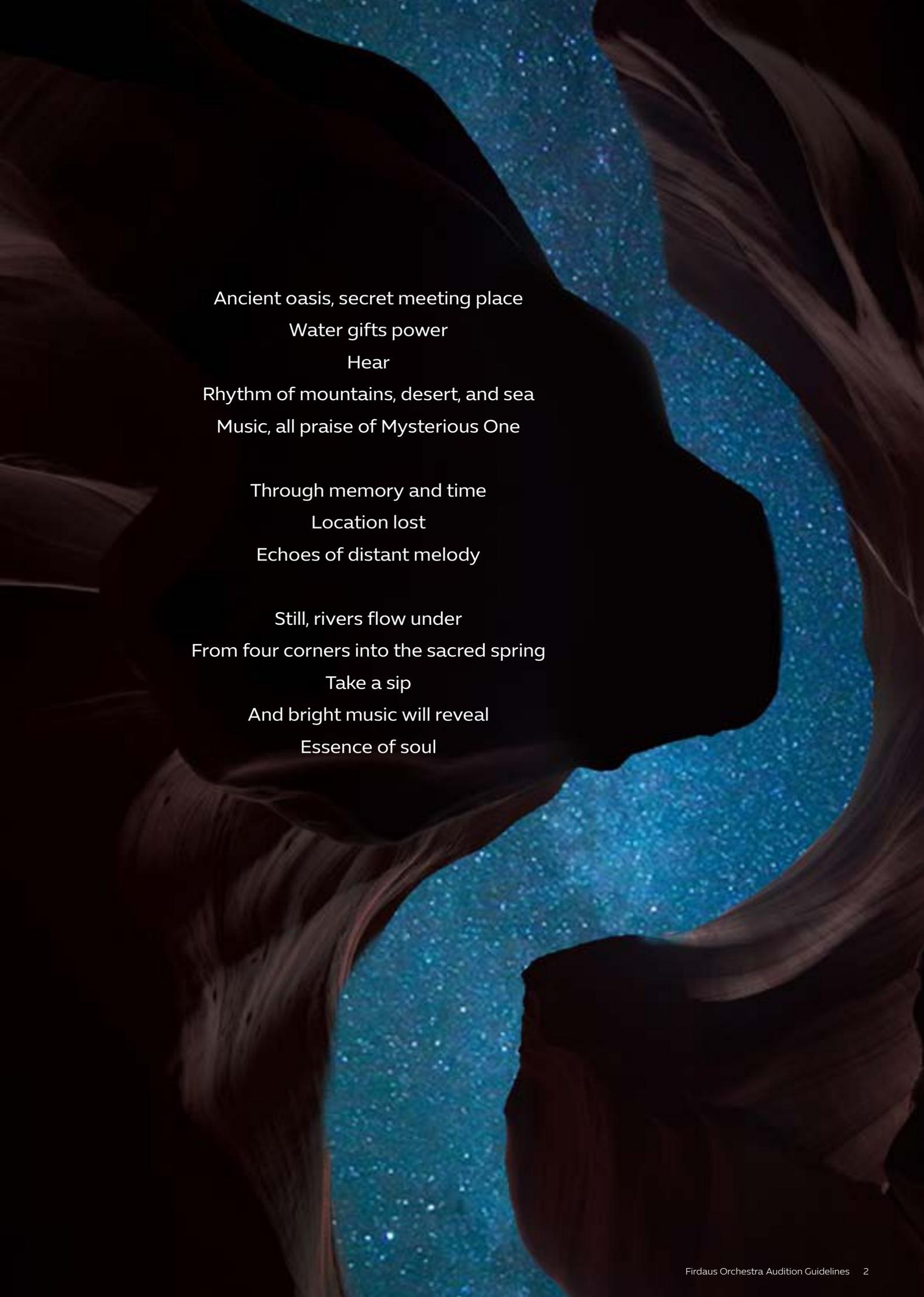




Bureau
International
des Expositions

FIRDAUS ORCHESTRA

Auditions Guideline



Ancient oasis, secret meeting place
Water gifts power
Hear
Rhythm of mountains, desert, and sea
Music, all praise of Mysterious One

Through memory and time
Location lost
Echoes of distant melody

Still, rivers flow under
From four corners into the sacred spring
Take a sip
And bright music will reveal
Essence of soul

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1 : THE VISION
OF FIRDAUS



The vision of Firdaus

Firdaus Orchestra aims to feature 50 female musicians from across the Arab world and showcase their talent to a global audience through a legacy orchestra launched at Expo 2020 Dubai. The orchestra will reflect the UAE's multicultural and tolerant society by bringing together a tapestry of diverse artists, instruments, languages and backgrounds.

Building on the teachings of the past while incorporating modern technology, innovation and creativity, Firdaus' musical journey will present new and old sounds,

approaches and experiences through epic, and spiritually uplifting musical journeys. Anchored in AR Rahman's ground-breaking and unparalleled style, it will draw from musical genres and traditions from around the world while highlighting the UAE's rich cultural heritage.

As an ensemble that celebrates, nurtures and champions female musicians, Firdaus will strive to tell diverse stories of women and womanhood, including female achievers and pioneers from the UAE and across the region.

2 | LEARN FROM
THE LEGENDARY
A.R. RAHMAN



Learn from the legendary A. R. Rahman

Firdaus Orchestra at Expo 2020 Dubai will strive to shape the future of music. Not only will the ensemble reimagine classic musical pieces, but also bring a world-class experience to the global stage.

The ensemble will receive training and mentorship from Grammy and Oscar winner AR Rahman, the renowned composer who has sold an estimated 150 million records worldwide. A composer, singer-songwriter, producer and philanthropist, Rahman has won countless awards – including two Academy Awards, two Grammys and a Golden Globe for his work on the Slumdog Millionaire soundtrack.

Read more: www.arahman.com

3 : ABOUT THE
AUDITION
PROCESS



About the audition process

Your audition will comprise of two rounds and selections, which will be conducted by a panel of judges.

First round

Fill out the audition form and share a video of yourself performing LIVE, either one or two pieces of music that best demonstrate your expertise and experience.

- Each piece performed should be no more than 90 seconds long
- Please film the video in high resolution and make sure the sound is clear and audible with no background noise
- The video(s) must be uploaded onto YouTube, Vimeo, or any another digital platform, and the link posted into the audition form
- The deadline for submitting applications is available on the website
- You will be notified of your application's status within approximately two weeks after the closing date

Second round

Shortlisted candidates will be invited via email to a second round of auditions that will be conducted in person or over a video calling application, such as Zoom.

The second round will include:

- One pre-determined piece that will be sent to you at least 5-7 days in advance, in line with your level
- One piece of your choosing, no longer than 2 minutes long
- One sight-reading exercise will be provided during the audition.

In addition, a short interview will be conducted to learn more about you and your musical journey.

5 : JOINING THE
ORCHESTRA



Joining the orchestra

Following the second round of auditions, successful candidates will be formally invited to join the Firdaus Orchestra. It is preferred that orchestra members will be based in the UAE and/or MENA region and available for a full-time commitment to include rehearsals, meetings and performances, tentatively April 2021-April 2022. This will include pre-event time orientation, training and practice, leading up to the actual event time 1 October 2021-31 March 2022.

Note: For those unable to commit full time, options may be discussed to accommodate certain concerns and circumstances, if you are offered a place in the orchestra.

Remuneration

Orchestra members will be hired and compensated based on their level and standing within the orchestra, in line with industry norms.

During Expo 2020

As Expo 2020 Dubai's in-house orchestra, Firdaus will perform live throughout the mega-event, taking place 1 October 2021-31 March 2022, and mark major occasions, including International Women's Day. Performances will feature either the orchestra as a whole, or smaller configurations such as duets and quartets.

Beyond Expo 2020

From April 2022, Firdaus Orchestra will continue its journey as part of Expo 2020's musical legacy and establish itself as an orchestra of international standard by performing live in the UAE and around the world, collaborating with classical icons and inspiring the next generation of female musicians.

The orchestra will also create jobs and training opportunities within the music industry, while celebrating the rich heritage of the UAE and spreading the nation's message of tolerance and hope through its multicultural membership. This vision aligns with the UAE leadership's goal of empowering women in all walks of life.

This is just the start of a once-in-a-lifetime journey. Stay tuned for all the latest news and updates on Firdaus Orchestra.

Note: Members of the legacy orchestra will be hired independently upon completion of the Dubai Expo 2020 commitment and based on availability.

6 : FAQs



FAQs

Video submissions:

What type of music should I submit? Can it be an original composition?

The choice of music is entirely yours. Please choose any music that you love to play and demonstrates your proficiency on your instrument well.

What is the expected level of expertise?

Candidates can range from intermediate to professional and must be able to read sheet music.

Is there a dress code for the submission video?

Any attire is acceptable, as long as it aligns with the culturally accepted norms of UAE.

I am unable to upload my video onto a digital platform. Can I send the file directly to you as an attachment?

Unfortunately, this is not possible. If you have trouble uploading, please contact us at Firdausorchestra@expo2020.ae.

Video audition results:

When will I know the results of the video audition? What happens if I get selected?

You will be notified by email within approximately two weeks after the first round of auditions closes. If you are selected for the second round, we will provide you with detailed instructions on the next steps.

What are the main criteria for success?

What are the judges looking for?

In line with the vision of Firdaus Orchestra, we are seeking talented women, who are passionate about music and who can commit to participating in this unique journey.

- Strong proficiency on the instrument
- Willingness to learn and harness your skills
- Spirit of collaboration and working in a team
- Dynamic and nimble personality
- Professional attitude (showing up on time for rehearsals)

FAQs

Next steps:

I am not based in Dubai. Will I receive financial support to attend the live auditions if I am selected?

Arrangements will be discussed at a later stage with the shortlisted candidates.

What is the dress code for the second round of auditions?

Dress code is smart casual.

If I am selected for the orchestra, will it be a full-time role? Will I be required to relocate to Dubai?

If you are selected to join Firdaus Orchestra, you will be expected to be based in Dubai (tentatively April 2021-April 2022), which includes rehearsals and the duration of Expo.

What is the salary compensation package/honorarium for orchestra members?

Details regarding compensation will be discussed at a later stage with the selected candidates.

For further information, feel free to contact us at Firdausorchestra@expo2020.ae



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