

Nicosia, 12 April 2018

## European Music Nights 2018 City Twilight Concert at Bedestan

The European Commission as part of the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage and the European Music Nights will support "A City Twilight Concert at Bedestan" featuring the Othello Choir and Sonare Choir on Monday 16 April 2018 at 20:00. Throughout 2018 diverse cultural heritage across Europe will be celebrated to encourage more people to discover and engage with Europe's cultural heritage, and to reinforce a sense of belonging to a common European space.

According to President Juncker: *"The 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage should celebrate our cultural diversity. Throughout the world, Europe is known for the wealth and diversity of its culture and creativity, including its natural and archaeological sites, its museums, monuments and historic cities, its artistic, musical and audio-visual works, its traditions and customs. This year of celebrations will be a wonderful opportunity to encourage everyone, especially young people, to explore Europe's rich cultural diversity and to reflect on how to preserve it for future generations."*

Othello Choir, created in 2010 has worked on repertoires of polyphonic Turkish folk songs, choral works of various periods and polyphonic chorus works of Cyprus besides European and world choral literature. Sonare Choir was created in 2017 in Nicosia has also been working on the repertoires of polyphonic Cypriot, Turkish and European songs.

As part of the EU Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community a series of activities and projects to raise awareness about arts, music and cultural heritage were supported. This includes the "Confrontation through Art Project" by EMAA and the "Cypriot Intangible Cultural Heritage" project by Folk-Der. Additionally, since 2012 the European Union, has provided €14.7 million for the preservation of Cyprus' cultural heritage in support of the work of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage via UNDP.

### **European Music Nights & 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage:**

Music is one of the most popular forms of art, widely consumed, and a vibrant expression of Europe's cultural diversity. Strengthening this sector contributes to the promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, culture as a catalyst for creativity. In its efforts to promote further creativity, diversity and innovation in Europe's music sector, the Commission works with all concerned stakeholders.

The European Year of Cultural Heritage will showcase the wealth and diversity of our cultural heritage, highlighting its role in creating a shared sense of identity and building Europe's future. This year will see a series of initiatives and events across Europe to enable people to become closer to and more involved with their cultural heritage. Cultural heritage shapes our identities and everyday lives. It surrounds us in Europe's towns and cities, natural landscapes and archaeological sites. It is not only found in literature, art and objects, but also in the crafts we learn from our ancestors, the music we listen to, the stories we tell to our children, the food we enjoy in company and the films we watch and recognise ourselves in.

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