



بيت الموسيقى
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Beit Almusica

Beit Al-Musica is a non-for-profit NGO established in 1999 by a group of young artists. Our mission is to promote cultural rights of the Palestinian minority in Israel, to enrich society through the development of musical frameworks, to open prospects for artists, and to interact musically with other cultures.

Need Statement

Palestinian citizens have suffered from the total absence of professional musical frameworks and infrastructure since the establishment of the State of Israel, which has hindered their cultural growth and the development of music as a professional art. This prevents the society from flourishing as music addresses one's culture, one's society, and one's individuality. Music, indeed is very much tied to society and what a person experiences from that society.

In addition to that, the socio-economic situation of the Palestinian society in Israel is alarming. The Or Commission Report pointed out that "poverty in the Arab sector is more severe than in the entire Israeli society" and fuels the sense of deprivation. The gravity of the situation becomes clear when we take a close look at the statistics: The percentage of Palestinian families under the poverty line rose from 48.4% in 2003, to 49.9% in 2004. In other words, one-half of all Palestinian families live in poverty. Even more serious is the state of Palestinian children, of approximately 60% of which are poor. Notably, these data did not include the enclaves of deep poverty among Arab Bedouins; inclusion of this data would have exacerbated the picture even further.

Giving Palestinian children and youth an opportunity to excel in music can break the cycle of disempowerment, provide with constructive alternatives for children and youth for self-expression, and promote the development of music as a professional art. Musical education will also benefit Palestinian children and youth in developing other basic skills such as concentration, counting, listening, and cooperation while also promoting understanding of language, improving the ability to recall information, and creating an environment more conducting to learning in other areas.

Beit Al Musica believes that the Palestinian community in Israel is entitled to equal opportunities for cultural and musical expression, to have their own cultural identity, and to benefit from a musical education at high professional standards. Providing this rich cultural experience will ensure Palestinians in Israel to feel proud and confident of their heritage thus reinforcing their sense of belonging to society.

Our Goals

- ✓ Create and reinforce professional musical frameworks and infrastructure;
- ✓ Preserve the culture and heritage of Arab and oriental music;
- ✓ Develop musical culture and increase Palestinian community's awareness of music appreciation and empower them to explore a variety of musical genres;
- ✓ Open opportunities for the most marginalized to have access to professional music education.

Our Programs

Conservatory: This is the first and only Arab institution that enables Palestinian children and youth in Israel to receive musical education at a high academic level and to pursue an academic degree in music. After completing all the stages of the academic program, students are entitled to take the 'Bagrut' matriculation exam, in addition to receiving a certificate of graduation that enables them to study music at a university or music academy. More than 240 hundred children (5-18 years old) benefit from these programs annually.

Festival: Our yearly festival has significantly contributed to the revival of Palestinian and Arab cultural heritage and to raising the awareness of the importance of music as part of our cultural wealth and as an important artistic expression. In addition, this program exposes the community to the world of music with all its richness and horizons through high quality musical events. The festival team organizes 4-5 seasonal concerts annually, hosting local and international artists and unique musical groups specializing in different musical genres like classical, Arabic classical, jazz and ethnic music. Our audience counts more than 6,000 persons per year.

Community Outreach: This program addresses the acute need of artistic events and cultural expression through different activities at high quality standards. Our aim is to expose the Palestinian community to the world of music, to open opportunities for the most marginalized to have access to professional musical frameworks, and to provide the Palestinian society with constructive alternatives for self-expression. We reach more than 1,200 beneficiaries through different activities.

Management, Staff and Community Support

Beit Al Musica counts with a committed Board of Directors, four permanent staff members, and 25 professional Arab and Jewish musicians and teachers with different specializations. In addition, we count with broad community support, including civil society organizations, the business community, public institutions, and opinion leaders.

Beit Al Musica is one of the few civil society organizations in that is able to cover a significant part of its expenses through local income and fees for services provided to our target groups. This gives Beit Al Musica a significant stability and independence to make sure that our projects will continue on the short and long term.

Why Music?

Involvement in music teaches basic skills such as concentration, [counting](#), listening, and [cooperation](#) while also promoting understanding of [language](#), improving the ability to [recall](#) information, and creating an environment more conducive to learning in other areas. Education in itself is a cultural tool by which societies prosper and flourish. In this perspective, music plays a significant role. After all, music addresses one's culture, one's society, indeed one's individuality.

Contact Person:

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Support our Work:

If you would like to help us promote cultural rights of the Palestinian minority in Israel and to enrich society through the development of musical frameworks, you could send a donation to our address or contact us. In September 2005,

Beit Al Musica was recognized as a public charity for the purpose of donations according to article 46 of the Income Tax Ordinance, therefore any donations are entitled to a tax return of 35%.



Recent Achievements:

- ✓ On 29 July 2008, Beit Al Musica and the Mossawa Center hosted, for the first time in Israel, the Palestinian Youth Orchestra and the Collegium Musicum Orchestra of the University of Bonn, Germany. Under the leadership of Conductor Walter Mik, this concert is part of a series of concerts the orchestras are jointly performing in Ramallah, Amman and Damascus under the program title of “My Song is Jerusalem.”
- ✓ The concert of Trio Joubran (oud players), accompanied by Youssef Hbeish on percussions on May 3 in Haifa was a great success. The Haifa Auditorium, with a capacity of 1,200 places, was sold out and more than 150 people were not able to participate. The event was widely covered by local and international media and feedback from the audience was overwhelmingly positive.
- ✓ Three Beit Al Musica students won prizes in the Marcel Khalife Music Competition in April 2006, a prestigious international musical competition organized by the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music. This competition's objective is to “encourage and challenge creativity and excellence in music among young Palestinian musicians”. Two of the prize-winning students have scholarships that enable them to study at Beit Al Musica.
- ✓ Seven students sat for their "Bagrut", the Israeli matriculation exam in Music. This is an accomplishment in itself, as Beit Al Musica is the first certified Arab conservatory in Israel, and was able to provide the academic structure and education for these students to be able to take such a step.
- ✓ Beit Al Musica launched in 2006 the Youth Oriental Music Ensemble and Orchestra, the first and only Arab orchestra in Israel. Lyonid Cooperman leads 16 students under 18 years playing violin and cello. Since then, the orchestra has participated in several festivals and events in Israel where it has shown a high standard of performance and musical excellence. Such events include the Youth Orchestras' Conference held in the Beit Hivanim Conservatory in Emek Yizrael in March 2007 and musical events that took place in Afula, Givataem, Carmiel, Hod Ha Sharon, Keshet Ilon, Nazareth and Jerusalem, among others.
- ✓ Beit Al Musica has hosted international artists from various countries such as France, Belgium, USA, Holland and Turkey, who performed with local artists.
- ✓ In 2007, Beit Al Musica moved to a new building offering adequate facilities for professional musical education. This new premises have a concert hall with seating capacity for 200 people, a teaching studio, music library, an electronic music room, and 15 classrooms. This was possible thanks to a private sponsor, who supported 70% of the expenses.
- ✓ Beit Al Musica has gained the confidence of international institutions in Israel. Artistic cooperation has been developed with the French Cultural Institute, the British Council, and the German Goethe Institute resulting in several co-productions and joint projects.
- ✓ Beit Al Musica has been successful in building strong cooperation with a number of local organizations and institutions.
- ✓ Beit Al Musica has participated in events for people with special needs.