerto "Aurora" in Houston and Lima. Leticia plays a 1762 Nicola Gagliano.

Josu De Solaun has been recognized by critics like Nikolaus Frey (Fuldaer Zeitung) for his "poetic sense of sound, bold artistic vision, and brilliant virtuoso skills, always and completely in service of the works he performs."

He has twice been awarded the prestigious International Classical Music Awards (ICMA): in 2021 in the chamber music category and in 2023 as best soloist. In the 2023 edition, the ICMA jury, made up by 21 directors of the most important and prestigious classical music media (magazines and radio stations) in Europe, expressed the following about him in a public written statement on the Awards webpage in 2023: "Josu de Solaun is one of the most impressive discoveries of the past decade.

He is not only a technically impressive pianist, but his interpretive imagination also knows no bounds. His performances ideally reflect De Solaun's ability to engage with the works symbiotically and at the highest energy levels. Free from aesthetic dogma, the pianist creates universes of a solitary nature."

As a composer, he recently premiered his *Concertino Breve* (2023) for piano

and string orchestra in Klaipeda, Lithuania, with the Klaipeda Chamber Orchestra conducted by Alexis Soriano-Monstavicius, and his String Quartet titled *Tombeau* in the Málaga Clásica Festival in Spain.

He is a professor at the Escuela Superior Musical Arts Madrid (MAM), a private conservatory in Madrid where he trains a small group of selected students and develops his intense pedagogical vocation. Josu is also a poet, and in 2021, his poetry collection *Las Grietas* was published by Edictorialia, with a foreword by Spanish Poet Laureate Álvaro Valverde.



14 DEC

The Art of Oud
**Joseph
Tawadros**

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY

8:00 PM

ST. ELIE CHURCH
KANTARI



Australian Embassy
Lebanon

Joseph Tawadros is an exhilarating player, both when he is delivering mercurial mastery and when he is summoning more haunting atmospheres, often incorporating techniques drawn from other traditions, including western rock music.

Tawadros AM is a leading Oud virtuoso, composer and 8-time ARIA-award winner.

His oud can also be heard in films and TV such as Ali's Wedding, The Last Days of Yasser Arafat, Paper Giants; the birth of Cleo, I Remember 1948, The Water Diviner, Checkpoint, The Tentmakers of Cairo, All About E, Love Marriage in Kabul, The Portal, Haneen, The Black Balloon, The Transfer, Memory Film; a Filmmakers Diary, House of Cards and The Last Ride starring Hugo Weaving.

It's been a busy 2024 with a tour of America, Australia and Hong Kong performing Vivaldi's Four Seasons amongst his own compositions with the Australian Chamber Orchestra; a Canadian debut as a soloist with the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal conducted by Maestro Rafael Payare, performing in front of 15,000 people at the Olympic Stadium and an induction into the Australian National Film and Sound Archive.

Joseph was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia for services to music in 2016.

RAFI MANOUKIAN

Born in Lebanon, **Bechara Moufarrej** is one of the few singers who has pursued an operatic career outside Lebanon.

Following his great success as Conte d'Almaviva in Beirut, his engagements in the same role took him to places such as Teatro Giulio di Lucca, Teatro Goldoni in Livorno, Teatro Verdi in Pisa, and Teatro Coccia in Novara, under the baton of Nicola Pascovski and in the staging of Alessio Pizzzech.

Bechara led the role of Anthony with six well-known arias at the Cleopatra world premiere opera at The Royal Albert Hall in London. This performance took him to the Pyramids of Egypt, and following Egypt, an American tour awaited.

Between opera lessons and Italian language teaching, Bechara has given many masterclasses to young and expert singers in the UK, Serbia, Lebanon, France, and Romania. After the Beirut Port explosion, the tenor collaborated with the Bayerische State Opera in Munich to record and film a tribute to Beirut titled "Salami Li Beirut" ("Peace for Beirut"), with all proceeds going towards rebuilding efforts and helping affected families.

He currently resides between London and Serbia for his future projects.

15 DEC

A Tenor's Christmas

Bechara Moufarrej/

Tenor

MARC ABOU NAOUM, PIANO
RANA OBEID, FLUTE
NADIM ROUHANA, ACCORDION
MAKRAM ABOUL HOSN, DOUBLE BASS
GIO NAJARIAN, DRUMS &
PERCUSSION

Special Guests

Mazen Kiwan
Sahar Abou Khalil
Tia Germanos

8:00 PM

GULBENKIAN THEATER
LAU | BEIRUT



ZIAD ABOUT JAMRA

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 chanters from the Eparchy of Beirut and Jbeil which later expanded to all Lebanese Eparchies. 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.

The Choir performs many recitals through the year along with masses and prayers, ordination of priests and bishops etc.

Since 2022, the choir is cooperating with Saint Theophanis choir (founded by Fr. Romanos in the eparchy of Saida and Deir Al Qamar), Panayia Melkite choir (founded by Fr. Romanos under the auspices of the Greek Melkite Patriarch), Saint Romanos School - Zahle (under the direction of the First Chanter of Zahle Georges Riachi), and the Patriarchal Music School in Damascus, Syria (under the direction of Levon Abajian).

Today, the choir performs several liturgical and religious events under the direction of Dr. Alain Osta, the first chanter of Beirut eparchy.

16 DEC St. Stephanos the Melodist Choir

Alain Osta/Conductor

8:00 PM

ST. ELIAS MELKITE
GREEK CATHOLIC
CATHEDRAL | BEIRUT



17 DEC

Matteo
El Khodr/
Countertenor

Marc
Reaidy Baz/
Tenor

8:00 PM

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

Born in Beirut of Greek-Lebanese origins, **Matteo El Khodr** 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 then-nonexistent countertenor voice to Lebanon and the Middle East and sang in several festivals, later being invited to perform at the Doha Opera House in Qatar with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2020, he represented his country in The Voice France, dazzling the four chairs of the jury.

Marc Reaidy Baz is a classically trained opera and crossover singer who began his vocal studies at the École des Arts Ghassan Yammine, initially working with Mr. Ernie Chammas in his early years and later with Russian professor Galina Khaldeeva. Since 2014, he has been further honing his technical skills and artistry under the esteemed guidance of Professor Arax Chekidjian.

Beyond the stage, Marc's dramatic skills have led to appearances on television, where he combines his talents as an opera singer and actor.



EUROPEAN UNION IN LEBANON



German/Swiss cellist **Emanuel Graf's** is a spellbinding artist who holds the honor of playing the "L'Évêque de La Rochelle" cello made by Antonio Stradivari in 1690.

Graf is fascinated by contemporary music and has premiered the cello works of composers Georg Friedrich Haas and Marshal McDaniel—the latter at Esslingen Festival, to great success. In order to explore the connection of music to different arts such as literature, dance, and painting, Emanuel founded 3Klang Cultural Centre, together with his musician family, in the south of Freiburg, Germany.

Teo Gheorghiu is above all a "poetic storyteller" (Neue Zürcher Zeitung) and his captivating style has fascinated audiences at venues such as Wigmore Hall and the Barbican. He has played to great acclaim with orchestras like the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Danish National Symphony Orchestra, and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic. He has collaborated with conductors such as Sir Neville Marriner, Vladimir Fedoseyev, Matthias Pintscher and Alexander Shelley.

Born near Zurich, Swiss-Canadian pianist Teo Gheorghiu burst on the music scene when he won first prize at the International San Marino Piano Competition in 2004 and followed up with the top award at the Franz Liszt International Competition in Weimar.

18 DEC

Emanuel Graf/ Cello

Teo Gheorghiu/

Piano

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN
UNION TO LEBANON

8:00 PM

ST. MARON CHURCH
GEMMAYZEH



19 DEC

An Operatic Christmas

Les Solistes de Beyrouth

FERNANDO AFARA, CONDUCTOR
JAMES ALEXANDER, PIANO
CARINE SÉCHAYE, MEZZO-SOPRANO

8:00 PM

ST. ELIE CHURCH
KANTARI

Les Solistes de Beyrouth is a versatile lyrical vocal ensemble established by Fernando Afara. It combines professional classical singers and advanced students from his vocal studio. The group has quickly become a prominent vocal ensemble in Lebanon, guided by strict artistic standards and committed to education, excellence, and international engagement.

In March 2023, Les Solistes de Beyrouth held a series of concerts for the Feast of the Annunciation at the National Museum of Lebanon, in collaboration with the National Conservatory, the Ministry of Culture, and French organist Yves Lafargue. The ensemble also performed at major cultural events, such as the Lebanese Organ Festival, with renowned organists including Yves Lafargue and Paolo De Matthaëis.

Their sacred and operatic repertoire resonates in exceptional venues, from the National Museum to historic churches and archaeological sites. Internationally, they represented Lebanon at the Rhodes Organ Festival in 2024 and performed at Victoria Hall in Geneva in June 2025 for a major charity gala supporting Caritas Lebanon. Guided by their artistic director, they pursue their mission with passion and unwavering conviction in music's unifying power.



20 DEC

THE CREATION
Haydn Reimagined in the
Light of the Incarnation

Iyad Kanaan/Musical
Inserts

NADINE NASSAR, SOPRANO
BECHARA MOUFARREJ, TENOR

Philokalia
Choir &
Orchestra

S. Marana Saad/Conductor

8:00 PM

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
MONOT

ISABELLE AND
PHILIPPE HELOU

CAMILE
& RHONA SABA

Recognized today as one of Lebanon's foremost choirs, **Philokalia Choir** stands at the crossroads of Eastern and Western musical traditions, offering performances that combine artistic excellence with spiritual depth. Its repertoire embraces Classical, Arabic, and Syro-Maronite music, reflecting a vision that unites beauty, faith, and cultural dialogue.

Deeply committed to the creation of new works, Philokalia Choir has embarked on a long-term collaboration with Lebanese composer Iyad Kanaan, resulting in the commissioning and performance of several original compositions. Together, they have released fifteen pieces to date, marking an important contribution to the development of Lebanese sacred repertoire.

To date, the choir has released twelve albums, continuing its mission to preserve and promote Lebanese sacred and secular music.

Founder and President of Philokalia, **S. Marana Saad** has dedicated her life to revealing the spiritual dimension of art and the transforming power of beauty. Through her work, she has made music a space of encounter between faith, culture, and human creativity.

She holds two doctorates—one in Theology from Saint Anselm's University in Rome and another in Musicology from the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik. Her musical

journey in choral conducting was shaped under the guidance of Maestro Walter Marzilli at the Pontificio Istituto di Musica Sacra in Rome. She also pursued further studies in Strategic Management and Leadership at George Washington University (USA) and in music therapy at the Nantes Music Therapy Institute in France.

Sr. Marana teaches theology and music at several universities and institutes in Lebanon and abroad.

She has been invited to speak and lead workshops at international conferences in Rome, Stockholm, Zagreb, Tallinn, Richmond, Limassol, and Paris, and is the author of several publications exploring spirituality, sacred music, and the art of choral leader.

Iyad Kanaan is a lebanese composer, Artistic Director and Composer in Residence at the Philokalia Choir, and professor of composition at the Philokalia Institute.

His catalogue includes over forty works encompassing instrumental and symphonic pieces, oratorios, motets, and art songs on Arabic poetry. He has set texts by Lebanese poets such as Said Akl, Elias Abou Chabke, and Antoine Raad. His output also includes an opera in Arabic, Qadmūs. His motets are widely regarded as among the finest expressions of his musical language, marked by lyricism, depth, and spiritual resonance.

Lebanese soprano **Nadine Nassar** has built a distinguished international career marked by artistry, versatility, and cultural dialogue. After moving to Warsaw to study privately with renowned opera masters and at the Chopin University, she emerged as a musical bridge between Lebanon and Poland, performing in landmark events

such as the Bicentenary of Chopin's Birth and the Polish Centenary Festivities, for which she was awarded the Polish Medal of Culture.

Her performances have graced some of the world's most esteemed venues, including Vienna's Hofburg Chapel, Krakow's St. Mary's Basilica, Prague's Týn Cathedral, Beirut's Grand Serail, the Royal Academy of Music in London, Quimper's Cathedral, Ouessant's Island, Paris, Moscow, and the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg.

Lebanese tenor **Bechara Moufarrej** is among the few Lebanese singers to have pursued an international operatic career. After graduating in Lebanon in 2009, he continued his studies in Italy and went on to perform major roles such as Don José (Carmen), Rodolfo (La Bohème), Alfredo (La Traviata), Il Duca (Rigoletto), Ferrando (Così fan tutte), Conte d'Almaviva (Il Barbiere di Siviglia), Don Basilio (Le Nozze di Figaro), and Jago (Otello by Rossini). His concert repertoire includes Rossini's Stabat Mater and Petite Messe Solennelle, Mozart's Requiem and Masses, Verdi's Requiem, and Puccini's Messa di Gloria.

After the Beirut Port explosion, he collaborated with the Bayerische Staatsoper to produce Salāmī Li Bayrūt, a tribute to Beirut whose proceeds supported rebuilding efforts and families affected by the tragedy.

A member of the Peace and Prosperity Trust in London, he currently divides his time between London and Serbia.



21 DEC Beirut Chants El-Sistema

Youth Orchestra &
Choir

RAMZI KANDALAFT, ORCHESTRA
CONDUCTOR
ZAKAR KESHISHIAN, CHOIR
CONDUCTOR
KAMILA YERKANIAN, PIANO



6:00 PM

GULBENKIAN THEATER
LAU | BEIRUT

Fifty years ago, in the barrios of Venezuela, **El-Sistema** was born. It offered marginalized youth a path away from violence and despair by immersing those less fortunate in the transformative power of music. Its innovative model, where group learning replaces traditional one-on-one lessons, and where more advanced students support and guide the less experienced, El-Sistema has grown into a global movement of profound educational and social impact. We are proud that our youth will appear in the 18th season of the Beirut Chants Festival this December—for the third consecutive year. As the educational arm of Beirut Chants, we strive to nurture homegrown talent and enrich the festival's legacy with the voices and instruments of Lebanon's next generation.

Over the past two years, we have been privileged to partner with UNESCO to promote social cohesion—bringing together young people from diverse communities and strengthening resilience in conflict-affected areas through the healing power of music and art.

The motto of El-Sistema is simple yet profound: "Music for Social Change." How deeply honored we are to live that motto and to share with you the extraordinary promise of our youth. As in all our concerts, we dedicate this evening to the lasting memory of Dr. Fatma Aleem, a pioneering doctor and humanitarian from Egypt. May her soul rest in peace.

**AKRAM
SAFA**



21 DEC

Christmas in
Harmony

Mayssa
Karaa

8:00 PM

ST. MARON CHURCH
GEMMAYZEH

Mayssa Karaa is a Lebanese-American Grammy-nominated vocalist and songwriter celebrated for her multi-octave voice and distinctive fusion of Middle Eastern and Western music. She rose to international recognition with her Arabic rendition of “White Rabbit” on the American Hustle soundtrack, and as lead vocalist on Expo 2020 Dubai’s official anthem, “This is Our Time,” alongside Hussain Al Jassmi and produced by Grammy-winner Greg Wells. She also made history performing with Andrea Bocelli as the first artist to sing in Arabic at the Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi.

Mayssa is the Artistic Director at Berklee College of Music’s campus in Abu Dhabi and a Berklee alumna. Berklee is known as the world’s pre-eminent institute of contemporary music, dance, and theater. She was also the Artistic Director of the Dubai Expo 2020 all-female “Firdaus Orchestra” initiative under the patronage of Oscar-winning producer AR Rahman.

Her performances have spanned the globe, from Hollywood to Bollywood and across the United States, Canada, Europe, and the Middle East, appearing on world-class stages such as the Ziggo Dome in Amsterdam, the Beiteddine Festival, UNESCO Paris, and the Etihad Arena to name a few. Through both her original songs and her cross-cultural interpretations, she carries a message of empowerment, cultural connection, and musical excellence.



22 DEC

Le Noël Des Petits

La Chanterie De Beyrouth

NOHA HATEM, CHOIR CONDUCTOR
ISABELLE ISSAHAKIAN, PIANO

5:00 PM

ST. MICHEL CHURCH
EL-NAHR

ELIAS AND MICHELLE ABOU SAMRA

Twenty five years ago Mrs. Noha Hatem founded with her artistic director Mrs. Isabelle Issahakian the Lebanese Children's choir called **La Chanterie de Beyrouth**. The objective of the choir is to promote and nurture young musical talent all the while contributing to Lebanese culture. Open to all children between the ages of 6 to 14 and from different backgrounds, the choir has initiated a love of music of all genres and has contributed to enlivening musical events throughout Lebanon.

Mrs. Noha Hatem studied musicology and pedagogy at the Institute of Musicology in Lyon, France, and has participated in several internships in London, Germany and France. She later specialized in Music Appreciation for Children.

Her dedication as choirmaster of the Chanterie de Beyrouth has merited her the Chevalier des Palmes Academiques from the French government and the Medal of Order of Isabel from the Spanish government. Mrs. Isabelle Issahakian the artistic director of the choir has a degree in Architecture and Musicology. Since the foundation of the choir she has shared both her talent as a musician and dedicated service to all the children past and present of La Chanterie de Beyrouth.



22 DEC

Makram

Aboul Hosn

"Twilight Circle"

MARIE ABOU KHALED, VOCALS
TOM HORNIG, ALTO SAXOPHONE
NIDAL ABOU SAMRA, TENOR
SAXOPHONE
JOE KHOURY, TENOR SAXOPHONE
MAKRAM ABOUL HOSN, DOUBLE BASS
TAREK YAMANI, PIANO
PAVLO WARDINI, DRUMS
SAMER AFIF, PERCUSSION

Makram Aboul Hosn is a Lebanese bassist, composer, and bandleader whose music fuses technical mastery with emotional depth. His performances retain a ceremonial aspect where music invokes spiritual heights, and improvisation takes on a narrative character. Being stylistically versatile, Makram draws influences from Classical, Arabic, Jazz, and Experimental music. Through original compositions and inventive arrangements, his work crafts experiences that are both intimate and expansive. Beyond the stage, he is a dedicated educator and lecturer, sharing his vision of music as a force for imagination, connection, and transformation. Makram assimilated the "Twilight Circle" especially for the Beirut Chants concert which will take place on the 22nd of December, the shortest day of the year, and a few days before Christmas after which the days will grow back in length and symbolize the restoration of hope, and light. The group is formed of some of Beirut's finest Jazz musicians, and will be joined by Marie Abou Khaled to perform some of Makram's original songs, and rearrangements of some favorite Jazz standards. The performance will also include a tribute to the great Ziad Rahbani, who sadly left us this year.



AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF BEIRUT

8:00 PM

ASSEMBLY HALL | AUB



solidere

23 DEC
Marie Joe
Abi Nassif/
Mezzo-soprano

Lebanese
Orchestra

Toufic Maatouk/
Conductor



8:00 PM

ASSEMBLY HALL | AUB

Marie-Joe Abi-Nassif has taken an unbeaten path — her journey is one of passion between the contrasting worlds of opera and law. Marie-Joe is a professional operatic mezzo-soprano and has performed on world-renowned stages such as Carnegie Hall (New York), Salle Cortot (Paris) and the Varna State Opera House (Bulgaria). She is also a Partner in the Mergers & Acquisitions practice group of the international law firm of Kirkland & Ellis LLP in New York. She previously practiced at Latham & Watkins LLP and also served as a lecturer at the University of Paris II Pantheon-Assas.

She participated in concerts at the Varna State Opera (Bulgaria) and the Bulgarian National Radio under the baton of Nicoletta Conti. She was invited to the Lebanese Presidential Palace to perform with the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra. She later performed the role of Zelatrice in Puccini's *Suor Angelica* with the New York Lyric Opera. Marie-Joe was selected by UNESCO to perform in a concert honoring the late Charles Aznavour at the UNESCO Palace (Paris). She was also selected to perform the role of Dorothee in *Cendrillon* at the Miami Music Festival and the roles of Ježibaba in *Rusalka* and Cecilia March in *Little Women* at the Trentino Music Festival. And recently, she performed a solo recital at the Saint-Joseph Church in Beirut accompanied by Denis Dubois of the Opéra National de Paris.

Main Partner

Camile & Rhona Saba

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