



"Dreaming Lebanon" Contest – 2027

"A Musical Memory"

Rules & Regulations

Article 1: Presentation of the Contest

For the fifth consecutive year, within the framework of the "Dreaming Lebanon" contest, Banque BEMO, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO, the French Institute of Lebanon, Librairie Antoine, L'Orient-Le Jour, and Assabil Association, is launching the 2027 edition under the theme **"A Musical Memory"**

This contest aims to restore hope among young Lebanese by inviting them to explore and reclaim Lebanon, past and present, through writing, in order to dream the Lebanon of tomorrow. This project is an educational initiative that encourages discovery of others and an effort to root or re-root a generation that embodies the Lebanon of the future.

Article 2: Categories and Participants

The contest is open to:

- Young applicants with at least one Lebanese parent, residing in Lebanon or abroad
- University students
- High school students (Grades 10, 11, and 12)
- Maximum age: 25 years old

Each participant may submit **only one text**, and must be its sole author. Participation implies an honor statement confirming the authenticity of the submitted work.

Article 3: Contest Theme

The theme for the 2027 edition is **"A Musical Memory."**

Participants are invited to describe how a melody, a song, or a piece of classical music suddenly made them feel the strength of their connection to Lebanon. Did it awaken a memory, an emotion, a face, a landscape or a moment in their life intimately connected to the country? They should tell the story of this encounter between music and memory.

The text must:

- Be written in the first person,
- Convey a personal voice, a memory, and an emotion,
- Draw on any musical repertoire or genre, the music does not necessarily have to be Lebanese.

Article 4: Format Requirements and Freedom of Form

- **Subjective narration is mandatory:** The narrator must describe the memory or memories evoked by the musical work. A few lines from a song may also be included in the narrative.
- **Free format:** The text may take any literary form, including prose, poetry, monologue, letter, diary, short story, fable, etc.
- **Accepted languages:** French, Arabic, English, Portuguese or Spanish.
- **Length:** The text should not exceed 800 words or approximately 4,500 characters including spaces. A tolerance of up to 1,000 words or 5,500 characters including spaces, will be accepted.
- **File format:** Submissions must be provided in Word format (.doc or .docx), on A4 pages, using a readable font (Calibri 12 or equivalent), and single line spacing.
- **Participants information and anonymity:** Participants must provide their first and last name, phone number, email address, and affiliated institution. **This information will remain strictly confidential** and will under no circumstances be disclosed to the jury. All entries will be evaluated anonymously.

Article 5: Artificial Intelligence

The use of artificial intelligence tools is tolerated, provided it does not exceed 15% of the text.

Article 6: Some Ideas for Inspiration

The following examples are provided for inspiration only and are not exhaustive.

- a. A song whose lyrics bring back memories of a specific event or moment.
- b. A tune that evokes the memory of a loved one from whom one is separated.
- c. A melody, song, or patriotic anthem that evokes memories of Lebanon for someone living abroad.
- d. A song or piece of music associated with a particular period or chapter in one's life
- e. A musical memory does not necessarily have to be nostalgic or associated with sadness; it may also evoke joy, happiness, celebration or hope.
- f. Music that revives the memory of a concert or musical experience that was particularly meaningful but had gradually been forgotten.



Article 7: Submission

Texts must be submitted no later than February 27, 2027, by email to reverleliban@bemobank.com

The email must include:

- First and last name of the participant
- Phone number
- Email address
- Name of the affiliated institution

Article 8: Selection Process

A pre-selection may be conducted in advance at the discretion of schools and universities if they wish.

The selection of the best text in each of the five languages (French, Arabic, English, Portuguese, Spanish) and for each category (university / high school) will be carried out by a jury composed of representatives from the partners, writers, and experts. Specific criteria related to thematic coherence, emotional impact, originality, and overall effectiveness will be taken into account in the evaluation process.

The jury's assessment will be based on the following elements:

- Coherence with the theme
- Emotional depth and imagination
- Language quality
- Originality of voice

The jury's deliberations are confidential, and its decisions are final. No appeals will be accepted.

Article 9: Prizes

Prizes will be awarded to the top three winners in each category and language (French, Arabic, English, Portuguese, Spanish).

University Level:

- First Prize (French, Arabic, English, Portuguese, Spanish): USD 300 + a 15-day internship at L'Orient-Le Jour
- Second Prize (French, Arabic, English, Portuguese, Spanish): USD 200
- Third Prize (French, Arabic, English, Portuguese, Spanish): USD 100



High School Level:

- First Prize (French, Arabic, English, Portuguese, Spanish): USD 300
- Second Prize (French, Arabic, English, Portuguese, Spanish): USD 200
- Third Prize (French, Arabic, English, Portuguese, Spanish): USD 100

In addition, the winners and all published authors will receive a one-year subscription to the French Institute if Lebanon libraries network (Beirut, Deir el Qamar, Jounieh, Zahlé, Saïda, and Tripoli).

Article 10: Publication of Texts

By participating in this contest, participants grant the organizers and their partners a non-exclusive, worldwide, irrevocable, royalty-free right to use, reproduce, distribute, publish, and display the submitted texts for promotional, educational, and other purposes, including, but not limited to, publication on the organizers' websites and in the local press.

In addition, the best texts written in French, Arabic, and English will be compiled into a printed and digital collection, published by Librairie Antoine.

Participants retain the copyright to their works (texts), but agree that the organizers and their partners may use them in accordance with the terms stated above without further consent or compensation.

Article 11: Right of Publicity

Participants agree that their names and photographs may be published in newspapers and on the social media platforms of the organizers and partners as part of the promotion of the contest and results announcement.

Article 12: Political Neutrality

Any text containing explicit or implicit political statements that go against the principles of coexistence, which are at the very essence of Lebanon, will be automatically disqualified from the contest. The contest aims to be a space for unity, dialogue, and collective imagination.

Article 13: Disputes and Disagreements

Participation in the contest implies the express and unconditional acceptance of these Rules and Regulations in all their provisions.

1. Adult participants (age > 18 years) automatically accept the Rules and Regulations by participating in the contest.



2. Minor participants (age < 18 years) must submit, along with their works, an authorization to participate in the contest signed by their parents or legal guardian (Appendix 1).

If condition 2 is not met, the works cannot be accepted.

Article 14: Timeline

- Launch of the new edition: 9 October 2026
- Deadline for submission of texts: 27 February 2027
- Award ceremony: 24 April 2027
- Presentation and distribution of the published collection: Festival Beyrouth Livres 2027

These Rules and Regulations apply to the 2027 edition of the "Dreaming Lebanon" contest. Participants are encouraged to follow updates on the website www.reverleliban.com and on the social media platforms of Banque BEMO and its partners.

Appendix 1: Parental Authorization for participation in the 2027 contest "Dreaming Lebanon" for participants under 18 years old

"A Musical Memory"

I, the undersigned, **[Name of parent/legal guardian]**, acting as the legal guardian of **[Name of participant]**, born on **[Participant's date of birth]**, hereby authorize my child to participate in the writing competition organized by Banque BEMO in accordance with the terms of the Rules and Regulations established for the said competition.

I certify that I have read and understood the Rules and Regulations of the competition, including all conditions, eligibility criteria, and rights related to participation. I approve the terms set out in the Rules and Regulations and consent to my child's participation in the competition in accordance with these rules.

I understand that this authorization is necessary to allow my child to fully participate in the competition, including the possibility of being visually identified as part of the promotion of the event.

Done at **[Place]**, on **[Date]**

Signature of parent/legal guardian with the mention "Approved and agreed":

Name of parent/legal guardian: _____

Contact details of parent/legal guardian:

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Student's name: _____