



PRESS RELEASE

Mawazine honors artists from all over the World on the Stage of the Mohammed V National Theatre

The cultural institution will host from May 20th to 28th, a very high-quality lineup

Rabat, April 7th, 2016 - Continuing its initiative in favor of a stunning-quality lineup, the 15th edition of Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World will offer this year the unprecedented presence of world-known artists whose performances will be applauded by the Moroccan public in the intimate setting of the Mohammed V National Theatre. As is tradition, the institution's stage will welcome musical figures from across the globe.

Kadim Al Sahir will first be honored on *Friday May 20th* for an opening concert promising to be memorable. Originally from Mosul, Iraq, Kadim Al Sahir is the greatest singer of the Arab world. With over 100 million sold albums, concerts all over the world and prestigious collaborations, Kadim Al Sahir is acclaimed Kaiser (Caesar) of Arab music. The author-songwriter dazzles with his vocal mastery and bewitches crowds with a privileged repertoire of romantic ballads, maqamats, traditional poems, and engaging lyrics.

Come from the other side of the ocean, the Argentinean group **Alma de Tango** will assemble on *Saturday, May 21st* bandoneonist Juan Juan José Mosalini, singer Sandra Rumolino and dancer and stage director Jorge Rodriguez. Sometimes intimate, sometimes volcanic, this show will convey incredible emotions through tango. Claiming a poetic dimension without ever denying its popular roots, Alma de Tango will hold up high its Argentinian identity celebrated through the most beautiful pieces of this unique dance.

Heir of a Palestinian family of oud-players, **Trio Joubran** is comprised of three virtuoso brothers native of Nazareth. Formed in 2003, the group regularly performs in Europe, the United States, Canada, Latin America and in the Arab world. *Sunday May 22nd*, they will offer their best compositions from their successful albums, *Randana*, *Majâz*, and *Asfâr*, dedicated to the diffusion of the Palestinian culture.

Festivalgoers will meet a great woman of fusion on *Monday May 23rd*. Renown for her pioneer role of mixing eastern and western music, **Natacha Atlas**, will present her latest album, *Myriad Road*, a jazz record composed and co-produced by trumpet player Ibrahim Maalouf. She will also perform hits that ignited the success of her career since 1994.

The following day, *Tuesday May 24th*, the **Qawwali Flamenco** fusion, born from the mix of Pakistani and Spanish repertoires, will offer a fruitful blend between the virtuous volcanic power of gawwali chants and the hypnotic lyricism of flamenco. Following a first encounter



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ten years ago, Faiz Ali Faiz will once again be associated to inimitable rhythms of Juan Gomez “Chicuelo,” fetish guitarist of flamenco’s greatest voices.

Wednesday May 25th, French singer **Imany** will take over the stage to convey pop/folk style compositions, with influences from Tracy Chapman and Billie Holiday. After a first album, *The Shape Of A Broken Heart*, released in 2011 and certified platinum in many countries, Imany will seduce the Mawazine public with the imprint of her unique voice and a universe establishing her as a wide audience artist simultaneously glamorous and authentic.

The day after, Mexican artist **Paco Renteria**, genius guitarist and songwriter, will set up headquarters at the theatre. Regularly compared to Paco de Lucía and designated as Carlos Santana’s successor, his eclectic free play style incorporates Latino rhythms and influences of rock, jazz, progressive, Afrikaans, and gypsy-style flamenco. Composer, producer, and arranger of his entire repertoire, we owe him the original soundtrack of movie *Desperado*, as well as the soundtrack of *The Mask of Zorro*. On stage, he is accompanied by exceptional musicians, whose energies he manages to reach from the diversity of the sounds produced by their instruments, including the trumpet, transverse flute, bansuri, and percussions. Paco Renteria played in the whole world and travels often throughout Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Similar to Buena Vista Social Club Cuban musicians, the El Gusto orchestra is a reflection of the Maghreb. Come from Algeria, this group of jewish and muslim musicians separated by history and reunited fifty years later will be the center of attention on *Friday May 27th*. Poet of châabi music, this unique group brings together the very best of Maghreban singers and musicians. Subject of a successful documentary, the group is famous by its music from the time Jewish and Muslim sang together, in the Kasbah of Algiers, about a century ago.

Finally, on *Saturday May 28th*, an exceptional evening will conclude the Mohammed V National Theatre lineup, with a tribute to Mohamed Abdel-Wahab paid by Syrian singer **Safwane Bahlawane**. Incarnating to perfection the Egyptian legend’s sublime voice, the artist brilliantly evokes the golden age of Arab music. Known by many nicknames, “Abdel-Wahab’s doppelganger” or “Syrian Abdel-Wahab,” Safwane is a phenomenon and will perform the master’s greatest songs, which he met in Lebanon in 1971.

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Useful Information:

Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World 15th Edition: May 20th to May 28th, 2016.

May 20th: Kadim Al Sahir / Iraq

May 21st: Alma De Tango / Argentina

May 22nd: Trio Joubran / Palestine

May 23rd: Natacha Atlas / Belgium

May 24th: Qawwali Flamenco / Pakistan & Spain

May 25th: Imany / France



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May 26th: Paco Renteria / Mexico

May 27th: El Gusto / Algeria

May 28th: Safwane Bahlawane: Tribute to Mohamed Abdel-Wahab / Syria

About Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World:

Born in 2001, the Mawazine Festival – Rhythms of the World is the essential rendezvous for music lovers in Morocco. With over 2 million festivalgoers for each past edition, it is ranked the second greatest cultural event in the world. Organized during nine days, every year in May, Mawazine offers a rich and robust lineup, which intermingles the ultimate stars of the global repertoire, making the cities of Rabat and Sale a forum of exceptional encounters between the public and a multitude of renowned artists. Extremely committed to the promotion of Moroccan music, Mawazine dedicates over half of its lineup to national talents. Embodying the values of peace, openness, tolerance, and respect, the Festival's main mission is to ensure access to the public, hence offering free admission to 90% of its concerts. It is also a major contributor to the regional tourism economy and leader of the creation of a genuine entertainment industry in Morocco.

About the Maroc Cultures Association:

Maroc Cultures is a non-profit association, which commits to create a cultural and artistic motion for the people of the region of Rabat-Sale-Zemmour-Zaër. Created in 2001, the association pursues its mission of the development and democratization of culture, initiated by His Majesty The King Mohammed VI, throughout several events, most notably the Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World and the musical contest Generation Mawazine. Every year, Maroc Cultures also organizes numerous interdisciplinary symposia, art exhibitions and concerts.