

Palestinian Orchestras Perform Together for the First Time

February will see two Palestinian music ensembles join forces for three special performances: Members of the Palestine National Orchestra (PNO) will be joined by the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music Orchestra (ESNCMO) in a program of Palestinian and European music.

PNO members are professional musicians of Palestinian origin and internationals with connections to Palestine; the ESNCM Orchestra comprises current and former students of the conservatory and guest students from other institutions. By combining professionals with students, the conservatory aims to give an unparalleled educational experience to the young players and singers, allow PNO musicians to contribute to the training of the next generation of musicians, and present high-level performances for the enjoyment of the audience. Naseem Alatrash, a PNO member and ESNCM alumnus, said: "I joined the Palestinian Youth Orchestra at age thirteen, when I had been playing cello for only one year. I remember being very nervous as I wasn't sure if I was capable. I was met with so much support and help from the more experienced cellists and coaches. I am happy that the ESNCM students will be joining with the PNO this year - I think it will be a great learning experience

for them and I hope we will be a good support for them."

Also joining the ensemble will be several students from the Geneva Conservatory, as part of a long term exchange program between the Swiss institution and the Palestinian conservatory.

The program will include "Images of Palestine" by the illustrious Palestinian composer Salvador Arnita, and the Overture to the Suite *A Jean Huréby* Alfredo Casella, an Italian composer who was actually one of Arnita's teachers during his time in Italy. It will also feature the *Aladdin Suite* by Carl Nielsen; Italian arias sung by the Palestinian soprano Dima Bawab; and Kinan Azmeh's *Wedding* with Palestinian clarinetist and former ESNCM student and teacher Mohamed Najem as soloist.

The performances will be conducted by Elena Schwarz, the principal conductor of the ESNCM Orchestra.

This project is made possible with the financial support and cooperation of the European Union, the Bank of Palestine, the Palestine Cultural Fund, Al-Nasher, the Italian Consulate, the Abdel Hamid Shoman Foundation, and SIDA through the Palestinian Performing Arts Network.



Conducted by Elena Schwarz
Soprano: Dima Bawab
Clarinetist: Mohamed Najem

Friday 19 / 2 / 2016
Convention Palace
Bethlehem
6:00 PM

Saturday 20 / 2 / 2016
Prince Turki Bin Abdul Aziz Theater
Al-Najah National University
12:00 PM

Saturday 20 / 2 / 2016
Naseeb Shaheen Auditorium
Birzeit University
6:00 PM

Tickets are sold in the Following locations: ESNCM Branches, Zeit Ou Zaatar Rest. , PR Office – Birzeit University, Bethlehem Star Hotel

For ticket reservations and more information: Tel. 02-281 9155/6, 2959070, 2748726, 6263230, 0592900038

or contact us on: info@ncm.birzeit.edu

