



FONDATION
USJ



1875
Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth
Saint Joseph University of Beirut
جامعة القديس يوسف في بيروت



Chœur
de l'USJ

Call for Support For the
USJ Choir

More

HERITAGE
CONSERVATION



USJ
TOUJOURS
plus

USJ
ASPIRE
For more

FUNDRAISING
CAMPAIGN 150
YEARS OF USJ



One of the pillars of our new fundraising campaign “USJ, Aspire for More”, launched as part of the Saint Joseph University of Beirut’s (USJ) 150th anniversary celebration in 2025, is to achieve “More Heritage Conservation.” The initiative aims to fund various projects including those of the Oriental Library (BO), the USJ Choir, the Museum of Lebanese Prehistory (MPL), amphitheatres, and the Béryte and Monnot theaters. With a rich cultural and artistic heritage, USJ is deeply committed to preserving its legacy. It is our responsibility to safeguard collective memory and ensure that the treasures of the past remain accessible to future generations.

1. PROJECT TITLE

Supporting the USJ Choir

2. APPLICANT

The Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ) Choir and *Fondation USJ*.

3. LOCATION

The Choir will perform at:

- St. Joseph Church, Jesuit Fathers - Monnot.
- Casino du Liban.

4. USJ CHOIR OVERVIEW

About the USJ Choir

Founded in 2015 by Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, the USJ Choir now comprises over 80 singers from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds, reflecting Lebanon’s values of tolerance, inclusivity, and diversity. Under the baton of conductor Yasmina Sabbah, the Choir has swiftly become one of the leading choirs in the Middle East. It is renowned for its exceptional performance standards, bold artistic vision, and original repertoire focused on contemporary crossover music. By blending various styles and influences, the Choir serves as a cultural bridge, fostering mutual understanding, and promoting peace by harmoniously uniting traditions.

Mission

In these challenging times, our mission is to safeguard music and culture, integral to the Lebanese identity and spirit. As essential needs go unmet and local and international aid focuses on survival, we cannot afford to lose music – a source of life, joy, and hope. Music nurtures our souls and preserves our mental health; it is not a luxury but a necessity. Additionally, it sustains jobs in a vulnerable sector that could be at risk of disappearing if not preserved. While choir members are volunteers, the costs of producing our concerts – such as equipment rental, musicians and artist fees, technicians, and labor – are significant and increasingly challenging to cover due to inflation and worsening conditions.

Join us in our cultural resilience and support our initiative to preserve one of Lebanon’s fundamental pillars, ensuring that our beloved country remains as vibrant and inspiring as ever.

5. CONCERTS AND PROJECTS IN 2024

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Saint Joseph University of Beirut, the USJ Choir is set to present three exceptional concerts:

1) The Sacred Music of Poulenc | June 2024

Highlighting the renowned illustrious composer Francis Poulenc, this French program celebrates his unique ability to merge classical tradition with contemporary elements. The USJ Choir will deliver heartfelt interpretations of three of his major sacred works: “Stabat Mater”, “Gloria”, and “*Litanies à la Vierge Noire*”. These pieces reflect USJ’s commitment to a genuine artistic immersion in French culture.

2) « Symphonic Rock » | July 2024

Bringing together the power of rock and the grandeur of a symphony orchestra, this groundbreaking musical concept reimagines the timeless hits of Queen, Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, Bon Jovi, and other rock icons. The songs are reinvented, reorchestrated, and specially arranged for the USJ Choir by talented composers Ayad & Sary Khalifé and Vincenzo De Filippo, promising an unforgettable evening with over 120 artists on stage.

3) Monteverdi's Vespers of the Blessed Virgin Mary | December 2024

A full week of Italian early music consisting of masterclasses, lectures, and recitals all over Lebanon, culminating in a grand final concert, bringing together Italian artists and Lebanese musicians, students, and music lovers. The final concert will feature one of the gems of Italian heritage: Claudio Monteverdi's "Vespro della Beata Vergine."

6. OBJECTIVES

- Performing high quality concerts.
- Fostering young Lebanese talents and training future musicians through educational programs and masterclasses.
- Preserving Lebanon's cultural and musical environment.
- Ensuring the Choir's continuity in the coming years.
- Hiring musicians and acquiring special instruments.
- Collaborating with globally renowned Lebanese and international soloists.
- Acquiring and renting necessary equipment and materials.

7. TARGET BENEFICIARIES

- USJ students.
- Young Lebanese artists from diverse backgrounds.
- Professional musicians.
- Members of the entertainment sector.
- Music lovers and concertgoers.

8. RESOURCES

The USJ Choir relies on ticket sales to fund its activities, which help cover certain concert expenses but are insufficient, noting that these concerts are non-profit events.

Therefore, we seek the solidarity and generosity of donors interested in supporting the USJ Choir:

- Sponsors.
- Friends and donors of the USJ Choir.
- Collaborators such as embassies or organizations.

9. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST

113,930 USD (one hundred and thirteen thousand nine hundred and thirty US dollars).

10. DETAILED BUDGET AND FUNDING

The budget allocation for the 2024 concerts is as follows:

Description	Price
Orchestra	156,940 \$
Soloists	11,160 \$
Sheet music and arrangements	16,000 \$
Production	50,865 \$
Other expenses	28,965 \$
Total	263,930 \$
Costs borne by USJ Choir	150,000 \$
Financial Assistance Requested	113,930 \$

11. PROJECT RESULTS AND REPORTING

● Results

Three high quality concerts organized by the USJ Choir.

● Transparency

We will send a detailed narrative report outlining the impact of the donation, along with a financial report on its use.

Annually, we distribute an impact report to the USJ Community, as well as all friends and donors.

For your donation: <https://www.usj.edu.lb/donations/>

For more information, please contact the *Fondation USJ*:

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