



NSO
Symphony Orchestra
ان.اس.او. الأوركسترا السيمفونية

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A SUCCESSFUL START TO THE SEASON

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The National Symphony Orchestra's season opening concert - **A Night At The Movies...The Sequel** - held at Jumeirah at Etihad Towers on Friday, October 11, 2013 was a resounding success complete with VVIP guests, encore performances and standing ovations.

His Highness Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Culture, Youth and Community Development as well as Her Highness Princess Ameera Al Taweel of Saudi Arabia graced the Gala Evening with their presence. "We are extremely honoured and very grateful for their support at the first concert of our new season", said Janet Hassounah, Founder and Executive Director of NSO.

Also in attendance were His Excellency Giorgio Starace, The Ambassador of Italy, His Excellency Patrick Hennessy, The Ambassador of Ireland, Dr. Suleiman Al Jassem, the former Vice President of Zayed University, Dr. Manahel Thabet renowned Yemeni economist and Dr. Ahmel Al Fathi, renowned international Oudh player.

Backed by the brilliance of the 60 member symphony orchestra conducted by Maestro Andrew Berryman, virtuoso performances by guest Emirati artists Balqees Al Fathi and 15 year old pianist Sarah Al Kaabi had the 1000 strong audience asking for more. Clarinetist Mathew Curtis, Countertenor Henry Bennett, NSO Youth Choir led by Mark Batten with Brighton College-Abu Dhabi student soloist Abdulla Al Massood, also gave stirring performances.

Special mention was made on behalf of NSO's continuing commitment to their community outreach and education programmes for young aspiring musicians.





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This concert launched their 'Professional Development' programme which nurtures advanced instrumental student players who are given the opportunity to sit beside a professional player in the orchestra and perform for one concert. A life altering experience for British School Al Khubeirat's advance student violist Nicholas Kohn who found the experience very inspiring.

The Mezzoon Ball Room at Jumeirah at Etihad Towers was packed to capacity for the Matinee Show, and the Gala evening was also very well attended. The venue provided wonderful acoustics for the orchestra and was a fitting backdrop to this gala event.

NSO would like to express gratitude to Abu Dhabi Classic FM, NSO's official event partner, and Jumeirah at Etihad Towers for their support and invaluable contribution in making the concert the huge success it was.

NSO will be back with another fantastic evening performance at 7pm on Thursday, November 7, 2013 at The National Theatre, Abu Dhabi. Do join us for a trip "Around the World in 80 Minutes (Part 1)", an exciting performance of symphonic pieces from around the world, with featured guest soloists and chorus. Tickets are on sale now at www.timeouttickets.com and Spinneys-Khaladiya.

Further information is available on our website: www.uaenso.org

