

The Morocco88 Marrakech Choir just after the concert at the Institut Français de Marrakech, 9 October 2026

MOROCCO · GERMANY · 70 YEARS

AWTAR أوتار

A music tour marking 70 years of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Federal Republic of Germany

3–9 October 2026 · Nador · Fès · Casablanca · Rabat · Marrakech

2026 TOUR REPORT

Federal Foreign Office

European Investment Bank | Institute

INSMAC

Association AnouArts
Pour la culture & les arts

3–9 OCTOBER 2026

Awtar 2026: Overview

Seven concerts, five cities, one stage shared by professionals and students



Awtar Tour: the Morocco88 team with German Ambassador Christian Heldt, INSMAC, Rabat, 8 October

Awtar (أوتار, "strings") was a seven-concert tour through Morocco from 3 to 9 October 2026. It celebrated 70 years of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Federal Republic of Germany, part of the anniversary year known as *#sab3inya*.

The German Cardellino Streichquartett, American pianist Kimball Gallagher and Moroccan clarinettist Saïd Cherku toured alongside Morocco88's 2025 winning school clubs and four regional student choirs. In every city, students performed their own original songs, newly arranged for choir and string quartet.

Behind the tour is 88 International, founded in 2015 by Kimball Gallagher, and its Morocco88 programme. Launched in 2024 with Morocco's Ministry of National Education, it now counts close to 100 music clubs in public middle and high schools across seven regions. The concerts capped two and a half months of regional rehearsals.

7	1,085	5	100+	7
CONCERTS	AUDIENCE MEMBERS	CITIES	STUDENT PERFORMERS	ORIGINAL SONGS

THE ROUTE

Seven Concerts in Seven Days

From the Mediterranean coast at Nador to a double finale in Marrakech

1 SAT 3 OCT · 16:00 · NADOR
Complexe Culturel de Nador
Lycée Nador Qualifiant · Lycée Chraibi · audience 100

2 SUN 4 OCT · 18:00 · FÈS
Kan Ya Makan Rhada
Lycée Ibn Hazm · Lycée Chraibi · audience 150

3 MON 5 OCT · 17:00 · FÈS
Université Euromed de Fès
Lycée Ibn Hazm · Lycée Chraibi · audience 85

4 WED 7 OCT · 19:00 · CASABLANCA
Complexe Culturel Mohamed Zefzaf
Charif Idrissi · Chraibi · Ibn Bannae · audience 150

5 THU 8 OCT · 19:30 · RABAT
INSMAC
Charif Idrissi · Chraibi · Ibn Bannae · audience 200

6 FRI 9 OCT · 17:00 · MARRAKECH
Faculté des Sciences Semlalia
Lycée Sahnoun · Lycée Chraibi · audience 200

7 FRI 9 OCT · 20:00 · MARRAKECH
Institut Français de Marrakech
Lycée Sahnoun · Lycée Chraibi · audience 200



The official tour poster

Before the first concert

The visiting musicians arrived in Rabat and Casablanca on 28 September and stayed until 10 October.

TUE 29 SEP · RABAT
Rehearsal at the German Ambassador's residence and with the Lycée Chraibi club and choir; German national day celebration

WED 30 SEP · RABAT · CASABLANCA
Master classes at INSMAC and at Yamaha Casablanca

FRI 2 OCT · RABAT → NADOR
Six hours on the tour bus, then the first full rehearsal in Nador

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

What Our Club Members Say

“Before the tour, I used to overthink being on stage... Now I realize I am much more capable of handling big challenges than I thought.”

— Noor, Morocco88 club of Lycée Chraibi

“This experience helped me gain more confidence in performing on stage and made me feel more proud of my art and my passion for music. Many people discovered my song and loved it so much.”

— Wissal, Morocco88 club of Lycée Ibn Hazm

“After the tour, I began to see music not only as a passion, but also as a way to grow, build connections, and discover parts of myself I hadn’t explored before.”

— Ghofrane, Morocco88 club of Lycée Charif Idrissi

“It helped me see music not only as something we perform, but also as a way to connect people, share cultures, and express ourselves.”

— Sarra, Morocco88 club of Lycée Nador Qualifiant

“This tour was my first experience as a soloist after previously being part of the choir.”

— Oussama Rezzouk, Morocco88 club of Lycée Moulay Driss



Lycée Chraibi soloists in Nador



Hadil Hassine with the Cardellino Quartet in Casablanca



Marrakech, 9 October

أعود من جولة أوتار وأنا أؤمن أكثر بأنّ الموسيقى لا تكتفي بجمع الأصوات، بل تجمع القلوب أيضًا

“I come back from the Awtar tour believing more than ever that music does not only bring voices together, it brings hearts together too.”

— Yassmine, Morocco88 club of Lycée Chraibi

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

A Reason to Stay

Yassine, Morocco88 club of Lycée Ibn Bannae Al Mourrakouchi, Casablanca

"Before the preparations for the tour began, I was planning to leave the club. I was also going to change school completely, which meant that I would no longer be part of Morocco 88... I filled out the application form almost randomly.

During the rehearsals, we shared wonderful moments together... Every time I rehearsed or performed, I felt like a real artist.

Following this experience, I completely abandoned the idea of leaving Morocco 88. I am now planning to continue being part of the program even after completing my journey as a high school student."



The Casablanca clubs and choir on stage at Mohamed Zefzaf

From the musicians



Clemens Ratajczak, violin

"One of the most beautiful experiences of my life... When the first concert in Nador, after some ups and downs in rehearsal, turned out so wonderfully, I was surprised and overwhelmed by the result, and by the solidarity and the joy everyone took in one another. I found every encounter with the young people, each and every one of them, incredibly enriching and inspiring."

— Clemens Ratajczak, violin, Cardellino Streichquartett (translated from German)

"It was a wonderful experience, with a family atmosphere. Music brought us together, serving as a language of exchange between the different musicians and the choir."

— Saïd Cherku, clarinet (translated from Arabic and French)

CONCERT 1 · SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER · 16:00

In Nador

Opening night at the Complexe Culturel de Nador



All the performers after the opening concert in Nador

The performers reached Nador on 2 October after six hours on the bus from Rabat, rehearsing the running order on the road. The Nador regional choir of 30 singers, directed by Hadil Hassine, opened the tour with the Lycée Nador Qualifiant club's song "Rfah nagh", featuring soloist Sara Joue.



Lycée Chraibi club on stage in Nador

The Lycée Chraibi club from Rabat joined them with "Li Fat", the first of seven performances it gave on the tour. After the concert the performers boarded the bus for a four-hour overnight drive to Fès.

"My experience on the Awtar tour was truly meaningful and inspiring. It gave me the opportunity to discover new things, connect with other talented musicians, and learn from people with different experiences and perspectives."

— Sarra, Morocco88 club of Lycée Nador Qualifiant

CONCERTS 2 & 3 · SUNDAY 4 AND MONDAY 5 OCTOBER

In Fès

At Kan Ya Makan Rhada and the Université Euromed de Fès



Concert 2: the performers at Kan Ya Makan Rhada, 4 October



Concert 3: the performers at the Université Euromed de Fès, 5 October

Fès hosted two concerts on consecutive days. The Fès regional choir of 23 singers, directed by Isbael Taurel, performed with the Lycée Ibn Hazm club, whose song "Features from another time" (من زمن آخر) was arranged by Tunisia88 alumna Eya Maaloul.

The first night took place at the Kan Ya Makan centre in Rhada. The second was hosted by the Université Euromed de Fès, a partnership the university linked to its work with the European Investment Bank.

"Performing our club's original compositions alongside a German quartet gave me the opportunity to exchange ideas and discover new musical perspectives."

— Oussama Rezzouk, Morocco88 club of Lycée Moulay Driss



The Cardellino Quartet in Fès



The Lycée Ibn Hazm club and the Fès choir



The Lycée Chraibi club in Fès

CONCERT 4 · WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER · 19:00

In Casablanca

At the Complexe Culturel Mohamed Zefzaf, with AnouArts and IMRI



All the performers at the Complexe Culturel Mohamed Zefzaf

The Casablanca concert was co-hosted by the association AnouArts, the Institut Marocain des Relations Internationales (IMRI) and the Zefzaf cultural complex. Kimball Gallagher played Schumann's *Carnaval*, and Saïd Cherku joined the Cardellino Quartet for Mozart.

In the second half, the Lycée Charif Idrissi, Lycée Chraibi and Lycée Ibn Bannae Al Mourrakouchi clubs sang their own songs with the Rabat–Casablanca choir, directed by Oumaima El Harim. AnouArts Honorary President Najib Zerouali summed up the evening: "La diplomatie réunit les États, mais la culture réunit les peuples."



Kimball Gallagher plays Schumann



Najib Zerouali, Honorary President of AnouArts, and Kimball Gallagher

LE MYTHE, CE SOIR-LÀ, ÉTAIT SUR SCÈNE · DR SABRIA KORICHI, 8 OCTOBER

Writing the next day, Dr Sabria Korichi described young artists singing their own compositions and alumni now mentoring younger members, confidence once received and now passed on. Her conclusion: *"La jeunesse n'est pas l'avenir. Elle est le présent."*

CONCERT 5 · THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER · 19:30

In Rabat

At INSMAC, presided by H.E. Christian Heldt, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany



The Rabat–Casablanca choir backstage at INSMAC



German Ambassador Christian Heldt addresses the audience

The tour returned to the Institut National Supérieur de Musique et des Arts Chorégraphiques (INSMAC), where the musicians had given a master class on 30 September. German Ambassador Christian Heldt addressed the audience at this anniversary concert in the capital.

The Rabat–Casablanca choir sang with the clubs of Lycée Charif Idrissi (“Tussna”, arranged by Brian Liu of Bowdoin College), Lycée Chraibi (“Li Fat”) and Lycée Ibn Bannae Al Mourrakouchi (“Azul In Casa White”). At 21:30 the bus left for Marrakech.



Aya Faquiri, Morocco88 alumna and 88 International intern for the Awtar Tour, with the German Ambassador



Saïd Cherku joins the Cardellino Quartet



Kimball Gallagher at the piano, INSMAC

CONCERT 6 · FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER · 17:00

In Marrakech

Two concerts in one day, beginning at the Faculté des Sciences Semlalia



The performers at the Faculté des Sciences Semlalia, Cadi Ayyad University

After a night drive from Rabat, the performers held a 10:00 sound check and a 13:30 rehearsal before the first of two Marrakech concerts. The concert at the Faculté des Sciences was set up with the help of Abdelsadaq Adnani of Les Amis de l'Allemagne.

The Marrakech choir of 25 singers, directed by Yassine Errazi, drew students from schools across the region, including Ben Guerir and Safi. They sang with the Lycée Sahnoun club, whose song "You are the Land" was arranged by Tunisia88 alumna Imen Ben Hadj Khelifa.



Kimball Gallagher with the Cardellino Quartet



The Lycée Sahnoun club and the Marrakech choir



Lunch together on arrival in Marrakech

CONCERT 7 · FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER · 20:00

The Finale

At the Institut Français de Marrakech



All the performers after the last concert of the tour



A full house at the Institut Français

Three hours after the first Marrakech concert, the tour closed at the Institut Français with the quartet, Kimball Gallagher at the piano, the Marrakech choir, and the Lycée Sahnoun and Lycée Chraibi clubs.

Throughout the tour, students also shared their own words with the quartet. Before the second movement of Schubert's "Death and the Maiden", Yasmina recited her translation of Matthias Claudius's poem, an idea born on the bus to Nador. The next morning, the German musicians flew home from Rabat.



Hadil Hassine, singer and songwriter of "Ana Heya", with the quartet



A reading with the quartet at the Institut Français

THE MUSIC

Seven Original Songs

Six written by the winning clubs, one by a Tunisia88 alumna

Each 2025 winning club brought a song its members had written themselves. Arrangers from the 88 International network set them for choir and string quartet, and the Cardellino musicians received the scores before arriving in Morocco. A seventh song, "Ana Heya", was written and sung by Hadil Hassine.

ORIENTAL

Rfah nagh

Lycée Nador Qualifiant

Arranged by Greer Kennedy

YALE UNIVERSITY

FÈS-MEKNÈS

Features from another time • من زمن آخر

Lycée Ibn Hazm

Arranged by Eya Maaloul

TUNISIA88 ALUMNA

RABAT-SALÉ-KÉNITRA

Li Fat • إلي فات

Lycée Chraibi

Arranged by Greer Kennedy

YALE UNIVERSITY

RABAT-SALÉ-KÉNITRA

Tussna

Lycée Charif Idrissi

Arranged by Brian Liu

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

CASABLANCA-SETTAT

Azul In Casa White

Lycée Ibn Bannae Al Mourrakouchi

Arranged by Greer Kennedy

YALE UNIVERSITY

MARRAKECH-SAFI

You are the Land

Lycée Sahnoun

Arranged by Imen Ben Hadj Khelifa

TUNISIA88 ALUMNA

SONG BY HADIL HASSINE

Ana Heya

Written and sung by Hadil Hassine, a Tunisia88 alumna, 88 International's Research and Training Officer and director of the Nador choir. Arranged for string quartet by Imen Ben Hadj Khelifa, Tunisia88 alumna.



Clemens Ratajczak and Juan Hevia

The classical programme

Alongside the students' songs, the professionals performed string quartet movements each tied to a German theme, Brahms's Piano Quintet with Kimball Gallagher, and Mozart's Clarinet Quintet with Saïd Cherku. Kimball Gallagher also played Schumann's *Carnaval*.

Schubert's "Death and the Maiden" became a meeting point of the two worlds. Yasmina's translation of the Matthias Claudius poem was recited over the opening theme of its second movement, a moment Clemens Ratajczak found "truly moving at every concert."

BY THE NUMBERS

Tour Statistics

7	1,085	5	≈34,500	100+
CONCERTS	AUDIENCE MEMBERS	CITIES	KM TRAVELLED	STUDENT PERFORMERS

28	7	4	11	13
SCHOOLS REPRESENTED	ORIGINAL SONGS	REGIONAL CHOIRS	ALUMNI MENTORS	DAYS IN RESIDENCE

Students: 104 choir places and 26 club members, some of whom sang in both. Schools: secondary schools named in the choir and club rosters. Alumni: former Morocco88 members who sang alongside and mentored current members. Kilometres (approximate): about 1,800 km by road (Rabat, Nador, Fès, Rabat, Casablanca, Rabat, Marrakech, Rabat) plus return flights Tunis–Rabat, New York–Rabat and, for four musicians, Essen–Rabat. Audience: 100 in Nador, 150 at Kan Ya Makan, 85 at Université Euromed, 150 in Casablanca, 200 in Rabat, 200 at the Faculté des Sciences and 200 at the Institut Français. 13 days: the residency, 28 September to 10 October.

In the media

DPRESS.MA · 8 OCTOBER 2026

Casablanca : Un concert célèbre le 70e anniversaire des relations diplomatiques maroco-allemandes

dpress.ma/fr/2026/10/08/casablanca-un-concert...

MEDI1 NEWS

Coverage of the Awtar tour

medi1news.com/fr/article/411049.html

DR SABRIA KORICHI · CASABLANCA, 8 OCTOBER 2026

Le mythe, ce soir-là, était sur scène

Essay on the Casablanca concert, shared on social media



Najib Zerouali, Honorary President of AnouArts, and Kimball Gallagher in Casablanca

WHO MADE THE MUSIC

The Performers

Cardellino Streichquartett

VIOLIN 1

Clemens Ratajczak

VIOLIN 2

Johannes Rudolf Alexander Krause

VIOLA

Juan Hevia

CELLO

Emanuel Matz

VOICE

Hadil Hassine, singing her own song “Ana Heya”

Tour team

AWTAR TOUR INTERN

Aya Faquiri, Morocco88 alumna and 88 International intern

PARTNERSHIP OFFICER

Zakaria Errahmaoui

Soloists

PIANO

Kimball Gallagher, founder of 88 International

CLARINET

Saïd Cherku

QANUN

Wiame Moutaouakkil

Choir directors

NADOR

Hadil Hassine, Tunisia88 alumna and 88 International Research and Training Officer

FÈS

Isbael Taurel

RABAT AND CASABLANCA

Oumaima El Harim

MARRAKECH

Yassine Errazi

The 2025 winning Morocco88 clubs

LYCÉE NADOR QUALIFIANT · NADOR

Sara Joue

LYCÉE IBN HAZM · FÈS

Kholoud El Hamdani, Khalid Mouhib, Wissal Baladi, Boutaina Tarfaoui, Douae Cherradi Agourram, Rayane Bricha, Badr Salim, Marwa El Bekarri, Salma Mghizl

LYCÉE CHRAIBI · RABAT

Daniel Kornienko, Yassmine Bessi, Nour El Houda Saber, Neimat Essagar

LYCÉE CHARIF IDRISSI · RABAT

Aya Zaroual, Ghofrane El Fazazi, Yasser Ahejri

LYCÉE IBN BANNAE AL MOURRAKOUCHI · CASABLANCA

Ikram Aithamou Lahcen, Yassine Belmekki, Aya Layya, Yassmine Faiazid

LYCÉE SAHNOUN · MARRAKECH

Nour El Houda Lhajjamiya, Ayoub Elwrz, Aya Tahiri, Salah, Nour Elhouda Jouay

Arrangers

Greer Kennedy
YALE UNIVERSITY

Brian Liu
BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Eya Maaloul
TUNISIA88 ALUMNA

Imen Ben Hadj Khelifa
TUNISIA88 ALUMNA

WHO MADE THE MUSIC

The Regional Choirs

104 places across four Morocco88 regional choirs

Nador

DIR. HADIL HASSINE · 30 SINGERS

Ahmed Meziani
Mohammed Amine Bekkali
Mohammed Youssfi
Zineb Marhoum
Khaoula Azza
Hiba Hmamouchi
Mossaab Largo
Houssam Lemrabti
Taha Benhanni
Maria Miklik
Dounia Bammou
Ibtissam Khaoua
Imane Jilad
Israe El Gourari
Romaissae Amhamdi
Aicha Zahri
Amina Azzouz
Kenza Zorgan
Amin El Hamdi
Farah El Yamami
Mohammed Boujour
Ilyasse Botchich
Mrwane Belkacem
Ilyasse Bohmara
Ayoub Zine
Youssef El Bachiri
Aymane El Oumali
Salah Lakhriraz
Sara Joue (soloist)
Adnane Sabri

Rabat–Casablanca

DIR. OUMAIMA EL HARIM · 26 SINGERS

Saber Meskaoui
Aya Zaroual
Ghofrane El Fazazi
Yasser Ahejri
Adnan El Ouarga
Isshak Maggarmi
Abdellah Essaali
Aya Berrim
Nour El Houda Saber
Daniel Kornienko
Yassmine Bessi
Hiba Baroudi
Neimat Essagar
Doha El Ouai
Nour Elhouda Dakhouch
Malak
Imane Agouzoul
Abderrahman Reddah
Hiba Eroussi
Adam Tai
Bahae Din Labrim
Aya Layya
Yassine Belmekki
Ikram Aithamou Lahcen
Yassmine Faiazid
Malak Idbouhou

Fès

DIR. ISBAEL TAUREL · 23 SINGERS

Youssef Karim
Oussama Rezzouk
Salma Karim
Mehdi Bousfiha
Kamar Ettamssouri
Amine Loubidi
Jannat Essamman
Badr Salim
Douae Cherradi
Agourram
Khalid Mouhib
Boutaina Tarfaoui
Wissal Baladi
Yassmin Mousaid
Wassila Makboul
Houssem Alj
Meryeme Mouhajir
Mohammed Lamjadli
Adam El Khattabi
Saif Eldine Naanai
Maroua Mesbahi
Kholoud El Hamdani
Rayane Bricha
Salma Mghizl

Marrakech

DIR. YASSINE ERRAZI · 25 SINGERS

Abdellah Maoukil
Adam Boukrit
Mohamed Balil
Karimane A. Karim
Saad El Harroui
Fathllah Azridi
Nour Elhouda Jouay
Nour El Houda Lhajjamiya
Aya Tahiri
Ayoub Elwrz
Salah
Salah Eddine Ait Bassou
Mohamed Elharfaoui
El Mehdi Bassiq
Samah El Chahbi
Dounya Radi
Nasrelah Oudili
Chorok Qazzibi
Leila Oudili
Ines Kaoui
Rayane Ait Oumada
Farah Semlali
Marwa Boujrou
Rania Zaroual
Fatima Zahra Lahmin

WITH GRATITUDE

Partners & Thanks

Partners

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Morocco88 · 88 International · Association AnouArts

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

German Federal Foreign Office · Ministry of Youth, Culture and Communication · Ministry of National Education, Preschool and Sports

PROGRAMME PARTNER

European Investment Bank Institute

HOST INSTITUTIONS

INSMAC · Université Euromed de Fès · Faculté des Sciences Semlalia · Institut Français de Marrakech · Complexe Culturel Mohamed Zefzaf · Complexe Culturel de Nador · Kan Ya Makan · IMRI

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AREF Oriental · AREF Fès-Meknès · AREF Rabat-Salé-Kénitra · AREF Casablanca-Settat · AREF Marrakech-Safi · and all representatives of the Office of La Vie Scolaire in every region concerned

Thank you

NADOR

Samir Abdellaoui, Direction Provinciale de Nador (DP Nador), who hosted the concert

MARRAKECH

Abdelsadaq Adnani (Les Amis de l'Allemagne) · Professor Idrissi and the Dean, Faculté des Sciences Semlalia · the Director and team of the Institut Français de Marrakech · Asma Ben Sultana, Morocco88 lead at AREF Marrakech-Safi

CASABLANCA

Najib Zerouali (AnouArts) · Najib Senhadji

RABAT

Nadia Zaouite and the INSMAC team · Aziz Ifzarne · Mohcine Khannous · the Minister of Culture

FÈS

Omar Chennafi (Fez Gathering) · the President and Dean of the Université Euromed de Fès · Abdou Jalal, Centre Kan Ya Makan · Zineb Mdarhri

MUSICIANS

The Cardellino Streichquartett