



# 32 الاحتفال الموسيقي

THE 32<sup>ND</sup> BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL  
MUSIC FESTIVAL  
مهرجان البحرين الدولي 32 للموسيقى



The Bahrain International Music Festival returns in its 32<sup>nd</sup> edition, continuing its legacy since 1992. It transforms various cultural spaces around the Kingdom of Bahrain into windows that open onto art, culture, and melodies from around the world, reaffirming the beauty of diversity and musical expression created by this exceptional artistic gathering.

Between October 1<sup>st</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, echoes of Bahraini, Gulf, Arab, and international contributions will resound throughout the kingdom, inviting audiences to explore different musical styles and worlds. Everyone can enjoy wonderful evenings that blend modernity and heritage at the Bahrain National Theatre, the Cultural Hall, and the Qal'at Al Bahrain Site Museum.

In collaboration with the Secretariat General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Kingdom is hosting, in conjunction with the 32<sup>nd</sup> Bahrain International Music Festival, the Gulf Music and Folk Arts Festival. Various folk music groups from Gulf countries, along with honorary guests from Jordan and Morocco, are contributing to enrich the festival's program with musical styles derived from the region's rich cultural heritage.



**1 OCTOBER 2023**

## **Bahrain Philharmonic Orchestra**

**A Night in Vienna: Conducted by Maestro Mubarak Najem**

**Time:** 8:00 PM

**Venue:** Bahrain National Theatre

**Country:** Bahrain

**Age:** 8 years & above

**Genre:** Orchestra

**Tickets are sold at Virgin Megastore**

From the stage of the Bahrain National Theatre, the Bahrain Philharmonic Orchestra, led by Maestro Mubarak Najem, announces the launch of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Bahrain International Music Festival by presenting a breathtaking classical music evening. This performance will evoke the most beautiful music from the rich history of Vienna, Austria. From the intricate and delicate masterpieces of Mozart to the splendid waltzes of Strauss, the orchestra will perform classical pieces that take the audience on a journey through time and place, to A Night in Vienna.

Established in March 2022 by Bahraini Maestro Dr. Mubarak Najem, General Director of the Bahrain Police Band and founder of the Bahrain Music Institute, the Bahrain Philharmonic Orchestra comprises over 100 talented musicians and choir members. This cultural project, supported by the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, aligns with the vision of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, promoting the Kingdom as a prominent destination for diverse forms of cultural creativity.

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**Tickets**



**4 OCTOBER 2023**

## **A Tribute to Ennio Morricone: Oscar Film Scores**

**Time:** 8:00 PM  
**Venue:** Cultural Hall  
**Country:** Italy  
**Age:** 8 years & above  
**Genre:** Film Music  
**Free Admission**

In a tribute to the musician Ennio Morricone, considered one of the most important music composers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Cultural Hall hosts the quintet that had the honor of working with him for over 20 years. The quintet will perform some of the most famous musical compositions created for American Western films, such as "Once Upon a Time in the West", "A Fistful of Dollars", "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly", as well as the music from the films "The Mission" and "Cinema Paradiso".

Ennio Morricone was an Italian musician with numerous works, particularly in the field of film scoring, where he composed and arranged music for over 500 films and television productions, surpassing any other composer. Morricone won the Academy Award for Best Original Score in 2016 for the film "The Hateful Eight". He received the Academy Honorary Award in 2007, won 3 Golden Globe Awards, along with 4 Grammy Awards and 6 BAFTA Awards. His albums have sold more than 70 million copies worldwide.



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**6 OCTOBER 2023**

## Saudi National Orchestra and Choir

**Time:** 8:00 PM  
**Venue:** Bahrain National Theatre  
**Country:** Saudi Arabia  
**Age:** 8 years & above  
**Genre:** Orchestra / Choir  
**Tickets are sold at Virgin Megastore**

As part of the Gulf Music and Folk Arts Festival hosted by the Kingdom of Bahrain in collaboration with the Secretariat General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Saudi National Orchestra and Choir take the audience on a journey to explore the auditory arts of Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi National Orchestra and Choir was established in 2021, comprising more than 70 musicians and choir members. Their goal is to support and promote the image of Saudi culture on the global and Arab stages while strengthening international cultural exchange between the Kingdom and other countries.

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Tickets



**7 OCTOBER 2023**

## Bait Al Nai Ensemble

**Time:** 8:00 PM  
**Venue:** Cultural Hall  
**Country:** Jordan  
**Age:** 8 years & above  
**Genre:** Arabic Music  
**Free Admission**

The Jordanian Nai Ensemble aims to restore the status of the nai, which is considered one of the oldest musical instruments in Arab culture, using new and innovative techniques. In the 32<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Music Festival, the audience will be treated to the beauty of nai melodies and performances of Jordanian, Arab, and Eastern compositions at the Cultural Hall.

It is worth mentioning that Bait Al Nai Ensemble was established in 2017 to revive Arab musical heritage and shed light on the nai as a solo instrument to present Arab heritage, especially in the Levant region and the Arab world. The ensemble has held numerous musical evenings within the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan with the aim of preserving the Arab musical identity.





**10 OCTOBER 2023**

## Al Isawiyya Folklore Society Ensemble

**Time:** 8:00 PM  
**Venue:** Cultural Hall  
**Country:** Morocco  
**Age:** 8 years & above  
**Genre:** Music / Song  
**Free Admission**

The Al Isawiyya Folklore Society Ensemble, led by Hajj Saeed Al-Kisi, comes from the Kingdom of Morocco to present Sufi musical creations that reflect the richness of Moroccan folk heritage. The ensemble is considered one of the authentic Moroccan heritage musical groups and is widely renowned in cities like Fez and across Morocco.

Since the late 1960s, the ensemble has showcased the Al Isawiyya performance and singing style at numerous Moroccan music festivals, including the prestigious Fez Festival of World Sacred Music, the Marrakech Folk Arts Festival, the International World Music and Lille Festival, the Mawazine International Festival in Rabat, and the Aissaoua Festival in Meknes, among other Moroccan festivals. The ensemble has also participated in various international events in Spain, France, England, Brazil, and the United States.



**11 OCTOBER 2023**

## Chinese Qin Style Concert

**Time:** 8:00 PM  
**Venue:** Cultural Hall  
**Country:** China  
**Age:** 8 years & above  
**Genre:** Music  
**Free Admission**

Carrying with it the rich legacy of musical traditions that flourished during the Qin Dynasty for over a thousand years, the Chinese National Instruments Department at the Xi'an Conservatory of Music presents a musical performance with an Eastern touch that blends authenticity and modernity in the style of the Shaanxi region. This concert addresses the audience in a unique musical language through original works and some famous classical pieces from the Chinese musical heritage, which is considered one of the most important aspects of the country's intangible cultural heritage.

The Xi'an Conservatory of Music was founded in 1949 and is located in the historic city of Xi'an, which is considered a global cultural center. Over more than 70 years, the institute has trained over 30,000 artists and music teachers from China and around the world. Additionally, the institute serves as a research and cultural dissemination base in the field of music and cultural publishing in Shaanxi, in addition to being a center for Chinese cinematic and television music production.







**13 OCTOBER 2023**

## Bu Awadh Folk Music Band

**Time:** 8:00 PM

**Venue:** Cultural Hall

**Country:** Kuwait

**Age:** 8 years & above

**Genre:** Traditional Folklore

**Free Admission**

As part of the Gulf Music and Folk Arts Festival hosted by the Kingdom in conjunction with the 32<sup>nd</sup> Bahrain International Music Festival, the Bu Awadh Folk Music Band from Kuwait is participating in presenting an evening of diverse folk arts filled with traditional performing arts.

The Bu Awadh Folk Arts Group was founded in 1975 by the late artist Jasim Al Awadh. The group has also participated in numerous national, popular, and private celebrations inside and outside Kuwait, either as an independent group or in collaboration with other artists such as Salah Hamad Khalifa, Faisal Al Suwailm, Salman Al Ammari, and other folk artists.



**14 OCTOBER 2023**

## Dar Bin Harban Band

Featuring the Emirati Habban Player Mohamed Salem

**Time:** 6:15 PM

**Venue:** Qal'at Al Bahrain Site Museum

**Country:** Bahrain / UAE

**Age:** 8 years & above

**Genre:** Traditional Folklore

**Free Admission**

A night of folk arts brought to life by the Dar bin Harban Band in collaboration with the Habban player Mohamed Tarrar Matar Salem from the United Arab Emirates, a member of the Sharjah National Band affiliated with the Sharjah Heritage Institute. Musician Mohamed Salem has participated in numerous local and international platforms both inside and outside the UAE, in addition to his musical contributions to various plays and artistic performances.

Founded in the mid-1940s in the old city of Muharraq by Mohamed bin Jassim bin Harban, Dar Bin Harban Band continues to be instrumental in reviving a myriad of local traditional arts, including Al-Ardhah, Al-La'abouni, Al-Khammari, and Al-Fjiri. In addition to their live performances in local national and social events in Bahrain and abroad, Dar Bin Harban Band has also recorded concerts that have been broadcast across the Arab Gulf states.





**15 OCTOBER 2023**

## **Al Masarra Folk Band**

**Time:** 6:15 PM

**Venue:** Outdoor Area - Bahrain National Theatre

**Country:** Oman

**Age:** 8 years & above

**Genre:** Traditional Folklore

**Free Admission**

The Al Masarra Folk Band, one of the well-known Omani groups in the field of folk arts, presents in this evening one of the famous Omani folk arts known as Al-Razha, a popular Omani dance performed by Omani men in all regions of the Sultanate except the southern regions. Al-Razha is a renowned Omani folk art, where men perform it in rows, with some engaging in sword and dagger competitions at the forefront. It involves competitive recitation of poetry in themes of pride, bravery, praise, and satire. On specific occasions, women and children also participate in this art, such as celebrating the birth of a child or weddings.

The group has participated in various national events and festivals, including the Muscat Festival, Salah Festival, and more, earning the first place in the Bidiya Festival in 2018.



**15 OCTOBER 2023**

## Oud Making Workshop and Exhibition

**Time:** 6:15 PM

**Venue:** Bahrain National Theatre Foyer

**Country:** Oman

**Age:** 8 years & above

**Genre:** Workshop / Exhibition

**Free Admission**

This workshop, by the Omani Society for Arts under the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, plays a significant role in raising awareness of the close connection between music on one hand and the craft and maintenance of musical instruments on the other. The workshop focuses on all aspects of the arts and introduces the audience to the methods used by Oud (a musical instrument) makers in the Sultanate of Oman.

Additionally, the workshop includes an introduction to the materials and tools used in Oud instrument making and how to work with them, the types of Omani trees and woods used in this field, as well as an introduction to Omani music and the most important Omani musicians and players and their relationship with musical instrument makers.





**17 OCTOBER 2023**

## Jin Jim

**Time:** 8:00 PM  
**Venue:** Cultural Hall  
**Country:** Germany  
**Age:** 8 years & above  
**Genre:** Jazz / Rock  
**Free Admission**

The band 'Jin Jim' was founded in 2013 by the quartet of Nico Stallmann on drums, Daniel Manrique-Smith on flute, Ben Tai Trawinski on bass, and guitarist Johan Mai. The band made a significant impact in the jazz music scene in Germany, with their rise described as 'meteoric.' Their exceptional success can be attributed to their innovative fusion of Latin, jazz, and rock music styles and their ability to blend all these musical genres within their unique creative framework.

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Germany



**18 OCTOBER 2023**

## Al Loulou'a Folk Music Band

**Time:** 8:00 PM  
**Venue:** Cultural Hall  
**Country:** Qatar  
**Age:** 8 years & above  
**Genre:** Traditional Folklore  
**Free Admission**

As part of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Bahrain International Music Festival, the Folk Arts Festival in the Kingdom of Bahrain is hosting the Al Loulou'a Folk Music Band from the state of Qatar. The group will perform a collection of songs and folk performances inspired by the Qatari cultural heritage.



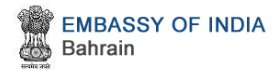


**19 OCTOBER 2023**

**Flutist Sunil Avachat**

**Time:** 8:00 PM  
**Venue:** Cultural Hall  
**Country:** India  
**Age:** 8 years & above  
**Genre:** Music  
**Free Admission**

Sunil Baganwadi Avachat is considered one of the renowned flute players in India, and he is also a prominent disciple of the famous flute player Hariprasad Chaurasia. Avachat has performed both as a soloist and as part of musical ensembles worldwide. During this concert at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Bahrain International Music Festival, Sunil Avachat will take the audience on a journey into the realms of traditional Indian music, folk melodies, and Ragas, with the participation of other artists including Samir Shevjagar, Tushar Dixit, and Abhi Engle.



**20 OCTOBER 2023**

## Fan Al Sawt Night

Bahrain Music Band Conducted by Maestro Zeyad Zaiman

**Time:** 8:00 PM

**Venue:** Bahrain National Theatre

**Country:** Bahrain

**Age:** 8 years & above

**Genre:** Music / Traditional Folklore

**Tickets are sold at Virgin Megastore**

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Bahrain International Music Festival culminates with a closing ceremony on the stage of the Bahrain National Theatre in celebration of Fan Al Sawt, meaning The Art of the Voice, this genre of vocal arts was a catalyst in the development of the music scene in Bahrain and is considered one of the most important aspects of local musical creativity during the first half of the last century. An exceptional performance is presented by the Bahrain Music Band conducted by Maestro Zeyad Zaiman, featuring the esteemed Bahraini singer Ahmed Al Jumairi, singer Mohamed Al Tamimi, and singer Abdulrahman Awadh. The performance showcases a diverse selection of the most important works of the pioneers and founders of the Bahraini Sawt music schools, including Mohamed bin Faris, Dhahi bin Wlaid, and Mohamed Zowayed.

Bahraini style of Sawt is characterized by powerful vocalists and mesmerizing performances accompanied by the oud and the mirwas as its musical base, along with instruments like the qanun and the violin, as well as kinetic performances like Zafn (a traditional dance) and Kaff (a rhythmic clapping). Despite the spread of this music genre throughout various parts of the Arabian Gulf region, Bahraini Sawt has its distinct flavor due to the fusion of its melodies with the history and creativity of local musicians.

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Tickets





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## Festival Venues

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Bahrain National Theatre



Cultural Hall



Qal'at Al Bahrain  
Site Museum



Tickets for the Bahrain National Theatre shows are sold at Virgin Megastore - City Centre Bahrain, and online at:

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