

FUNDRAISING DINNER

You came along in large numbers to join us on that Sunday to share a gourmet and musical dinner concocted by Dominique Benmuvhar, Juliette Brull and Tatiana Honegger. One of the originators tells us about this event.

On 14 June, the Refuge des 4 Vents starts rustling with happy reunions around the welcome aperitif; two adorable little girls offered pistachios and appetizers... The atmosphere was festive at our traditional fundraising dinner. The lamps shone on delightfully laid tables, the space which served as a stage was decorated with Middle-Eastern rugs, lamps and copperware, and, surprise, professional sono equipment: once again the music was to animate our evening. In her speech, our president Fiuna Ongen was happy to find so many faithful guests, reminding us that the benefits of this evening would contribute to the funding of the projects organised for this summer.

The refuge was truly full, such fidelity, such solidarity, since it was already our sixth fundraising dinner. Thanks to our members and their friends, to their generosity; thanks to Dominique, heart and soul of this evening, her ever renewed creativity, accompanied by Juliette and Tatiana. An oriental buffet concocted with love gave rise to as many compliments as there were colourful, inventive and delectable dishes. Alongside the physical food was woven the spiritual food: Einat Betzalel, from a Jewish family, born on a kibbutz in Israel, and Hakim Boukhit, from a Muslim family, born in France, remarkable musicians, played for us.

Since their encounter in 2007, they share together in their life and on stage a coexistence open to the world, offering through their music a message of love and humanity. Einat's voice rose, so pure, so warm and graceful, so ample, so powerful. Her infinite beauty and grace illuminated her singing. Ardently she interprets Yemenite and Arab songs, ancient Jewish prayers; alternated tenderness, interiority and strong rhythms, deeply moving music, a Salam which Einat invited us to sing in unison with the talent and humour of the singing teacher she is too. Hakim accompanied her on the guitar with the delicacy of a true virtuoso, attentive to his companion's singing, attentive to back her, or retreating when the voice rose. A difficult art that Hakim performs to perfection. What complicity, what respect between these two wonderful artists who literally radiate... and who were applauded again and again. It's difficult to imagine a more perfect symbol of embodied coexistence, corresponding to the ideals of our association.

Thank you Einat and Hakim for the love you gave us, for your luminous presence, which enchanted all those who exchanged with you. Such beautiful energy resonated throughout that evening, so many emotions, bonds were strengthened between us, so many wonderful encounters. How good for the heart and the soul. How that filled us and inspires us to continue in our lucid commitment. How precious. To all of you, for your presence and support, thank you and thank you.



Einat Betzalel and Hakim Boukhit