

مَعْهَدُ إِدْوَارِ سَعِيدِ الْوَطْنِيِّ لِلْمَوْسِيقِيَّةِ

**A message to the World,
from Palestine**

Stories of Success and Excellence

The Edward Said National Music Conservatory distributed 30,000 US dollars as prizes to the students and Palestinian youth musicians.

Palestinian National Music Competition 2016

The Edward Said National Conservatory of Music organized for the 5th Palestinian National Music Competition in April of 2014. The doors are open for registration for all Palestinian musicians and students from all parts of historic Palestine, whether from Jerusalem, West Bank, Gaza, occupied lands in 1948, and occupied Golan Heights.

More than 500 participants applied to participate in the competition that is considered to be the oldest and widest in Palestine. The judging committee consisted of 30 internationally acclaimed musicians. Four hundred and thirty contestants performed in front of local and international jury members to win prizes under four different categories, which are: Solo performances on eastern and western instruments, Arabic vocals, Palestinian music composer under the name of the well – known famous musicians “Marcel Khalifeh”, and lastly group performance under the title of the late Palestinian musician Salvador Arnita. The ESNM also launched a special celebration to commemorate Salvador’s 100th birthday anniversary, which was linked to the group performance category.

The Palestinian National Music Competition aims to encourage young Palestinian musicians to advance and enrich their musical performances, singing and composition, which is rare opportunity but it’s a motivating for the students to commit to practicing and to contribute to the rising of young Palestinian musicians in enriching the musical culture in Palestine.



95 students have been playing on string instruments

Orchestra Outreach Program in Refugee Camps

The Edward Said National Conservatory of Music launched an outreach program for the academic year 2014/2015 to teach and train students to play string instruments in 3 refugee camps: Shufat camp located north east of Jerusalem, Balata camp located in south west of Bethlehem. The program included around 95 boys and girls that receive weekly classes on their string instruments, under the supervision of Mohammad Fadel, director of the Outreach Program. The outreach program also aimed raising the awareness of music and teaching it in Tulkarem and Tubas.



String Orchestra Refugee Camp: Group of students in Balata camp with their teacher Mohammad Fadel

Additional branch along with Gaza, Nablus, Ramallah, Jerusalem and Bethlehem branches

Plan to Open a New Branch in Hebron in 2016

The ESNM has been managing an ongoing outreach program in Hebron since 2012. As part of the ESNM outreach program in marginalized areas to reach Palestinians with the message of music education and dissemination. The outreach program also coincides with the vision of the conservatory to encourage a lively and creative musical cultural in every home that will contribute towards the consolidation of Palestinian identity, and the education of future generations as well as its long term strategic goals to open a branch for the conservatory in every governorate in Palestine, including West Bank, Jerusalem, Gaza Strip, and most populated Palestinian areas in occupied Palestine 1948, such as Nazareth and Al Muthalath. The ESNM decided to open a new branch in Hebron during 2016 to serve more than 500,000 Palestinians residing in the governorate. It is expected to reach around 150 students learning to play Arabic and Western classic instruments in the first year, under the supervision of 15 music teachers and the support of 3 administrative employees.



String Orchestra
Refugee camp: Group of
students in Shufat camp – Jerusalem with
their teacher Mohammad Fadel.

From the Welfare Association, Takreem and Ministry of Culture Palestine

The National Conservatory of Music collects prizes

The Edward Said Conservatory of Music was rewarded multiple important prizes since its establishment in 1993, such as the award received the Welfare Association Jerusalem Prize in the name of the late Ragheb Kalouti for the social development in Jerusalem <For Jerusalem, We Work>, because of the conservatory's impact to promote music education in all societal layers of Jerusalem, especially among the youth generation and the underprivileged children.

Moreover, the ESNM received a Cultural Excellence Award in 2014 from the Takreem Initiative during a celebration that was organized in the Marrakesh city in the presence of 500 key figures from the Middle East and abroad. Lastly, the National Conservatory of Music received the National Day of Culture Honor, in March 2015 from the Palestinian Ministry of Culture, because of the role that the conservatory plays in developing the culture scene in Palestine.



Mr. Suhail Khoury and Professor Siyavus Kerimi sign a cooperation agreement in Baku – Azerbaijan

Cooperation between National Conservatories

Palestine and Azerbaijan

The Edward Said National Conservatory of Music (ESNMC) and the Azerbaijan National Conservatory have signed a cooperation agreement during the closing ceremony of the International Maqam Music Competition, which was held in Baku between 11th and 18th of March, 2015. Mr. Suhail Khoury, General Director of the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music, and Professor Siyavus Kerimi, Head of the Azerbaijan National Conservatory, signed the agreement on behalf of the conservatories. The cooperation agreement includes exchange opportunities between students and teachers, organizing coordinated workshops, and music research. The agreement also included the hosting and organizing of music performances in the two countries.



ESNCM new branch location

Establishment of musical infrastructures

The National Conservatory of Music has reached a major milestone in its strategic goals by opening new branch locations in Ramallah, Jerusalem and Bethlehem. The infrastructure of the new locations have been appropriately designed for music education, in which there are facilities and services available for Palestinian musicians and guests to develop musical productions and projects. The new branch in Beit Sahour opened its doors in 2012, while in 2013 the conservatory moved to Al-Shahabi House, a new location in the heart of Jerusalem, which was built by a Palestinian Jerusalemite family in the end of the 19th century. In 2014, the conservatory opened the first section of its new location in Ramallah, which is close to the Ramallah Cultural Palace and Mahmoud Darwish Muesum.

Jerusalem building

As an important step for music education and musical awareness in Jerusalem, moving to Al-Shahabi House which is located in the heart of Jerusalem in April 2013, has increased the number of students in the conservatory to 360 students. The building was renovated under a grant managed by Welfare Association and by the generous donations of Islamic Development of Bank and the Spanish Cooperation.

Jerusalem Garden

The Jerusalem Garden is full of life and music especially during the spring and summer season, where the conservatory expands its festivities and concerts. The garden holds around 500 people, and has become a meeting point and popular location for music lovers to join the various musical concerts and activities such as Layali Tarab Festival, Jerusalem Music Festival and Ramadan evenings.

10 Palestinian bands presents 6
musical evenings

Layali Tarab fi Quds el Arab 2015

A photograph of three men in white shirts performing music. One man in the foreground is playing a stringed instrument, possibly a qanun, with intricate fretwork. The other two men are leaning in, looking at the instrument with interest and joy. The background is dark, and the lighting is warm, highlighting the musicians and their instrument. The bottom of the image has a yellow-to-green gradient overlay.

The National Conservatory of Music organized for the Layali Tarab fe Quds el Arab “Nights of Tarab in Arab Jerusalem” from the 24th of April to the 4th of May of 2015. The festival is an annual event that organized in Jerusalem and focuses on Oriental Arabic music, especially singing and tarab. The festival mainly took place in Jerusalem at the new conservatory location, Al-Shahabi House which is close to Damascus and Herod’s gates, as well as in Ramallah, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Gaza and the occupied Golan Heights. The festival was successful with the participation of various singers, musicians and ensembles such as Trio Jubran, Oriental Music Ensemble, Maqamat Jerusalem, Banat al-Quds, Siraj choir, ESNM Ramallah ensemble Turath, Awj choir, the oudist and singer Basel Zayed, Gaza Arabic Music Ensemble, both the Gaza and Bethlehem music Ensemble, and Nissan Gaza musical group. The festival was a hug hit with a high number of audience presence, and became the main annual cultural event of the year.

Trio Jubran performing their music during Layali Tarab fe Quds el Arab festival 2015

The Bethlehem Oriental Music Ensemble performs during the opening of the new branch in Bethlehem in 2012.

ESNCM location in Bethlehem

Christmas Festival

The National Conservatory of music has organized for the Christmas Festival, which is an annual festival to celebrate the Christmas holiday. Festival celebrations aim to revitalize the cultural scene through a wide spectrum of music performances that aim to create a pleasant and joyful atmosphere for the city and its residents in festivity with the birth of Jesus Christ and the New Year, which is aligned with the conservatory's vision to spread music and support the production of music. The festival included around 20 music concerts in Bethlehem, Beit Sahour, Beit Jala, Nablus, Jerusalem and Ramallah. There were groups that performed during the festival from Russia, Sri Lanka, Palestine, France, Czech Republic, and Slovakia. Over the past 2 years, the conservatory and their partners has created good relationships with cultural institutions and the local community in Bethlehem, especially the municipalities of Bethlehem, Beit Sahour and Beit Jala.

The conservatory has launched the new location in Bethlehem in November of 2012 with the generous funds from Spanish cooperation, Swiss government, Palestinian Prime minister and lastly the Child and Promise Association. The new branch has been equipped with 25 lesson rooms, reception, performance hall and instrument manufacturer room that is approximately 1000 m².

Instrument Repair Workshop in Bethlehem

In the spring of 2014, the conservatory opened the instrument repair and manufacture workshop in Bethlehem, which is considered one of the advanced Palestinian workshops in making string musical instruments. Aref Al Saied, a Palestinian worker, who learned to make string instruments in Italy and Germany. The workshop is mainly to manufacture string instruments, in addition to repair the ESNCM student's instruments and Palestinian professional musicians.







Jasmine Festival Ramallah for modern Arabic, jazz, classical and world music

The Edward Said National Conservatory of Music organized for “Jasmine Festival” that took place at the conservatory hall in Ramallah during 1st – 8th of March 2015, and included around 10 musical concerts that were performed by music group from Turkey, India, Italy and Palestine, as well as music workshops. The festival had a wide media coverage via radio and TV, printed publications and social media coverage. The uniqueness of the festival came from the variety of music genres and performances.



Opus Ensemble performing during the Jasmine Festival 2015



Santoor-Sitar-Tabla Trio from India perform during the Jasmine Festival 2015



ESNCM location in Ramallah

The conservatory launched the first phase of the Ramallah building in 2014, which is composed of 20 lesson rooms, performance hall, recording studio, halls for choir training, a library and 3 administrative offices.

The hall was funded and launched with the generous funds of the Sharjah government in August of 2014, which can hold up to 220 people. It is also equipped with an advance sound system, designed with high specification sound-proof. The hall has been linked to the studio, which gives an opportunity for Palestinian and international bands and ensembles to record their music.

Palestine Music Studio

The Edward Said National Conservatory of Music has established its first advanced and modern studio with the generous funds of the Norwegian Representative office in Jerusalem and the Norwegian record label Kirkelig Kulturverksted (KKV). It consists of a main room for ensemble recording and two isolation booths. The studio is also linked to the acoustically impressive concert hall, so large ensembles can also be accommodated, as well as multi-track recording of live concerts.

مهرج
Music



29th of November 2010 – Megaron concert Hall,
Athens Greece



28th of July 2010 – Jordan Festival, Amman Jordan



2nd of August 2009 – Beiteddine Festival – Lebanon



Palestine Youth Orchestra, Ambassador of Palestine to the World

Orchestra touring France and Royal Opera House Muscat – Oman

Since 2004, the Palestine Youth Orchestra (PYO) has proudly represented the National Conservatory of Music with an aim to gather Palestinian Musicians around the world in one unified musical body. Today, the orchestra is composed of 80 Palestinian musicians residing in Palestine, Middle East and abroad, in which they form a National orchestra with the same high standards and quality of world orchestras.

The PYO is scheduled for a music tour in France during 16th – 30th of August 2015 to perform a musical program for Palestinian and Arab composers as well as international composers, such as Tchaikovsky, Haydn, Beethoven, and Mozart. The PYO will also visit Muscat – Oman during 22nd – 27th of March 2016, to perform a special music concert in the Royal Opera House Muscat.

2nd of August 2012– Ravello Festival, Italy





6000 people stood in honor of the Palestinian music students in Royal Albert Hall London

Palestine Strings shines with Nigel Kennedy

The “Palestine Strings” ensemble, established in 2009, participated in a celebration “Proms”, which was sponsored by the British Broadcasting Corporation “BBC” that annually supports and invites famous international music groups. In August of 2013, 17 male and female musicians from Jerusalem, Ramallah, Nablus, ShafaAmr, and Haifa performed on the stage of Royal Albert Hall in London accompanied by the famous British violinist “Nigel Kennedy” and members of the “Orchestra of Life” before the eyes of 6000 people, and millions of viewers on T.V and BBC radio. The group performed the piece “Four Seasons” by Antonio Vivaldi, which was modified by Kennedy to include Arabic oriental music.

This grand performance gave Palestinians the opportunity to represent Palestine in this celebration, that is consideration one of the most important musical celebrations in the world. With much courage, the Palestinian group was able to prove their worth and succeeded to raise Palestine's name high in front of the audience.

