

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

CALL FOR ARTISTS

IMNARJA 2026 – MALTESE HERITAGE & CONTEMPORARY FUSION PROGRAMME

MAFA

Date Published:	Friday 3rd April 2026	
Deadline for Submission:	Friday 17th April 2026	at 10:00am CET/CEST
Opening of Offers:	Friday 17th April 2026	at 10:30am CET/CEST

**MINISTRY FOR AGRICULTURE,
FISHERIES AND ANIMAL RIGHTS**

Support Services Directorate

Agriculture Research & Innovation Hub, Ingiered Road, Luqa LQA 3300

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1. Introduction

The Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights invites artists, musicians, dancers, cultural groups, bands and multidisciplinary performers to submit proposals for the Imnarja 2026 Cultural Programme, celebrating Malta's agricultural heritage, folklore and rural traditions through live performance.

Imnarja is one of Malta's oldest and most culturally significant cultural festivals. The 2026 edition will present a curated programme that honours Maltese traditional entertainment while encouraging contemporary and cross-genre interpretations that remain rooted in Maltese identity.

Disclaimer:

Prospective applicants are to note that by submitting an application at Annex 1 as specified below, they are confirming agreement to all of the terms and conditions related to this Expression of Interest.

The application shall be declared null if any information provided is incorrect and/or not verified.

2. Application Timetable

Expression of Interest for participation opens on	03/04/2026
Clarification requests may be submitted via email epu.mafa@gov.mt by not later than	10/04/2026 at 17:00hrs
Applications are to be submitted by not later than via email or at the specified address.	17/04/2026 at 10:00hrs

The **application (Annex 1)** needs to be submitted via email on epu.mafa@gov.mt .

The opening of applications submitted will be on: Friday 17th April 2026 at 10:30 hrs. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Results will be announced via email by Thursday 30th April 2026.

3. Event Dates and Performance times:

Innarja 2026 festivities will take place on the following dates:

Sunday 28 June 2026 – between 18:00 and 00:00

Monday 29 June 2026 – between 08:00 and 13:00

Artists must be available for one or more time slots within the above timeframe.

4. Artistic scope:

Proposals must be inspired by Maltese traditional culture, either in its authentic form or through innovative fusion formats.

Traditional & Heritage-Based Works

- Ghana (spirtu pront, għana tal-fatt, guitar accompaniment)
- Traditional Maltese folk songs
- Folk bands & acoustic ensembles
- Traditional Maltese folk dance
- Heritage storytelling through song, movement or spoken word

Fusion & Contemporary Interpretations

Proposals may combine Maltese traditional music or themes with:

- Contemporary dance styles (contemporary, hip hop, flamenco, jazz, ballet, urban, etc.)
- Modern music arrangements
- Electronic or acoustic reinterpretations
- Visual or theatrical elements

Fusion works must:

- ✓ Retain a clear Maltese cultural reference
- ✓ Respect the spirit of Imnarja
- ✓ Be accessible to family audiences

Hybrid, cross-disciplinary and experimental formats are welcome, provided Maltese heritage remains central.

5. Eligibility:

This expression of interest for the following:

- Individual artists
- Bands & ensembles
- Dance companies
- Cultural NGOs
- Community groups

Applicants must be Malta-based and compliant with tax requirements.

6. Proposal requirements:

Each proposal must include:

A. Artistic Description

- Title of the performance
- Concept (max 500 words)
- Maltese cultural reference
- Performance duration
- Number of performers

B. Technical Rider

- Sound & microphone needs
- Lighting requirements
- Power needs
- Set-up and strike time
- Special requirements

C. Budget Breakdown

Including:

- Artist fees
- Rehearsals
- Transport
- Costume/props
- Any other costs

(VAT must be clearly indicated if applicable)

D. Artist Information

- Short biography
- CV or portfolio
- Links to video/audio samples
- Contact details

7. Selection Criteria:

Proposals will be evaluated on:

- Artistic quality & originality
- Strength of Maltese cultural link
- Innovation and fusion approach
- Technical feasibility
- Audience engagement
- Value for money
- Programme balance

8. Conditions:

- Performances must be family-friendly and culturally respectful.
- Selected artists will sign a performance agreement.
- MAFA reserves the right to curate, combine, or adapt proposals.

9. Ranking Criteria:

Submissions will be ranked according to the following criteria:

Criteria	Description	Weight
Cultural Relevance	Strength of Maltese heritage reference; alignment with Imnarja	25%
Artistic Quality	Professional standard, creativity, performance strength	20%
Innovation / Fusion	Contemporary interpretation while respecting tradition	15%
Audience Engagement	Family-friendly, inclusive, broad appeal	10%
Technical Feasibility	Realistic staging, equipment, timing	10%
Budget & Value for Money	Reasonable costs vs scale/impact	10%
Programme Balance	Adds variety (music/dance/fusion)	10%
TOTAL		100%

ANNEX 1

APPLICATION FORM AND DECLARATION

CALL FOR ARTISTS

**IMNARJA 2026 – MALTESE HERITAGE & CONTEMPORARY FUSION
PROGRAMME**

Section A:

Name of Artist / Group	
Contact Person	
Mobile Number	
Email Address	
VAT Number	
Name of Company (if applicable)	
Company Number (if applicable)	

Section B:

Title of Performance	
Category	<input type="checkbox"/> Traditional Music <input type="checkbox"/> Traditional Dance <input type="checkbox"/> Song / Narrative <input type="checkbox"/> Fusion / Cross-Genre
Duration (minutes)	
Number of Performers	

Section C:

Explain the Maltese cultural reference:

Why is it suitable for Imnarja?

Describe your performance (max 500 words):

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Section D:

Sound Requirements	
Lighting Requirements	
Power Supply required	
Set-up and strike time	
Special requirements	

Section E:

Budget excluding VAT	
Total budget including VAT	

Signature of Applicant: _____

Date: _____