



BNP PARIBAS

The bank for a changing world

PRODUCED BY



# BAHRAIN JAZZ fest 2023



2-3 NOVEMBER

ROYAL GOLF CLUB



# WELCOME TO THE 7<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF BNP PARIBAS BAHRAIN JAZZ FEST®

I am thrilled to welcome you all to this celebration of jazz music and culture.

The BNP Paribas Bahrain Jazz Fest® was born out of my passion for jazz and my desire to share this incredible genre with the people of Bahrain and beyond, whilst actively promoting the local jazz talent. Jazz is more than just a type of music; it's a vibrant, dynamic culture that has brought people together for over a century. It has been a source of inspiration for countless musicians, artists, and thinkers, and has played a pivotal role in shaping the cultural landscape of our world.

This is the inspiration behind our theme for the 7th edition – Jazz For All, All For Jazz. The 2-day festival aims to celebrate the diversity of jazz music and culture, and to showcase the talents of some of the world's most exciting jazz artists.

Our festival features a range of performances, from traditional jazz standards to contemporary fusion, and everything in between. We also host workshops, masterclasses, and other events to help people of all ages and backgrounds explore the magic of jazz.

I am grateful for the support of our sponsors, volunteers, and everyone who has contributed to making this festival a reality. Most of all, I am grateful for the passionate jazz lovers who have come together to celebrate this incredible genre with us.

Let the rhythm move you, and let the spirit of jazz fill your soul.

Thank you, and welcome to the BNP Paribas Bahrain Jazz Fest®.

**Jude D'Souza**  
Managing Director  
BNP Paribas Bahrain Jazz Fest®

## OUR JOURNEY SO FAR

2017



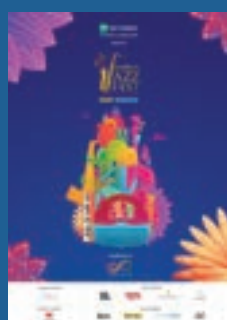
2018



2019



2020



2021



2022







# JAZZ FOR ALL ALL FOR JAZZ

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The BNP Paribas Bahrain Jazz Fest® is Bahrain's annual celebration of jazz, established in 2017. It's grown to become Bahrain's much-loved international music festival, and sits proudly on the national events calendar of the Kingdom of Bahrain. Owned, operated, and produced by Clockwork, a Bahraini marketing consultancy firm, the festival has seen more than 40,000 visitors over the last 6 years. It is also the only festival in the Middle East to be recognised by the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz/UNESCO as a Global Organizational Partner of International Jazz Day for its efforts to promote jazz development in the Middle East.

Our theme for this year celebrates the universal language of jazz that unites us across cultures and generations. Whether you're a seasoned aficionado or a curious listener, we believe that the spirit of jazz can inspire us to embrace diversity, foster creativity, and spread harmony.

Jazz For All, All For Jazz builds on the power of jazz music and its ability to bring us together!





# THE VENUE: ROYAL GOLF CLUB, BAHRAIN

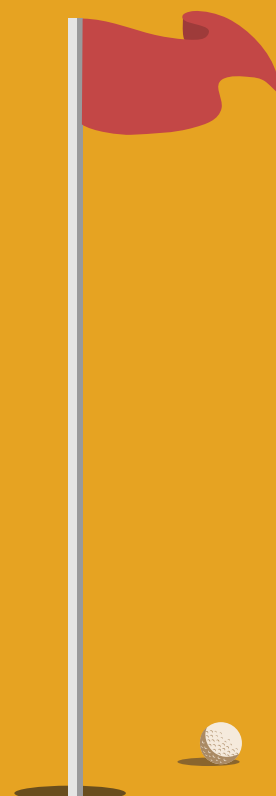
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The 2023 edition of the BNP Paribas Bahrain Jazz Fest will be hosted on the iconic greens of the Royal Golf Club on November 2 – 3, 2023. Nestled amidst lush greenery, the Royal Golf Club offers a picturesque backdrop for Bahrain's favourite family-friendly music festival.

The award winning golfing destination is managed by Troon, the leader in upscale golf course management, development and marketing, and was named Troon's 2013 Facility of the Year,

the company's top accolade. The Royal Golf Club also boasts of exceptional dining options, ranging from exquisite restaurants to stylish lounges.

The BNP Paribas Bahrain Jazz Fest works with the Royal Golf Club to reduce environmental impact and promote eco-friendly practices in its mission to be a sustainable festival.



# 2017 TO 2022 HIGHLIGHT ARTISTS

The BNP Paribas Bahrain Jazz Fest® has hosted some of the most renowned and awarded artists from around the globe including Spyro Gyra, Ana Popović, Raul Midon, Louiz Banks, Christopher McBride, Bruce Williams, Mike Lee, The Speakeasies Swing Band, Nubiyán Twist among many other.



## Raul Midon

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The New York Times has called Midón “a one-man band who turns a guitar into an orchestra and his voice into a chorus.”



## Louiz Banks Jazz Messenger

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Grammy nominee Louis Banks is an international jazz icon, popularly known as the Godfather of the legendary Indian Jazz scene.



## Paul Lay Trio

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Paul Lay is an award-winning jazz pianist from France who is a BNP Paribas Foundation supported artist.



## Spyro Gyra

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Spyro Gyra is a multi Grammy nominated American jazz fusion band, that has released over 30 albums and sold over 10 million copies.



## Ana Popović

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The multi-nominated and award-winning Contemporary Blues artist, Ana Popović has reinvented her music and herself with each new record.



## Jazz House Collective

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The award-winning Jazz House Collective is a jazz ensemble from the renowned American jazz institution, Jazz House Kids, led by prolific vocalist Melissa Walker.



## Nubiyán Twist

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Nubiyán Twist are a genre-fluid musical collective. Their expansive, eclectic music is a seamless meld of soul, funk, jazz, hip-hop, reggae, Indian classical music, gnawa, soukous, and electronic dance music.





Bahrain National Museum



Bahrain National Theatre



Arad Fort



Bahrain Fort



Bahrain World Trade Centre

# THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN



The Kingdom of Bahrain is a small but fascinating country located in the Middle East, known for its rich history, modern culture, and stunning natural landscapes. The country is a melting pot of different cultures and religions, and the capital city, Manama, is a bustling metropolis that boasts a vibrant nightlife scene, luxury shopping destinations, and delicious local cuisine.

Bahrain has a rich musical heritage that spans centuries and is influenced by various cultures. The country's music scene is diverse, ranging from traditional Arabian music to contemporary Western-influenced pop music.

The country is also home to a number of historical landmarks and is surrounded by crystal-clear waters and white sandy beaches, making it a popular destination for water sports enthusiasts and beachgoers alike. Overall, Bahrain is a fascinating country that offers a unique blend of modernity and tradition, making it an exciting destination for travellers from all over the world.

# BAHRAIN'S JAZZ SCENE

## AQ's Jazz Experience

AQ's Jazz Experience is a unique four-piece jazz collective formed by one of Bahrain's most talented musicians Ahmed AlQasim, which performs classics, fused with blues and swing, from the likes of Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, George Benson, Ray Charles, and B B King, blended with modern hits from artists such as Michael Bublé, Diana Krall, Norah Jones and Gregory Porter.



## Mohamed Rashid

Mohammed Rashid followed his dream to become a professional musician. Today, he is a member of the Bahrain Police Band and the Bahrain Music Band. He's also a recording artist and a leading figure in Bahrain's gypsy jazz scene.

## Jazziyat by Banah

Banah's unique style and music interpretation of oriental and western music makes her one of the most distinctive artists in the region. Jazziyat by Banah, is a Jazz Revival of Oriental Classics, which will bring classic Arabic music influences into a new sound or interpretation that makes it widely appealing to modern audiences.



## Majaz

Majaz is an earthy 4-piece Progressive Fusion Folk band from Bahrain.

Their progressive-driven fusion of genres, forged by their unconventional blend of instruments, has been widely recognised, making them one of the island's most unique musical acts.

## Hotboxgroove

Hotboxgroove is a Bahrain-based indie alternative 6-piece band who fuses together a potent mix of jazz, blues and funky psychedelic to get hearts beating worldwide.



## Bahrain Jazz Orchestra

Bahrain Jazz Orchestra is Bahrain's first big band comprising of Bahrain-based musicians who are dedicated to promoting and performing jazz music to audiences in Bahrain. The orchestra provides a platform for local musicians to collaborate, develop their skills, and showcase their talent in concerts, and special jazz-themed events.



# SPOTLIGHT

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## Bahrain Jazz Laureate: School Scholarship

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Our purpose is to create an environment in Bahrain that fosters a passion for jazz music from a very young age. Two promising students will be shortlisted in 2024 and sent to the Jazz House Summer Workshop in New York, for a fully paid scholarship. This is where they will be introduced to the fundamentals of jazz music, including improvisation, swing rhythm, and the history of the genre.

## Jazz Lab

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We provide free jazz education opportunities to various schools through our Jazz Lab, which includes workshops and master classes with experienced jazz musicians. They are also given the opportunity to perform at The BNP Paribas Bahrain Jazz Fest®. Some of the schools that've benefited from our Jazz Lab include ARKS Diyar, ARKIS, St. Christopher's School, American School of Bahrain, and Bahrain School.



## Women in Bahrain Jazz Fest

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We work on increasing gender parity levels on all performance stages. 35% of all artists performing on stage in 2022 at the BNP Paribas Bahrain Jazz Fest were women, and it is our conscious effort to introduce and promote more women artists in the coming years.

## Yalla Jazz!

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The festival features Yalla Jazz!, a series of events that celebrates jazz across Bahrain, which is organised a few months ahead leading up to the main festival day. The 2023 Jazz Trails will include free concerts in malls, cafes, restaurants and public spaces.



## Family-friendly

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Our ultimate aim is to create a vibrant and diverse audience, which ensures that the jazz tradition and its values of improvisation, collaboration, and creativity are passed on to future generations. We achieve this by making the festival a fun and engaging experience for families to enjoy together. This helps to expose children to the art of jazz music and foster an appreciation for the genre.



# 6TH BNP PARIBAS BAHRAIN JAZZ FEST® AT A GLANCE

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[www.youtube.com/watch?v=rorkLtxnBpY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rorkLtxnBpY)

## Check us out!



**#bahrainjazzfest**