

PRESS RELEASE

16th edition of Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World

Mawazine presents Sami Yusuf and Nawal Al Zoghbi

The Nahda stage hosts two exceptional concerts: Sami Yusuf, for the opening concert on May 12th, and Nawal Al Zoghbi on Sunday, May 14th.

Rabat, Tuesday, March 7th, 2017 - True to its founding mission, Mawazine will this year introduce to its Moroccan audience great names of international and Arabic music, showcasing different styles and registers. For this 16th edition, the Nahda stage will open with the great artist Sami Yusuf's concert and, on Sunday, May 14th, it will host, the Lebanese diva Nawal Al Zoghbi.

Proclaimed the most popular British Muslim in the world, Sami Yusuf brought forth a new kind of Islamic music. Writer, composer, singer and poet, Sami Yusuf was born in Tehran. Artistically imbued with musical compositions and writing, he grew up in London with his family.

In 2003, Sami Yusuf released his first album *Al Mu'allim* (The Teacher). In 2005, he released a second album with songs in English entitled, *My Ummah*. Since then success has been achieved in Europe and in the Arab world.

Sami Yusuf's musical innovation resides in his reconciliation of his belonging to Islam and the evolution of the contemporary modern society. Through his music he give the true message of love, tolerance and mercy. In his album *Barakah*, released in 2016, Sami Yusuf claims to maintain the authenticity of the traditional arts and heritage.

Boasting more than 8 albums and 34 million copies sold, Sami Yusuf is today one of the mainstays of world music. He is also known for his

many charitable activities. The United Nations has appointed him as World Ambassador against Hunger.

On Sunday, May 14th, the Nahda stage audience will enjoy the performance of the Lebanese oriental song diva, Nawal Al Zoghbi.

Since she began her career in 1988, Nawal Al Zoghbi has released more than 14 albums. It was on Studio El Fan that she first jumped in with both feet before releasing her first opus, Wehiaty Endak. Her second, Aizah el Rad, makes her mark on the stage and paves the way for success with the title, Walla bihemini.

In 1995, a famous Lebanese impresario decided to reunite Nawal with Wael Kfoury. Together, they release three songs, the most popular of which is Min habibi ana. It is with received enthusiastic accolades in the Arab world. Two years later, Nawal released an album, Habeit ya leil, with an avant-garde video, followed in 1998 by another title which will be her no ever equaled success, Mandam Aleik. The latter allows her to definitively establish her popularity, from the Maghreb to the Persian Gulf. Since then, Nawal Al Zoghbi has continued to enrich her career with collaborations and concerts and shows throughout the world.

Useful Information:

16th edition of Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World: May 12th to 20th 2017.

Sami Yusuf's concert will take place on the Nahda stage Friday, May 12th, 2017

Nawal Al Zoghbi's concert will take place on the Nahda stage Sunday, May 14th, 2017

About 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, for the last 15 years, over 2 million festivalgoers at each edition. Held every month of May over nine days, Mawazine offers a rich and diversified program where world stars from the four corners of the world make of the cities of Rabat and Salé a world stage for music. Committed to promote Moroccan Music, the Festival devotes more than half of its shows to national artists. As a firm believer in the values of peace, tolerance openness and respect, 90% of the concerts are free of charge so that everybody can enjoy it. Mawazine also participates in the region's economy, attracting tourists from all over the world; thus making of Morocco once every year a world music stage.



Maroc-Cultures

About Maroc Cultures Association:

Created In compliance with the provisions of November 15th, 1958 Dahir, and further to a General Assembly held in Rabat on October 23, 2001, Maroc Cultures is a non-profit association whose main mission is to offer to the public of Rabat-Salé-Zemmour-Zaër region a highly professional cultural and artistic entertainment worthy of the capital of the kingdom. Echoing the fundamental values of His Majesty King Mohammed VI development policy, Maroc Cultures materializes this mission through Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World as well as various events, multi-disciplinary symposia, plastic art exhibitions and concerts.