

## Press Release

EMC/ IMC Israel conference

### **Music on Troubled Soils**

Jerusalem, Israel, 23- 26 October 2008

Music without borders - what does this mean for countries in conflict? Does music have the power to overcome barriers, both physical and cultural?

The European Music Council, together with the international section of the Israeli Music Council, will hold a conference in Jerusalem entitled „Music on Troubled Soils“ from the 23rd to the 26th of October 2008. Musicians, politicians and experts from Europe, the United States and Africa will gather to discuss the role of music in troubled regions such as Israel, Cyprus and South Africa. The conference will include lectures and discussions, project presentations, workshops and concerts.

The opening of the conference by the Palestinian and Israeli music group „The Way of Peace Ensemble“ will demonstrate how making music together in a friendly setting can unite a divided people.

The first session of the conference will feature several successful projects: Laura Hassler, the director of the organisation „Musicians without Borders“, will report on her daily work with the power of music for reconciliation in the Balkan region; Marion Haak will present the current music education project of the „Barenboim-Said Foundation“ in Israel; and Nenad Bogdanovic of the Jeunesse Musicales Cyprus will introduce „Ethno Cyprus“, a project within that youngsters from the six Mediterranean countries Portugal, Greece, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel and Cyprus meet during a summer camp to experiment with their traditional melodies and rhythms. He will also report on cooperative projects between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities. The following sessions of the conference will focus on education, cultural politics, and the use of media in these troubled regions.

A debate on the “European Year of Intercultural Dialogue” will close the event, inspired by the experience of Marco Abbondanza, director of the International Music and Theatre Festival Sete Sóis Sete Luas. Additional concerts and short excursions to other venues and districts of Jerusalem will enrich the diverse programme.

We hope this conference will be a unique encounter for all who wish to contribute to the well being of people around the world by using music as a tool and means to ease pain, bridge gaps and reinforce self-dignity, intercultural understanding and peace.

For more detailed information about the conference programme and the registration for your participation, please consult the EMC website [www.emc-imc.org/mots](http://www.emc-imc.org/mots).

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