



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Address by Irina Bokova,

Director-General of UNESCO

**on the occasion of the concert of Manal Mohei Eldin and her musical
Group "Oriental Strokes"**

UNESCO, 12 October 2015

Excellency Mr Sameh Amr, Chairperson of the Executive Board,

Excellency, Mr HAO PING President of the General Conference,

Excellency Professor Ashraf AL-SHEEHY, Minister for Higher education and
scientific research of the Arab Republic of Egypt,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to UNESCO this evening, for an
exquisite moment of music with the famous harpist Manal Mohei Eldin and her
musical Group Oriental Strokes.

I wish to thank the Permanent Delegation of Egypt for this initiative, on the occasion
of this Executive Board Session and the celebration of the 70th anniversary of our
Organization.

Egypt holds a special place in UNESCO's history.

It has defined the golden standard in international cooperation for safeguarding the
common heritage of humanity, since the campaign to safeguard the Nubian
Temples, led by UNESCO.

The depth of Egyptian culture, its vibrant cultural scene, its literature and music are
a beating heart of the Arab civilization and the world civilization.

Egypt is also an open book on the cultural diversity of the world, and tonight we have a chance to witness a glimpse of it.

With your many skills and your vast repertoire, Manal you have performed as a soloist with the main orchestras in Egypt, bringing also your talent and passion to many cultural events and concerts across the globe.

You have striven to include the harp performance into the tradition of Arabic music, blending the art of harp with other instruments, unveiling new musical territories.

With your ensemble you had toured Arab and Western countries, helping shape your country's identity and culture, bringing also the harp to a wider audience and this also bears witness to your capacity to foster dialogue among cultures, among cultural genres.

This is the magic of music, it is embedded in the history of Egypt, and this spirit stands at the heart of all UNESCO's action today.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Chère Manal Mohei Eldin, vous avez dit maintes fois que la culture est à la disposition des grandes causes – que l'art est à la disposition des grandes causes.

La musique est une invitation à célébrer ce que l'humanité a de meilleur, et c'est justement dans les heures troublées, dans les heures sombres où la culture est prise pour cible, qu'il faut soutenir et célébrer le pouvoir de la culture à faire vivre la tolérance, le dialogue, les droits humains, le pluralisme.

Il faut célébrer le pouvoir de la culture à nous faire vivre ensemble dans notre diversité, et c'est ce que la musique et l'orchestre nous font vivre tous les jours : le spectacle d'une harmonie en train de se faire.

Je vous souhaite une agréable soirée, et je tiens à vous remercier ainsi que les membres de l'orchestre et de partager vos talents et votre passion avec nous.

Tahia al musika. Atamana lakom oumsiya sa'eedah !