**FIRDAUS ORCHESTRA**

**Overview**

Firdaus Orchestra, comprised of 50 women from 24 different nationalities, is an all-female ensemble of musicians brought together by a goal to develop the musical community in Dubai and the UAE. Making their debut at Expo 2020 Dubai in October 2021, and mentored by Academy Award-winning composer A.R. Rahman, Firdaus celebrates the musical talent of women globally and encourages younger generations to realise their musical aspirations.

**Features**

* Developed exclusively for Expo 2020 Dubai, Firdaus (meaning *paradise* in Arabic) is a visionary ensemble of 50 female musicians from across the Arab world, mentored by A.R. Rahman
* A.R. Rahman brought the orchestra to life over a period of 12 months by selecting, training and mentoring the multicultural set of musicians, as well as composing original music to celebrate the spirit of Expo 2020
* It aspires to:
  + Become the number one orchestra in the region in the next five years
  + Be among the Top 10 orchestras in the world in the next 10 years
* Its first stage performance was in the magnificent Al Wasl Plaza for the Opening Ceremony of Expo 2020
* [*Turkish March*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdqkkHrCcFw) by Mozart marked the official launch of Firdaus Orchestra (22 September 2021)
* [*Moonlight Sonata*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2Gm2fZoSPc) by Beethoven, conceptualised and arranged by A.R. Rahman, available on Apple Music, was the Orchestra’s first release on a world music platform
* [*Why? The Musical*](https://open.spotify.com/album/33eW2vYkSWiOf0IULhP2va) was created especially for Expo 2020 Dubai, directed by Bafta-winning Indian filmmaker Shekhar Kapur with music by A.R. Rahman
* Firdaus has collaborated with several guest artists including:
  + Grammy-award winner and international superstar Christina Aguilera
  + Six-time Grammy-nominee Andrea Bocelli
  + Multiple Grammy-nominated sitar player Anoushka Shankar
  + Piano prodigy Lydian Nadhaswaram
  + American-Armenian singer Solange Merdinian
  + Moroccan singer-songwriter Nabyla Maan
* The Wow Awards Asia 2022 recognised Firdaus’ special contribution to the music industry
* In October 2022, the Orchestra worked with award-winning composer Ilaiyaraaja on an original symphony, featuring “the God of Indian violin” L. Subramaniam on the solo violin. The symphony will have its global premiere later this year.

**Links**

* [Inaugural Concert at Expo 2020 Dubai, 23 October 2021](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MILrbWX2XUk)

**Social Media**

* [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/firdausorchestra/?hl=en)
* [Twitter](https://mobile.twitter.com/firdausorch)
* [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FirdausOrchestra)
* [Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtOxtfgIOhXXXI_es5SECFA)
* [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/firdaus-orchestra/)

**FIRDAUS STUDIO**

**Overview**

The Firdaus Studio opened in February 2022 at Expo 2020 Dubai and lives on in legacy as part of Expo City Dubai. In keeping with the vision of its founders, Firdaus hopes to be at the epicentre of the music recording industry.

**Features**

* It was designed by Adita Modi, founder of Modi Digital and long-time associate of A.R. Rahman
* Firdaus Studio’s vision is to become a leading musical hub, servicing established musicians from around the world and taking an active role in nurturing the next generation of talent within the region
* It is the region’s only music studio to be mentored by A.R. Rahman and Dubai’s only certified Dolby Atmos HE studio
* The 12,000sqft space comprises a live room, a control room, an auxiliary control room, four large isolation booths, and multiple green rooms and lounges where guests can relax, prepare and re-focus
* Two performances can be recorded simultaneously
* The studio’s centrepiece is a Steinway and Sons piano, handpicked by A.R. Rahman
  + A Spirio | r Model D concert grand, it is Steinway’s biggest piano and takes more than one year to manufacture
  + Its technology allows musicians to feed in MIDI notes and the piano will play back those MIDI notes on its own
* Firdaus Studio plans to introduce a strong educational chapter including workshops, sound engineering courses and collaborations with leading cultural institutions around the world
* In November 2022, the Studio was named ‘Best Studio of the Year’ at the BroadcastPro ME Awards

**Social Media**

* [Instagram](https://instagram.com/firdaus.studio?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=)
* [Facebook](https://m.facebook.com/FirdausStudioOfficial/)
* [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/firdaus-studio/)
* [Website](https://firdausstudio.ae/index.html)

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