

PRESS RELEASE

**18<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Mawazine Festival - Rhythms of the World**

**A full house for Migos, one of Mawazine's favorite!**

**Rabat, June 27<sup>th</sup> 2019:** With more than 13 million followers on Facebook and Instagram, Migos is one of the favorite rap groups on social networks ... and at the Mawazine Festival-Rhythms of the World as well! For their first concert in Morocco, the American group delivered this Thursday on the OLM Souissi a memorable performance. With their greatest hits, including the latest album (produced by Pharrell Williams and Kanye West), the band received an exceptional welcome from festivalgoers, who came in large numbers for the occasion. A great moment of music that was shared during this Mawazine evening!

On the Mohammed V National Theatre, it was the American Stanley Clarke who performed in front of a packed audience. Considered to be one of the most talented bassists of his generation, Chick Corea's ex-partner has made his mark with his virtuosity and unparalleled sense of rhythm.

In Salé, the great maalem Hamid El Kasri, known for his deep and unique voice, delighted the festival-goers. Very much appreciated, the artist has perfectly reconciled the Gnawa rhythms of Morocco, merging the musical genres with a unique ease. The Moroccan scene also celebrated the same evening the 18 years of the group Fnair. The rap trio from Marrakech, composed of Mohcine Tizaf, Khalifa Mennani and Ashraf Aarab, made a strong impression with their powerful music and irresistible melodies.

Shared between Lebanon and Morocco, the Nahda stage poster had two highlights with the arrival of singer Ramy Ayach, laureate of the most prestigious pan-Arab awards, and diva Hasna Zalah, revelation of Studio 2M in 2005. On the program, two sublime voices and a delighted audience!

Coming straight from Los Angeles and flagship of the new jazz west coast scene, saxophonist Kamasi Washington and his group have dazzled festival-goers gathered in front of the Bouregreg stage. With their music at the crossroads of jazz, funk, free, soul, blues and rock, the band caused a sensation and earned its title of musical UFO across the Atlantic.

At the Chellah, music of the Roma people experienced a new moment of emotion with the concert of Shahrokh Moshkin Ghalam. Dancer, actor and director, the Iranian artist surrounded herself with musicians, like the singer Aïda Nosrat, the kanoun player Christine Zayed and the percussionist Saghar Khadem. A show of dance and unforgettable music!

The Mawazine Festival-Rhythms of the World was also on the streets and squares of Rabat. The group Hot Streets performed a great percussion show that captivated visitors. On the program: wild rhythms and impressive outfits. Impressive as well, the Bladi Fanfare has honored wind instruments by mixing with talent Moroccan rhythms and great traditions of brass bands.

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**Useful information:**

18<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Mawazine Festival – Rhythms of the World from June 21 to 29, 2019.

**About the 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 over 2.5 million festivalgoers for each of its last editions, it is considered the second largest cultural event in the world. Organized every year for nine days, Mawazine offers a rich and demanding program that mixes the biggest stars of the world and Arabic repertoire, making the cities of Rabat and Salé the scene of exceptional encounters between the public and renowned artists. Very committed to the promotion of Moroccan music, Mawazine devotes more than half of its programming to the talents of the national scene. Bearer of the values of peace, openness, tolerance and respect, the festival offers free access to 90% of its festival-goers, making the accessibility of the public an essential mission. It is also a major support to the regional tourism economy and a leading player in the creation of a real entertainment industry in Morocco.

**About Maroc Cultures Association:**

Created in 2001, Maroc Cultures is a non-profit organization whose main mission is to guarantee the public of the Rabat-Salé-Zemmour-Zaër region a cultural and artistic animation of a professional level worthy of the Moroccan capital. Echoing the fundamental values of His Majesty King Mohammed VI's development policy, Maroc Cultures concretizes this noble mission through the Mawazine Festival Rhythms of the World as well as organizing various events, multidisciplinary symposiums, art exhibitions and concerts.