****

**PRESS RELEASE 27.11.17**

**Beirut & Beyond International Music Festival 2017: an edition louder than ever**

*“Once again, this year’s line-up confirms that it is still possible to create music differently, independently and beautifully”*

*– Amani Semaan, Festival director*

Following a successful European tour, taking Lebanese bands Kinematik and The Great Departed to stages across Europe, [#BBIMF2017](https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/bbimf2017) returns to Beirut with a fifth edition that promises an exceptional line-up of artists guaranteed to multiply musical pleasures and fantasies.

Guest-curated by Egyptian musician and composer Maurice Louca, opening with Lebanese star Yasmine Hamdan, the 2017 edition of BBIMF will take place from Thursday 7 through Sunday 10 December. With no less than 10 concerts by celebrated and yet to be discovered artists from Lebanon, Norway, Morocco, Egypt, USA, Iraq, UK, South Africa and Oman; “this year’s selection pushes our boundaries and what we are used to, combining mastery with humour, traditional sound with edgy experimentation” says guest curator.

BBIMF17 also proposes a programme for local and international professionals, enabling them to meet artists from across the Arab region. The program includes two public discussions and a highlight session entitled “Meet the artists” where the festival is selecting a number of emerging artists for one-to-one speed meetings with international delegates.

This year, the festival is hosted by The Grand Factory, KED and Dar el Nimer for Arts and Culture and as festival director Amani Semaan puts it “the diversity and novelty of the artistic program incites us, every year, to revisit Beirut and invite audiences to see the city through music, with fresh new eyes, every evening”.

**DAY-BY-DAY PROGRAM**

**THURSDAY 7**

**THE GRAND FACTORY**

YASMINE HAMDAN (LB) 8:30 PM

HAT (MA) 10:30 PM

**FRIDAY 8**

**DAR EL NIMER FOR ARTS & CULTURE**

TOURING IN TODAY’S WORLD Discussion 4:00 PM

Talking Music with Yasmine

Hamdan Artist Talk 6:00 PM

**KED**

LYNN ADIB QUARTET (SY) 8:30 PM

AMAL WAQAR (OM) 10:00 PM

RICHARD DAWSON (UK) 11:00 PM

**SATURDAY 9**

**DAR EL NIMER FOR ARTS & CULTURE**

MEET THE ARTISTS For registered professionals only 11:00 AM

MUSIC FESTIVALS: RECIPES FOR SUCCESS Discussion 4:00 PM

**KED**

PANSTARRS (EG) 8:30 PM

KID FOURTEEN (LB) 10:00 PM

POREST (IQ/US) 11:00 PM

**SUNDAY 10**

**KED**

DINA EL WEDIDI (EG) 8:30 PM

BROTHER MOVES ON (ZA) 10:00 PM

**CONTACT INFO**

Call: +9613944126 | Whatsapp: +4915213874131 | info@bekult.com

**USEFUL LINKS**

High resolution photos [here](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/thz6g23gmn752wh/AABZXzvmlw-MY-2gF2C9gPFYa?dl=0) | BBIMF 2017 trailer [here](https://www.facebook.com/Beirut.and.Beyond/videos/865591866942817/) | Artistic program on Facebook [here](https://www.facebook.com/events/119362185440132/) | Professional program on Facebook [here |](https://www.facebook.com/events/130463304295136/) Ticketing info [here](https://goo.gl/sSQByZ) | BBIMF 2017 Playlist [here](https://soundcloud.com/beirutandbeyond/sets/bbimf2017-playlist)

**ABOUT BBIMF 2017**

Dedicated to promoting the Arab region’s independent music with emphasis on strong artistic merit, Beirut & Beyond was founded in 2013, in partnership with Oslo World, and quickly succeeded in positioning itself as a key player on the map of regional festivals and showcases. As a platform for meetings, showcases and exchange, Beirut & Beyond encourages networking and collaboration. It furthermore aims to offer solutions to the urgent needs of the young Arab independent music scene, such as the necessity to provide outlets for its bustling artistic productions. In line with BBIMF’s strategy to develop the festival as a platform for innovation and a support system for artists, and following the great success of the collaboration with guest curator Wael Koudaih (aka Rayess Bek) in 2016, BBIMF extended the 2017 invitation to Cairo-based Egyptian composer and musician Maurice Louca. Hailed as an “electronic wizard” by the BBC and “an exciting underground musician… with a post-everything attitude” by The Guardian, Maurice is inspired by many influences, from psychedelia to Egyptian shaabi. His second album, “Benhayyi Al-Baghbaghan”, was released on Nawa Recordings in 2014 and shattered the conventions of musical and cultural labelling. As well as being the co-founder of the bands Bikya, Alif and Dwarves of East Agouza, Maurice has lent his sound to numerous projects, composing for theatre, film and contemporary dance. A long-time collaborator with BBIMF, Maurice performed in the first edition of the festival in 2013, and participated in the BBIMF European tour in 2013 and 2014.

|  |
| --- |
| **ARTISTIC PROGRAM** |
| **THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER 2017 | THE GRAND FACTORY** |

**YASMINE HAMDAN | Lebanon [8:30PM]**

Lebanese singer-songwriter Yasmine Hamdan first emerged onto the music scene with Soapkills, the pioneering indie electronic band she founded along with Zeid Hamdan in Beirut in the late ’90s. The band gradually acquired an emblematic status and, to this day, Yasmine is considered an underground icon throughout the Arab world. The duo released two rare EPs after forming in 1997 before their first album, *Bater*, in 2001. After two more albums, *Cheftak* (2002) and *Enta Fen* (2005), the group split, with Yasmine Hamdan relocating to France. Yasmine then teamed up with Madonna’s producer Mirwais, and under the Y.A.S. moniker, recorded the album *Arabology*, released in 2009 by Universal France. In 2012, Yasmine joined forces with Nouvelle Vague’s Marc Collin to produce her debut solo album, *Ya Nass* which received wide critical acclaim across Europe, North America and the Arab region. Her unique vision is fully realised in her latest album *Al Jamilat*, which she jointly produced with UK producers Luke Smith (Foals, Depeche Mode, Lily Allen) and Leo Abrahams (Brian Eno, Carl Barât) and that was released by Brussels-based label Crammed Discs.

[yasminehamdan.com](http://www.yasminehamdan.com/) | soundcloud.com/yasminehamdan | Facebook: @yasminehamdanofficial

**HAT | Morocco [10:30PM]**

HAT is Hatim Belyamani, the Moroccan-American musician and multi-media artist behind the Remix-Culture project, a non-profit artist collective creating links between global traditional musics and digital remix art, by travelling to and identifying a country’s various musical traditions and then recording, filming, producing and remixing them. The project began in Hatim’s native Morocco and later expanded to other countries. Hatim has performed his live video remixes at Lincoln Center NY and festivals in Morocco and Europe. The show during BBIMF2017 will be his first in the region.

hat-music.video | soundcloud.com/officerfishdumplings | Facebook: @HAT.official

|  |
| --- |
| **FRIDAY 8 DECEMBER 2017 | KED** |

**LYNN ADIB QUARTET | Syria [9:00PM]**

BBIMF 2017 artist in residency

Lynn Adib is a Syrian singer born in Damascus, where she was initiated at a young age to Byzantine chanting within the "Choir of Joy" of *Our Lady of Damascus* church. While learning the flute at the *National Conservatory of Damascus*, she discovers jazz and gets seduced by its freedom and complexity. Thus begins for Lynn a musical journey bringing together traditional Arabic music (Maqâm), the religious songs of ancient Syria, and jazz. In 2009, Lynn moves to Paris where she enrolls at the *American School of Modern Music*, before pursuing studies in vocal jazz at the *Conservatoire à Rayonnement Régional (CRR)* in Paris. That is where she meets the musicians with whom she will create her quartet, working on original compositions where jazz, Arabic singing, contemporary music and traditional sacred and profane Syrian music blend together. Lynn Adib’s voice and career embodies this new generation of musicians from the Middle East, enamored of that jazz-like freedom, and of creating beyond all cultural and stylistic boundaries. Lynn Adib is currently preparing her first album with the Quartet to be released in 2018.

soundcloud.com/lynn-adib | Facebook: @lynnadibmusic

**AMAL WAQAR | Oman [10:00PM]**

Amal Waqar is a dynamic young Omani/American oud player, composer, producer, and activist. Raised in Muscat, Oman, Amal first engaged with music at fifteen when she began playing oud. Soon, she was composing works for traditional and non-traditional ensembles. At seventeen, making national headlines as the first woman and

youngest oud player to perform a debut recital, Amal attracted audiences from

across Muscat’s social, cultural, and economic circles. Amal currently divides her time between the United States, where she studies with oud master Simon Shaheen at Berklee College of Music in Boston, and Oman.

amalwaqar.com | soundcloud.com/amal-waqar | Facebook: @amalwaqarmusic

**RICHARD DAWSON | UK [11:00PM]**

Richard Dawson is a skewed troubadour at once charming and abrasive. His shambolically virtuosic guitar playing stumbles from music-hall tune-smithery to spidery swatches of noise-colour, swathed in amp static and teetering on the edge of feedback. His songs are both chucklesome and tragic, rooted in a febrile imagination that references worlds held dear and worlds unknown. Both live and on record Dawson is a barrage of musical expression and personality, and the visceral power of his voice against the lurching modality of his guitar lines conjure false memories of Tim Buckley and Richard Young’s duetting with Sir Richard Bishop and Zoot Horn Rollo.

amalwaqar.com | soundcloud.com/amal-waqar | Facebook: @amalwaqarmusic

|  |
| --- |
| **SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER 2017 | KED** |

**PANSTARRS | Egypt [8:30PM]**

PanSTARRS began midway through 2012 when Youssef Abouzeid started recording music in his bedroom. He released two EPs and one LP as solo productions, and a new album with the band released in 2017. After Youssef's debut release he started performing live and was joined by Hazem El-Shamy (drums) and Ismail Arafa (bass). The trio went on to write new material in the studio, redefining PanSTARRS as a rock'n'roll band rather than just a bedroom project. Later Ismail and Hazem left the band and were replaced by long time collaborator Nader Ahmed (bass) and Karim El-Ghazoly (drums). PanSTARRS’ sound draws from post-punk, electronic music and krautrock to express a balanced sense of organized chaos within intermittent love melodies.

soundcloud.com/panstarrs | Facebook: @Panstarrs

**KID FOURTEEN | Lebanon [10:00PM]**

Khodor Ellaik is a Lebanese musician currently working under the solo moniker Kid Fourteen. Between 2010 and 2014, Ellaik was the frontman of punk band Beirut Scum Society and short-lived post-punk/no-wave outfit Friendly Faces. Following these ill-fated experiences, Ellaik adopted a solo aesthetic blending punk sensibilities and noise-pop elements. His debut album “Dream Kids Never Sleep” was released in 2016. Khodor's most recent project is The Cripple, an electronic/free jazz duo with Alex Zhang Hungtai (ex Dirty Beaches/Last Lizard).

soundcloud.com/kidfourteen | Facebook: @kidfourteen14

**POREST | Iraq / USA [11:00PM]**

Across decades, Porest (aka Mark Gergis) has issued a trail of confounding agitprop sound art, post-globalised hate-pop, diabolical radio dramas and carefully re-arranged realities on multiple labels. His blatant embezzlement of human syntax and cultural misunderstanding broadcasts vital mixed messages. Since 2003, with the Sublime Frequencies label, an ethnographic music and film collective out of Seattle – and more recently with his own label, Sham Palace – Mark has shared decades of research of scores of archived international music, film footage and sound recordings from the Middle East, South East Asia and elsewhere.

soundcloud.com/porest | Facebook: @porestsound

|  |
| --- |
| **SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER 2017 | KED** |

**DINA EL WEDIDI | Egypt [8:30PM]**

With her powerful, nuanced voice and authentic style, Egyptian singer and composer Dina El Wedidi has spent the past six years carving out her place in the Egyptian music scene. While studying oriental languages at the University of Cairo, Dina joined El Warsha Theatre Troupe, exploring Egyptian folklore and performing in such unlikely places as a Cairo prison. In 2011, she formed her own band and became one of the first members of the Nile Project, a project in collaboration with musicians from all of the Nile Countries, with touring through East Africa and the US. In 2012, Dina became a Rolex Program award winner mentored by legendary Brazilian songwriter Gilberto Gil. In 2013, they performed together at the Cairo Jazz Festival, and he advised her on her debut album Turning Back (Tedawar W’Tergaa), guest performing on the song “El Leil”. Dina also performed at TEDGlobal in Scotland, participated in workshops with Grammy award winner Fathy Salama, Kamilya Jubran, and has worked with the Mazaher Ensemble in Cairo. She has performed throughout the Arab region and Europe.

dinaelwedidi.com | soundcloud.com/dina-elwedidi | Facebook: @DinaElWedidi.Official

**BROTHER MOVES ON | South Africa [10:00PM]**

Having completed three EPs and one full length album (A New Myth) the collective are the first band to get signed as performance artists by a commercial gallery in South Africa, namely the Goodman Gallery. The name The Brother Moves On is a grammatical misconfiguration of *The Brother Mouzone*, a fictional character in the American television drama series [The Wire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Wire). The band are trailblazers being the first band to complete the Southern African touring circuit named Igoda in their DIY fashion in 2014. This push has seen them grace stages in Germany opening for William Kentridge, France opening for Saul Williams, Norway opening for Hugh Masekela and being regulars in the London underground scene sharing stages with Yusef Kamaal, Shabaka Hutchings and United Vibrations.

soundcloud.com/thebrothermoveson | Facebook: @thebrothermovesonband

|  |
| --- |
| **PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM | DAR EL NIMER FOR ARTS & CULTURE** |
| **FRIDAY 8 DECEMBER 2017**  |

**Touring in today’s world | Discussion**

**16.00-17.30 – Public - Language: English/Arabic**

*Moderated by Cindy Mezher (British Council Lebanon)*

*Speakers: Rima Mismar (AFAC, Lebanon), Imed Alibi (Journees musicales de Carthage, Tunisia), Tarek Yamani (Artist & founder of Beirut Speaks Jazz, Lebanon), Shermine Sawalha (Malahi, Jordan)*

Some of the greatest art may be art which we will never be able to see or present. Restrictions on touring and dissemination of artistic work have always existed and the cultural sector has been trying to find solutions for decades. Today, with ever tightening resources, taking an artistic project on tour never seemed more expensive, to say the least. How can we, as festivals, local and international support organisations and artists, work to ensure that valuable art produced elsewhere gets the chance to reach a wider audience? What common tools and techniques can we utilise to counter the effects of challenging border conditions? And how is our focus on international markets affecting the development (or lack thereof) of local/national touring circuits?

**Talking Music with Yasmine Hamdan | Artist Talk**

**18.00-19.00 – Public - Language: Arabic**

*Moderated by Pierre Abi saab | In partnership with Dar el Nimer*

BBIMF proposes itself as a platform that allows a different discovery of the artists. This conversation between Yasmine Hamdan and Pierre Abi Saab is an invitation to immerse in Yasmine’s relationship with music and its past, present and future transformations.

|  |
| --- |
| **SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER 2017**  |

**MEET THE ARTISTS [11.00-14.00] – For registered professionals only**

In 2016, ten artists were selected for this session and two of them (Kinematik and the Great Departed) became part of BBIMF tour 2017, enchanting audiences across Switzerland, France, Norway, UK and Holland. BBIMF, this year, continues to confirm its commitment to emerging projects of great artistic quality and selects 12 artists from across the Arab region to have short meetings with visiting professionals. The meetings aim to present upcoming projects and discuss possibilities of local and international collaboration.

BBIMF 2017 selection:

Adham Zidan (EG), Alko B (LB), Chereen Abdo (EG), AryJan - Ary Sarhan (SY), Flugen - Maya Aghniadis (LB), KHOUM (LB), Liliane Chlela (LB), Makram Aboul Hosn (LB), Massar Egbary (EG), Postcards (LB), Random House (JO), Telepoetic (EG)

**Music Festivals: recipes for success | Discussion**

**16.00-17.30 – Public - Language: English**

*Moderated by Alexandra Petropoulos (Songlines Magazine, UK)*

*Speakers: Peter Hvalkof (Roskilde Festival, Denmark), Alexandra Archetti Stølen (Oslo world, Norway), Amani Semaan (BBIMF, Lebanon), Bill Bragin (The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi, UAE / GlobalFEST, USA), Karim Ghattas (Liban Jazz, Lebanon)*

There’s a story behind every festival; whether it starts by “coincidence” or as a manifestation of an elaborate public policy. Festivals also continuously evolve, expand and transform. One thing most international music festivals agree upon is that everything is about trial and error and that every edition is a learning curve. This session aims to present some success stories, tips and tricks of what has been tested and worked for festivals of various scales and in different countries.

|  |
| --- |
| **BBIMF 2017 RESIDENCY** |
| **Onomatopoeia The Music Hub** |

**LYNN ADIB QUARTET IN RESIDENCY**

*In partnership with Onomatopoeia the Music Hub*

Lynn Adib is a Syrian singer born in Damascus, where she was initiated at a young age to Byzantine chanting within the "Choir of Joy" of *Our Lady of Damascus* church. While learning the flute at the *National Conservatory of Damascus*, she discovers jazz and gets seduced by its freedom and complexity. In 2009, Lynn moves to Paris where she enrolls at the *American School of Modern Music*, before pursuing studies in vocal jazz at the *Conservatoire à Rayonnement Régional (CRR)* in Paris. That is where she meets the musicians with whom she will create her quartet, working on original compositions where jazz, Arabic singing, contemporary music and traditional sacred and profane Syrian music blend together. Lynn Adib’s voice and career embodies this new generation of musicians from the Middle East, enamored of that jazz-like freedom, and of creating beyond all cultural and stylistic boundaries. Lynn Adib is currently preparing her first album with the Quartet to be released in 2018.

*Lynn Adib Quartet will be in residency in* [*Onomatopoeia*](http://www.onomatopoeia.me) *in Beirut prior to their BBIMF concert.*