

Opera returns to NCPA for the Spring 2017 Season of the Symphony Orchestra of India

An innovative new production of Puccini's *La Bohème* and renowned artists including conductor Carlo Rizzi are part of this season

30th January – 11th February, 2017 | Jamshed Bhabha Theatre, NCPA

- World-renowned conductor Carlo Rizzi to open the season with Beethoven's 5th Symphony and works by Wagner and Strauss
- The highlight of the season will be *La Bohème Revisited* – an innovative new production of Puccini's masterpiece, with an international star cast

Mumbai, November 25: With a special focus on opera, the Spring 2017 Season of the Symphony Orchestra of India (SOI) will be a treat with a lineup of performances guaranteed to awe the audience. For the first time in India, the NCPA and the SOI present a new take on Giacomo Puccini's beloved opera *La Bohème* - ***La Bohème Revisited***. Featuring an international star cast, the performances will be led by renowned conductor **Carlo Rizzi**—who also conducts *La Bohème* at the Metropolitan Opera, New York, this season—and **SOI Associate Music Director Zane Dalal**. The season will also feature an **Opera Gala** lead by conductor Carlo Rizzi, featuring tenor **Simon O'Neill** and soprano **Maria José Siri**.

Mr. Khushroo N. Suntook, NCPA Chairman and Founder of the Symphony Orchestra of India, said, "After the resounding success of the 10th anniversary season of the SOI, we are proud to present yet another exciting programme this spring. We have always prided ourselves on the illustrious talent we have been able to showcase with our Orchestra. This season, opera fans will be able to witness an innovative new production of one of the best-known operas – *La Bohème*, titled *La Bohème Revisited*. We are delighted to have some of the biggest names performing with the SOI, including conductor Carlo Rizzi, soprano Maria José Siri, and mezzo-soprano, Kai Rüütel. And we are thrilled to welcome back Simon O'Neill, among the finest helden-tenors on the international stage, for yet another season."

The season will open with **Carlo Rizzi's debut concert** with the SOI. Rizzi will lead Beethoven's Symphony No. 5, arguably one of the best known symphonic works, and regarded by Hoffmann as "one of the most important works of all time." The programme will also feature the Prelude and Liebestod from Wagner's opera *Tristan and Isolde*, and the Rosenkavalier Suite by Richard Strauss.

Carlo Rizzi ranks among today's leading conductors. He is in high demand as a guest artist at the world's most prestigious venues and festivals, not least for the insight and integrity of his musicianship and the visceral energy and psychological depths of his interpretations. Equally at home in opera and the concert hall, his vast repertoire spans everything from the foundation works of the operatic and symphonic canon to rarities by Bellini, Cimarosa and Donizetti. Future engagements include return visits to Teatro alla Scala, Milan; Welsh National Opera; Metropolitan Opera, New York; Opéra de Paris and Dutch National Opera.

The second day of the season will feature an **Opera Gala** lead by conductor Carlo Rizzi, featuring tenor Simon O'Neill and soprano Maria José Siri.

Simon O'Neill returns to Mumbai following his widely-acclaimed performances with the SOI in February 2015, appearing in Verdi's Requiem and the Opera Gala. Simon has established himself as one of the finest helden-tenors on the international stage and is a principal artist with the Metropolitan Opera, New York; the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden; Teatro alla Scala, Milan; and at the Bayreuth and Salzburg Festivals.

Soprano Maria José Siri will open the 2016/17 season of La Scala playing the protagonist in Madama Butterfly under Maestro Riccardo Chailly. The star soprano has sung in some of the world's most prestigious venues including La Scala, Vienna State Opera, Berlin State Opera, Liceu (Barcelona), and the Deutsche Oper Berlin, and has performed under such renowned conductors as, Zubin Mehta, Daniel Barenboim, Plácido Domingo, and Gianandrea Nosedà.

The opera gala will also feature mezzo-soprano Kai Rütel, amongst others. Since her graduation from the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, in 2011, Estonian mezzo-soprano Kai Rütel has performed around the world, including at the Royal Opera House, Dutch National Opera, Teatro Real, Vlaamse Opera, Gran Teatro del Liceu, Scottish Opera, Théâtre du Capitole Toulouse, and Dallas Opera. She has also appeared in concert with the Philharmonia Orchestra, Birmingham Symphony, and St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, amongst others.

The highlight of the season will be three performances of *La Bohème Revisited*—an innovative new production of Puccini's masterpiece. In this new production, Puccini's lush score is interspersed with texts from Murger's original novel which inspired the opera, to tell the tale of the lives and loves of young artists in the Bohemian quarter of Paris. Directed by Sax Nicosia, the production employs modern projections, designed specially for this production, to weave together the scenes and give insight to the characters thoughts. With an international creative team and an international star cast, this production promises to be a unique experience.

PROGRAM:

DATE	PERFORMANCE	VENUE
Monday, January 30, 2017, 7:00 pm	<p><u>Carlo Rizzi conducts Beethoven's Fifth / Works by Wagner & Strauss</u></p> <p>Symphony Orchestra of India Carlo Rizzi, conductor</p> <p>Wagner: Prelude and Liebestod from <i>Tristan and Isolde</i> R. Strauss: <i>Der Rosenkavalier</i> suite Beethoven: Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67</p>	Jamshed Bhabha Theatre
Thursday, February 2, 2017, 7:00 pm	<p><u>Opera Gala</u></p> <p>Symphony Orchestra of India Carlo Rizzi, conductor Maria José Siri, soprano Simon O'Neill, tenor</p> <p>with Kai Rütel, mezzo soprano</p>	Jamshed Bhabha Theatre

	<p>Long Zhang, tenor Andrea Vincenzo Bonsignore, baritone Matteo Peirone, bass</p> <p>Verdi: Overture to <i>La Forza del Destino</i> Verdi: <i>Otello</i> (excerpts) Giordano: <i>Andrea Chénier</i> (excerpts) Bizet: Carmen Suites Nos. 1 & 2 (excerpts)</p>	
<p>Sunday, February 5, 2017, 4:00 pm</p>	<p><u>Vocal Recital</u></p> <p>Simon O'Neill, tenor Kai Rützel, mezzo soprano Diego Mingolla, piano</p>	<p>Tata Theatre</p>
<p>Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 7:00PM</p> <p>Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 7:00PM</p> <p>Saturday, February 11, 2017 at 7:00PM</p>	<p><u>La Bohème Revisited</u> Music by Giacomo Puccini Libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa & Luigi Illica Based on a novel by Henri Murger</p> <p>Symphony Orchestra of India Carlo Rizzi, conductor (Feb 8) Zane Dalal, conductor (Feb 9, 11)</p> <p>Rodolfo: Giordano Lucà / Long Zhang Mimi: Olena Tokar / Grazia Doronzio Marcello: Andrea Vincenzo Bonsignore Musetta: Maria Mudryak Colline: Andrea Concetti Schaunard: Daniele Terenzi Alcindoro/Benoit: Matteo Peirone Narrator: Sax Nicosia</p> <p>Director: Sax Nicosia Lighting Designer: Alberto Giolitti</p>	<p>Jamshed Bhabha Theatre</p>

About the SOI:

The Symphony Orchestra of India (SOI), based at the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA), Mumbai, was founded in 2006 by NCPA Chairman Khushroo N. Suntook and internationally-renowned violin virtuoso Marat Bisengaliev, who serves as the Orchestra's Music Director. India's first and only professional symphony orchestra, the SOI has performed around India and internationally, as well. Zane Dalal was appointed Associate Music Director of the SOI in September 2014, following serving seven years as Resident Conductor. Piotr Borkowski serves as the Resident Conductor, taking up the role in 2015.

The SOI has worked with renowned conductors including Charles Dutoit, Augustin Dumay, Yuri Simonov, Lior Shambadal, Adrian Leaper, Johannes Wildner, Evgeny Bushkov, Rafael Payare, Duncan Ward, Karl Jenkins, Mischa Damev, Alexander Anissimov, and Christoph Poppen, amongst others. Soloists have included Maria João Pires, Augustin Dumay, Simon O'Neill, Cédric Tiberghien, Alina Ibragimova, Barry Douglas, Angel Blue, Zakir Hussain, Edgar Meyer, Béla Fleck, Tamás Vásáry and Lena Neudauer. Apart from the mainstays of the symphonic repertoire, the NCPA and SOI have also presented some large-scale productions, including fully-staged operas.

The Orchestra's core group of musicians is resident at the NCPA all year round; additional players are recruited from a talented pool of professionals from around the world. The SOI features a growing number of Indian players, representing the finest home-grown talent, which provides a solid foundation for the future of orchestral playing in the country. Many of the SOI musicians are also teachers as the orchestra places great emphasis on teaching and developing musical potential amongst young people in India. One of NCPA's educational initiatives is the Special Music Training Programme, which brings a professional level of teaching to gifted young musicians, with the aim of growing the number of Indian musicians in the SOI in the near future.

The creation of first-class cultural institutions working towards international recognition is a vital component of India's growing prestige on the world stage. Moreover, the SOI is fulfilling an important cultural and educational role within India. The NCPA will continue to build on the goal to become a centre of musical excellence, developing international standards of professionalism among its musicians, thereby addressing the aspirations of young musicians and music-loving audiences throughout India.

www.soimumbai.com

About the NCPA:

Opening its doors to the world in 1969, the NCPA became the first multi-venue and multi-purpose cultural centre to be built in South Asia. Vibrant and diverse, the NCPA today is recognized by artistes, patrons and media alike as India's premier performing arts institution. The Centre provides a fine showcase for India's rich performing arts traditions, all thanks to the institution's training and research initiatives.

The NCPA presents over 600 events each year across all major art forms, most notably Indian Music, International Music, Theatre and Film, Dance, and Literature, Visual Arts and Photography. There are Heads of Programming for each of these art forms who curate innovative events and festivals; representative of everything from classical to contemporary throughout the year. The NCPA produces its own programmes as well as collaborates with leading cultural promoters from around the world. NCPA is the only member organisation of the International Music Council (IMC) from India.

To know more visit www.ncpamumbai.com. Find us on Facebook and Twitter @NCPAMumbai.

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