

**Beirut & Beyond International Music Festival kicks off its 2016 series of activities with concert featuring Maurice Louca and a professional gathering.**

**Festival dates:** December 8-11, 2016.

**First event:**  June 16, 2016.

Beirut, Lebanon (June 10, 2016) – Beirut & Beyond International Music Festival, in collaboration with Station Beirut, is pleased to begin its 2016 series of activities with a unique concert featuring Egyptian musician Maurice Louca, accompanied by Bashar Farran (LB) on bass and Tommaso Cappelatto (IT) on drums, on June 16, 2016 in Beirut, Lebanon. The concert will be the first of a series of activities leading up to the 2016 Beirut & Beyond International Music Festival on December 8-11, 2016.

Maurice Louca, aka “Electronic Wizard,” is an Egyptian musician and composer based in Cairo and is the co-founder of three bands: Bikya, Alif and Dwarves of East Agouza. His eclectic style of electronic music is inspired by everything, from psychedelic to Egyptian Shaabi music. Louca was an active member of Egypt’s underground music scene and rose to fame in the wake of the Arab Spring.

After performing in the first edition of Beirut & Beyond (2013), and partaking in the 2013 and 2014 Beirut & Beyond tours in partnership with Oslo World Music Festival, Maurice released his second album titled Benhayyi Al-Baghbaghan (Salute The Parrot), which shattered musical and cultural boundaries and was dubbed a game-changer for the region’s flourishing independent music scene. Today, he is renowned for his originality and is one of the most notable artists in the alternative music scene in Arab world.

Beirut & Beyond is also organizing in partnership with Fete de La Musique in Lebanon, a professional gathering “**Crossing Perspectives on Collaboration**”. Bringing together members from the Board of Trustees of Beirut & Beyond with local professionals, this encounter is above all an invitation to meet and talk music.

The gathering is taking place on June 16, at Station Beirut from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

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