



Music

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Red Army Choir promises an evening of Slavic song



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BEIRUT: Beirut Waterfront will host an evening of Slavic song with Russia's Red Army Choir next month.

The Red Army Choir represents itself as an integral part of Russian history. During Russia's various wars – defensive and otherwise – the choristers were seen to serve and support Russia (aka the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) by raising the spirits of exhausted Red Army soldiers.

Themselves men at arms, the RAC also served a vital role in the Red Army, where they were meant to be the collective voice of the Revolution, the Modern Soviet Union and the voice of the Soviets.

This spirit was meant to mark a departure from the suffering that characterized the experience of the subjects and common soldiery under the Tsarist regime.

The choir is considered part of Russia's Interior Ministry, but aside from its obvious political role its members are also represented as emerging from a nation that is marked by a superior level of cultural sophistication and passion for art and literature.

Aiming to serve as a reflection of the Russian spirit, a total of more than 120 musicians, artists and dancers will gather in Lebanon on Sept. 13, to celebrate the close relationship between the two countries.

A chance for Lebanese viewers to witness the music of a choir that has performed more than 7,000 shows to around 20 million viewers over the past three decades, the concert will be placed in the capable hands of Major General Victor Eliseev, under whose leadership the Red Army Choir has travelled to countries including China, Japan, Korea, Australia, Germany and France.

The only chorus to have been awarded a platinum star in the alley dedicated to great Russian artists, the choir participates each year in the World War II Victory Day parades and was chosen to open the Winter Olympic Games in Sochi last February.

Having worked with stars including Celine Dion, Vincent Michaela, Helen Fisher, Michel Sardou and Mireille Mathieu, the Red Army Choir is not above experimenting. Last year they recorded their own version of the award-winning hit single "Get Lucky" by Daft Punk.

Freshly returned from a series of concerts in Azerbaijan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Tunisia, the Red Army Choir's performance in Beirut marks the midpoint of a global tour. The choir is scheduled to perform in Poland, England, Bulgaria and Germany by the end of 2015.

This frenetic schedule should present no obstacle for the performers, given that the Red Army Choir currently gives performances an average of 300 days per year.

The Red Army Choir will perform at Beirut Waterfront Sept. 13 at 8 p.m. Ticket prices start from \$60. For more information, please contact the We Group on 01-873-873 or visit www.we-group.com.lb.