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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
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Ramallah Office

PRESS RELEASE

2019/4

Ramallah, 30 April 2019

Betlehem, Jerusalem and Ramallah joined the rest of the world cities to celebrate UNESCO International Jazz Day



Ramallah, 30 April 2019 - Today the closing concert of the UNESCO International Jazz Day celebrations took place at the Ramallah Municipality's open air theatre, gathering musicians from Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Gaza and the West Bank. The Jazz Day celebrations started at the Wonder Cabinet in Betlehem on 27 April and at the Austrian Hospice in Jerusalem on 29 April, with the concluding concert in Ramallah. More than 1000 participants, from Palestinian youth and families, and from national and international organizations attended the concerts and enjoyed the music performance.

During the welcoming remarks at the Ramallah concert, Mr. Junaid Sorosh-Wali, Officer in Charge of UNESCO Ramallah office stated that *today, we celebrate jazz and its power to promote dialogue among cultures, by inviting Palestinian and International musicians to perform together a mix of oriental and western jazzy music and make the most of diversity, to deepen respect for human rights and all forms of expression.* He further thanked all the inspiring musicians for taking part in this celebration.

Mr. Musa Hadid, Mayor of Ramallah stated that today, *Ramallah joins 190 cities in the world, to celebrate music and as part of its vision as a city to celebrate diversity, creativity and collective action which unifies people of different backgrounds.* He further announced



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the commitment of the Ramallah Municipality to celebrate UNESCO International Jazz Day on an annual basis.

Mr. Fabio Sokolowicz, the Consul General of Italy in Jerusalem emphasized that Jazz *has the capacity to bring people and nations together*. He highlighted that *the performances in Bethlehem and Jerusalem held in the previous days were a great opportunity to enjoy music from European and Palestinian musicians* and further stressed that *this is a very powerful message that Jazz can communicate*.

UNESCO believes in the power of Jazz as a force for peace, dialogue and mutual understanding and this is why in November 2011, the UNESCO General Conference proclaimed 30 April as *International Jazz Day*. Jazz Day is intended to raise awareness of the virtues of jazz as an educational tool, and a force for empathy, dialogue and enhanced cooperation among people, embracing the opportunity to foster greater appreciation not only for the music but also for the contribution it can make to building more inclusive societies.

It is the first time that UNESCO Ramallah Office organized International Jazz Day in Palestine (within the framework of 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions) in partnership with the Ramallah Municipality, Consulate General of Italy in Jerusalem, Swiss Representative Office in Ramallah, Austrian Hospice, Austrian Cultural Forum, Wonder Cabinet, Willy Brandt Center and both the bands SOL Band and TYPO from Gaza.

For more information on UNESCO's activities in Palestine, please visit www.unesco.org/ramallah and visit us on : [Unesco Ramallah Office](https://www.facebook.com/UnescoRamallahOffice)

For more information on this event, please contact: Majd Beltaji, Public Information Officer of the UNESCO Ramallah Office, at m.beltaji@unesco.org

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