

## PRESS REVIEW BAB L'BLUZ

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**By Sara Kharfi**

In integrality here [https://tazzuri.net/maroc-sixieme-edition-de-visa-for-music/?fbclid=IwAR2FObMJrTG8F1Mt\\_Y1kB\\_ZcNkTU2mPSYFjtBZsilgZ4wf90vIASJ-un8oA](https://tazzuri.net/maroc-sixieme-edition-de-visa-for-music/?fbclid=IwAR2FObMJrTG8F1Mt_Y1kB_ZcNkTU2mPSYFjtBZsilgZ4wf90vIASJ-un8oA)



### **Current music on stage and in debate in Rabat**

The sixth edition of Visa For Music (VFM), a showcase for African and Middle Eastern music, was held from 20 to 23 November in Rabat, the capital of Morocco, in several venues, namely the Mohammed V Theatre (for the opening and closing ceremonies), the Tazi Palace (training, concerts and exhibitions), the Club and the Renaissance Hall, the Cervantes Institute and the Villa des Arts (conferences), as well as the French Institute and Louzine Studios (workshops). For four days, professionals from the music industry as well as artists from several countries - especially from Africa - and from a wide variety of musical universes, mainly in what is known as contemporary music, met, presented their projects and, above all, shared their music with the VFM audience(s), who remained true to its guiding principle: to give visibility to creators and artists from Morocco, the Maghreb, the Middle East and other regions of the world, with a rich program featuring different aesthetics, ranging from the most accessible to the highly sought-after, even conceptual.

[...]

## Powerful artists

It is obvious that whether you are a man or a woman, you can have a gift, a particular talent, which he/she will work, develop, perfect. However, it is often difficult to break into the artistic world, to find one's place and to live from one's music. In some parts of the world, especially when the music market is unstructured, the task is more difficult when you are a woman. After this long and arduous process, it is fair to say that VFM's decision to devote its opening night to performances by female artists is commendable, especially since the image these performers project is one of power, beauty and talent. Among them was Natacha Atlas, who presented her music with a "well-assumed jazz colour". Also during the same evening, the audience had to appreciate the performance of the Moroccan singer-songwriter, Soukaina Fahsi, known for her participation in the television programme "Arab Got Talent" (she reached the semi-finals), but also for her sublime cover of "Kherboucha", a famous piece of the Aïta repertoire, which she brought up to date and reworked to her liking. Soukaina Fahsi, an extremely promising talent, is inspired by "both Moroccan classical and popular music [and] international musical trends (jazz, blues, flamenco, African music)". *Bab L'Bluz, led by Yousra Mansour who plays Awisha (a kind of little guembri), is an interesting Moroccan artistic project that deserves some attention. The project is inspired by Tagnaouite - notably with the Awisha and guembri instruments -, blues, with a great opening on rock, the whole carried by very varied texts (classical Arabic, local languages...), and clearly committed to women, peace or diversity.*

## Interview Bab L'Bluz Visa For Music – November 27, 2019

<https://www.facebook.com/visaformusic/videos/452404612146640/>



## Music In Africa - November 22, 2019

### Visa For Music 2019: 3 showcases not to be missed yesterday Bab'L Bluz at the Renaissance Hall – Visa For Music

Watching Bab'L Bluz play, you can't imagine that the band was created barely a year ago. The complicity of the members is obvious, from the first notes, everything is there; all that remains is to enjoy every second that this so beautiful band plays on stage...

Traditional sounds and modern music blend under the ancestral riffs of guembri but Bab'L Bluz style, the result is unique!

The image of the lead band going wild on their guembri, ripping off skillful sounds while shaking their heads like a rock metal fan, is one of the most impressive images of this more than successful show, a real slap in the face to be taken and taken back absolutely!

### **Interview Bab L'Bluz Medi1TV – October 11, 2019**

<https://www.facebook.com/BabLBluz/videos/2693585137338909/>

