



Geneva, August 3 2009

**Daniel Barenboim and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra dedicate concert to
"Jerusalem: Arab Cultural Capital 2009."**

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the creation of the orchestra, Daniel Barenboim and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra are honoring Edward Said and dedicating their concert in Geneva on August 7th to **"Jerusalem: Arab Cultural Capital 2009."**

One of Jerusalem's most celebrated sons, Edward Said co-founded the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra with Daniel Barenboim. On the occasion of this concert, Daniel Barenboim and Mariam Said will read poems about Edward Said and Jerusalem by Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish and Syrian poet Nizar Qabbani. Michael Barenboim and Karim Said, respectively the son and grand-nephew of the founders of the orchestra, will perform as soloists.

The concert will take place on August 7th at 20.30 at the Victoria Hall in Geneva.

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.

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 and Israel.

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 neighbor. 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.

The West-Eastern Divan Orchestra is marking its 10th anniversary with a tour of some of Europe's most prestigious concert halls and festivals, including performances in Seville, Madrid, San Sebastián, Geneva and Bayreuth as well as a residency at the Salzburg Festival and a series of concerts at the BBC Proms in London.

Further information at: www.west-eastern-divan.org

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