



**Speech by Maestro Amine Kouider**  
**at his Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres award ceremony**  
21 November 2024 – Résidence de France (Abu Dhabi)

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,  
Madame la Ministre, Your Excellency,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Chers amis,

Je suis touché par vos mots, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, qui font l'éloge de l'artiste que je suis au moment où la République française me nomme Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres. Ces mots ont une résonance forte pour moi, et je suis très heureux de partager ce moment à la fois solennel et amical avec vous tous. Si vous me le permettez, je vais poursuivre en anglais.

Dear Friends, I am pleased and honored to be with you today.

My artistic approach has always been inspired by the values of sharing, respect, commitment, conviction, sincerity and professionalism. I was first introduced to music in my homeland, Algeria, and have since immersed myself in Algerian, Maghrebian and Arab culture, while pursuing part of my professional career there. And for that, thanks to Algeria.

With the help of French diplomacy, I was lucky enough and immensely fortunate to be awarded a grant that enabled me to go to France, where I was able to perfect my skills, meet some exceptional people and pursue my career as a conductor, immersing myself in the subtleties of the great French and Western cultural tradition of which I am proud to be the heir. And for that, thanks to France.

My professional experiences have led me to travel to more than 30 countries and to be a very committed player in the dialogue of cultures, an action that I have carried out as part of my mandate as UNESCO Artist for Peace, which was recently renewed. This commitment has enabled me to take part in a magnificent musical project in the United Arab Emirates, a land of fraternity, dialogue and light. And for that, thank you to the United Arab Emirates.

Thank you Mr Ambassador. But I would also like to extend my warmest thanks to HE Noura Al Kaabi, who is kind enough to be with us today, and whom I thank for her support and confidence.

Thank you also to all my colleagues on this magnificent project, headed by Alia Al Qassimi, as well as my colleagues at the National Projects Office, not forgetting my close friends, my wife Hala and my daughters Sarah, Lina and my youngest, Leïla, who is here with us today.

My final words will go to HE Ambassador Nicolas Niemtchinow who kindly agreed to host this ceremony at the Residence of France in company of his elegant wife. I would like to thank him for his generosity and the intelligence of his mind and heart

Merci beaucoup chers amis.