



Lebanese composer Marcel Khalife is pictured during a rehearsal with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra, presenting choral compositions inspired by the Arab Spring, at the Doha Opera House on Sunday.

Khalife enthralled Qatar

AFP
Doha

Famous Lebanese composer Marcel Khalife enthralled a Qatari audience with his Arab Spring-inspired suite "Oriental" in Doha, presented in collaboration with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra he helped set up in 2007.

The late Sunday performance aimed "to echo the cries of the Arab people for freedom," said the 62-year-old composer, whose latest work brings together tunes from the traditional Iraqi maqam musical style, mixed with others from the Levant, North Africa, Egypt and Andalusia.

"There is much happiness" in Oriental, "echoing the cries of ordinary Arab people, which had been suppressed for (some) 50 years before they took to the streets to demand freedom," Khalife told AFP.

The Leipzig Radio Choir sang in Arabic accompanied by the Qatari

orchestra at the Doha Opera House, located in the Katara Cultural Village.

Khalife's 31-year-old son Rami, following his father's footsteps, presented a requiem, inspired by the violence shaking the Middle East and North Africa.

"The large amount of death around us, especially in Syria and Arab Spring countries and the whole world led me to composing this requiem," said Rami, who played the harpsichord accompanied by chants from the Korean soprano Whal Ran Seo.

For Khalife, a leftist since his youth, the two works are "complementary."

The aspiration of Arabs to freedom is "an irrevocable process which will move ahead despite the obstacles of extremism and sectarianism," he said, adding that "difficult years are ahead."

Khalife played an important role in the establishment of the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra. It has 101 musicians from 30 countries.

Minister attends concert

HE the Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage, Dr. Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kuwari, has attended Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra concert which was performed at Qatar Opera House at Katara Cultural Village building in the West Bay.

The concert, performed on Sunday night, hosted Lebanese singer, composer and oud-player Marcel Khalife, who is also an adviser to the orchestra, in addition to the German Radio Choir. Marcel Khalife performed during

the festival, 'Chants of the East' or (Tahaleel Al Sharq), which was being played in Arabic for the first time by the German Radio Choir. The ceremony also included a musical piece by Khalife.

Meanwhile, Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra in co-operation with German Radio Choir, will perform their next ceremony at Qatar National Conference Centre (QNCC), on Friday, February 8, where the two parties would perform the Beethoven: Choral Symphony No. 9.