

PRESS RELEASE

18th Edition of the Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World

Constellation of starts at the Mohammed V National Theatre

Rabat, Tuesday, May 7th, 2019: Under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the 18th edition of the Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World will again give the stage to the stars of the Arab world and international celebrities. And this year again, it is the Mohammed V National Theater which will host these concerts. With its intimate atmosphere, the symbol of cultural life of the capital will be witness to highlights that are already outstanding!

On Friday, June 21st, the opening of the Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World will be dedicate to the **Ballet Flamenco de Andalucía**, the most emblematic institution of Andalusian folk art. Playing the role of flamenco ambassador since its inception more than twenty years ago, the group has been performing in different venues around the world. An inexhaustible source of talent, the greatest figures of Spanish dance have been part of the group, including Israel Galván, Isabel Bayón, Rafael Campallo, Belén Maya, Patricia Guerrero and Rafaela Carrasco, among others.

After Spain, it is in Lebanon that the public will be invited. Saturday, June 22nd first, with the presence of composer **Ziad Rahbani**, also director and pianist. The eldest son of the legendary Fairuz and the great Assi Al-Rahbani, he began in 1973 at the age of 17. Gifted, he has had many successes and has been involved in different plays and famous compositions in the Arab world.

The next day, on Sunday, June 23rd, the group **Mashrou'Leila**, representative of the alternative Arab scene will be performing. Injecting electro sounds to rock as well as tunes of oriental traditional music, the group is the musical sensation of the Middle East. Formed in Beirut in 2008, they quickly became the standard bearer of an Arab youth eager to get rid of social issues.

France will also be honored with **Abd Al Malik**. On Monday, June 24th, the rapper of Congolese origin will offer festival-goers the singular aesthetic that made his success: songs with strong lyrics accompanied by intense music.

On Tuesday, June 25th, it is another reference of the hexagonal music, **Julien Clerc**, who will be in the spotlight. Since the 1960s, the artist has remained at the top of the bill with more than 28 studio albums, numerous world tours and a multitude of awards and honors.

On Wednesday, June 26th, the Mohammed V National Theater will vibrate to the sounds of **Sister Sledge**, disco icons from the United States. Formed in 1971 by sisters Deborah, Joan,



Maroc-Cultures

Kim and Kathy, the band has sold more than 15 million records and received more than 100 awards and honors. They will make a strong comeback in Rabat during a big world tour.

Thursday, June 27th, the American **Stanley Clarke**, most talented bassist of his generation, former partner of Chick Corea, Marcus Miller and Victor Wooten, will prove once again his talent.

Music from Morocco and Algeria will be celebrated next Friday, June 28th In the presence of **Samir Toumi**, who will unveil his mastery of the Arab-Andalusian musical heritage, with the rigor and passion inherited from his masters. Then with **Sanaa Marahati**, who represents the new generation of Moroccan singers of melhoun and gharnati music.

On Saturday, June 29th, the Egyptian **Mohamed Mohsen** will charm the audience with his unique voice, which earned him the distinction of the Al-Ahram Award in the category "Best Young Singer" in 2012.

Useful information:

18th Edition of the Mawazine Festival – Rhythms of the World from June 21st to the 29th 2019.

Ballet Flamenco de Andalucía Friday, June 21

Ziad Rahbani Saturday, June 22

Mashrou'Leila Sunday, June 23

Abd Al Malik Monday, June 24

Julien Clerc Tuesday, June 25

Sister Sledge Wednesday, June 26

Stanley Clarke Band Thursday, June 27

Samir Toumi and **Sanaa Marahati** Friday, June 28

Mohamed Mohsen Saturday, June 29

About the 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. With over 2.5 million festivalgoers for each of its last editions, it is considered the second largest cultural event in the world. Organized every year for nine days, Mawazine offers a rich and demanding program that mixes the biggest stars of the world and Arabic repertoire, making the cities of Rabat and Salé the scene of exceptional encounters between the public and renowned artists. Very committed to the promotion of Moroccan music, Mawazine devotes more than half of its programming to the talents of the national scene. Bearer of the values of peace, openness, tolerance and respect, the festival offers free access to 90% of its festival-goers, making the accessibility of the public an essential mission. It is also a major support to the regional tourism economy and a leading player in the creation of a real entertainment industry in Morocco.

**About Maroc Cultures Association:**

Created in 2001, Maroc Cultures is a non-profit organization whose main mission is to guarantee the public of the Rabat-Salé-Zemmour-Zaër region a cultural and artistic animation of a professional level worthy of the Moroccan capital. Echoing the fundamental values of His Majesty King Mohammed VI's development policy, Maroc Cultures concretizes this noble mission through the Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World as well as organizing various events, multidisciplinary symposiums, art exhibitions and concerts.