



NSO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TO CONTINUE DUE TO OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL GALA!

Music Agency for Corporate, Government & Private Events

Abu Dhabi, UAE. 3 May 2018 – The [NSO Symphony Orchestra](#) will continue to perform following its recent successful gala evening and concentrate on supplying its top musicians for special events for corporate, government and private events across the UAE.

Led by Music Director Andrew Berryman, NSO performed what was to be its final performance 'A Night at the Movies...The Final Curtain', on Friday 27 April at the Emirates Palace Hotel in Abu Dhabi.

With offers of support from dedicated patrons, NSO's Founder & Executive Director, Mrs Janet Hassouneh, decided not to continue with her wrap-up plans: "For the past seven years, NSO has endeavoured to present rich orchestral concerts with exciting and challenging music programs that have delighted music lovers in the UAE, all organized with a small team of part-time supporters.

"Obviously, this level of organization requires an enormous amount of hard work, dedication and goodwill, which I could no longer sustain. However, as our musicians would like to continue playing together, I will devote my time to running the NSO Music Agency, where I can advise clients on the perfect combination of musicians,

with a suitable program of music for any setting. We will also look into staging gala concerts, if logistics permit.”

In its seven years, NSO has performed superb orchestral pieces in concert, such as Tchaikovsky’s *4th and 5th symphonies*, Bernstein’s *West Side Story Symphonic Dances*, and a full production of the opera *Hansel & Gretel*.

NSO has also been contracted to accompany Andrea Bocelli when he sang for some 10,000 people at du Arena in 2016. Other contracted events include performing in front of a worldwide TV audience at the World Cup horseracing extravaganza; the BBC’s *The Blue Planet* with Sir George Fenton for the opening ceremony of the Volvo Ocean Race in 2014; the live performance in 2016 for the screening of Disney’s animated film, *Frozen*; and performing at the World Skills in 2017.

The NSO Music Agency has supplied the NSO Symphony Orchestra, classical and contemporary music ensembles, soloists and other combinations for corporate events, government ceremonies and commercial brand launches, as well as private celebrations, such as weddings. Mrs Hassouneh is already lining up musicians for events after Ramadan and in the Autumn and can be contacted on info@nsouae.org.

NSO is sponsored by Abu Dhabi media hub [twofour54](#) as Presenting Sponsor, in addition to Platinum Sponsors [Gulf Capital](#), [Abu Dhabi Classic FM](#), and [Emirates Palace Hotel](#). NSO supports the [Make-a-Wish Foundation UAE](#).

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About NSO 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. NSO is the official supplier for Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi's 'Arts for Health' programme, providing musicians for inspiring live music performances for patients and their families. 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.

About twofour54 www.twofour54.com

twofour54, home to Abu Dhabi's media and entertainment industry, aims to cultivate Abu Dhabi's media free zone and provide products and services to attract local, regional and international media businesses to the emirate. Tasked with enabling a new generation of creative leaders and building Abu Dhabi as the Middle East's leading hub for content creation, twofour54 provides world-class production facilities, talent development initiatives and training, and business support services for media companies.

Since establishment, twofour54 is home to more than 450 Arabic and international media and entertainment companies including Sky News Arabia, Image Nation, Ubisoft, CNN, Fox, Flash Entertainment, M&C Saatchi, and Flat6Labs, in addition to a pool of 600 bilingual talented freelancers.

twofour54 is operated under the ownership of Media Zone Authority–Abu Dhabi, a government entity.

About Gulf Capital www.gulfcapital.com

Gulf Capital is one of the leading alternative asset management firms in the Middle East, investing across several asset classes including Private Equity, Private Debt and Real Estate. The Firm currently manages over AED 14.7 billion (US\$4 billion) of assets across 10 funds and investment vehicles. Gulf Capital's mission is to grow capital and build value with world-class expertise and best practices to generate sustainable superior performance for all stakeholders. Gulf Capital, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, invests its own capital alongside its fund investors' capital in all of the funds it launches. Gulf Capital received regional and international recognitions from industry peers and experts. The Firm was awarded the "Best Private Equity Firm in the Middle East" Award by Banker Middle East Magazine in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 and the "Best Private Equity Firm" in the Middle East and North Africa by Private Equity International, as well as "Best SMEs Credit Fund in the Middle East" in 2015 and "Best Alternative Asset Management Firm in the Middle East" in 2016. The Firm is actively involved in real estate development through Gulf Related, its joint venture with the Related Companies, the leading private real estate developer in the United States. Gulf Related is focused on pursuing marquee large-scale mixed-use and residential real estate development opportunities in the UAE and Saudi Arabia. Gulf Capital also launched a Private Debt business, Gulf Credit Partners, which offers credit and mezzanine financing to meet the funding needs of fast-growing companies and to provide acquisition finance across the Middle East, North and Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as Turkey. With its private equity, real estate and private debt initiatives, Gulf Capital is today one of the largest and most diversified alternative asset managers in the Middle East.

About Make-A-Wish Foundation® UAE [Facebook - Make-a-Wish UAE](#)

The Make-A-Wish Foundation® UAE is part of an international non-profit organization with 38 affiliate offices around the world, in nearly 50 countries. A wish is granted every 22 minutes, on average, somewhere in the world. Our mission is to grant the wishes of children diagnosed with critical illnesses between the ages of 3-18 years old to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. Since its start in 1980 in Arizona, the Make-A-Wish Foundation® has enriched the lives of children with life-threatening medical conditions around the world through its wish-granting work. The Foundation's mission reflects the life-changing impact that a Make-A-Wish® experience has on children, families, referral sources, donors, sponsors and entire communities.

In October 2003 the Make-A-Wish Foundation became the first office for the Gulf Region. All wishes granted by Make-A-Wish Foundation® United Arab Emirates are for the children of the UAE - national and expatriate alike. The Foundation is led by President,

Honorary Chairman and Lifetime Patron, HH Sheikha Sheikha Bint Saif Bin Mohammad Al Nahyan, and is dedicated to assisting children and their families by providing an avenue of *hope, strength* and *joy* through the fulfilment of special wishes.

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