



**THE NSO ORCHESTRA TO PRESENT STIRRING  
'FESTIVE CELEBRATION' CONCERT**

*Brass, Chorus & Orchestra to perform everyone's favourite seasonal music  
On Friday 11 December on Terrace of Emirates Palace Hotel*

**Abu Dhabi, UAE. 19 November 2015** – The NSO will herald the coming festive season with a stirring concert featuring everyone's favourite seasonal music and carols in 'A Festive Celebration' concert on Friday 11 December on the open-air Palace Terrace of the Emirates Palace Hotel, Abu Dhabi.

Let by Guest Conductor, Ed Keeley, the 15-piece NSO Brass will open the concert with a selection of Stan Kenton jazz standards and jazz arrangements of popular carols.

The NSO Chorus brings together singers from Dubai Singers and the Al Khubeirat Singers who will feature their own choral selections, as well as encourage the audience to join with them for a joyous community carol service to round off the evening, singing favourites such as *Deck the Halls*, *O Come all ye Faithful* and *Little Drummer Boy*.

After a moonlit interval, the 21-piece NSO Orchestra will perform popular music and carols and will later be joined by award-winning American songwriter, Dave LeMieux, and More Than Music, his ensemble of musicians and gospel singers from Denver and Memphis, to perform the UAE premiere of his toe-tapping, inspirational Gospel-Blues-Jazz festive work.

To round off the evening, the NSO Brass, Chorus, NSO Orchestra and Dave LeMieux will come together for the traditional *Hallelujah Chorus* from Handel's *Messiah*.

Janet Hassouneh, NSO Founder and Executive Director, said: "A Festive Celebration' is NSO's way of marking the start of the festive season and giving music lovers the opportunity of enjoying their favourite seasonal music and carols under the stars, surrounded by the stunning Emirates Palace Hotel."

The Emirates Palace Hotel will offer a selection of seasonal and mouth-watering treats for purchase during the interval, including gingerbread cookies and almond *stollen*.

'A Festive Celebration' will be performed at 7.30pm on Friday 11 December on the open-air Palace Terrace of the Emirates Palace Hotel. Tickets are available at: [Timeouttickets.com](http://Timeouttickets.com); [ticketmaster.ae](http://ticketmaster.ae); Spinneys Khalidiya, [www.nsouae.org](http://www.nsouae.org); and at the concert box office, priced at: Platinum Dhs300; Gold Dhs200; Silver Dhs125; Balcony Dhs75.

**Contact: Frances Barton, NSO Media Relations Director, [media@nsouae.org](mailto:media@nsouae.org); Mobile: 050 650 3900.**

#### **About NSO [www.nsouae.org](http://www.nsouae.org)**

NSO comprises the NSO Symphony Orchestra, the NSO Chamber Orchestra, the NSO Symphonic Pops Orchestra, the NSO Opera & Chorus and the NSO Music Agency.

More than 100 musicians of some 20 nationalities, who live in six of the seven emirates, make up the various formations of NSO and are professional musicians and musical educators who have performed regularly for their own national orchestras.

NSO performs numerous major symphonic and operatic works, as well as a more popular classical and music theatre repertoire. Every concert endeavours to feature musical contributions from the UAE, whether a composer, solo singer or musician, such as a pianist or *Oud* player.

NSO presents concerts throughout the year for the general public and is regularly called upon to perform for private, corporate and government events. NSO also outsources, through its NSO Music Agency, smaller groups such as the NSO Symphonic Brass, the NSO Big Band, the NSO String Quartet, the NSO Jazz Ensemble, the NSO Three Tenors and the NSO Three Sopranos.

Entrepreneur and former Opera Singer Janet Hassouneh founded NSO in 2011 to meet the region's cultural aspirations. Originally from the USA, where she obtained her master's in musical performance, she has worked in the music business in the UAE for the past 30 years, performing, teaching and organising music theatre and opera concerts featuring international guest artists from New York and London. Numerous performances were staged for charitable causes, under the auspices of the UAE authorities. NSO UAE was formed to reciprocate the government's hospitality.

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