

SPEECH BY FR. KHALIL RAHMEH

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أسبوع الأُرغن في لبنان ٢٠١٧

مُهْرَجَانُ أُسْبُوعِ الأُرْغُنِ فِي لُبْنَانَ، يُطَلُّ عَلَيْنَا مِنْ جَدِيدٍ لِلسَّنَةِ الثَّانِيَةِ عَلَى التَّوَالِي بَعْدَ النِّجَاحِ الَّذِي حَقَّقَهُ فِي السَّنَةِ الأُولَى.

The Lebanese Pipe Organ Week festival will take place for the second consecutive year, following its runaway success last year.

هَذَا النِّجَاحُ الَّذِي لَمْسَنَاهُ فِي الانْطِلَاقِ العَامَ المَاضِي، دَفَعَنَا لِلْعَمَلِ عَلَى تَوْسِيعِ هَذَا النِّشَاطِ الثَّقَافِيِّ عَلَى مُخْتَلَفِ المَرَاكِزِ الثَّقَافِيَّةِ الَّتِي أَبَدَتْ تَعَاوُنًا مَعَنَا. فَجَاءَ عَمَلْنَا لِهَذَا العَامِ شَامِلًا، وَأَصْبَحَ يَضُمُّ مِهْرَجَانَ عَامِ ٢٠١٧ أَرْبَعَةَ مَرَاكِزِ ثَقَافِيَّةٍ عَالَمِيَّةٍ مَعَ عَازِفِينَ مِنْ مُخْتَلَفِ الثَّقَافَاتِ.

Its success gave us the impetus to work toward developing this cultural activity to reach various cultural centers in Lebanon, which have collaborated with us. As a result, this year's event is more comprehensive, since it brings together four international cultural centers with musicians hailing from various cultural backgrounds.

إِنَّهُ الأَوَّلُ وَالوَحِيدُ فِي لُبْنَانَ لِآلَةِ الأُرْغُنِ، يَحْمِلُ طَابَعًا عَالَمِيًّا لِمَا يَتَضَمَّنُ فِي بَرنامِجِهِ المَوْزِعَ عَلَى عِدَّةِ حَفَلَاتٍ مِنْ مَقْطُوعَاتٍ عَالَمِيَّةٍ وَأُخْرَى سَيَكُونُ إِدَائُهَا لِلْمَرَّةِ الأُولَى، كَمَا أَنَّ هَذَا العَامَ سَيَتَرَفَّقُ فِي بَعْضِ الحَفَلَاتِ مَعَ إِنْشَادِ كُورَالِي وَإِفْرَادِي.

The unique and internationally-flavored Pipe Organ Concert is a first-of-its-kind concert for pipe organ in Lebanon, since its program — spread over several nights — includes international celebrated pieces as well as other pieces, which will be performed for the first time. In addition, a choir and a performer will accompany the pipe organ music in some of the concerts.

وهذا المِهْرَجَانُ سَيَتَوَزَّعُ عَلَى خَمْسِ حَفَلَاتٍ فِي خَمْسَةِ كِنَائِسٍ مُخْتَلَفَةٍ وَعَلَى خَمْسَةِ آلَاتِ (orgue à tuyaux) مَوْجُودَةٍ فِي تِلْكَ الكِنَائِسِ، وَسَيَتَمُّ بِالتَّعَاوُنِ مَعَ مِهْرَجَانِ "الأَرْضِ المَقْدَسَةِ لِمُوسِيقَى الأُرْغُنِ الدُّوَلِيِّ". فَيَكُونُ عَلامَةً لِلتَّعَاوُنِ المَسْكُونِيِّ بَيْنَ الكِنَائِسِ المَسِيحِيَّةِ بِاعتِبَارِ الأُرْغُنِ آلَةً مَسِيحِيَّةً، وَهَذَا يَعُودُ إِلَى التَّقْلِيدِ المَعْرُوفِ: "حَيْثُ يُوجَدُ أُرْغُنٌ تَوْجَدُ كَنِيسَةٌ".

This festival, held in collaboration with the Terra Sancta International Organ Festival of Music, will be held over five nights in five different churches, where five different pipe organs will be used. The festival is a sign of ecumenical cooperation among Christian churches given that the organ is a Christian instrument, because according to tradition, “Wherever there exists an organ, there exists a church.”

في السنة الماضية، دَعَوْنَا إِلَى تَرْمِيمِ جَمِيعِ آلَاتِ الأُرْغُنِ القَدِيمَةِ والمُنَسِّيَةِ فِي كَنَائِسِ لُبْنَانَ، كَكَنِيسَةِ الآبَاءِ اليَسُوعِيِّينَ والآبَاءِ الكَبُوشِيِّينَ فِي بَيْرُوتِ وَالَّتِي كَانَتْ قَائِمَةً قَبْلَ الحَرْبِ اللبْنَانِيَّةِ.

Last year, we called for the restoration of all old, forgotten organs in the churches of Lebanon, including the Jesuit and Capuchins Fathers churches of Beirut, among others.

الدَّعْوَةُ لِلْمَهْرَجَانِ مَفْتُوحَةٌ لِجَمِيعِ مَنْ دُونَ اسْتِثْنَاءٍ، لِلإِسْتِمَاعِ وَالإِسْتِمْتَاعِ بِهَذِهِ الآلَةِ العَظِيمَةِ وَاكتِشَافِ جَمَاهِلِهَا وَعَظَمَتِهَا.

The invitation for the Pipe Organ Festival is open to all music amateurs and those interested in listening to and enjoying this great instrument and uncovering its beauty and splendor .

البَرَامِجُ مُنَوَّعَةٌ خِلالَ الأُسْبُوعِ، وَهُوَ امْتِيَازٌ خَاصٌّ لِأَنَّنا سَنَسْتَمِعُ إِلَى عَزْفِ أَهَمِّ وَأشْهَرِ العَازِفِينَ العَالَمِيِّينَ عَلَى آلَةِ الأُرْغُنِ وَعَلَى أَشْهَرِ المَقْطُوعَاتِ الَّتِي كُتِبَتْ خِصَّيْصًا لِهَذِهِ الآلَةِ المُمَيَّزَةِ وَلِهَذَا المَهْرَجَانِ بِالذَاتِ.

We are fortunate, because the program is varied, and it will give us the opportunity to listen to the greatest internationally acclaimed musicians who will play the most renowned pieces, which were especially composed for this pipe organ and for this event in particular.

هَدَفُنَا هُوَ نَشْرُ الثَّقَافَةَ المَوسِيقِيَّةَ، خُصُوصًا ثِقَافَةَ الأُرْغُنِ فِي لُبْنَانَ لِتَشْجِيعِ التَّنْشِئَةِ المَوسِيقِيَّةِ لِهَذِهِ الآلَةِ وَالَّتِي تُعْتَبَرُ مَفْقُودَةً فِي بَلَدِنَا، وَتَتَقَيَّفُ شَبَابِنَا عَلَى التَّقَرُّبِ مِنْهَا، لِأَنَّهَا لَمْ تَكُنْ مُنْتَشِرَةً سَابِقًا فِي لُبْنَانَ لِعَدَمِ وُجُودِ آلَاتِ كَمَا اليَوْمِ وَحَتَّى انْعِدَامِ وُجُودِ دَوْرٍ لِتَعْلِيمِهَا وَكَيْفِيَّةِ اسْتِعْمَالِهَا وَدِرَاسَةِ قَوَاعِدِهَا.

The aim behind this festival is to spread music culture, principally pipe organ culture in view of encouraging the youth to learn to play this instrument, which is considered “extinct” in our country. We also aim to make our youth more aware of the pipe organ’s existence, because it was previously unknown in Lebanon given the lack of instruments and the lack of specialized centers that teach the study of the pipe organ and its rules.

نَأمَلُ أَنْ يَكُونَ التَّجَاوُبُ مَعَ هَذَا المَهْرَجَانِ لِهَذَا العَامِ شَبِيحًا بِمَا لَقِينَاهُ فِي السَّنَةِ المَاضِيَةِ، وَالَّذِي كَانَ مِنْ ثَمَارِهِ افْتِتَاحُ قِسمِ تَعْلِيمِ العَزْفِ عَلَى آلَةِ الأُرْغُنِ فِي مَدْرَسَةِ المَوسِيقَى فِي جَامِعَةِ سَيِّدَةِ اللَوِيْزَةِ وَذَلِكَ بِالتَّعَاوُنِ مَعَ المَرَكزِ الثَّقَافِي الإِيطَالِي وَأَصْبَحَ لَدَيْنَا اليَوْمَ ١٢ طَالِبًا يُدَاوِمُونَ عَلَى الدِّرَاسَةِ، آمَلِينَ مُشَارَكَتَهُمْ فِي السَّنَوَاتِ القَادِمَةِ فِي هَذَا المَهْرَجَانِ.

We hope that you are many and that you respond to our call to attend this festival, just as you responded so positively last year. As a result of your positive feedback, we have opened a department to teach organ music in the NDU School of Music, with the collaboration of the Italian Cultural Institute of Beirut. Today, we have 12 students, and we look forward to the day they can participate in the festival in the future.

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