

PRESS RELEASE

17th Edition of the Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World

**The Weeknd, Chronixx
Marwan Khoury, Saad Ramadan
Douzi and Babylone**

**Top performers from a multitude of musical styles
meet up at Mawazine!**

Rabat, May 13th, 2018: Under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the Mawazine Festival-Rhythms of the World is pleased to announce the continuation of its programming for the OLM Souissi, Bouregreg, Nahda and Mohammed V National Theater venues.

On the Bouregreg stage, the Jamaican artist **Chronixx** will perform on Monday June 25th. On Friday, June 29th, the Canadian artist **The Weeknd** will perform on the OLM Souissi stage. These two artists known for their highly anticipated shows, their irresistible musical worlds offering powerful crazy energy styles will embark the audience in ever more daring performances.

The Lebanese artists **Saad Ramadan** and **Marwan Khoury** will be on the Nahda stage on Saturday, June 23rd. The Moroccan singer Douzi will perform a unique concert on the same stage on Friday, June 29th.

The Mohammed V National Theater will host the Algerian group **Babylone** on Sunday, June 24th.

From Morocco to the United States, via Jamaica! The sounds of Kingston will be honored at another unprecedented concert with the presence, on June 25th, on the Bouregreg stage, of **Chronixx**, aka Jamar McNaughton. Born in the east of the Jamaican capital, the singer appeared on the reggae scene in 2012, exploding two years later with the release of his EP *Dread & Terrible*, followed by an appearance on *The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon*, which catapulted his popularity ratings. Proof with his album *Chronology*, released in 2017, reaching the first place of the charts in the United States. As a worthy heir to Bob Marley and Burning Spear, Chronixx has been pursuing a career that has led him to perform around the world on the biggest stages: Coachella, Glastonbury, FujiRock ... and today Mawazine!

On Friday June 29th, on the OLM-Souissi stage, will be performing **The Weeknd**, aka Abel Tesfaye, the man with twenty-four awards including four Grammys and eight Billboard Music Awards. A discreet but ultra-sought-after star, this 28-year-old Canadian has acquired exceptional notoriety in only three years, tracing an unprecedented path in a sound universe that oscillates between funk, electro, R&B and pop rap. Since his second album *Beauty Behind the Madness*, released in 2015, the singer and producer of Ethiopian origin jostles the codes and has had multiple collaboration with artists such as Daft Punk, Lana del Rey, Lady Gaga, Wiz Khalifa and Kendrick Lamar, with whom he has made the single *Pray For Me* for the recent blockbuster *Black Panther*. Released in March 2018, his latest EP, *My Dear Melancholy*, will be at the heart of a performance that promises to be exceptional.



Maroc-Cultures

On Saturday, June 23rd, the Nahda stage will host the Lebanese rising star, **Saad Ramadan**. This young singer has conquered audiences with his distinctive voice and beautiful stage presence. Born in 1986 in the village of Berga in Lebanon, Saad Ramadan is the son of the singer Suzanne Ghattas. He learned piano from the age of eight and was immersed in art at a very young age. Saad Ramadan started studying hospitality before going into music by participating in Star Academy 5 (Lebanon), to win the third place and start a promising artistic career.

On the same evening, **Marwan Khoury**, renowned Lebanese singer, composer and arranger will host the evening. In addition to his many successes and an impressive career, Marwan Khoury is also known for his collaborations with Moroccan artists, such as Karima Sqalli and Hatim Ammor. He has produced numerous titles for great names in Arabic music such as Magida El Roumi, Najwa Karam and Saber Rebai. The former musicology student has received many honors throughout his career that began in 2000.

Also on the Nahda stage, on Friday, June 29th, the festival will offer a highly anticipated concert by Moroccan artist **Douzi**. Inducted in 2017 as the best Moroccan singer at the DAF Bama Music Awards (Hamburg), Douzi is one of the undisputed figures of raï. With more than a dozen albums, Douzi is recognized as the youngest raï artist, able to sing in several languages (Arabic, French, English, Spanish, Turkish and Hindi).

At the Mohammed V National Theater, on Sunday, June 24th, Algerian music will be in the limelight with the group **Babylone**. Formed in 2012, Babylone is composed of: Amine Mohamed Djemal singer and author, guitarists Rahim El Hadi, Ramzy Ayadi and Rafik Chami, Fouad Tourki (percussionist) and Redouane Nehar (bassist). The band brings a new sound to Algerian music. The songs of Babylon are inspired by different Algerian regional styles, mixing Andalusian, Arab, Mediterranean, Oriental and African influences. Their first single Zina (2013) made the buzz on the web in the space of a few months.

Useful Information:

17th edition of the Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World: From the 22nd to the 30th of June 2018.

Chronixx, Bouregreg Stage, Monday, June 25th 2018

The Weeknd, OLM-Souissi Stage, Friday, June 29th 2018

Saad Ramadan, Nahda stage, Saturday, June 23rd

Marwan Khoury, Nahda stage, Saturday, June 23rd

Douzi, Nahda stage, Friday, June 29th

Babylone, Mohammed V National Theatre, Sunday, June 24th

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 drawing for the past 15 years, over 2 million festivalgoers at each edition. Held over a period of nine days, Mawazine offers a rich and diversified program where performers from all four corners of the world make of the cities of Rabat and Salé a world stage for music. Committed to promoting 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 for everyone to enjoy. Mawazine participates in the region's economy, attracting tourists from all over the world; and is a leading player in the creation of a real entertainment industry in Morocco

About Maroc Cultures Association:

Created in compliance with the provisions of November 15, 1958 Dahir, and further to a General Assembly held in Rabat on October 23, 2001, Maroc Cultures is a non-profit association whose main



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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 Rhythms of the World Festival as well as various events, multi-disciplinary symposia, plastic art exhibitions and concerts.