



CITÉ DE LA MUSIQUE  
PHILHARMONIE DE PARIS

# TARAB

*Musics of the Arab world*

*From 6 April to 22 August 2018 in Paris  
Available from October 2018*

## EXHIBITION

The Philharmonie de Paris is presenting an exhibition devoted to Arab music, a first in France. It celebrates both the wealth of a little-known ancient heritage and the fabulous creativity of artists from the twenty-two countries that make up the Arab world today.

*TARAB* takes visitors on a sound and vision journey from pre-Islamic times to the Andalusia of the great musician Zyriab, and from the Egyptian golden age of the diva Umm Kulthum to the pop, rap and electro scenes created by street culture since the Arab revolutions.



*Diary Walls*, photographs serie by Khaled Hafez, 2008

### LINKED TO THE EXHIBITION

- A concerts programme through two themed week-ends at the Philharmonie de Paris.
- A rich live programme of Dj sets and storytelling every week in the exhibition.
- The public can listen to the hits of Cheb Khaled and Warda, and more recent ones from Bachar Mar-Khalifé and 48Cent.
- An exhibition catalogue gathering 30 articles by 22 authors, to explore further topics on Arab musics.



*The Moroccans* © Leila Alaoui

### A UNIQUE EXPLORATION

The exhibition is planned as an immense exploration of musical forms – traditional, contemporary, mystical, profane, popular and academic – and invites visitors to cross immersive landscapes that include the Arabian desert, the Andalusian garden, the Egyptian cinema, the African zawiya, the Barbès café and the vibrant square of an Arab capital.

For the *TARAB* exhibition, the set designer Matali Crasset has drawn inspiration from recurrent architectural elements in arab cities and living areas (vaults, doors, towers...), reinterpreting these symbols through the set-up to allow visitors to place themselves contextually in both places and periods that have marked the history of Arab music.

## INTENTIONS

- To make it accessible to all visitor populations, *TARAB* includes spaces enabling families to play and discover. Here visitors acquire notions to help them deconstruct clichés and develop or deepen their knowledge through a number of fun and interactive exhibits.
- The works on display provide an introduction to rich public and private collections in the East and West: musical instruments, calligraphy, illuminations, paintings and photographs. Travel logs, graphic novels, film posters, record sleeves, cult films and sound archives also form part of this extraordinary corpus.
- Contemporary art plays a major role throughout the exhibition itinerary. Work by distinguished artists such as Hassan Hajjaj, Nja Mahdaoui, Mounir Fatmi, Maha Malluh, Leila Alaoui and Maimouna Guerresi update and enhance the exhibition's message.
- The exhibition is entirely bilingual in French and Arabic, and pays tribute to the beauty of calligraphy and the Arabic language.
- A circuit of tales, especially created for the exhibition, guide the visitor through the 8 rooms of the exhibition, emphasising the role played by tales and poetry in the history of Arab musics.
- This exhibition is conceived above all as manifesto for protecting a culture that is today at risk of being lost, while celebrating the extraordinary vitality of musical creation in the Arab world today.



*The Last Dance* © Augustin Le Gall

## EXHIBITION CURATOR

Véronique Rieffel is an art critic and cultural programmer specialising in Middle-Eastern and African arts.

She chaired the Institut français d'Égypte in Alexandria until September 2015 and previously ran the Institut des cultures d'Islam (ICI), a City of Paris cultural establishment, for eight years.

## KEY FIGURES

- 750 m<sup>2</sup>/ 8000 sq ft of modular space (middle-sized version available for spaces between 350 m<sup>2</sup>/3700 sq ft and 500 m<sup>2</sup> / 5300 sq ft)
- Around 245 works exhibited



*Icons of the Nile* © Chant Avedissian

## CONTACTS

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