

# المهرجان الموسيقي البحريني 25

THE 25TH BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL  
MUSIC FESTIVAL  
مهرجان البحرين الدولي للموسيقى



Welcome to the Silver Jubilee of the Bahrain International Music Festival, brought to you by the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA). Coinciding with the year-long "Bahrain Your Destination" campaign, the 25<sup>th</sup> edition of this annual event held each fall season brings together acclaimed musical innovators who will dazzle the audience with their unique talents, all in a splendid artistic celebration that facilitates intercultural dialogue and affirms Bahrain's position as a leading destination for cultural tourism.

The acclaimed musicians and artists headlining this year's festival are ambassadors of diverse cultures and musical genres and styles from the Arab world and beyond. And over the course of the one-week festival, Bahrain's residents and visitors will enjoy a marvelous music and song concerts not to be missed, including classic orchestral compositions, traditional Bahraini folk songs, classical Arabic music, crossover and fusion instrumentals, and so much more.



**October 13**  
**Lutfi Bushnaq**  
**"Liqa'a"**

Time: 8 p.m.  
 Venue: Bahrain National Theatre  
 Country: Tunisia  
 Minimum Age: 8 Years  
 Genre: Song/Classical Arabic  
 Tickets are sold at Virgin Megastores



**October 18**  
**Jassim Bin Harban**

Time: 7 p.m.  
 Venue: Bahrain National Museum  
 Country: Bahrain  
 Minimum Age: 8 Years  
 Genre: Book Inauguration/Lecture  
 Free Admission



**October 14**  
**Musicians Without Borders**  
**"The Sound of Peace"**

Time: 8 p.m.  
 Venue: Cultural Hall  
 Country: Argentina/Bahrain/Egypt/France/Iraq  
 Minimum Age: 8 Years  
 Genre: World Music  
 Free Admission



[www.massimomercelli.com](http://www.massimomercelli.com)

**October 19**  
**Mojca Zlobko Vajgl & Massimo Mercelli**  
**"European Classics for Flute & Harp"**

Time: 8 p.m.  
 Venue: Cultural Hall  
 Country: Slovenia/Italy  
 Minimum Age: 10 Years  
 Genre: Flute/Harp  
 Free Admission



[www.yazzahmed.com](http://www.yazzahmed.com)

**October 15**  
**Yazz Ahmed**  
**"Alhaan Al Siduri"**

Time: 8 p.m.  
 Venue: Cultural Hall  
 Country: Bahrain/United Kingdom  
 Minimum Age: 8 Years  
 Genre: Jazz  
 Free Admission



**October 20**  
**Bahrain Music Band**

Time: 8 p.m.  
 Venue: Cultural Hall  
 Country: Bahrain  
 Minimum Age: 8 Years  
 Genre: Classic Music  
 Free Admission



[www.anoushakashankar.com](http://www.anoushakashankar.com)

**October 16**  
**Anoushka Shankar**  
**"Land of Gold"**

Time: 8 p.m.  
 Venue: Bahrain National Theatre  
 Country: India  
 Minimum Age: 8 Years  
 Genre: Classic/Sitar  
 Tickets are sold at Virgin Megastores



**October 21**  
**Dana & Al Nahhaam's Journey**

Time: 4 - 6 p.m.  
 Venue: Dar AlMuharraaq  
 Country: Bahrain  
 Age: 7-11 Years  
 Genre: Workshop/Storytelling  
 Free Admission - Registration Required (Call: 39892292)



**October 22**  
**Ebrahim Habib**

Time: 7:30 p.m.  
Venue: Dar AlMuharraq  
Country: Bahrain  
Minimum Age: 8 Years  
Genre: Lecture  
Free Admission



**October 22**  
**Qalali Band**

Time: 8:30 p.m.  
Venue: Dar AlMuharraq  
Country: Bahrain  
Minimum Age: 8 Years  
Genre: Song/Traditional Folklore  
Free Admission



**Exhibitions...**  
**October 6 – 31**  
**Parallelism Exhibition**

Time: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
Venue: Art Centre  
Country: Bahrain  
Genre: Exhibition  
Free Admission



**October 11 – December 31**  
**Bahraini Beats**

Time: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
Venue: Bahrain National Museum  
Country: Bahrain  
Genre: Exhibition  
Free Admission

# Lutfi Bushnaq

## “Liqa’a”

13 October

**Time:** 8 p.m

**Venue:** Bahrain National Theatre

**Country:** Tunisia

**Minimum Age:** 8 Years

**Genre:** Song/Arabic Classic

Lutfi Bushnaq is a renowned Tunisian composer, oud player, and singer whose vast repertoire of Arabic music extends from Egyptian popular music to spiritual music, such as the traditional Tunisian ma'luf and classical Arabic muwashsha, as well as other derived compositions. His range as an artist allowed him to cross over to an international audience, and he frequently performs around the world with various ensembles and artists from a variety of genres.

He is considered one of the biggest stars of Arabic music thanks to his incredible vocal range and timbre, delicate musicianship, soulful lyrics, undeniable charisma, and his superb eloquence and elocution, qualities which endeared him to millions of fans in the Arab world and beyond, and solidified his stature as one of the most respected and beloved singers of his generation.

A versatile artist, Bushnaq's talents extend to other artistic realms; he composed the soundtrack for several films, acted in Tunisian films, performed his own poetry, and even held a solo photo exhibition.







# Musicians Without Borders

## “The Sound of Peace”

14 October

**Time:** 8 p.m.

**Venue:** Cultural Hall

**Country:** Argentina/Bahrain/Egypt/  
France/Iraq

**Minimum Age:** 8 Years

**Genre:** World Music

Musicians Without Borders is a music project established in Bahrain by five professional musicians - Saad Mahmood Jawad from Iraq (oud), Ahmed Ghawas from Bahrain (bouzouki), Ibantuta from France (guitar), Carlos Villarroel from Argentina (bass guitar), and Ahmed Maany from Egypt (percussion). Despite their difference in ethnicity, language, and culture, the ensemble speaks a common language, the language of love and peace, a language that transcends boundaries, and that language is music.

The group shares the drive to use their talent to promote peace, engage in open dialogue to broaden their diverse cultural traditions and those of other countries, and represent cultures of the world's continents in its concerts.

The program of the concert “A Musical Peace” consists of a dozen compositions that embody the group's global message, including “Huna al-Bahrain”, “Oud Tango”, “Oud Flamenco”, “Ayam Zaman”, “Droub al-Safar”, “Pequena Serenata Diurna”, “Farakhandá”, “Manha de Carnaval”, and “Banako”, as well as tributes to several leading figures in Arabic music such as Fairuz, Ammar al-Sheraei, and Dahman al-Harrashi.

# Yazz Ahmed

## "Alhaan Al Siduri"

15 October

**Time:** 8 p.m.

**Venue:** Cultural Hall

**Country:** Bahrain/United Kingdom

**Minimum Age:** 8 Years

**Genre:** Jazz

Since releasing *Finding My Way Home* in 2011, British-Bahraini trumpet player and composer Yazz Ahmed has emerged as a distinctive voice on the UK jazz scene. She won praise as the leader of two musical ensembles, the Yazz Ahmed Quintet and Ahmed Family Hafla septet.

Over her career, Yazz has performed at venues around the world and collaborated with international artists from various genres. Her musical talents and dual heritage make her a unique cultural ambassador. She has presented Bahrain and the UK in a number of high-profile cultural exchange initiatives.

Yazz has written two major suites, *Alhaan al Siduri* which was inspired by Bahrain's heritage and legend of Gilgamesh and Polyhymnia. The suites earned her rave reviews and worldwide critical acclaim, and she is currently working on her second album with her two ensembles and which features more of her unique soundscapes and creative collaborations.





# Anoushka Shankar

## “Land of Gold”

16 October

**Time:** 8 p.m.

**Venue:** Bahrain National Theatre

**Country:** India

**Minimum Age:** 8 Years

**Genre:** Classic/Sitar

Grammy-winning sitar player and composer Anoushka Shankar is one of the leading figures in Indian classical and progressive world music. She is deeply rooted in the Indian classical tradition, having studied exclusively under her father, the legendary Ravi Shankar. She rose to international fame as a crossover artist with her unique blend of traditional Indian music and wide array of other genres, including flamenco, jazz, electronica and Western classical music.

Anoushka has toured extensively and performed in prestigious venues and festivals as a solo artist and accompanying renowned orchestras and bands, earning critical acclaim for her experimental innovative style.

The inspiration for the latest of her award-winning studio albums, Land of Gold which was released in 2016, came from the plight of refugees fleeing conflict and poverty to find their own “Land of Gold”; a place of security, connectedness and tranquility. This journey also represents the interior quest that all people take to find a sense of inner peace, truth and acceptance – a universal desire that unites humanity.



# Jassim Bin Harban

18 October

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Venue:** Bahrain National Museum

**Country:** Bahrain

**Minimum Age:** 8 Years

**Genre:** Book Inauguration/Lecture

Jassim bin Harban is a prominent Bahraini academic, researcher, author, and artist who is well-known in the GCC cultural scene. He started his career as a music teacher in the late 1970's and went on to eventually head the Students Services Department in the Ministry of Education as the Director.

His books cover a diverse range of subjects related to the history of Bahraini music in particular and culture in general, including traditional music and songs and the colloquial language. In his latest book, *Marriage in Bahraini Society*, he details the customs and traditions related to this important social occasion such as the special celebrations, songs, costumes, and other cultural aspects that exemplify Bahrain's culture.

He also penned several poetry collections and musicals, as well as writing and choreographing songs for television programs and important national occasions in Bahrain and the GCC.

Bin Harban is also a member of a large number of leading cultural institutions and initiatives both in Bahrain and the GCC region, and received several honors from dignitaries and ministries for his valuable contributions which have enriched the regional cultural scene.





# Mojca Zlobko Vajgl & Massimo Mercelli

## "European Classics for Flute & Harp"

19 October

Time: 8 p.m.

Venue: Cultural Hall

Country: Slovenia/Italy

Minimum Age: 10 Years

Genre: Flute/Harp

Italian flautist Massimo Mercelli is widely considered to be one of the most famous flautists in the world today. Since his debut as a teenager, he went on to perform as a soloist in some of the world's most prestigious concert halls and music festivals. He also collaborated with a large number of prominent musicians and ensembles, including Yuri Bashmet, Jean-Pierre Rampal, Philip Glass, the Moscow Soloists, the Wiener Symphoniker, and the European Union Chamber Orchestra. He is also the artistic director and founder of Emilia Romagna Festival, and was elected vice-president of the European Festivals Association.

Renowned Harpist and Professor at the Academy of Music at the University of Ljubljana Mojca Zlobko Vajgl is one of the leading musicians of her native Slovenia, boasting a rich international career both as a soloist and chamber musician, as well as an extensive discography. As a soloist, she has performed with numerous renowned ensembles, including the Berlin Symphonic Orchestra, the Stockholm Chamber Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra of the Hamburg Philharmonic, Leipzig string quartet, and the Orpheus Quartet.



# Bahrain Music Band

20 October

**Time:** 8 p.m.

**Venue:** Cultural Hall

**Country:** Bahrain

**Minimum Age:** 8 Years

**Genre:** Classic Music

The Bahrain Music Band was founded in 1997 as part of the collective efforts to help promote and preserve the cultural identity of Bahrain through effective cultural tools.

The band debut came in 1998 with a concert entitled "Eastern Manifestations". This was followed by a string of well-received events which helped raise the band's profile locally.

Soon thereafter, the band found success abroad as well, notably through the 9th Arab Music Conference and Festival held in Cairo in November 2000 and the Cultural Days of Bahrain in Kuwait in March 2001. This paved the way for the band to represent the kingdom in subsequent regional and international events.

The band later officially adopted its current name to reflect its development. As part of that development, the band backed up a large number of singers from Bahrain, the GCC and the wider Arab world and collaborated with composers from other countries and musical genres and styles. In addition, the band oversaw the training of the national choir comprised of promising young talents, several of whom later emerged as successful solo singers in their own right. In all its performances and endeavors, the band meticulously plans and records its activities to ensure that its works are documented for posterity.





# Ebrahim Habib

20 October

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**Venue:** Dar AlMuharraq

**Country:** Bahrain

**Minimum Age:** 8 Years

**Genre:** Lecture

Ebrahim Habib has received recognition in many important contributions to Bahraini arts and the wider GCC region under his name. His prodigious catalogue numbers in excess of 300 songs ranging from love songs to patriotic and religious songs. He also performed in live in many concerts in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the Sultanate of Oman. His works clearly show the heavy influence of the unique sounds that characterize the musical heritage of Bahrain.

In addition to his work as a singer and composer, he also worked as a journalist, researcher, and consultant specialized in the arts. He played a key role in the establishment of music radio stations in Bahrain and Qatar and worked as a consultant and broadcaster in Gulf Voice Radio in Qatar as well as other radio and television stations.

Habib also published a number of books and studies, among the most notable of which is his recent study "The Female Pioneer Singers in the GCC from 1950 to 1970", the first real study chronicling the biography of the leading female musicians and singers in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE.



# Qalali Band

22 October

**Time:** 8:30 p.m.

**Venue:** Dar AlMuharraq

**Country:** Bahrain

**Minimum Age:** 8 Years

**Genre:** Song/ Traditional Folklore

Qalali Band is one of Bahrain's oldest folk bands. The band specializes in the authentic arts practiced by the seafarers, a profession which residents of Qalali Village for which have long been famous, as they would congregate every week to perform these arts - from songs, dance, and rhythms - in a building by the sea. This group later became the nucleus of the band, and its veterans transmitted this heritage to subsequent generations. The band's legacy and commitment to preserving these arts helped Qalali Folk Band become one of the most prominent bands of its kind in the GCC region.

Through its performances in various national, cultural, social, and sporting events in Bahrain and abroad, the band helped promote this uniquely Bahraini art form throughout the world, drawing on its strong belief that art transcends borders and time art while at the same time highlighting the civilization that inhabits this part of the world.



# Parallelism Exhibition

6-31 October

Time: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m

Venue: Art Centre

Country: Bahrain

Genre: Exhibition

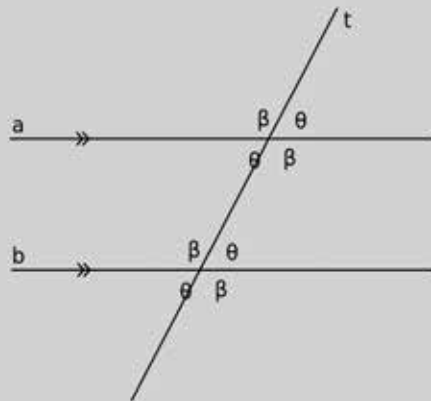
"We look at instrumental strings and think: do strings have to converge to create beautiful music?"

In geometry, parallelism is the relationship between two geometrical creatures, such as two straight lines, with the condition of the impossibility of them to meet at any point.

Parallelism...is an art exhibition presenting the visions of a group of young artists regarding the parallel philosophy in our lives.

Ali Hussain Mirza, Mohammed Haddad and Maysam AlNasser, present to us conceptual artworks of the different states and meanings of parallelism both visually and auditory.

تَوَازٍ  
عن الأشياء التي لا تلتقي



## Parallelism

about the things that do not meet

# Bahraini Beats

11 October – 31 December

**Time:** 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

**Venue:** Bahrain National Museum

**Country:** Bahrain

**Genre:** Exhibition

EXHIBITIONS...

Traditional music in Bahrain is full of vitality and is very much characterized by off-beat rhythms, echoing the instrumental music of East Africa and the Indian subcontinent. It also strongly reflects the local economies and ways of life on the island before the discovery of oil.

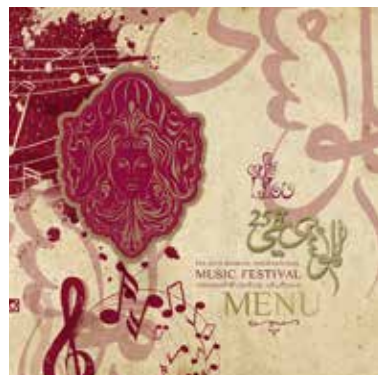
Several music forms flourished among different communities and groups. Although each genre is noticeably distinctive, they are all influenced by one another and each emphasizes voice over rhythm. From percussive poundings of tabl drums, rhythmic clapping and nahhaam in pearl diving music to soulful sawt presentations and festive Leiwa, Ardha, Mradah and Samry performances, the distinction between performers and audience is blurred as everyone in attendance participates by singing, clapping and sometimes dancing.





## Café Lilou Music Festival Menu

The Kingdom's favorite renowned café, Lilou, will be serving a special customized menu at all their cafe locations in collaboration with the 25th Bahrain International Music Festival from 13-22 October, uniting the different fusions of the musicians' countries'.



## Educational Pack

On the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the Bahrain International Music Festival, the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities offers an educational booklet which lists information about the music festival as well as musical arts in the Kingdom of Bahrain in an entertaining and educational way. The booklet will be provided at all the events' venues along with BACA's website.



## VENUES & CONTACT INFORMATION

### CONTACT NUMBERS

Hotline: 80008089

+973 17112114

[www.culture.gov.bh](http://www.culture.gov.bh)

### SOCIAL MEDIA



CultureBah

### VENUES

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Download a QR Code Reader on your smart phone from the App store or Google Play.
2. Scan the QR code of the required location.



Tickets for Lutfi Bushnaq & Anoushka Shankar are sold at Virgin Megastore and on the website: [virginmegastore.me](http://virginmegastore.me)



Bahrain National Museum  
<https://goo.gl/maps/WcvQDxjk7Tq>



Bahrain National Theatre  
<https://goo.gl/maps/y9jhyV791Sq>



Cultural Hall  
<https://goo.gl/maps/rHurE7vmbxL2>



Dar Al Muharraq  
<http://goo.gl/maps/3gDUTbus8gM2>

Special thanks to:

