

Unique Concert in the Netherlands

WALID BEN SELIM pays musical tribute to Mahmoud Darwish

Thursday 24 October 2024 in TivoliVredenburg

In the Arabic Crossroads series, Culture Connection presents a unique concert with singer Walid Ben Selim on Thursday 24 October in TivoliVredenburg Utrecht. Accompanied by Agathe Di Piro on piano and Nidhal Jaoua on qanun, Walid Ben Selim will pay a musical tribute to the famous Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish. The support acts will include performances by writer/performer Maureen Ghazal and Utrecht-based artists such as poet Randa Awad and choir Dunya & Musicaz. On Wednesday 16 October, Het Wilde Westen will host a Poetry Special dedicated to Mahmoud Darwish.

Arabic Crossroads Music & Poetry

Jeanneke den Boer of Culture Connection: *'With Arabic Crossroads, we present performing artists from North Africa and the Middle East who build bridges between cultures and convey a strong message of solidarity, peace, and freedom in their music. Walid Ben Selim is one such artist. With his expressive singing and beautiful recitation of Arabic poetry, he knows how to touch people deeply. In these times of polarization, we desperately need his message of humanity.'*

Walid Ben Selim

Walid Ben Selim is a singer, poet, rapper born in Casablanca and living in the south of France. Few years ago, he created successful music productions with Utrecht-based artists such as DJ DNA and Jaber Fayad, which they performed in TivoliVredenburg and at Le Guess Who. Once active in hard rock and then the hip-hop scene, Walid Ben Selim currently focuses on Arabic poetry. As frontman of the band N3rdistan, he incorporates meaningful Arabic poetry into a contemporary urban sound. He also composes for film and opera. In 2024, he wrote music for the documentary-opera Ali based on the refuge story of a Somali child soldier.



Composition inspired by poem The Diceplayer

Mahmoud Darwish (1941-2008) is considered one of the Middle East's leading poets. Just before his death, he drafted the poem 'The Diceplayer' in which he raises questions about the twist of fate, identity, and humanity. Walid Ben Selim adapted the text into a modern composition that beautifully blends Middle Eastern and Western music. Together with pianist Agathe di Piro and qanun player Nidhal Jaoua, he will perform this magnificent musical work in TivoliVredenburg on 24 October. His expressive singing and intense recitation along with the sparkling sounds on piano and qanun give the words of the beloved poet extra strength and emotional depth.

Guest performances Utrecht based performers and market.

In the supporting act on 24 October 2024 in TivoliVredenburg, Utrecht-based artists such as poet Randa Awad, choir Duniya & Musicaz will perform. Writer/performer Maureen Ghazal will give a brief introduction about Mahmoud Darwish and what the poet means to her. There will be a market in the foyer. Organizations such as Jurgen Maas, Zem-Zem Magazine, Tabaria-café and Palestine Kitchen will sell books of Arabic poetry and prose, Palestinian food, and art products.

Concert information Walid Ben Selim

Thursday 24 October 2024, 8pm concert, 7pm market

TivoliVredenburg Hertz | tickets: <https://www.tivolivredenburg.nl/agenda/56869766/walid-ben-selim-24-10-2024>

CONTEXT PROGRAMME IN THEATRE THE WILD WEST
The Twist of Fate - Poetry Special on Mahmoud Darwish
Wednesday 16 October 2024 in The Wild West

Expert in Palestinian literature Marianne Dagevos gives a presentation on Mahmoud Darwish together with poet Randa Awad. They will discuss the life and work of the great Palestinian poet. What makes Darwish such an extraordinary poet and what has he to say to us today. They will talk about the poem the Diceplayer which he wrote a few weeks before his death. Virtuoso musician Nizar Rohana plays his beautiful new composition 'Darwish' on Arabic lute.

Wednesday 16 October 2024, 7.30pm, walk-in 7pm

Podium Het Wilde Westen, Everard Meijsterlaan 1b, Utrecht, www.hetwildewesten.nl

Tickets: <https://sacredsongs.stager.co/web/tickets/111427956> | www.culture-connection.org



Arabic Crossroads is an initiative of Culture Connection www.culture-connection.org and is realized in cooperation with Gaudeamus, Musicaz, Het Wilde Westen, choir Duniya, Geheime Schrijfschool Overvecht, Vocal Statements, GLU-Het Bureau, and others. With funding of Municipality of Utrecht, KF Heinfonds, Fentener van Vlissingenfonds and Carel Nengerman Fonds.

Not for publication: For press enquiries, please contact Marjolein van Ruiten, PR@marjoleinvanruiten.com, +31(0)6 200 62 844. Press photos Walid Ben Selim, photographer AK Berlin

Press photos Walid Ben Selim concert 24 October:

<https://flickr.com/photos/culturelekaravaanfotos/albums/72177720317655565/>

Press photos Poetry Special 16 October:

[Persfoto's Arabic Crossroads: Poetry Special 16 October 2024 | Flickr](#)

Promotional trailer Walid Ben Selim - La Dawra Li (The Diceplayer)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VkN2JeyOsI>