

• PRESS KIT •

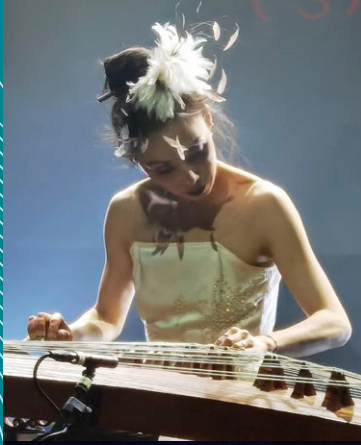
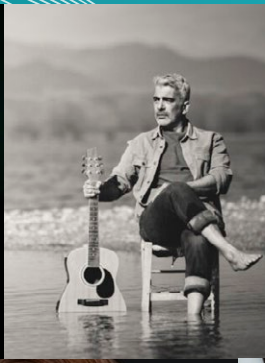
iNTANGiBLES SAVOiRS

10 TO 22 OCTOBER 2026

INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVAL
OF INTANGIBLE
CULTURAL HERITAGE

JOURNEYS TO THE HEART
OF THE WORLD'S CULTURES

AUBAGNE
MARSEILLE
AIX-EN-PROVENCE



IIWM'S FIRST INTANGIBLE SAVOIRS FESTIVAL

A journey to the heart of the world's cultures

The IIWM is organising its first International Festival of Intangible Cultural Heritage
10 - 22 october 2026 in Aubagne, Marseille & Aix-en-Provence

October 17 is the International Day for Intangible Cultural Heritage, created by UNESCO to promote the diversity and richness of living heritage, and raise awareness on the importance of safeguarding it. This event will hold particular significance for the IIWM: the Institute has just been accredited by UNESCO as an NGO under the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. This recognition affirms the IIWM's mission: to keep the world's traditional music and dance alive, and promote them by encouraging people to learn, practise and pass them on.

To mark the occasion, the Institute organises its first 'Intangibles savoirs' festival across Aubagne, Marseille and Aix-en-Provence. A wide range of activities for all audiences, with a highlight on 17 october: a Concert for Peace bringing together for the first time on stage, more than 20 international artists from the IIWM.

PASSING ON LIVING CULTURES

Cultures, traditions, practices and skills passed down from generation to generation need to be recognised and shared in order to continue to thrive and flourish. With this aim in mind, Margaret Dechenaux founded in 2015 the International Institute of World Music, a unique organisation which has become a global hub for living cultures. **Over the years, the Institute's influence has been extending across the globe, with links to conservatoires in 13 countries spanning four continents. And there's more to come!**

RENOWNED TEACHERS

Every year, the IIWM welcomes a growing number of internationally renowned artists, happy to pass on their knowledge through introductory workshops, masterclasses and courses. Several training courses and masterclasses also take place abroad (Mongolia, Bulgaria, Greece, Tunisia, Spain...) so as to encourage an immersive discovery of the traditions and cultures being taught.

A FESTIVAL FOR EVERYONE ...

The festival will be an opportunity to discover the richness and variety of intangible cultures, thanks to numerous artists and craftspeople keen to share and preserve their skills. On the programme: introductory workshops and masterclasses for beginners or experienced artists, and a panel of free activities in Aubagne for all publics.

... AND A GRAND CONCERT FOR PEACE

On Saturday 17 october, more than 20 international artists from the IIWM will come together on stage in Aubagne and treat us to an exceptional concert. Look forward to a magical evening celebrating the values of humanity that connect and unite us across borders.... An invitation to walk together towards world peace.

More information on www.iimm.fr

Press Contact: presse@iimm.fr • Perrine SEGHIER +33 (0)6 82 42 10 74

  IIMM  @iimm_worldmusic  IIWM



Dr. Hyung Suk Moon,
President of IIMM

‘Every musical tradition has a story to tell’

In 2026, the IIMM was granted NGO status by UNESCO, marking an important milestone in the international recognition of our mission. This distinction recognises our long-standing commitment to safeguarding and passing on humanity’s precious intangible musical heritage.

For us, traditional music is not merely an art form; it is a living testament to the memory, wisdom and identity of peoples and nations. Every musical tradition carries within it a story, and every story deserves the same dignity, recognition and respect.

Our responsibility, therefore, is not merely to teach music and dance, but to preserve the cultural knowledge and human values that have been entrusted to us. Through education, we aim to ensure that these irreplaceable traditions are passed on faithfully and sustainably to future generations.



Margaret Dechenaux
Director and founder of IIMM

“Support from prestigious institutions is both a reward and a commitment”

The International Institute of World Music was founded in 2015 to preserve, develop and promote the world’s irreplaceable cultural heritage. Over the years, with the support of our partners, this unique project has become a reality.

Today, the Institute offers the world’s leading artists the opportunity to teach what themselves have learnt from their own mentors, to students from all backgrounds – whether amateurs or professionals.

The official recognition of IIMM by prestigious international institutions such as UNESCO, ICESCO and the University for Peace is at once an honour, a reward and a strong commitment: to move forward developing our actions and promoting the transmission of humanity’s intangible cultural heritage.

The programme of the ‘Intangibles savoirs’ festival illustrates the originality and diversity of the work the institute has been carrying out for years.

A warm welcome to you all!

KEY FIGURES

Over the past 11 years, the IIMM has established itself as a centre of excellence in education, training and the promotion of music.

Since 2015:

- **908 participants** have taken part in **173 masterclasses**, an opportunity to enrich their artistic and professional backgrounds.
- **531 students** have completed **17 certificate and diploma courses**, with an exceptional **100 %** success rate.
- **138 musical performances** have offered unique experiences to a diverse range of audiences.
- **35 concerts** have been produced, attracting more than **4,500 music lovers**.
- **15 framework agreements** have been signed with renowned Conservatoires, Universities and renowned cultural institutions.

A FESTIVAL FOR EVERYONE

Over the course of 13 days, the 'Intangibles savoirs' festival will welcome leading international artists – legendary custodians of music and dance – who are keen to pass on their knowledge to pupils of all ages and backgrounds.

Following masterclasses and workshops, public performances will showcase the amazing richness of the cultural treasures that have been passed down for millennia, from generation to generation.

As part of the festival, a wide-ranging programme of activities will highlight the passing on of cultural traditions. An opportunity for general public to take part freely to a large panel of workshops: music, singing, poetry, traditional games, instrument-making, crafts, painting...

THE EVENTS CALENDAR

PUBLIC EVENTS AUBAGNE

> Free entry, subject to availability.

AUBAGNE CRAFTS DISCOVERY TOUR

Santons Village, workshops
by Thérèse Neveu & Sicard

Saturday 10 and 17 October
10.00 am–13.00 pm • Aubagne

Up to 25 people
Book via text message on 06 12 94 92 42

WRITING, POETRY, KNUCKLEBONES GAME & CONCERT

Mongolian traditions

Wednesday 14 October, 2.00 pm–6.00 pm
> Media Centre • Aubagne

Up to 25 people
Book via text message on 06 12 94 92 42

WELLBEING • Yoga

Thursday 15 October, 2.00 pm–3.00 pm
> Villa Barthélémy • Aubagne

Up to 25 people
Book via text message on 06 80 89 15 24

WRITING, POETRY, KNUCKLEBONES GAME

Mongolian traditions

Saturday 17 October, 2.00 pm–5.00 pm
> Pénitents noirs • Aubagne

Up to 25 people
Book by text message to 06 12 94 92 42

LECTURES

> Free admission, subject to availability.

Hearing and understanding
Mongolian khöömii

JOHANNI CURTET

13 October, 5.30 pm • Aubagne

The Chedda of Tlemcen and its soundscape:
comparative study of the evolution of the
wedding ritual in the 20th and 21st centuries

ISMETH KAHIA TANI

15 October, 5.30 pm • Aubagne

INSTRUMENT MAKING

Making of an oud

Saturday 17 October • 2.00 pm–4.00 pm

La Volute workshop • Aubagne

Up to 6 people
Book by text message on 06 12 94 92 42

IIMM OPEN DAY

Music and dance

Saturday 17 October, 9.00 am–12.00 pm

> Conservatoire • Aubagne

PUBLIC PERFORMANCES FOLLOWING MASTERCLASSES

14–19 October from 4.00 pm

> Villa Barthélémy • Aubagne

In the event of bad weather: Les Pénitents Noirs

EXHIBITION

‘Entre deux Mondes’

by Céline Marin and Quentin Spohn

Until 17 October

Tuesday to Friday

2.00 pm–6.00 pm

Saturday 10.00 am–12 noon / 2.00 pm–6.00 pm

> Pénitents noirs • Aubagne

In the event of bad weather, performances will take place at the Pénitents Noirs in Aubagne

MASTERCLASSES

AUBAGNE & MARSEILLE CONSERVATOIRES

> Fee applies, prior registration required / Public performances free of charge.

Mongolian Khöömii: sound, melodies and repertoire

JOHANNI CURTET & NEMEKHBAYAR YADMAA

10–14 October • Aubagne

PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

16 October, 4.30 pm

> Villa Barthélémy • Aubagne

Maqams: modal languages and tools for musical creation

EFREN LÓPEZ

12–14 October • Aubagne

PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

14 October, 4.00 pm

> Villa Barthélémy • Aubagne

Kurdish daf: rhythm and metrics in the poems of Mowlânâ Rûmi

SHADI FATHI

13–17 October • Aubagne

PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

17 October, 4.30 pm

> Villa Barthélémy • Aubagne

Oriental oud, instrumental technique and Arabic musical styles

AHMAD AL KHATIB

14–18 October • Aubagne

PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

18 October, 4.30 pm

> Villa Barthélémy • Aubagne

Maqams on the Arab–Oriental violin

ZIED ZOUARI

15 and 16 October • Marseille

PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

16 October, 4.30 pm

> Marseille Conservatoire

Rebetiko

DIMITRIS MYSTAKIDIS

16 to 19 October • Aubagne

PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

19 October, 4.30 pm

> Villa Barthélémy • Aubagne

INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOPS

> Fee applies, advance booking required / public performances are free of charge.

Armenian duduk

ARTYOM MINASYAN

17 October, 9.00 am–1.00 pm • Aubagne

Judeo–Spanish songs: language, memory and Sephardic traditions

MARIA ZOPOUNIDIS

18 October, 9.00 am–1.00 pm

• Aubagne

PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

18 October, 4.30 pm

> Villa Barthélémy • Aubagne

ARTISTIC & CULTURAL EDUCATION

‘In Percussion Around the World’ by guest artist Vincent De Block
September to November

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

> Marseille • Collège EDOUARD MANET

> Marseille • Collège LOUIS PASTEUR

> Marignane • Collège EMILIE DE MIRABEAU

> Saint-Rémy-de-Provence • Collège GLANUM

OFFICIAL MEETINGS

in the presence of:

> Dr Hyung Suk Moon, Honorary President

> Jade Giscard d’Estaing, Patron

> Margaret Dechenaux, Founder of the IIMM.

WORKING SESSIONS

Thursday 15 October, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm Aix-en-Provence

Friday 16 October, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm Marseille

Saturday 17 October, 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm Aubagne

A MAJOR CONCERT FOR PEACE

On 17 October, UNESCO's International Day for Intangible Cultural Heritage, around twenty artists from the IIMM will take to the stage at the Comoedia Theatre in Aubagne.

This unique concert, celebrating the bonds that unite people across the world, will be preceded by a graduation ceremony for IIMM students, and the official signing of agreements with new partners.

Saturday 17 October 7.00 pm

• **Théâtre Comœdia • Aubagne**

Prices: 9€ to 25€€

Online booking: comoedia.aubagne.fr
04 42 18 19 88

CONCERT POUR LA PAIX
AVEC LES ARTISTES DE L'IIMM

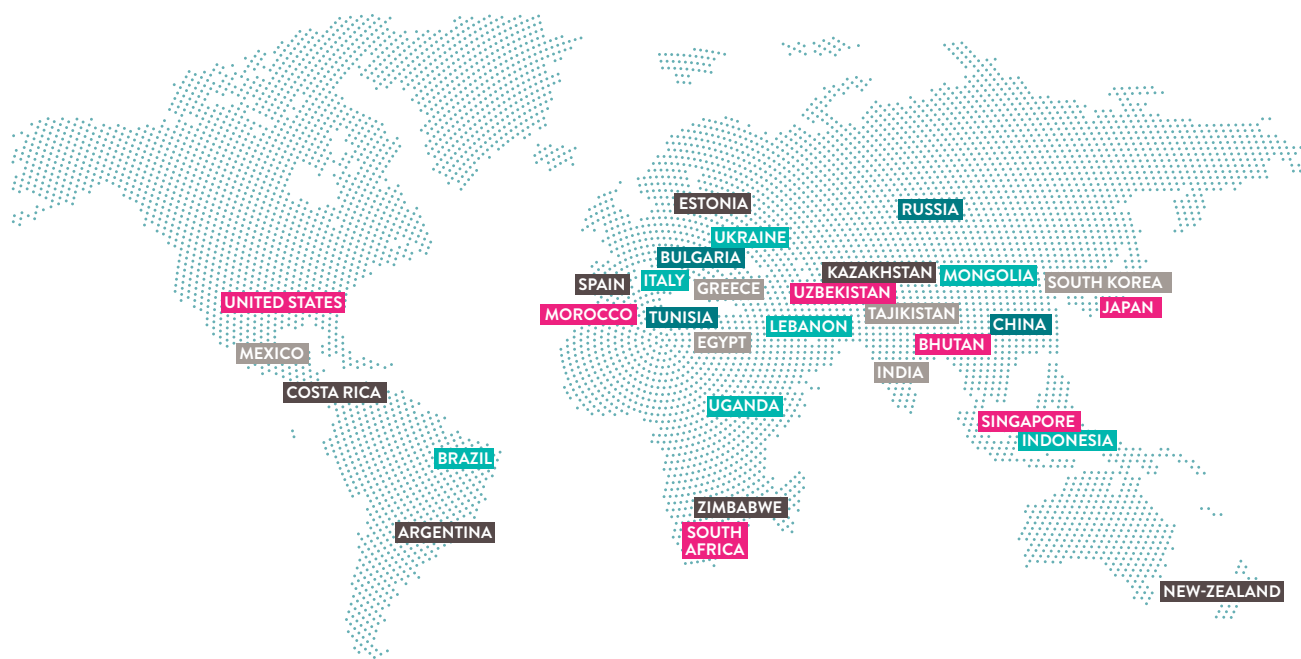
17 OCTOBRE 2026 • 19H
THÉÂTRE COMŒDIA • AUBAGNE

Événement organisé dans le cadre de la Journée internationale du Patrimoine Culturel Immatériel - UNESCO

DISTRIBUTION : Ahmad Al Khatib • Diana Barzeva • Johanni Curtet • Keyvan Chemirani • Shadi Fathi • Emmanuel Frin • Els Janssens • Milena Jeliakova • Nan Jiang • Artyom Minasyan • Dimitris Mystakidis • Cristiano Nascimento • Sarah Procissi • Arthur Rendu • Sharmila Sharma • Maria Simoglou • Henri Tournier • Méri Vardanyan • Victor Hugo Villena • Maria Zopounidis • Nemekhbayer Yadmaa • Zied Zouari

Billetterie en ligne : comoedia.aubagne.fr / 04 42 18 19 88

A WORLDWIDE NETWORK



Additionally, our network extends to: *Armenia • Azerbaijan • United Arab Emirates • Iran • Israel • Jordan • Kyrgyzstan • Kuwait • Malaysia • Nepal • Palestine • Philippines • Sri Lanka • Syria • Taiwan • Thailand • Turkey • Yakutia*

THEY SUPPORT US

IIMM is supported by distinguished personalities and prestigious partners:

"IIMM is an invitation to transcend borders and reveal the universal richness of musical art."



**Dr. Hyung Suk Moon,
Honorary President**

- Founder and representative of the Korean section of IOV (UNESCO, UN NGO)
- Executive Regional Secretary-General for Asia, IOV (UNESCO, UN NGO)
- Asia-Pacific Region Advisor for TURKSOY (UNESCO-affiliated NGO)
- Co-founder of IMACO (International Mask Arts & Culture Organization, UNESCO-affiliated NGO)
- Advisor for the China National Institute of International Cultural Exchange (Ministry of Culture)
- International Advisor for EMMA for Peace Association in Italy

"Music is a living memory. Thanks to IIMM, these melodies transcend time and borders."



© Ingrid Hoffman

**Jade Giscard d'Estaing,
Godmother**

"If Western classical music is a universal heritage, it thrives and transforms through dialogue with the world's scholarly music and dance traditions. IIMM is the setting for this dialogue."



**Olivier Giscard d'Estaing,
Honorary President
(2019-2022)**

"World music is an invaluable treasure. IIMM brings this heritage to life, resonating in the present and the future."



© Solène Renault

**André Manoukian,
Godfather**

- Pianist, graduate of Berklee College of Music
- Founder of the group Horn Stuff, collaborator with artists like Charles Aznavour, Gilbert Bécaud, Janet Jackson...
- Judge for 12 seasons on the TV show Nouvelle Star
- Founder of the Cosmojazz Festival in Chamonix
- Host and commentator on several music programs on France Inter, France 3, Canal Plus...

ADVISORY COMMITTEE



**Dr Francesco
ROJAS ARAVENA**
Special Advisor
to the IIMM
Rector of UPEACE
COSTA RICA



**Dr Irina
BOKOVA**
Advisor to the IIMM
Former Director
General of UNESCO
BULGARIA



**Dr Inès
ABDEL DAYEM**
Advisor to the IIMM
Former Minister of Culture
/ President of the Arab
Music Academy (League of
Arab States)
EGYPT



**Dr Mourad
SAKLI**
Advisor to the IIMM
Former Minister of Culture
& Liaison with UNESCO
and ALESCO
TUNISIA



**Dr Brahim
EL MAZNE**
Advisor to the IIMM
UNESCO Expert on cultural
policy and creative industries
- Former member of the EU –
UNESCO Expertise Bank
MOROCCO



**Dr Chen
SHENGLAI**
Advisor to the IIMM
President of the Shanghai
International Arts Festival
Center & of the Asian Arts
Festivals Association
CHINA



**Dr Raushan
NURTAZA**
Advisor to the IIMM
Rector of the Kazakh National
University of Arts - Focal point
for the implementation of the
UNESCO Convention for the
Safeguarding of Intangible
Cultural Heritage
KAZAKHSTAN

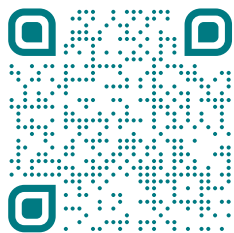


**Dr Dusen
KASEINOV**
Advisor to the IIMM
Former Minister of Culture and
Secretary-General of the Inter-
national Organization of Turkic
Culture (TURKSOY) /
KAZAKHSTAN



**Mgr Marcos
PAVAN**
Advisor to the IIMM
Choir director
of the Sistine Chapel
VATICAN

ALL INFORMATION
ABOUT THE PROGRAM



INTERNATIONAL
INSTITUTE
OF WORLD MUSIC
Director and Founder
Margaret Dechenaux

informations
contact@iimm.fr

+33 (0)4 42 04 37 73

IIMM / @iimm_worldmusic

iimm.fr/en



Crédit Mutuel

