

PRESS RELEASE

17th Edition of the Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World

Mawazine 2018: a selection of the biggest stars of the moment for an ever more popular edition that promises to be HIS-TO-RI-CAL!

Rabat, April 16th 2018: Organized from June 22nd to the 30th, 2018, under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Mawazine is preparing to celebrate its seventeenth anniversary ... in the most beautiful way! True to the formula of its success, the festival offers this year an extremely richer program and a mix of international and national stars. In total, six venues in Rabat and Salé will be carry out for nine days, a message of tolerance and sharing to an even more heterogeneous public and whose number continues to grow for every edition.

The place to be for world music and most popular gatherings, the *OLM-Souissi* stage will assemble the most popular celebrities of the moment. The selection of artists for this seventeenth edition is worthy of the greatest events with the key to a phenomenal density of styles that will please all. Performers will include **Bruno Mars** (USA), the all-time record-breaking artist who will be performing in Africa for the first time, as well as the number one DJ **Martin Garrix** (Netherlands), the amazing duo **The Chainsmokers** (USA), the charismatic **Jamiroquai** (Great Britain), the rock group **Texas** (Great Britain), the legend **Luis Fonsi** (Puerto Rico) as well as the rappers **Niska** (France) and **Damso** (Democratic Republic of Congo).

In a more intimate setting, the program at the *Mohammed V National Theater* also promises to be exceptional. Witnessing the highlights of Mawazine's history, the discovery stage will feature an impressive list of artists merging genres, including the brilliant violinist **Ara Malikian** (Armenia), the singer **Hiba Tawaji** (Lebanon) but also the **London Community Gospel Choir** (Great Britain), the iconic **Souad Massi** (Algeria), the soprano **Majida El Rumi** (Lebanon), the Tango Group **Fernando Egozcue Ensemble** (Argentina), the muse of flamenco **Maria Toledo** (Spain) and the opera singer **Marwa Najy** (Egypt).

Illustrating Mawazine's passion for Arabic music, the *Nahda* stage will host once again this year the region's greatest voices for a unique display of the richness of the oriental musical heritage. Festivalgoers will have the opportunity to share unique moments with Kayser **Kadim Al Sahir** (Iraq), the voice of Tarab **Melhem Zein** (Lebanon), the talented **Rouwaida Attieh** (Syria), the singer **Bosy** (Egypt), the great **Mohamed Hamaki** (Egypt), the young **Ameer Dandan** (Palestine), the amazing **Wael Jassar** (Lebanon), the singer **Ahmed Chiba** (Egypt), the master **Saber Rebaï** (Tunisia), the divas **Nancy Ajram** (Lebanon) and **Ahlam** (United Arab Emirates).

With more than half of its programming reserved for Moroccan artists, Mawazine will once again be showcasing the kingdom's singers and musicians. Every evening at the *Salé stage*, fans will have the opportunity to be part of a series of festive concerts. Between gnaoua,



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châabi, rock, reggae, fusion, amazigh, rap and hip hop, the audience will applaud the performances of **Cravata, Aminux, Ihab Amir, Nadia Laaroussi, Badr Soultan, Ibtissam Tiskat, Tarik Farih, Maâlem Hassan Boussou, Nass El Ghiwane, Lahoucine Aït Baamrane, Aziz Al Maghribi, Zakaria Ghafouli, Khadija Atlas, Mehdi Weld Hajib, Hajib, Abdelali SAhraoui, Abidat Rma, Najat Aâtabou, DJ Hamida, H-Kayne, Muslim, Tiw Tiw, Imad Benomar, Nouamane Belaiachi, Statia, Said Senhaji and Stati.**

Second largest festival of the planet and first of the continent, Mawazine has always celebrated Africa and its music. On the ***Bouregreg*** stage, this new edition will highlight some of the greatest performers whose cultures and sounds are so varied: the guitarist and arranger **Ebo Taylor** (Ghana), the beautiful **Oumou Sangaré** (Mali), the wonderful **Las Maravillas Del Mali** (Mali), the Afro-punk sensation **Tshegue** (France), the rapper **Rilès** (France), the kora player **Sidiki Diabaté** (Mali), the Orchestra **Poly-Rhythmo de Cotonou** (Benin), the emblems of Afrobeat **Seun Kuti & Egypt 80 featuring Yasiin Bey** (Nigeria / United States) as well as the rebel **Tiken Jah Fakoly** (Ivory Coast).

And that's not all! Pushing its taste for experimentation and the most creative compositions, Mawazine will draw from the great traditional repertoires of the five continents to offer a new musical creation on the magnificent ***Chellah historical site***. Around the theme "From tar, sitar to guitar", the program will bring together performers from around the world, inspired by the strings: whether they come from the Iranian tar, the setar of Central Asia, the Indian sitar or from the Greek, Italian and Spanish guitar. Music lovers will discover the enchanting sounds of **Alireza Ghorbani** (Iran), **Patrizia Laquidara** (Italy), **El Amir** (Germany / Spain), **Trio Andaaz** (India), **Maria Berasarte** (Spain), **Sepideh Raissadat** (Iran), **Katerina Fotinaki** and **Eva Atmatzidou** (Greece) as well as **Sabry Mosbah** (Tunisia).

Nine days of festivities and gatherings, several hundred artists and concerts, street performances that will animate each day the main arteries of Rabat ... This 17th edition of Mawazine promises to celebrate the arrival of summer as it should be: being open to all Moroccans, with colors, surprises and magical moments!

Useful Information:

17th edition of the Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World: From the 22nd to the 30th of June 2018.

As part of the announcement of all the programming of the Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World, the Maroc Cultures Association is launching an exceptional promotion from April 16th to the 20th, 2018. A 30% discount on a selection of artists, on Gold cards as well as Fast Gold cards.

All information concerning this promotion is on www.ticket.ma, www.mawazine.ma and by phone on 080 200 03 03.



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About Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World

Established in 2001, the Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World is the essential rendezvous for music amateurs in Morocco drawing for the past 15 years, over 2 million festivalgoers at each edition. Held over a period of nine days, Mawazine offers a rich and diversified program where performers from all four corners of the world make of the cities of Rabat and Salé a world stage for music. Committed to promoting Moroccan Music, the Festival devotes more than half of its shows to national artists. As a firm believer in the values of peace, tolerance openness and respect, 90% of the concerts are free of charge for everyone to enjoy. Mawazine participates in the region's economy, attracting tourists from all over the world; and is a leading player in the creation of a real entertainment industry in Morocco

About Maroc Cultures Association:

Created in compliance with the provisions of November 15, 1958 Dahir, and further to a General Assembly held in Rabat on October 23, 2001, Maroc Cultures is a non-profit association whose main mission is to offer to the public of Rabat-Salé-Zemmour-Zaër region a highly professional cultural and artistic entertainment worthy of the capital of the kingdom. Echoing the fundamental values of His Majesty King Mohammed VI development policy, Maroc Cultures materializes this mission through Mawazine Rhythms of the World Festival as well as various events, multi-disciplinary symposia, plastic art exhibitions and concerts.