



Edito —

MARSEILLE, DAMASCUS, BEIRUT, AMMAN INTERNATIONAL CROSSOVER-WORKSHOPS

Bayate is a newsletter published quarterly in French, Arabic and English in both an electronic and a paper version. It is a pilot publication conceived within the framework of an international cooperation programme called OrMuz which has been set up by A.M.I. - Centre National de Développement pour les Musiques Actuelles, based in Marseille, in close collaboration with the French Cultural Centre in Damascus (Syria), the French Cultural Mission in Beirut (Lebanon) and the Cultural Linguistic Cooperation Centre in Amman (Jordan).

In its present form, Bayate could be described as an exercise in real conditions. Aiming at collecting and spreading out free factual and concrete / practical information not only about the Middle-Eastern popular music sector and contemporary artistic forms but also broadly speaking any information fruitful to the Middle-Eastern musical and cultural field. From 2005 this newsletter will be perpetuated and passed on to Middle-Eastern operators.

The task of collecting and spreading information represents one of the cooperation programme axis. It is closely linked to the other sections of the programme.

The letter is mainly drawn up by the trainees of a development and support unit to emerging cultural actors operators called "CADO" (cellule d'aide au développement des opérateurs).

It is also open to other editors as for example :

⇒ participants in other training sessions ranging from specialists in computer assisted music, stage managers in the field of performing arts, singers and webmasters

⇒ other partners

⇒ people who are not specially involved neither in the programme nor in specific Middle-Eastern geographical context but who are willing to exchange information.

Our programme aims, amongst other objectives, at developing a quite natural and automatic propensity to set up networks, to exchange information on a free basis, to push professional development. It seems that the sector development is mainly hindered by problems related to these specific ways of working rather than to a hypothetical lack of technical competences. Our objective is not to teach methods but rather to provide the keys for a better articulation and circulation of the professional competences.

Bayate, conceived by young Middle-Eastern professionals for their own networks and considered as such by the partner institutions, is the symbol of our action.

Ferdinand Richard
A.M.I. Director

CULTURAL SPACES

AMMAN (JORDAN)

Makan, House of Expressions

Makan, House of Arts, alternative cultural space dedicated to contemporary arts. The space open to interactivity and free artistic expression welcomes young emerging artists from Jordan and neighbouring regions. The aim is to create an open forum to exchange ideas. The aim of this network is to give birth to artistic projects and exhibitions/performances in and outside Makan.

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METIN (LEBANON)

Centre d'Animation Culturelle Francophone (C.A.C.F)

Created by the Association "Mots, Arts et Lumières", this unique cultural space based in the Northern Meltin Region, consists of a 150 square metres office and a garden. Open to visitors since 2001 thanks to the support of a French NGO based in Metin called "La Maison de la Sagesse et de la Municipalité ", the Centre programmes regular activities like:

- Storytelling (every two weeks in the Library)
- La Fête des Equinoxes de la Paix
- La Fête de la Musique
- Cinema (every two weeks, Cine Caravane in collaboration with the French Cultural Centre in Beirut)
- Photography
- Summer workshops (singing, music, painting ...)

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EMERGING CULTURAL OPERATORS

AMMAN (JORDAN)

The female singer Sawsan Habib, teacher for the singing training of our OrMuz programme, has created, together with Lama Hazboun, Jordanian manager and Nigel Abdelghani, musician and graphic designer, a small association providing services to artists in the field of music and singing.

Lama Hazboun offers to manage the professional careers of emerging talented artists in order to help them in professionalization (producers, touring research ...).

Sawsan Habib also manages the video editing unit (documentaries, animation movies, short movies).

Nibal Abdelghani offers her savoir-faire in graphic design.

The members of this team share and ... their professional competencies in order to provide the best service to their customers.

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Fungusworkshop.com

BEIRUT (LEBANON)

This agency's work is organised on the principle of the exchange of professional and logistic knowledge.

Fungusworkshops.com is greatly interested in projects concerning music (mainly the rising generation of Lebanese musicians) and the publication of "*bande dessinée*" comic books and short animation films.

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Tél +961 1 901 256 – Web site : www.fungusworkshop.com

Chichprod

Chichprod is a work group of young artistic directors, photographers, graphic artists, designers and musicians who work on underground production and new forms of musical expression that are highly appreciated by young people in their region.

Chichprod is the driving force behind the group Aksser and Rayess-beck for music publishing and production.

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Tél +961 3 756 083 - Site Web : www.rayessbek.com

ARTISTS

AMMAN (JORDAN)

Nidal Abd Alghani

Nidal Abd Alghani cultivates up-to-date influences and experimentation while still keeping the bases of Arab music as the keystone of his innovative work.

"I like listening to different styles of music. That's how I developed a multicultural approach to music and realised that experimentation has no borders or limits."

His creative work reflects his aim of developing modernity within an evolving culture. He is currently working on his first album.

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Karlouma

This musical experiment started in Palestine and then emigrated like so many others. The aim of this group of musicians from different cultures is to present oriental music from a new viewpoint .

Karlouma works on oriental music to modernise it while respecting its heritage and also adding a blend of rhythms and voices.

The group is made up of Ahmed Al Khatib on the *oud* [arab lute], Nasser Salameh on percussion, Ernest Al Sakka on bass, and Wadicho on guitar.

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Alaa Diab, electronic sound engineering

Alaa Diab's music is the result of the alchemy combining technology, voice and musical heritage: based on traditional instrumental music, it experiments with the possibilities provided by new technology for developing innovative sounds.

"The computer enables me to think of the origin of things: the origin of the voice, interaction and music. I work on electronic improvisation because it enables me to go beyond the predetermined, purely technical aspect of computer-aided music. My project could be summed up as an attempt to humanise technology."

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BEIRUT (LEBANON)



Rayess-beck

After recently leaving the group Aksser, Wael Kodeih (a participant in the OrMuz programme's computer-aided music workshop) now sings solo, still with the same "rough" tone and the same commitment and protest. His first album, *Am Bihki Bilsoukout*, is self-produced by Chichprod.

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DAMASCUS (SYRIA)



Omar Harb

After studying for four years at *Berklee College of Music* (USA), Omar Harb returned to Syria to work on various contemporary music production and composition projects (orchestra, groups, music for television and films, and sound engineering). Omar, a top-level professional bass guitarist, now plays with Racha Rizk and Ibrahim Sleimani in the group, ITAR CHAMEH ...

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MA.B.R.A.D.

This group of six artists with varied talents plays oriental blues, funk and Latino jazz. The group takes inspiration from young people's everyday life, expressing it in a mix of Arabic and English that reflects urban language. They have already composed two albums. Their work is conceived as a whole, and a video is planned for their release, which was delayed by the lack of suitable rehearsal spaces for innovative groups that are trying to become professionals without submitting to the dominant star system.

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TECHNICAL FIELDS

DAMASCUS (SYRIA)

New Sound

If you want to hire sound and lighting equipment or various services for concerts, shows, conferences, etc ..., in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan or Egypt, you will find high-quality modern technique equipment on the spot. The sound engineer Bassem Khouli is available to discuss rental prices and the possibilities of working together.

Contact > newsound@mail.sy > Tel + 963 93 33 10 93

ALBUM RELEASE

DAMASCUS (SYRIA)

With lots of talent and dedication, the Syrian "progressive rock" group Nu.Clear.Dawn recently released its first album, *Poem of a Knight*. Inheritors of the 1970s rock scene, the group is trying to move beyond the amateur stage. The theme of the album is the story of an opera singer during the French Revolution. Despite the modest recording studio conditions, the album broke new ground and has attracted the attention of some European rock periodicals.

The group is looking for a label to start working on its second album.

For further information, visit the website : www.nucleardawn.net

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PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

DAMASCUS (SYRIA)

Recording studio

Omar Harb and Anas Abou Kaws are currently putting together a recording studio equipped with the latest technology to provide a highly professional musical working environment. Among other things, they work for film and television (production, composition, live recording, and sound engineering).

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Contemporary music school

Omar Harb is working on a plan for a contemporary music school (teaching rock, jazz, blues, etc.) to train new musicians with an academic methodology similar to that of *Berklee College of Contemporary Music*. Enrolments for the entrance examination are accepted from the age of 10. The purpose of the exam is to determine the students' level and to help them to choose their course. Individual lessons are planned to refine the students' work (on electric guitar, bass, singing, etc ...).

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LINKS



Musicalink

This is a new interactive tool designed for and by musicians. It also provides numerous links to the different members of Jordan's musical community.

Web site : www.musicalink.net

To inform us about your projects or your activities, don't hesitate to contact the Bayate's redactors.

You can also find the previous letters as well as the OrMuz programme on : www.ormuz.amicentre.biz/bayate



EDITORS

This edition of Bayate has been edited by the CADO (cellule d'appui et de développement aux opérateurs émergents) unit of the OrMuz programme. Each member either develops a project of his own, organizes cultural activities, manages a cultural place or tours artists. Their personal implication in the OrMuz programme is a step towards professionalisation and networking which is a favourable background for re-thinking the goals of cultural policies in this region of the world.

Aside from collecting and spreading information, the unit has also collaborated to the setting up of the crossed international workshops of the OrMuz programme. The first edition of these workshops took place in December 2002 in Beirut and in Damascus; the second edition in June 2003 in Marseille and the third one in November/December 2003 in Damascus and in Beirut. The fourth edition will take place at the end of July in Marseille together with the MIMI festival organized by A.M.I. on the Frioul Islands.

These crossed international workshops focus on the following disciplines: singing, computer assisted music, web mastering and sound engineering. Middle-Eastern trainees will have the opportunity to meet and exchange experience with their French, Japanese, Russian and Moroccan colleagues.

The organization of an itinerant festival in Amman, Damascus and Beirut is also planned for the end of 2004. It is intended to be passed on to local cultural actors in the long term.

To contact the editors of Bayate

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Samar Maakaron (Beirut), graphic designersconceptor of an office dedicated to visual, performing and multimedia arts..

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Najwa Oulwane (Damascus/Beirut), film actress also working in a cultural animation centre in Lebanon

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Internet site dedicated to Middle-Eastern musical news and activities (under construction)

www.ormuz.amicentre.biz/bayate

Futher information on the Ormuz program

AMI, Centre National de développement pour les musiques actuelles > www.amicentre.biz

French Cultural Centre in Damascus> Internet address : www.ccf-damas.org

French Cultural Mission in Beirut > Internet address : www.ambafrance-liban.org.lb

Cultural and Linguistic Cooperation Centre in Amman > Internet address : www.ccljor-jo.org