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23 November 2008

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Arts Center at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina has the pleasure to announce its first *World Music Festival*, to be held from 4 to 10 April 2009, in the city of Alexandria. A historic city, Alexandria is once again resuming its long tradition of enhancing cultural diversity. The European Commission, a body that encourages the cooperation between nations, is contributing substantially to the organization of this festival by its cultural expertise and financial support. The initiated *Alexandrina World Music Festival*, aims at becoming a biennale to take place every two years.

The *Alexandrina World Music Festival* aims at establishing a “colorful map of music” in the consciousness and taste of the public and participating musicians. World music does not require financial boom, it has been practiced in villages, towns, tribes, shanty ghettos and remote corners of big cities. World music was not originated in the main stream of Western traditions, however, it has an influential extravaganza, enjoyed, appreciated and even shared by the public. The festival performances would provide possibilities for local and guest musicians to experience the potential of developing diverse musical trends, free from the moral pressure of official institutions and financial pressure of commercialism. Live-performances of musical genres incorporating diverse styles from selected countries from the Mediterranean region- Europe and guest groups from Iran, will take place during the one-week *Alexandrina World Music Festival*. Artists, scholars, critics and specialized journalists would share their experiences and promote cross- cultural collaborations and insights.

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The Bibliotheca Alexandrina will host the Festival on its premises. Participants, individuals or groups would perform in a series of live stage performances, located at three different venues relevant to the musical content and the perspective public of each performance.

There are three concert halls: Small Theater (250 seats) and Great Hall (1700 Seats), and the Antoniadis Gardens or the plaza open-air stage (unlimited). Several seminar halls are available to be used for workshop and roundtable activities.

The Bibliotheca Alexandrina is pleased to announce that the president of the festival is Sherif Mohie Eldin (Director of the Arts Center at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina) its project manager is Azza Madian (deputy director of the Arts Center).

Conditions of Participation:

- 1- Group size: The Bibliotheca Alexandrina will cover a World Music Group of Maximum 6 persons. Any additional participants will have to cover their own expenses, however the Bibliotheca can book their hotel rooms with a special rate.
- 2- The Bibliotheca will cover Flight tickets for individuals and groups (up to 6 participants). Flight tickets can be purchased personally, to be reimbursed upon providing valid receipts in Alexandria (maximum up to 400 EU).
- 3- The Bibliotheca will cover accommodation for all participants; individuals and groups (up to 6 participants in the group) for maximum 6 nights, on Bed and Breakfast basis. It will cover for transportation from and to airport.
- 4- The Bibliotheca will be able to provide 100 L.E. for each participant as daily per diem for four nights in Alexandria.
- 5- The Bibliotheca will cover publications and marketing material of posters, flyers of the World Music Festival program booklet. Participant groups are encouraged to send any additional relevant material; photos, press criticism ... etc

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- 6- The Bibliotheca will also produce a documentary in DVD format documenting the first World Music Festival.

We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to send us your most recent CV by email, or by mail, in English. Also necessary to receive an audio-visual DVD, Youtube extract link, or a website or as a sample of your latest audible performances. A Jury committee is formed to select from the received material and audio visual material. Dead-line for receiving the CV's and Audio samples is 10 January 2009. The jury will announce its selection of the participating individuals and groups by the end of January 2009.

Please send your material or any inquiries to the following address/Email:

Bibliotheca Alexandrina- Arts Center
El Shatby, Alexandria - EGYPT 21526
Attention: **Azza Madian** (Arts Center, Deputy Director)
E- mail: azza.madian@bibalex.org

Best Regards,



Maestro Sherif Mohie Eldin
Director of the Arts Center
President of
The Alexandrina World Music Festival