



أوركسترا أورنينا السورية  
ORNINA SYRIAN ORCHESTRA

**Managing director and conductor**

**BADREDDIN Shafi**

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RCS: 101919

24, Rue Mathias Tresch  
L-2626 Luxembourg

[contact@ornina-syrian-orchestra.org](mailto:contact@ornina-syrian-orchestra.org)

[www.ornina-syrian-orchestra.org](http://www.ornina-syrian-orchestra.org)

## The main concept

**Ornina Syrian Orchestra** is a beacon of cultural preservation and artistic excellence, dedicated to celebrating the rich musical heritage of Syria. Formed by a group of passionate Syrian musicians, the orchestra aims to revive and promote traditional Syrian music while also embracing contemporary compositions that reflect the dynamic spirit of Syrian culture.

Named after the ancient goddess of music and joy, Ornina, the orchestra embodies the timeless beauty and profound emotional depth of Syrian music. Through meticulously crafted performances, the orchestra showcases a diverse repertoire that spans centuries, from classical Arab melodies and traditional folk songs to innovative modern pieces.

The ensemble is composed of talented musicians who bring a wealth of experience and expertise, each contributing to a unique sound that resonates with audiences both in Syria and around the world. Their performances are not just concerts but cultural journeys that transport listeners to the heart of Syrian history and tradition.

Beyond their artistic endeavors, Ornina Syrian Orchestra is committed to fostering cultural exchange and understanding. They collaborate with international artists and participate in global festivals, spreading the message of peace, resilience, and the enduring power of music. Their work serves as a reminder of the unifying power of art, bridging cultural divides and fostering a deeper appreciation for Syrian musical heritage.

In every note they play and every song they sing, Ornina Syrian Orchestra tells the story of a vibrant and resilient culture, keeping the flame of Syrian music alive for future generations to cherish and enjoy.

## The Orchestra

Ornina is an orchestra of classical and traditional Syrian music founded in 2016 as non profit association.

The professional Syrian artists who make up the orchestra, are for the most part old friends; each making their merry way across Europe, from Madrid to Stockholm and USA.

Some internationally renowned names in the world of classical music and opera stand out in this group, such as Shafi Badreddin, conductor and composer as well as sopranos Lubana Al Quntar and Rasha Rizk, who are both held in high regard by their peers, also the soloists Shadi Ali, Abo Gabi and Ali Asaad are another names on this prestigious list.

Shafi Badreddin at the head of the orchestra in his capacity as a composer, has longed to shake up traditional Eastern music to harmoniously integrate so-called Western instruments, such as the Horn or the Trombone.

The transcription put together by the maestro is accessible to even the most untrained ear.

A choir consists of a diverse group of Syrians, Arabs and Europeans who love music and singing Ornina offers them vocal training with professional singers from the orchestra to develop their musical skills.

## The project

That is why we have decided to introduce Syrian culture to the public in the form of concerts, organized in close cooperation with local artists, through this medium of universal communication without borders and preconceived ideas.

Our concerts:

- **Voice Of Syria** which took place on 19 November 2016 and
- **Hymne au printemps** on 13 and 14 July 2018 at the Grand Théâtre de Luxembourg
- **Voice from Syria** concert on 20 and 21 September 2019
- **Aabeske** concert on 28 February 2020 at Berlin Philharmonie
- **Syriana** concert on 08 October 2022
- **Sham** concert 11 and 15 April 2023 at Capitol Mannheim and Berlin Philharmonie
- **Hauran** concert on 11 May 2024
- **Dabkeh** 01 June 2024 Berlin Philharmonie

## Target audience of the project

Our target audience is, due to the circumstances, a cosmopolitan audience that is rather affluent, sophisticated, open-minded and receptive to new experiences.

The diverse and sophisticated program offered throughout the year by the Cultural Establishment, is a testament to this.

## Goal of the project

Our plan is to present our music in Europe and in the whole world, to share it with people and to repeat the experience, keeping the same concept.

A good reputation for a classical musician is priceless. It gives the artist more freedom and presence, with offers to participate in diverse and varied collaborations, and opportunities to perform on stage more often.

This 'popularity' promotes cultural exchange and allows the music to reach a wider audience.

Always with a view of promoting and discovering traditional Syrian and Arabic music, we would also like to integrate new artists from diverse backgrounds who share our values.

One of the most important goals of this project is to preserve the intangible heritage and reach the young Syrian generations who were forcibly displaced their homelands with cut them off the contact with an important part of their cultural personality.





## Composition of the Orchestra

The orchestra consists of 66 artists including the conductor and according to our concept, 6 to 10 of the artists are from the country where the concert will be held on.

The choir consists of 20 mixed voices, as well as 3 to 5 Syrian professional singers.

Instruments	Number
Violin I	6
Violin II	5
Viola	4
Cello	3
Contrebasse	2
Nay	1
Qanoun	1
Oud	1
Percussion	3
Flute	2
Oboe	2
Clarinette	2
Bassoon	1
Trompet	2
Trombon	2
Horn	2
Solist	4
Mix Choir	20
Administration assistant	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>

## Follow us

 <p>أوركسترا أرنينا السورية ORNINA SYRIAN ORCHESTRA</p>			
<p><b>Ornina web site</b></p>	<p><b>YouTube</b></p>	<p><b>Facebook</b></p>	<p><b>Instagram</b></p>
<p><a href="http://www.ornina-syrian-orchestra.org">www.ornina-syrian-orchestra.org</a></p>	<p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/Ornina_Syrian_Orchestra">Ornina Syrian Orchestra</a></p>	<p><a href="https://www.facebook.com/@OrninaSyrianOrchestra">@OrninaSyrianOrchestra</a></p>	<p><a href="https://www.instagram.com/OrninaSyrianOrchestra">OrninaSyrianOrchestra</a></p>

## Articles and Interviews

Type	Entity	Link
Televisions	Syria TV	<a href="#">Hauran concert- Interview</a>
	RTL Television	<a href="#">Hymne au Printemps in Grand Theater of Luxemburg</a>
	France24	<a href="#">Réportage france24 infos migrants</a>
	France24	<a href="#">Interview with Shafi Badreddin</a>
	DW	<a href="#">Ornina at Belin Philharmonie</a>
	Al Arabia	<a href="#">Interview with Shafi Badreddin and Rasha Risk</a>
	Syria TV	<a href="#">Reportage</a>
	Syria TV	<a href="#">Hauran Reportage</a>
Radios	Monti Carlo	<a href="#">Interview with Shafi Badreddin</a>
Facebook	Amal Berlin	<a href="#">Reportage 'Voice from Syria' in Berlin</a>
	Facebook [RTL]	<a href="#">RTL Television - report</a>
Newspapers	Delano	<a href="#">Syrians fight prejudice with music-Delano Luxembourg in English</a>
	Luxembourg Wort	<a href="#">Ohren auf für die Vilfalt</a>
	Amal Berlin	<a href="#">Voice of Syria</a>
	Radio latina [Wort]	<a href="#">Radio Latina - Interview with Shafi Badreddin</a>
	Al Arabi Al Jadid	<a href="#">Voice of Syria</a>
	Middle east	<a href="#">Sham concert</a>
	RTL Today	<a href="#">RTL Today</a>
	Luxembourg Times	<a href="#">"Voice of Syria" concert takes place at the Grand Théâtre</a>
	Arab presse	Ornina Project
	Ultra Sot	<a href="#">Arabeske</a>
	Syria TV NET	<a href="#">Hauran concert</a>
	Syria TV NET	<a href="#">Hauran article</a>
Arab presse	<a href="#">Al Mjhar</a>	
Others	Maison des associations	<a href="#">Voice of Syria au Grand Theatre</a>

## Shafi Badreddin



### CURRICULUM VITAE

Born: 02.10.1972  
Address: 24 Rue Mathias tresch L-2626 Luxembourg  
Tel.: +35 2661 46621  
Email: shafi.badreddin@gmail.com  
Director: Ornina A.S.B.L  
Conductor: Ornina Syrian Orchestra

### EDUCATION

2007 Diploma of Orchestral Conducting in Luxembourg. Major Professor Carlo Jean  
2006 Diploma of Orchestral Conducting at the conservatory of Dijon. Major Professor Jean Sebastien Barreau  
2006 Diploma of instrumental Composition and electro-acoustic music in Lyon. Major Professor Cristophe Modeaut and Professor Stephane Borel  
1998 Diploma of Music Studies at the Higher Institute of Music in Damascus

### EXPERIENCES

2016- until today. Founder and conductor of Ornina Syrian Orchestra  
2016 General manager of the non-profit Foundation Ornina A.S.B.L  
2020 Conducting the Ornina Syrian Orchestra at Berlin Philharmonic under the title “Arabesque”  
2019 Conducting the Ornina Syrian Orchestra in two consecutive concerts under the title “Voice from Syria” at Berlin Philharmonic  
2018 Conducting the Ornina Syrian Orchestra in two consecutive concerts under the title “Voice from Syria” at the Grand Theater in Luxembourg  
2016 Conducting the Ornina Syrian Orchestra in two consecutive concerts under the title “Voice of Syria” at the Grand Theater Luxembourg  
  
2011-2013 Guest of honor as composer at Al-Farabi Festival in London



- 2009 Participation as composer at Concertgebou in Amsterdam
- 2009 Participation as a composer and solo Oud player at the Réagissant Festival in Grenoble, where a piece of his compositions under the name: Ertejal “Maqam-spectrum” was presented from the oriental Takht and a Instrumental group
- 2008 Participation as a composer at the Autumn Festival in Paris
- 2007 Participation in the Bastille Opera within the activities of the Spring Festival in Paris
- 2007 Leading the Conservatory Orchestra in a concert, containing works of Mozart and Beethoven at the Opera House in Damascus
- 2006 Leading the Conservatory Orchestra in a concert of his own compositions at the Opera House in Damascus
- 2005 Distribution of Syriac rites for the Symphony and Choir Orchestra
- 2004 Solo oud player with the Mediterranean Orchestra
- 2001 and 2000 Participation as composer and solo oud player with the Syrian National Symphony Orchestra conducted by Solhi Al-Wadi in Baghdad
- 2000 Participation in the Sousse Cultural Festival in Tunisia
- 1998-2002 Soloist at the Syrian National Symphony Orchestra in Damascus
- 1998-2002 First Oud player at the Arab Music Ensemble in Damascus
- 2008 Jury member of the Valantino Bucci the International Competition of Music Composition in Rome
- 2003-2006 Founder and conductor of the Oriental Music Ensemble Takasim in Lyon

### TEACHING EXPERIENCES

- 2006-2010 Instructor of Music Theories (Solfege and Analysis) and orchestral Arrangement at the Higher Institute of Music in Damascus
- 2006-2010 Establishing a class for musical composition at the Higher Institute of Music in Damascus
- 1998-2002 Instructor of orchestral Arrangement at the Higher Institute of Music in Damascus

### AWARDS

- 2008 Jury prize for the 2Agusto Composition Contest in Rome signed by Ennio Morricone
- 2002 Second prize of the international oud competition organized by the League of Arab States in Beirut

## Lubana Al Quntar



Lubana Al Quntar granted the title of the First opera singer in Syria , and named as the first arabic opera and named as the first arabic opera singer to attend opera voice competitions . Her rare voice ability enabled her to sing deferent and wide repertoire between arabic classical songs, folk , traditional, pop and classical opera as a dramatic colorator. Born in Damascus, Lubana was the first Arab to win the 4the prize at the 1997 International Singing competition

In Belgrade, and the 5th prize at the prestigious Queen Elizabeth singing com-petition in Brussels. Lubana had completed her academic studies at the Royal College of Music in London with Professor Kennith Wollom, and Damascus High institute of Music with Professor Galina Khaldieva, as well as Maastricht Academy of Music in Holland where she studed and granted a degree in Opera singing performance & Music Groups and Associations with Mystra MYA BESSELIK. Lubana has appeared worldwide as a soloist, in Opera and traditional Arabic singing when she always astonished the audience of her ability to variate between the two deferent techniques and improvisation .Notable appearances in- clude: Opera Bastille, Paris; Opera theater La Monnaie, Brussels ; Flamish Opera, Antwerp ; Orches- tre philharmonique de liege, Belgium; Flamish Radio Orchestra ; Musica Viva ; Bremen Germany , the world's First arabic Opera "Opera Avincenna" Doha, Qatar; and invited to present her Country in the " Silk Road Festival in Tokyo, Japan. Lubana was invited by the University of California to per- form with the Syrian National Symphony Orchestra ; glyndeborne touring opera performing the Queen Of The Night Lubana was invited by Arab Alliance of women in Music AAWM in Amman "under the auspice of Her Highness, Princess Muna Al-Hussein . Lubana was Chosen to Represent Syria in Woman is Singing Festival in Damascus, and was invited to represent Syria in Arab Creative Women Forum; Tunisia . lubana was invited to sing the Queen Of The night at TUSCIA OPERA FESTIVAL IN ITALY, And she was invited several time to the prestigious ..Arab singing festival "Cartage" Tunisia , and "Al Madina" Festival Tunisia , as well as the Opera House of Cairo when she preformed at the closing event of the arab

singing Festival. Opera Fallujah At the Kennedy Center USA . Preparing for the upcoming concerts at the Kennedy

Center with the Oud player Ramy Adly, on the 28th of August 2015. And performing at Shakespeare theater in a new production (Salomè) Starting in September the first. Celebrating the

life and work of a great Syrian poet Nizar Qabbani Lubana has been invited to sing at the ceremony at the Syrian cultural Garden in Cleveland. Lubana was invited to sing with the national Symphony orchestra of Belgium, and With the Syrian expat philharmonic orchestra SEPO at Klara festival at Bazar concert hall for the memory's of the terrorist attack in Brussels. Lubana held a position as the Head of the Opera Department at the High Institute of Music in Damascus (2003-2011). Where she taught Opera and Arabic singing techniques. She also was the founder of the Arabic Singing Band consisting of a group of her students and graduates. Currently residing in the Washington DC area dedicating her voice and effort to rise awareness about the syrian cultur ,and helping the refugees around the world through fundraising concerts around the USA.lubana is preparing for her next engagement at the ROYAL NATIONAL THEATER,LON- DON for salome directed by YAEL FARBER. Lubana is Soloist/choir singer/singing instructor with "Ornina orchestra" since 2018.

## Racha Rizk



Born in Damascus Syria, Rasha Rizk began her education of Arabic classical music, at the age of 9, learning a big repertoire of *Mouachahat* and *Qasida* beside theory basics of Arabic music in Rhythm and *Maqamat*. 12 years old, she won the 1<sup>st</sup> prize of the Young Syrian Pioneers Competition, then she started her musical life performing in concerts and youth festivals . 2002 she graduated from the opera department in the High Institute of Music of Damascus. She graduated from l'Ecole Normale de Musique of Paris with a Diplôme Supérieur de Concertiste. She one the first prize of the competition les Clés d'Or in 2016.

Rasha performed many concerts with the Syrian National Symphonic Orchestra and other ensembles, exploring a big repertoire from Baroque music to Italian Bel canto, beside her passion to French and German Art songs.

She played *Suzanna* in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Michaela* in Bizet's *Carmen* in Damascus Opera House, *Jumana* in the Arabic opera *Ibn Sina in Doha*, in Puccini's *Dido and Eneas* in Tunis, in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*, Nancy in "Oliver Twist", *Amal* in "The Days and Nights of the Heart Tree" an Opera of the French Algerian composer Tarik Benouarka, in which she collaborated in the Arabic adaptation beside another opera of the same composer "Legend of Naram", due to her long experience in the field of Arabic cartoon and TV industry.

Racha is a founding member of the first kids Arabic Channel SpaceToon, with whom she collaborated for almost 20 years as a singer, songwriter and producer, with a huge number of young fans all over the Arab World.

Racha has a remarkable experience in baroque music, after a numerous concerts and recitals in Syria and abroad, where she performed Handel *Messiah*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Pergolese's *Stabat Mater*, and she collaborated with the baroque ensemble *Contrasto Armonico*, with whom she gave many concerts in Damascus and Amsterdam performing a special repertoire from early baroque to Handel Italian Cantatas...

After her exil in France due to the war in Syria, Racha is continuing her concerts in Europe with many Orchestras like the Syrian Expat Philharmonic Orchestra and ORNINA

Syrian Orchestra , performing Syrian symphonic compositions, with a great success in the most prestigious concerts Halls like Berliner Konzerthaus, Bremen's Die Glücke, Berlin Philharmonie and Athens Megaron, New Zealand Orchestra with Christian Yärvi.

She recorded many albums and films; "Reborn" and "Era VII" of ERA , with whom she is an international touring 2019-2022 , "In memory of Solhi al Wadi", Damascus 2008 with Ziad Rahbani...in "Caramel" and "Now where do we go?" of the Libanese film maker Nadine Labaki. She released her last album "Malak" in March 2017 as a songwriter and arranger, produced by Tarik Benouarka. Rasha is Soloist, singer/singing instructor with "Ornina orchestra" since 2016.

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## **CONTACTS**

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### **Artistic Director**

**Shafi Badreddin**

Tel.: +352 661 466 621

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### **Administration Manager**

**Shadia Abou Hamdan**

Tel.: +49 17620448584

[shadia@ornina-syrian-orchestra.org](mailto:shadia@ornina-syrian-orchestra.org)

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### **Administrator / Public Relation**

**Riad Taha**

Tel.: +352 691 821 863

[riad@ornina-syrian-orchestra.org](mailto:riad@ornina-syrian-orchestra.org)

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### **Ornina Address**

24, rue Mathias Tresch

L-2626 Luxembourg

[contact@ornina-syrian-orchestra.org](mailto:contact@ornina-syrian-orchestra.org)