

Al Kamandjati Palestine Tour, Summer 2005

Update – August 12

From July 28 to August 19, several Palestinian and French musicians from the Al Kamandjati Group are in Palestine to organize series of music training workshops, to perform concerts, to meet up with their partners, and to contribute to the opening of music classes in September 2005 in Ramallah.

The whole group took part in the first Al Kamandjâti workshop in Al Amari Refugee Camp (one of the three Ramallah camps where, incidentally, Al Kamandjâti's president Ramzi Aburedwan, was born).

On July 31, the musicians went to a school located in the Ayn Mushrayt neighbourhood (Ramallah) where about a hundred children attended the musical activities.

On August 1, around 150 children from Jalazoun Camp (also near Ramallah) were able to discover several new instruments: the violin, the viola, the cello, the clarinet, the flute and – a novelty for this summer session – the harp and the French horn.

On August 2, the performers joined in activities organized in partnership with Riwaq Centre (a Palestinian NGO which is supervising the renovation of an ancient house in the old town of Ramallah which will become the Al Kamandjâti Music School (we will soon announcing details of the opening ceremony once the renovation work has been completed). These workshops and concert gathered together children and inhabitants of 6 villages in the northern West Bank: Asira, Sabastia, Beit Imrin, An Naqura, Al Bathan and Burqa.

On August 3, the group conducted several workshops and concerts in Qalandiah Camp (Ramallah).

On August 4, workshops took place within the Children's Centre in Jericho and we presented an evening performance in the Jericho Town Hall.

On August 6, the group moved to the Salfit area in the North where many children partook in musical initiation in Farkha village.

On August 7, we travelled to Tulkarem where we met up with the children of the Tulkarem Orphanage. In the late afternoon, we played a concert in Deir Loghsoun.

On August 10, we were in Shufat Camp (Jerusalem) to carry out workshops and a concert in the Women's Centre. Afterwards, we gave a concert in Jerusalem in the superb Mamlouk site of Hammam Al-Ein and Khan Tankaz in the Old City, thanks to the assistance of the Centre for Jerusalem Studies.

On August 11, we were in Hebron where we organized activities in cooperation with the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee, the Hebron Municipality and the TIPH (Temporary International Presence in Hebron).

Today (August 12), the whole group is partaking in cultural activities in the UN Boys' School in Ayda Camp, gathering children from Ayda, Azza and Deheisheh Camps (Bethlehem). At 7pm, a concert will take place in the International Centre of Bethlehem at Dar el Nadwa.

On August 13, we will set off again to Nablus and to Faraa (Sunday).

All these events are organized with the support of the A.M. Qattan Foundation, the Palestine Avenir Foundation, Tamer Institute, Riwaq Centre, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and our partners, supporters and members in Palestine, in Europe and abroad.

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