



UAE National Symphony Orchestra

الأوركسترا السمفونية الوطنية لدولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة



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UAENSO PREPARES TO END FIRST SEASON WITH A BANG

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A programme of inspiring music awaits audiences of the UAENSO at the final concert of the orchestra's inaugural year. The concert, *A National Day Gala*, will feature a world premiere of a new orchestral arrangement of *Spirit of the Union*, a piece that will be familiar to many as a highlight of last year's 40th National Day celebrations.

The orchestra will return to the acoustically excellent Zayed University campus auditorium, Khalifa City, on November 30th for an evening of music which will both celebrate and pay tribute to the UAE.

It will be the fourth concert by the orchestra, which is sponsored by Abu Dhabi National Tanker Co (ADNATCO) & National Gas Shipping Company (NGSCO), Zayed University, Baker Botts, Northern Trust, Beach Rotana, Brighton College Abu Dhabi, ZU Alumni, JBI Property Services/SERCO and Spinneys, and which continues to strive to fulfil its founding vision to be a community orchestra of excellence, promoting music within the UAE, for current and future generations of Emirati nationals and expatriates.





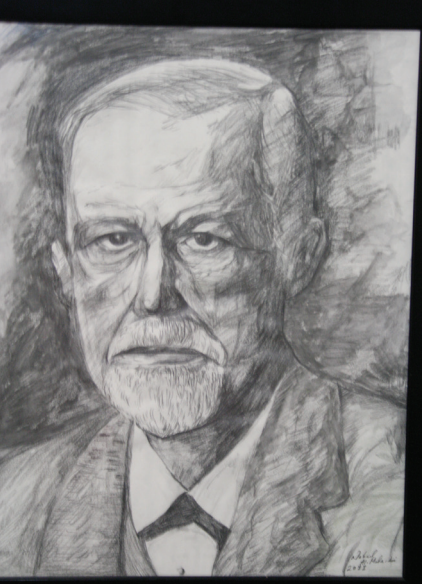
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The concert will open with Aaron Copland's *Fanfare For the Common Man*, a soaring start to any musical event for brass and percussion and a fanfare that many will recognise from countless film scores.

After the fanfare, there will be a swift change of mood when the orchestra will launch into Antonin Dvorak's *Carnival Overture* followed by the profoundly moving Gabriel's Oboe by Ennio Morricone from the soundtrack of the film *The Mission*. It will feature solos by UAENSO oboist Jerome Broun and concert master Min Yang. Audience members may remember the piece from the orchestra's first concert *A Night at the Movies*. It proved so popular on that occasion that the decision was taken to bring it back for this special concert.

Emirati singer Balqees Al Fathi will take to the stage to perform *Spirit of the Union*, a piece based on a poem written by Saudi poet Abdul Rahman Al Shemmari and composed by the internationally renowned oudist Ahmed Fathi. A recording of the piece, arranged by Amanda Lee Falkenberg and Paul Myer Hopkins, was released on YouTube to celebrate the 40th UAE National Day in 2011 and a full orchestral score has been commissioned especially for the UAENSO's concert, making it a world premiere. It is hoped that the orchestra will perform the piece when members take up an invitation to play at the Avery Fischer Hall, at the Lincoln Center, New York City, in Spring 2014.





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This will be followed by a turn from Scottish tenor John Craig Innes, known in his native UK as The People's Tenor, who will sing the heartbreaking aria *E lucevan le stelle* from the opera *Tosca*. The aria has long been a favourite with millions of opera fans but, fewer know its tragic story - it is the final lamentations of Mario Cavaradossi, a young man in love with Tosca, the opera's heroine, who is condemned to die by a rival for her affections. He will also join Balqees Al Fathi in a duet of *The Prayer*, which was made popular by Celine Dion and Andre Boccelli.

The penultimate item will be *Riverdance*, the Irish cultural extravaganza that first came to international attention in 1994 when millions watched a stunning performance by Irish traditional musicians and step dancers. The orchestra will perform the piece, which has been specially arranged by musical director and conductor, Andrew Berryman. Balqees Al Fathi will provide the haunting introduction with a solo performance of the *Hear My Cry* melody.

Finally, the orchestra will finish the concert with a bang with four excerpts from Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*.

Emirati artists Nabeel Khalfan Al Mehairibi and Sara Ibrahim will be exhibiting paintings inspired by this musical work.





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Founder and Executive Director Janet Hassouneh explained that creating the orchestra, a non-profit organisation, had been a labour of love for herself and her dedicated team.

She said: "It is a way for me to give back to the UAE all the wonderful experiences and people I've been fortunate enough to meet and work with through music making and education over the nearly 30 years that I've lived here. Being a part of the Emirati fabric led me to believe that the best way for me to give back to the people was to create an orchestra that showcases the UAE's own talented musicians with the orchestra, and to celebrate the country's culture and heritage through the programmes we perform here and hopefully in future, abroad.

The UAENSO was founded in 2012 and is a non-profit, community orchestra of excellence, promoting music within the UAE, for current and future generations of Emirati Nationals and Expatriates. For further information please contact: info@uaenso.org or visit their website www.uaenso.org.

