

# Get to Know Guides

## Lemma - Barzakh Festival 2023



Discover new global sounds as powerful tradition-bearers and genre-shattering musicians converge over two evenings that blend cultures, styles, and genres. [Barzakh Festival](#) draws inspiration from the idea to create a meeting place of musical streams that crosses diverse cultures. Global-minded musicians reflecting varied influences and identities, bring the contemporary and the traditional together in a boundary-shattering lineup filled with musical revelations.

### Get to Know... [LEMMA](#)

Hailing from the Saoura region, the Saharan southern part of Algeria, [Lemma](#) is an all-female band whose lyrics borrow ancient odes, excerpts from hadra sessions, and passages from malhûn texts. The music of the Saoura, sometimes slow and languorous, sometimes lively and swaying, remains recognizable by the stripping of its instruments and the place occupied by the body. The voice and the hands remain the principal instruments, to which the percussions are joined.

#### WHAT ARE EARTHLY AND SPIRITUAL GENRES?

While Lemma fits no one genre, it mixes earthly and spiritual genres. Their rhythms take influence from 'arûbi (a free and repetitive rhythm) and haddâwî (the rhythm of the wandering mystics of the Moroccan brotherhood of Sidi Haddi) as well as other Maghrebian rhythms and melodies.





# Artist Inspiration

Lemma is inspired by the collections and repertoires of the four main genres of the region: zaffânî, hadra, al-farda, and gnawa. Gnawa music is a type of folk music which exists mostly in the southwest of Algeria and in Morocco. It is repertoire of ancient African Islamic spiritual religious songs and rhythms. The music is performed at lila, entire communal nights of celebration dedicated to prayer and healing guided by the Gnawa maalem, or master musician, and their group of musicians and dancers.

## ACTIVITY

**Make music using your own body!**

Watch [this video](#) as a warm up for body percussion. Use your body to find and make a beat; you can start simple by just clapping or snapping. Then, move onto more complicated patterns or uses of your body to create new sounds and rhythms for your song or melody!



## Learn More



### FURTHER VIEWING

[Souad Asla -Lemma- "Lemti"](#) →

[LEMMA - SOUAD ASLA \(Algeria\) @ Ethno Port Poznan Festival 2019](#) →

[Sawt Live | Lema Hasna El Becharia - بابا ميمون](#) →

[Souad Asla - Lemma \(Interview album\)](#) →

[Arts Chat: Finding a voice between tradition and contemporary](#) →



### FURTHER READINGS

[Lemma brings women artists from the Algerian desert to the stage](#) →

[Hausa Songs in Algeria: sounds of trans-Saharan continuity and rupture](#) →

[Traditional / folk music of Algeria](#) →

[Moroccan Malhun poetry](#) →

[Hamman Story: A Malhun poem in Moroccan Arabic](#) →

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