



■ *British Ambassador Simon Martin and wife Sophie at the concert*



■ *A section of the audience and, right, James Arthur performing at the event*



Homecoming concert by top singer

PLATINUM-SELLING singer-songwriter James Arthur enthralled fans in Bahrain last night in what was a homecoming concert at Bahrain Bay.

It was part of the 2018 Spring of Culture festival, with the UK *X Factor* winner performing his top hits to a packed crowd.

Hours before the concert, organised by the Economic Development Board, the British performer posted an emotional message on Instagram in which he ex-

plained the significance of his return to Bahrain – where he lived for four years.

He was a student at the British School of Bahrain (BSB) when he realised his dream of becoming a musician.

“16 years ago me and my family were plucked from nothing and taken to this beautiful island when my mum met a guy who got a job here and we lived a life of luxury,” he posted on Instagram yesterday.

“A few years later they divorced and 5

of us were dumped back in to a 2 bedroom house in working-class Redcar, I remember being distraught.

“I promised myself I’d make it back one day and here I am about to perform in The kingdom of Bahrain tonight! The pearl of the Gulf! You couldn’t write it,” the singer said.

“It’s good to be back,” he said during his performance.