

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**First ever performance of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra in Doha, Qatar, on January 5, 2010**

**Arab-Israeli orchestra honored to accept an invitation by the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage**

On January 5, 2010, the musicians of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra will play a concert at the National Theatre in Doha, Qatar, following an invitation from the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage. Daniel Barenboim said that he and the musicians of the Orchestra are delighted to be playing in Qatar "since this furthers our activities in the countries where the musicians of the West-Eastern Divan come from".

The performance, featuring Schubert's Piano Quintet in A major D 667 ("The Trout"), with Daniel Barenboim at the piano, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 3 in E flat major op.55 ("Eroica"), is the first concert of the Orchestra in the Emirate.

**About the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra**

Founded in 1999 by the acclaimed Israeli conductor and pianist Daniel Barenboim and the late Palestinian literary scholar Edward Said, the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra brings together musicians from Israel, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt – joined by a number of musicians from Iran, Turkey and Spain – with the aim to perform music and promote reflection and understanding. They meet each summer in Seville, Spain, for a workshop, where rehearsals are complemented by lectures and discussions and followed by an international concert tour.

Since 2002 the workshop and orchestra is based in Seville and is funded by the regional government of Andalusia (Junta de Andalucía). The Barenboim-Said Foundation was established in 2004 and hosts various music education projects in Palestine, Israel and an Academy for orchestral studies in Sevilla.

The West-Eastern Divan Orchestra has proved time and again that music can break down barriers previously considered insurmountable. Through its work and existence, it demonstrates that bridges can be built to encourage people to listen to the narrative of the other. While music alone cannot resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, it grants the individual the right and obligation to express himself fully while listening to his neighbour. Based on this notion of equality, cooperation and justice for all, the orchestra represents an alternative model to the current situation in the Middle East.

All further information at: [www.west-eastern-divan.org](http://www.west-eastern-divan.org)

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