



Annual Report

2022-2021

Opening Words

In spite of the challenges and obstacles it faced, the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music (ESNCM) has accomplished many remarkable initiatives and demonstrated great creativity over the past year. Emerging from the last two difficult years, the conservatory has continued to prioritize preservation and innovation, emphasizing quality over quantity.

As a youth music and creativity incubator, music school, cultural institution, and creator and manager of national music initiatives and orchestras, the ESNCM has focused on empowering children and youth through music, encouraging them to lead fulfilling lives. Throughout 2021-2022, ESNCM provided music education through regular and amateur programs as well as community outreach efforts, positively influencing the lives of children and youth in Gaza, Bethlehem, Beit Sahour, Ramallah, Nablus, Jerusalem, and Hebron. Additionally, its ensembles performed locally and internationally reaching more than half a million people in person and through media and social media channels. This provided a much-needed opportunity for people to reconnect with music and the arts after the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The establishment of the Arabic Orchestra and its inaugural production and tour represented a significant addition to the Palestinian music scene. This national initiative brings together professional musicians and advanced student musicians to play Arabic music in an orchestral setting, showcasing Palestinian music to a wider audience. Another noteworthy achievement was the July 2022 tour of the Palestine Youth Orchestra, during which the orchestra served as special guests of the first lady of Turkey.

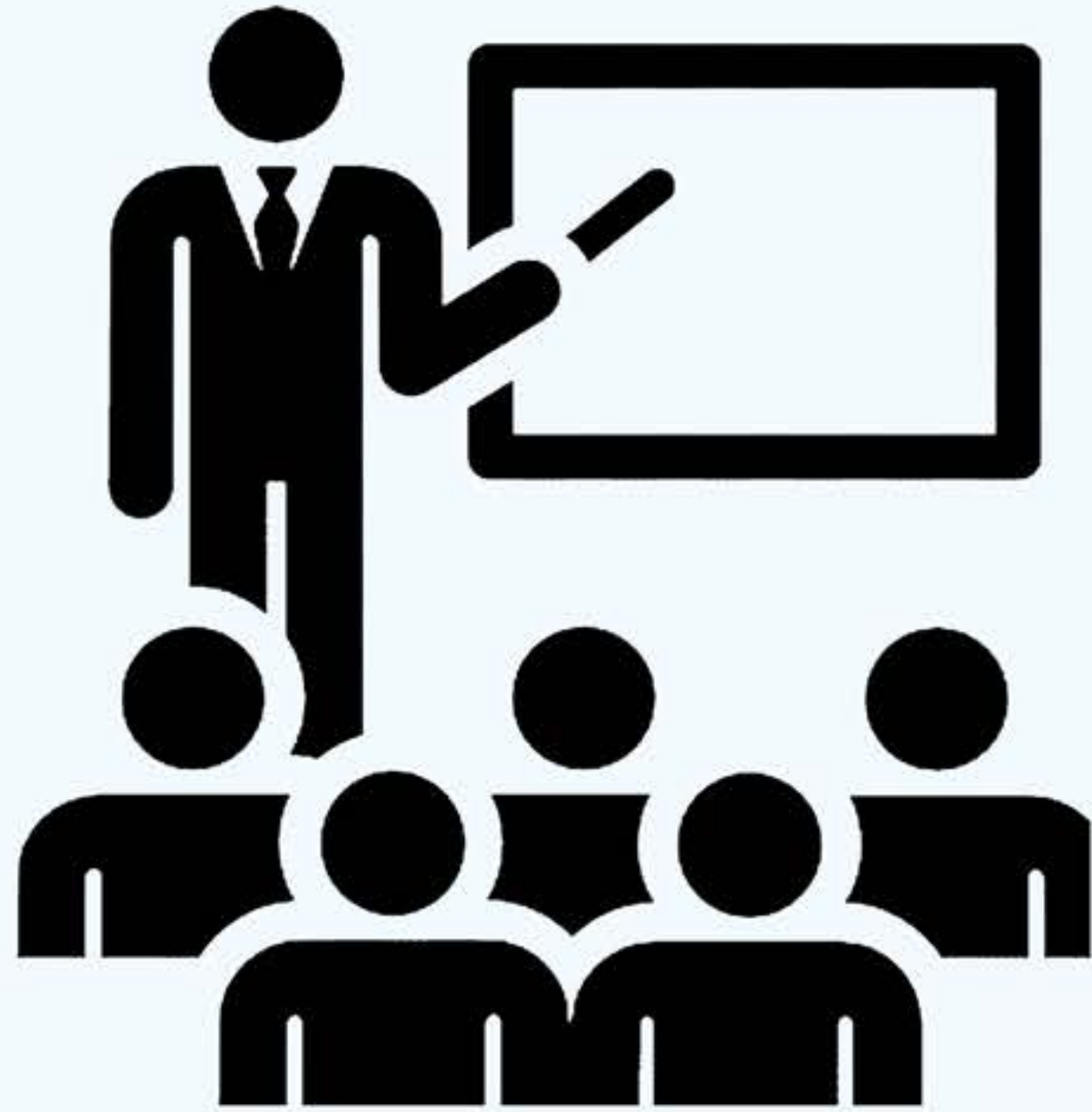
ESNCM plays a vital role in developing and supporting the cultural industries in Palestine, enabling artists to work and sustain their music and arts careers. The conservatory's state-of-the-art studio hosted many music productions, and the Sharjah hall in Ramallah welcomed hundreds attending concerts and events. These facilities remain open to nourish musicians and artists and support them in developing their artistic productions.

The Edward Said National Conservatory of Music owes its strength to the dedication of its team and its network of partners, friends, and supporters. These individuals work tirelessly to maintain the conservatory's basic operations, enhance its musical and artistic capacities, and implement new initiatives. ESNCM takes great pride in its many accomplishments over the years and eagerly anticipates its thirtieth anniversary next year, despite the challenges it has faced. The Edward Said National Conservatory of music continues to take confident steps towards open prospects for the future, driven by a shared passion for music and the arts.

Sima Khoury Odeh
Executive Director

1709

Students in the Educational Programs



719 Males

990 Females

6 branches of the conservatory



Gaza



Beit Sahour



Bethlehem



Jerusalem



Ramallah



Nablus



39

ADMINISTRATORS



19 Males



20 Females

Administrators staff



85

TEACHERS



52 Males



33 Females

Academic staff



172

STUDENTS



75 Males



97 Females

Passed instrumental exams



37

STUDENTS

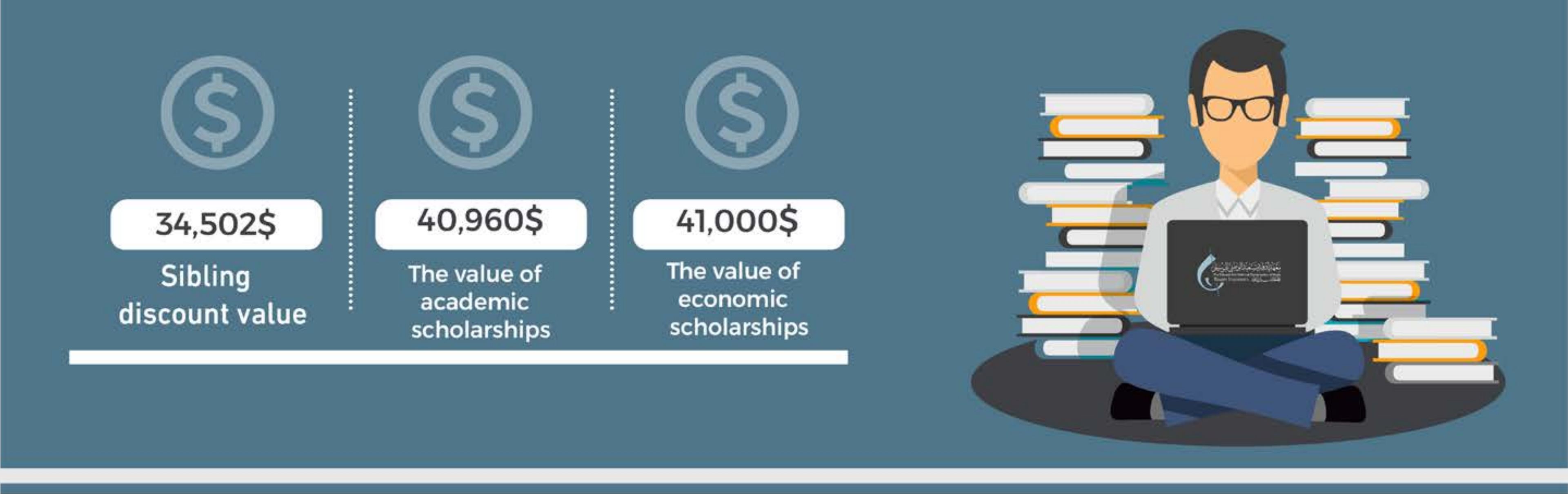


16 Males



21 Females

Awarded the intermediate and basic certificates



160 students in the regular program benefited from scholarships (100-25% of the tuition fee)



700 students in the community outreach program benefited from full scholarships



Half a million views of the conservatory's performances and productions on its social media pages



11 music productions and video clips



85 musical performances attended by 16,000 people

Educational Program

The Edward Said National Conservatory of Music commenced the 2021-2022 academic year in September across its six campuses in Jerusalem, Gaza, Nablus, Ramallah, Beit Sahour, and Bethlehem (Tchaikovsky Music School – President Putin Foundation). Additionally, the conservatory provided community outreach programs in the governorates of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Ramallah, and Al-Bireh. The educational programs offered a formal academic education to approximately 1,700 students, including teaching Arabic and Western instruments, group playing, theoretical and practical courses, amateur music program, music kindergarten program for children aged 5-6 years, and group learning within the community outreach program.

After a two-year hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the community outreach program resumed in different locations during the academic year. The conservatory implemented the community outreach program in various Palestinian schools and community centers in Beit Hanina, Shuafat, Beit Safafa, Silwan, Abu Dis, Al-Eizariya, Bethlehem, Dheisheh refugee camp, As-Sawahra, Hebron, Ramallah, Al-Bireh, and Beitunia.



Programs to Optimize the Potential of Teachers and Students




Throughout the academic year, the conservatory organized face-to-face and online workshops and training courses in collaboration with several partners, including the US-based Juilliard School, William Paterson University, Berklee College of Music, and the University of South Carolina, the Higher Conservatoire of Music in Geneva, the Saratov Conservatory of Music in Russia, the Belfort Conservatoire of Music in France, and PalMusic (Friends of the Conservatory in the UK). The workshops and courses targeted students and teachers of the conservatory, covering topics such as dealing with stress in arts teaching, methods of teaching Arab maqam, musical interpretation, and chamber music, in addition to specialized workshops for instruments such as the piano, violin, double bass, cello, and oud.

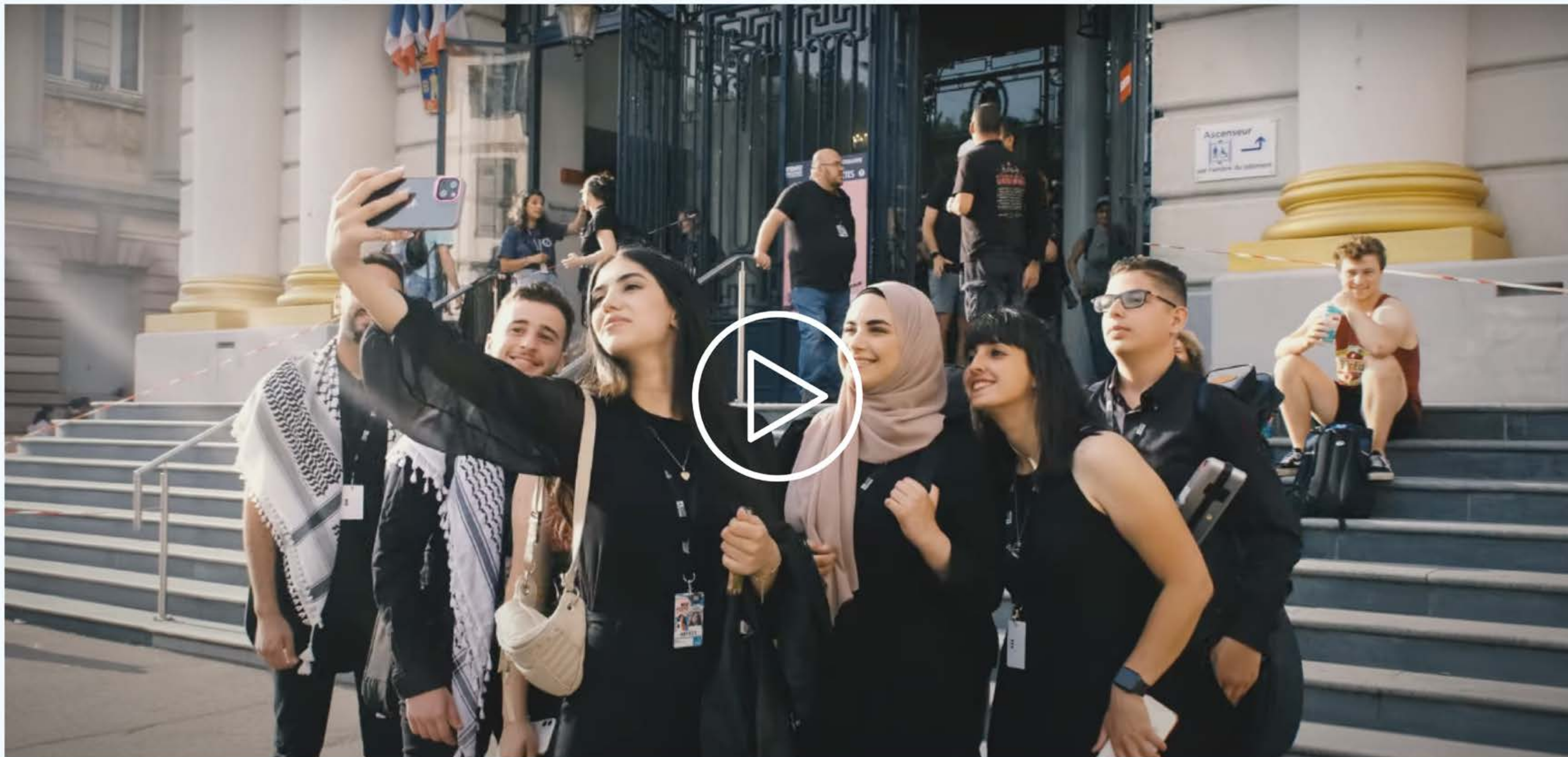
CULTURAL EXCHANGE WITH THE BELFORT CONSERVATOIRE / FRANCE

As part of a cultural exchange program between the two institutes, the Belfort Conservatoire hosted the Maqamat al-Quds Ensemble in June 2022. The band visited the Belfort Conservatoire and presented workshops on Arabic music and its various instruments, including workshops at the School of Music and Arts, a high school in Belfort County, and musical performances for a group of children with special needs. As part of the Belfort Festival, the band performed two public performances and a children's workshop.

The Conservatory in Jerusalem also hosted a group of students and teachers from the Belfort Conservatoire in July 2022, where they worked together with the Maqamat al-Quds Ensemble to present a musical performance that combined Eastern and Western music.



▶ Maqamat al-Quds Ensemble concert 



Maqamat al-Quds Ensemble in Belfort- June 2022



Summer Programs

The conservatory offers a variety of summer programs across all branches, catering to students interested in participating in music-related activities. The "Anamel" and "Natateef" programs provide individual lessons on a range of musical instruments. The conservatory partnered with William Paterson University to organize a summer music camp where five university professors joined forces with conservatory teachers to present an intensive training program. The camp opened to both conservatory and community program students from the Al-Bustan Association in Silwan. The training culminated in a concert featuring performances by participating students in ensembles for piano, violin, wind, Arab takht, and choir. 12 distinguished students actively participated in the 10-day Common Ground Camp invited by East Brighton Woodcraft Folk - UK for a rich cultural exchange for youth.



Annual Graduation Ceremony 2020/2021 and 2019-2020



The conservatory hosted its annual graduation ceremony for academic years 2020-2021 and 2019-2020 at Naseeb Shaheen Hall in Birzeit University. Thirty-four students from the Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Ramallah, and Nablus branches who had completed all intermediate certificate requirements were celebrated. The intermediate certificate is awarded to students who have passed level 8 in their instrument, as well as other theoretical and practical requirements.

The ceremony included performances of Arabic and Western musical compositions by graduates, students, and teachers. Several ensembles, including the Trombone Trio, Oud Trio, Nablus Band for Arabic Music, Bazazik Ensemble, Jerusalem Orchestra, Arab percussion group, and Ram Ensemble, took part in the concert program. Additionally, several students performed solos, and the Sham Choir delivered a stunning performance.

During the ceremony, Rima Tarazi, Chair of the Supervisory Board of the conservatory, expressed her delight in the return of the graduation ceremony after a two-year hiatus caused by the pandemic. She also praised the students and teachers of the conservatory. Suhail Khoury, General Director of the conservatory, encouraged the students to continue their musical education and other pursuits while remaining committed to their patriotism. The event was attended by the students' families, the conservatory's staff, the general public, and several public figures.

The Conservatory Orchestra

Due to the post-pandemic effects that were still influencing aspects of normal life, including travel, the conservatory decided to rely on young Palestinian emerging talents in 2022 as HEM partners were unable to travel to Palestine. Nagham Srour, a dynamic young Palestinian musician and conductor, worked with the orchestra members, while Hind Sabanegh, head of ESNM's Wind and Brass department, worked with the wind band. The concert included a solo performance on Piano by Ali Qawasma, Bethlehem Branch Piano Graduate.



The Conservatory Orchestra held a successful concert on May 28th, 2022, at the Naseeb Shaheen Auditorium of Birzeit University. The concert was attended by around 400 people, who expressed their enthusiasm and happiness towards showcasing young Palestinian talents. The event was a testament to the exceptional abilities and commitment of young Palestinian musicians, who were able to deliver an outstanding performance despite the limitations imposed by the pandemic.



New partnerships

The conservatory has launched a new partnership with the Swedish Dream Orchestra Foundation, which works in the field of community music education through the Venezuelan Sistema program. This joint project aims to develop a new music education curriculum in Palestine based on elements of the Sistema program, adapted to the Palestinian community with a focus on Arabic and folkloric music. The project also builds on the partnership between the conservatory and the Ibdaa (Creativity) Center in the Dheisheh refugee camp in Bethlehem, which provided the necessary space and logistical support to implement the project in the camp. This project, funded by the Swedish Institute, will produce a community-based educational curriculum that can be adopted as a basis for developing and expanding music education in Palestine and the Arab world.



Music Uniting Communities and Changing Lives

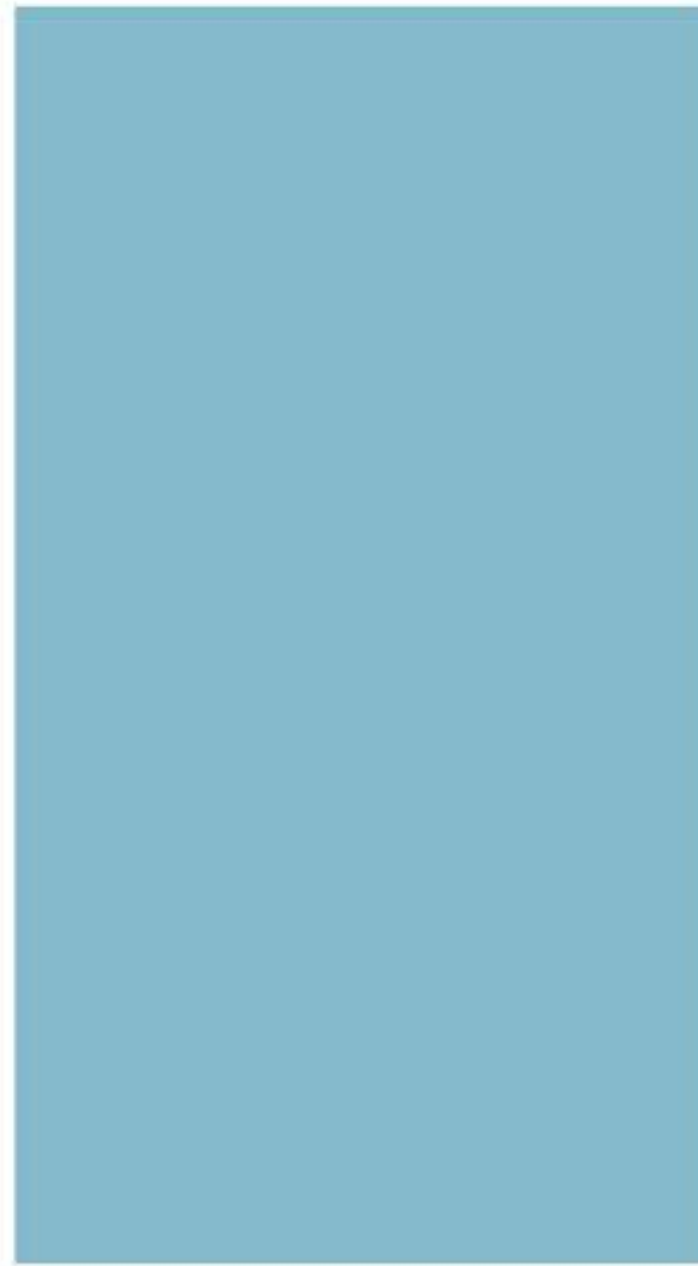
Students and ensembles from various branches of the conservatory participated in diverse community events organized by a number of social and civil institutions, schools, and universities. The events included the national campaign for diabetes patients in collaboration with Juzoor Foundation for Health and Social Development in Ramallah. The conservatory also participated in the opening of the Jerusalem International Film Festival in Gaza and the International Human Rights Day in partnership with the Independent Commission for Human Rights and Our Children Association for the Deaf in Gaza. ESNCM also participated in the inauguration of the Riyadh building for celebrations and activities affiliated with Al-Azhar University in Gaza.

The conservatory participated in World Autism Awareness Day organized by the Joud Institute for Special Education in Birzeit, the Ramadan evening organized by the Family Revival Association, and the memorial ceremony for the late Helen Shahada in collaboration with the Sunrise School for the Blind. Moreover, ESNCM took part in the seminar "Creative Industries in Bethlehem" in collaboration with Bethlehem Municipality and UNESCO Office, and World Music Day in partnership with the French Cultural Center in Gaza, the Arab Orthodox Cultural and Social Center, and Dalia Foundation for the Arts. Finally, the conservatory participated in the opening of the "Christ at the checkpoint" conference organized by the Bible Society.





As part of its work in promoting musical culture in Palestinian society and enabling children and youth to access the arts and participate in cultural life, the conservatory organized a number of educational performances in schools aimed at introducing students to music and rhythm, and encouraging them to learn music. The conservatory also participated in organizing mobile theater performances in public spaces in collaboration with the Qafileh Theater and Al-Hakawati Theater, where three musical performances were organized in the village of Beit Anan targeting children and youth.



Unleashing Musical Talents: Weekly Student Performances Across All Branches

Student performances are an important part of the educational process at the conservatory, which organizes weekly performances in all its branches as part of its academic curriculum. These performances provide an opportunity for students of all ages and academic levels to showcase their skills and the progress they have made on their musical instruments, as well as to acquire stage performance skills and overcome stage fright.





مسابقة فلسطين الوطنية للموسيقى

The Palestine National Music Competition 2021

1-9 / 12 / 2021

القدس-فلسطين Jerusalem - Palestine

Palestine National Music Competition

On December 9th, 2021, the Conservatory hosted the musical prizewinning ceremony of the Palestinian National Music Competition for more than 60 winners in different competition categories, at the Ramallah Cultural Palace, in the presence of the contestants, their families and friends. The event was broadcast live on Palestine TV and on social media. The ceremony included musical performances by many of the winners, including solos, groups and singing. The Gaza-based "Tarteem" drumming group also presented a special performance via video conference.

The Conservatory launched the sixth edition of the Palestinian National Music Competition in late 2019. Due to the emergency circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the final rounds of the competition were postponed to December 2021. The competition was based in Jerusalem, and the contestants participated from different regions through video conferencing technology. More than 500 applicants took part in the competition, and around 250 of them qualified for the final rounds, which lasted for seven days and awarded over 60 prizes in different age categories ranging from 6 to 30 years old. The participants in the final round were distributed as follows: 13% from Gaza, 77% from the West Bank, including Jerusalem, 7% from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, and 3% from the Palestinian diaspora.



Final Competition

مسابقة فلسطين الوطنية للموسيقى 2021

The Palestine National Music Competition 2021

حفل توزيع الجوائز Award Ceremony



The Palestinian National Music Competition is a specialized national competition in music, targeting young musicians in historic Palestine and the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. The Conservatory aims through the competition to encourage and motivate young musicians and music students to improve their musical performance, enrich their experience in playing musical instruments individually or collectively, and singing Arabic music, in order to deepen the musical culture in Palestine. The competition comprises several sections, including solo instrumental performances on piano, guitar, string instruments, wind instruments, and Arabic music, as well as the Arabic singing section, and the piano duo section, among others. The Juries of the competition include distinguished Palestinian and International members.

Performances and Festivals

The conservatory organized 85 diverse music performances in Jerusalem, Gaza, Nablus, Bethlehem, and Ramallah, either as standalone shows or as part of the conservatory's annual festivals, with approximately 16,000 attendees. Highlights include:

Celebrating Arab Culture: The Debut of the Arab Orchestra



The Arab Orchestra released its first musical production in November 2021, with the participation of 73 students and teachers from different branches of the conservatory in the West Bank and other music institutes such as Al-Kamandjati. Musicians and students from Gaza were unable to participate

due to the restrictions imposed by the Israeli occupation on movement to and from Gaza as part of its systematic blockade of the Strip. The conservatory launched the orchestra by means of a tour that included two shows attended by around 1,100 people at the Naseeb Shaheen Hall at Birzeit University in Ramallah and the Conference Palace in Bethlehem.



The show that was scheduled to take place in Jerusalem was postponed due to the Israeli occupation's refusal to grant entry permits to orchestra members. It was later organized on March 24, 2022, at the Faisal al-Husseini Hall in Yabous Cultural Center, with 340 attendees.

The establishment of the orchestra comes as part of the conservatory's ongoing efforts to contribute to the development of Arab music in Palestine and the Arab world. The Arab Orchestra has multiple goals that it aims to achieve. Firstly, it seeks to present a new Arab musical discourse to both the Arab and wider worlds. Secondly, it intends to correct the

course of the development of large ensembles in Arab music and give momentum to traditional Arab instrumental music. Thirdly, the orchestra aims to encourage the appreciation of Arab music and stimulate interest in it in Palestine and the Arab world. Additionally, it seeks to shed light on Palestinian music and historical and contemporary Palestinian composers, while also contributing to the development of Arab music departments at the conservatory and other music schools.

Palestine Youth Orchestra in Turkey



After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conservatory organized a tour of performances for the Palestine Youth Orchestra in collaboration with the Presidential Symphony Orchestra in Turkey from July 11-21, 2022, by special invitation from Mrs. Emine Erdogan and under the auspices of the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Mrs. Erdogan hosted members of the orchestra at a special dinner at the Presidential Palace Guesthouse, featuring a special musical performance by members of the orchestra's Arabic music specialists.

The orchestra brought together 84 young musicians from historic Palestine, the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, Egypt, Algeria, Jordan, the Netherlands, Spain, and Turkey on its tour. The tour included an intensive training workshop at the activities center in Birzeit for members residing in Palestine and the Golan Heights, followed by a training workshop for all orchestra members in Ankara, supervised by a group of Turkish musicians. The orchestra presented two outstanding performances at the Presidential Orchestra Hall in Ankara and the Ataturk Cultural Center in Istanbul, attended by approximately 1,600 people.



The orchestra was led by Cemi'i Can Deliorman, who serves as the conductor of the Turkish Presidential Symphony Orchestra. The musical program for the evening included a variety of compositions. This included a symphonic piece that merged folk melodies from both Turkey and Palestine called "Rhapsody of Anatolia" by Turkish composer Yusuf Algin and "Altoos Dance" by Palestinian composer Bishara al-Khell. Additionally, the orchestra performed classical pieces like "Kurdili Hicazkar Longa" by Turkish composer Kemani Tatyos Efendi and "Prisoner on a Long and Narrow Road" by Turkish composer Asik Veysel. The program also featured musical compositions by Suhail Khoury and Tamer Al-Sahouri. Finally, the evening concluded with a performance of the famous 9th Symphony by Czech composer Antonin Dvorak, known as "The New World Symphony".



DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM

بنات القدس

"Banat Al-Quds" performance

Banat al-Quds (Daughters of Jerusalem) choir and ensemble participated in a cross-border musical performance held simultaneously at the Faisal Al-Husseini Theater in the Yabous Cultural Center in Jerusalem and the Jacob Church in Oslo, with the Norwegian artist Pål Moddi Knutsen. Moddi is a Norwegian composer, musician, and activist whose contemporary popular music focuses on social justice and the right to protest. The band performed songs from their new album including songs about Jerusalem, Gaza, freedom, and hope. Modi sang the poem "Ana Yousef, ya Abi" ("I am Yousef, father") by the late poet Mahmoud Darwish, which he translated and sang in English. The group also performed concerts at the "Wain 'a Ramallah" festival, which is organized annually by the Ramallah municipality; at the Freedom Theater in Jenin; and at the Open University of Jerusalem's theater in Nablus. Banat Al-Quds was founded in 2013 and is dedicated to keep performing songs for its audience. They also participated in the album "Henna," which was produced by the Conservatory in cooperation with the Norwegian production company "KKV."

Sea and Freedom Festival 2021

The Edward Said National Conservatory of Music in Gaza organized the sixth edition of its annual "Sea and Freedom" festival, in cooperation with several community institutions and municipalities, between October 9-31, 2021. The festival kicked off with the "Music Bus" activity, which aimed to promote music in special shows targeting children and youth in Rafah, Khan Younis, Deir al-Balah, Nuseirat Camp, Gaza, Jabalia Camp, and Beit Hanoun. This was followed by three concerts featuring the Gaza Arabic Music Band, the Tarteem Drumming Group, and the Watar Band, organized in cooperation with the Palestinian Association for Development and Heritage Protection in Beit Lahia, the YMCA in Gaza, and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society in Khan Younis.



Jerusalem Nights

The conservatory organized "Jerusalem Nights" evenings under the slogan "Jerusalem: A city rich in resilience." It is a series of concerts that hosts Palestinian musicians from different parts of historic Palestine, aimed at enhancing the cultural, social, and economic life in the city of Jerusalem. The Jerusalem Nights events began in the first week of November 2021, and included five concerts organized at Faisal Al-Husseini Hall in the Yabous Cultural Center in Jerusalem. The concerts featured the "Dharbet Shams" band, "Naghham Al-Ams" group, "Maqamat Al-Quds" ensemble, musician Fadi Deeb, and a classical music evening by a group of gifted girls.



Christmas Nights 2021

After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conservatory resumed organizing Christmas Nights. This year's celebrations included various events in its different branches where students participated with Christmas performances in the presence of their families and friends. "Muranmu Al-Mahd" band participated in Christmas evenings organized in cooperation with churches and municipalities in the Bethlehem governorate, and the band presented a special performance at the tree lighting ceremony in Bethlehem city and a Christmas show at Faisal Al-Husseini Hall in Yabous Cultural Center in Jerusalem. The conservatory choir and "Al-Watariyat" band also performed musical shows during the tree lighting ceremony at the conservatory in Jerusalem. The conservatory's brass band gave performances in Ramallah in cooperation with Ramallah Municipality, and in Jerusalem in cooperation with Yabous Cultural Center. In Gaza, the conservatory's students and professors participated in a Christmas concert organized by the French Cultural Center in cooperation with the Holy Family Church in Gaza.



Nativity Singers Easter Tour

To celebrate the Holy Easter, the National Conservatory of Music, in collaboration with churches and municipal councils and supported by the Higher Presidential Committee of Churches Affairs in Palestine, organized an Easter tour for the Maranmu al-Mahd (Nativity Singers) band in Haifa, Beit Sahour, Jerusalem, Az-Zababdeh, Al-Taybeh, and Ramallah during the month of April 2022. The program included Byzantine hymns that express the passion of Christ, passing through the stages of crucifixion and resurrection.

Easter Hymns



Byzantine Hymns - Easter 2022



Launch of Maranmu al-Mahd Band
Palestine TV Report



Friends of the Conservatory take the stage

The conservatory organized three musical performances featuring some of its international friends who visited Palestine, including pianist Ingrid Carbone, double bass player Richard "Dobbs" Hartshorne, and pianist Claire Hammond. They led workshops for students and teachers at the conservatory's different branches, followed by musical performances for the general public in Jerusalem, Ramallah, and Bethlehem.



Ramadan Evenings

To celebrate the holy month of Ramadan, the conservatory organized Ramadan evenings in Jerusalem and Ramallah. In Jerusalem, the conservatory held an event in the conservatory's garden that included performances by the Jerusalem Arabic Music Ensemble with the artists Samira Kharouby and Hani As'ad, as well as a performance by the Mathhabjiyyeh Ensemble. The audience experienced the atmosphere of Ramadan in the capital with tarab and popular Ramadan songs that the audience participated with. In Ramallah, the "Naghm Al-Ams" ensemble held a Ramadan evening entitled "God of the Universe," which included a musical program dedicated to the month of Ramadan, including religious chants, tarab, and Ramadan songs.



Music productions

The conservatory released 11 musical productions and music videos in which several conservatory bands and students participated in various branches. They were shared on the conservatory's and its partners' social media platforms, receiving about half a million views in addition to interactions and share. Selections:



Henna Album Unveiled: A Night of Music and Celebration

The conservatory launched the "Henna" album in a music concert held at the Sharjah Hall in its Ramallah branch on November 20th, with the participation of several of the singers featured on the album, the production team, and media outlets. The album, which featured a group of female singers from different Palestinian cities and towns, includes eight Palestinian songs that express hope, resilience, resistance, and celebration of life. It was produced in collaboration with the Norwegian production company "KKV". The album topped the Transglobal World Music Chart in the World Music category for August 2021, competing with dozens of albums in this category, as the monthly list is selected through voting by a large group of international music critics, specialists, and experts. [Read more...](#)



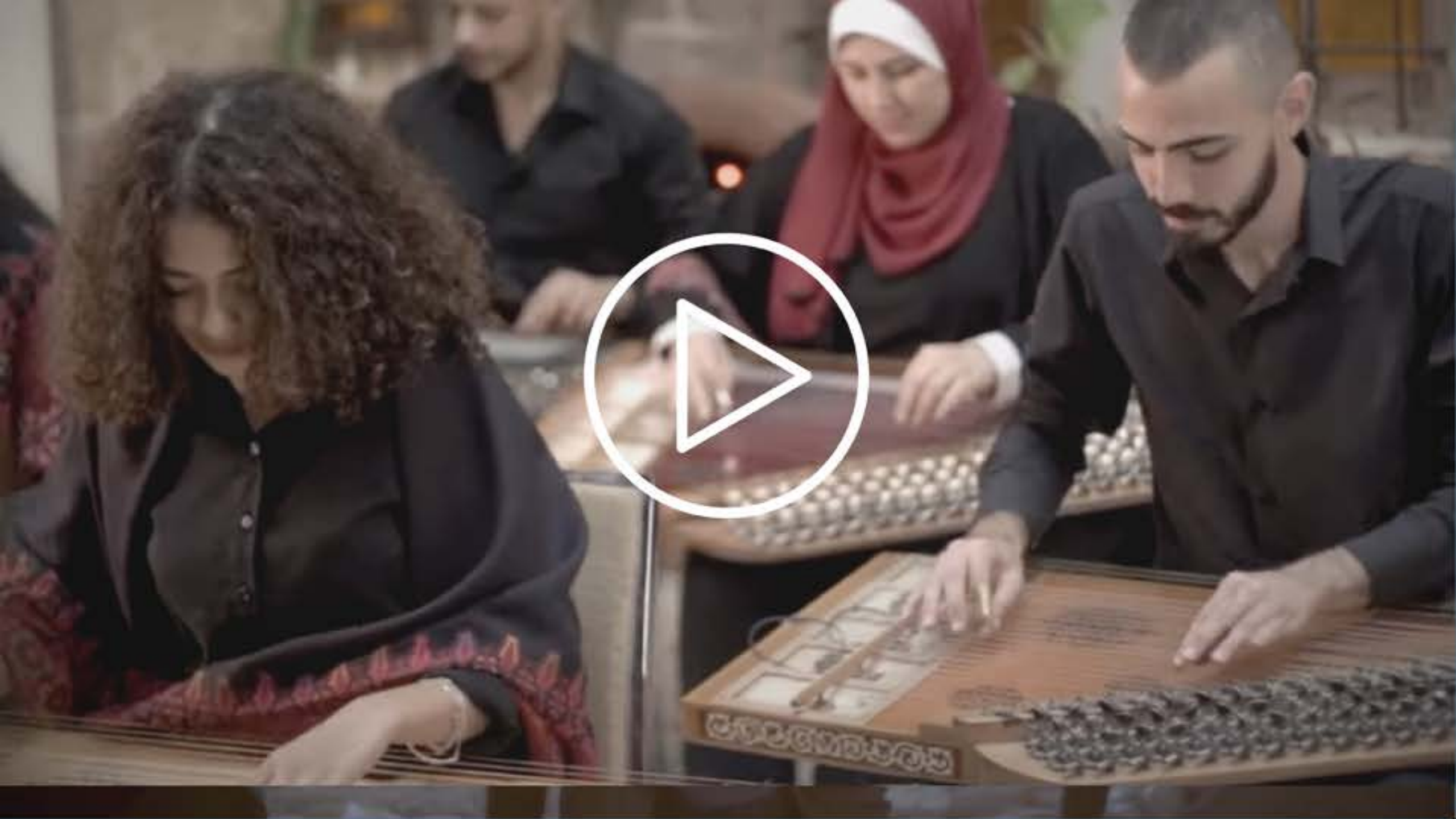
"Lil-Quds Salam"

This production, with lyrics by Fouad Srouji and music by Suhail Khoury, is part of the conservatory's continuous effort to support the Palestinian presence in Jerusalem under the difficult circumstances that the city is living through, and to enhance its role as a hub of Palestinian culture against the Israeli occupation's constant attempts to isolate it from the rest of Palestinian territory and to erase its Palestinian Arab identity. The song lyrics say: "Greetings to Jerusalem, a thousand greetings to the most special land and the best home, greetings to Jerusalem, and to the people in it who struggle against the armies of darkness."

The "Qanounjia" productions

Showcasing the distinguished Qanoun female students and musicians in Gaza, the "Qanounjia" band presented a traditional medley.





Anas Al-Najjar, Qanoun teacher and at the Gaza Music School, produced a new arrangement of the song "Shu Hal Ayyam," for the same group. The Qanounjia productions which were filmed and produced in Gaza received high number of views and interactions from the audience on social media platforms.

Drumming Delight

The "Tarteem" percussion ensemble, which includes students from various academic levels and is supervised by the percussion teacher at the Gaza Music School, Iyad Abu Leila, presented a special performance that was filmed and shared on social media, garnering significant engagement from the audience. This production came after the band won first place in the ensemble category of the Palestine National Music Competition, held in December 2021.



**More News
from the Conservatory**

The Palestine Youth Orchestra wins the Palestine Encouragement Award for Young Creatives in the Arts



The Palestine Youth Orchestra (PYO) has won the Palestine Encouragement Award for Young Creatives in the Arts (2021), which is overseen by the Palestinian Ministry of Culture. The orchestra, which is one of the main projects at the Conservatory, was established in 2004 with a vision to unite young Palestinian musicians from around the world into a single musical entity. Today, the orchestra consists of around 80 Palestinian musicians from the homeland, diaspora, friends of the orchestra, and the conservatory, making it a high-quality youth orchestra on par with international youth orchestras. The PYO has performed in Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Bahrain, Lebanon, Oman, Germany, France, Greece, Italy, the United Kingdom, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Turkey.



A new Chairman for the Conservatory's Supervisory Board



The Supervisory Board of the Conservatory has elected Mr. Ghassan Mustaklem as its chairman, succeeding Ms. Rima Tarazi, who has chaired the board since the conservatory's establishment in 1993. Mr. Mustaklem is a founding partner and General Manager of Omnipal Trading and Marketing since 1997, a partner in the Arab Company for Medical and Agricultural Products, and its administrative director since 2003. He is a community activist who contributed to the establishment of the Mar Yacoub Orthodox Youth in 1991, and is an active member of many local and international community institutions. He heads the Palestinian Pharmaceutical and Medical Supplies Union and has been a member since 2001. He is also the Secretary-General of the Mar Yacoub Cathedral Board of Trustees since 2014 and a member of the Rostropovich-Vishnevskaya Foundation based in Washington since 2016. Mr. Mustaklem served as Chairman of the Board of the Jerusalem Music Society for Education and Research from 2012 to 2020, and was elected Chairman of the Conservatory's Supervisory Board in the summer of 2022.



On this occasion, Ms. Tarazi addressed a farewell speech to the Conservatory's staff, friends, and partners, saying:

“Dear family and friends of the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music, Greetings.

“Today, I address you with feelings of happiness and sadness as I bid farewell to you as the Chairman of the Conservatory's Board of Trustees. I am pleased and satisfied to see your efforts bear fruit over nearly thirty years, making the Conservatory a shining beacon in the country's musical scene, with a large number of its graduates shining in the cultural milieu, and music becoming a vital part of the lives of our people. It brings joy and happiness to our souls during difficult times, nourishes our spirit, and expresses our identity, joys, and sorrows.

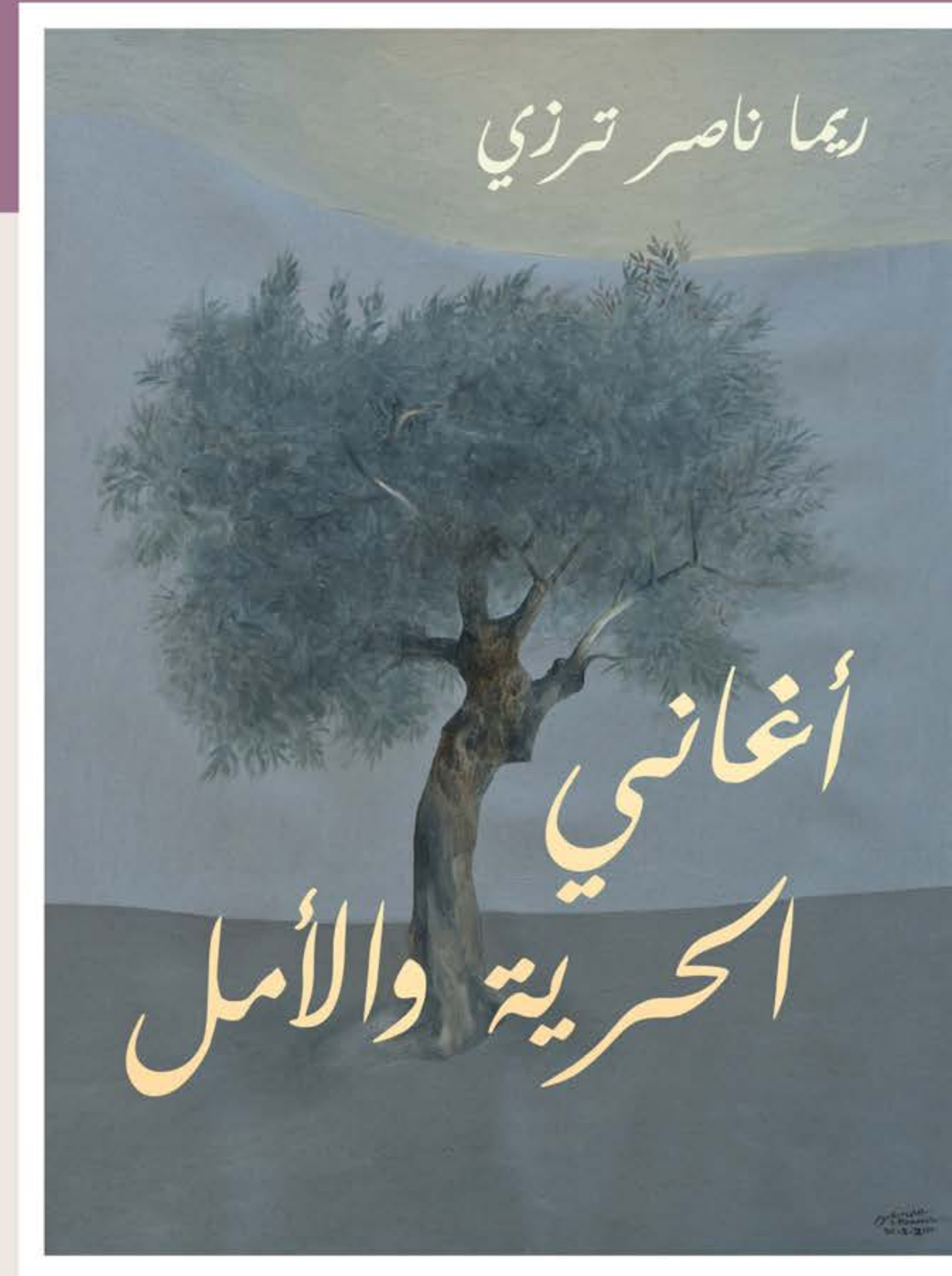
I am happy and grateful to leave the chairmanship of the board in the capable hands of our esteemed brother Ghassan Mustaklem, who, with his wisdom, motivation, and the efforts of his colleagues on the board and the staff of the conservatory, I am confident that the conservatory will continue to thrive and excel in the years to come.

“Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to everyone who has supported me during my tenure as president of the board of trustees, and to wish the conservatory continued success and growth in its mission of promoting the musical education and culture of our people.

“And on this occasion, I must recall with you my fellow founders: Salwa Tabri, a piano professor and the conductor of the Jerusalem Chorus; Amin Nasser, a music composer and professor at Birzeit University, who volunteered to manage the conservatory for two years; Nadia Aboushi, a music teacher who continued to teach piano at the conservatory for many years, producing a distinguished group of students; and Suhail Khoury, the general director of the conservatory, who has had and continues to have a significant and leading role in the development of the conservatory in general and its musical groups in particular.

“Finally, and not least, I would like to express my deep appreciation to Birzeit University for hosting the conservatory and providing its founding headquarters in Ramallah for several years. This prestigious educational institution has nurtured, since its inception, the fine arts and music in particular as one of the educational means to instill moral, national, and human values in its students.

“In conclusion, I offer my sincere thanks to the conservatory's friends everywhere who follow its journey with passion and contribute to its support on every occasion.”



Renovation of Ramallah Building •

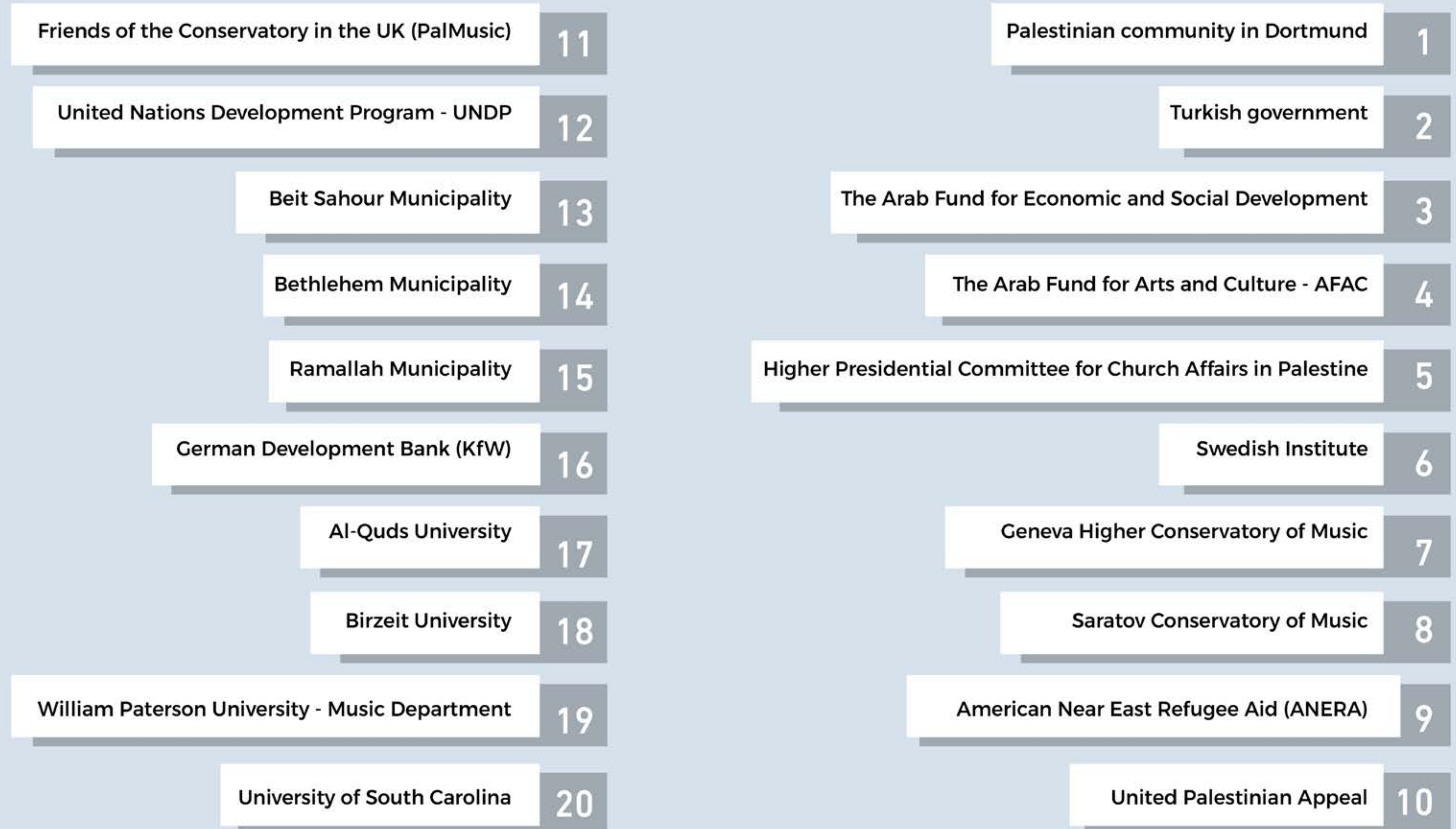


In the summer of 2022, the conservatory began renovating its branch building in Ramallah, with generous support from the German Development Bank through the UNDP/PAPP program. During the restoration work, the branch temporarily moved to the building of the Women's Nahda Association in Ramallah, to return to its headquarters after the completion of the renovation work, which is expected to be finished by the end of December 2022.

Supporters of the Conservatory 2021-2022

We express our deep gratitude and appreciation to all our partners, supporters, and friends - institutions and individuals - who have always made our work possible.

Institutions



Office of the President of the State of Palestine 31

Representative Office of the Federal Republic of Germany 32

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) 33

Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation - Arab Bank 34

Abdul Mohsin Al-Qattan Foundation 35

Palestine for Development Foundation 36

Cultura E Liberta Organization 37

Muna and Basem Hishmeh Foundation 38

Hope Foundation 39

Palestinian Ministry of Culture 40

Nahda Women Association 21

Nan H. Altmayer Charitable Trust 22

Habash Consulting Engineers 23

National Insurance Company 24

Kirkelig Kulturverksted (KKV) 25

Berklee College of Music 26

Juilliard School of Performing Arts 27

Belfort Conservatory 28

The Representative office of Switzerland in Ramallah 29

The Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority 30

Individuals

Mohammed Al-Alami 34

Muneeb Al-Masri 35

Mai Al-Maani 36

Mina Zeidan – GM Aluminum
Manufacturing and General Trading Co. 37

Nadia Sukhtian 38

Nadia Abboushi 39

Nidal Al-Shaka 40

Nadhmi, Laith, Taymour and Layla Auchy 41

Hisham Hamad 42

Wadie Andrawos 43

Yazeed Shamout 44

Simon Kuba 23

Sabih Al-Masri - Palestine
Telecommunications Company 24

Tareq Al-Jundi 25

Abla Naser 26

Omar Abdulhadi 27

Ghassan Mustaklem 28

Clare Hammond 29

Colin Green 30

Lorraine Leblanc 31

Lena Saleh 32

Maximilian Jaber 33

David Shove 12

Dima Milenova 13

Rakan Rushidat 14

Riad Kamal 15

Richard "Dobbs" Hartshorne 16

Rima Tarazi 17

Zahi Khouri 18

Zahi Anabtawi 19

Samia Khoury 20

Sahar Kardoush 21

Samir Abdulhadi 22

Inger Sandberg 1

Ingrid Carbone 2

Ahmad Al-Khatib 3

Osama Tarazi 4

Osama, Mounir, Marwan, and
Nabeel Tarazi 5

Agnès Baetens 6

Alberto Nones 7

Basem Hishmeh 8

Basem Khoury 9

Johannes Schittny 10

Habib Thaher Al-Abbas 11

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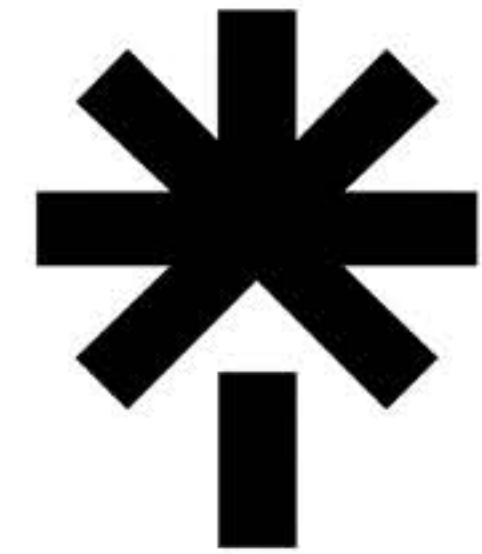
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