

## Abu Dhabi Elevates Jazz Day 2025 with a Stunning Fusion of Jazz and Arabic Traditions

Friday, July 19, 2024

Annually, 30 April marks International Jazz Day, a global celebration of artistic liberty through the medium of jazz. It has been announced by Audrey Azoulay, the Director-General of UNESCO, alongside UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Herbie Hancock, that the 2025 edition will have Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, as its Global Host.

This event is a collaborative effort with the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi) and will focus on integrating the rich cultural elements of Arab and Emirati heritage. This includes featuring classical instruments like the Oud, Qanoon, and Ney to introduce the concept of 'Arabic Jazz' to worldwide audiences. As the 2025 host, Abu Dhabi, recognized as a UNESCO Creative City of Music, aims to highlight the fusion of local music traditions with jazz, a relationship that has evolved over many decades.

The city's commitment to cultural enrichment has positioned Abu Dhabi as a hub for global arts and creativity, drawing prestigious cultural entities and bolstering local institutions that celebrate its Arabic heritage.



The celebration extends beyond performances to include educational activities and community involvement. On the day itself, Abu Dhabi will engage with local educational institutions like Berklee Abu Dhabi and New York University Abu Dhabi, along with other universities in the UAE, to host workshops and masterclasses that are open to the public. These sessions will take place in various settings, including lecture halls, exhibition spaces, and auditoriums, with a special focus on nurturing young musicians and encouraging them to explore jazz as a potential career path.

International Jazz Day, established by UNESCO's General Conference in 2011 and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly, unites nations and communities every year on 30 April. The day is dedicated to celebrating the influence of jazz in fostering unity, dialogue, freedom of expression, and respect for diversity and human rights.

The Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz leads the initiative, reaching over 2 billion people globally through educational initiatives, performances, community outreach, and digital engagement, highlighting the enduring legacy and global impact of jazz.