

# Al Kamandjâti Music Festival

March 23 – April 4, 2016

A musical journey through sacred and traditional music,  
from the heart of Palestine to the holy beauty of Jerusalem.

*"The body of a person is very small compared with the spirit that inhabits it!"*  
African proverb

## The vision of the festival

Al Kamandjâti is organizing an **international festival dedicated to sacred, spiritual, and traditional music**. The creation of the festival is based on the belief that the time has come to broaden people's understanding of Palestine, and to give its music world a greater sense of universality by welcoming other cultures. In particular, **the festival aims to give new energy to the music scene in the Holy City of Jerusalem**.

As a point of convergence for the monotheistic religions and as a land of pilgrimage and fervor, **the city of Jerusalem** – beyond the ups and downs of its tumultuous and often tragic history – **has succeeded in maintaining a magical sacredness** and remains a **fundamental spiritual link between East and West**. It is through the streets of the Holy City that we can begin a new quest to discover the great traditions that stretch back through human history to ancient civilizations.

The festival will be a **musical journey of beauty and delight, highlighting the architectural wealth of Jerusalem through the sanctity of its location**.

From the nomadic people who knew both the gems and the harshness of desert rocks to the great conqueror peoples of Mongolia and India, from Andalusia to Rajasthan, from ancestral Africa to ancient Asia, the festival will be **an encounter between present-day Jerusalem and the other treasures of the world**.

We will also explore **the concept of time** – that of cultural transmission from generation to generation and of the legacy of knowledge that crosses centuries. The festival will highlight the phenomenon of belonging and identity,

and the cultural diversity of our planet.

Most of the great traditions of the world are expressions of the sacred, which begin with an idea of revelation in a particular ecological and human context. This festival, beyond **looking for aesthetic beauty**, is thus about **engaging with the deeper meanings of sacred music, dances, and expressions**, while remaining playful and festive.

## The performing ensembles

Trio Shaghaf (improvisations, spiritual, oriental) – Palestine

Diwan – creation (oriental, sufi) – Palestine and France

From Palestinian yarghul to Sardinian launeddas with the Tangianu Duo, Mohamad Abu el Naji and Khaled Souitat – Palestine and Italy

Sugee Shaman (traditional music) – Japan

Al Kamandjâti Ensemble (traditional music) – Palestine

Michael Dabroski – United States

The Jones Family Singers (Gospel) – United States

Les Surprises (Baroque Music) – France

Amra (traditional music) – Mongolia

Divana (traditional music) – India

David Lewy (Native American music) – United States

## The thinkers

Khaldun Bshara – Palestine

Pierre Stephanopoulos – Italy

Youssef Seddik – Tunisia

*Please see our ad on page 37.*