



**NSO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA GOES OUT WITH
A BANG WITH TCHAIKOVSKY'S 1812
OVERTURE FOR
'A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES... THE FINAL
CURTAIN'**

*Orchestra & Chorus performing at Emirates Palace, Friday
27 April*

Abu Dhabi, UAE. 21 April 2018 - The [NSO Symphony Orchestra](#) is performing their thrilling season closer with a gala concert 'A Night at the Movies...The Final Curtain', on Friday 27 April at the Emirates Palace Hotel Auditorium on Abu Dhabi Corniche.

Music Director Andrew Berryman will conduct the orchestra and chorus in a gala that will feature some of the most exciting orchestral music ever written for film: the iconic *Star Wars* title theme, the swashbuckling *Pirates of the Caribbean*, Offenbach's toe-tapping *Can-Can* from *Moulin Rouge*, and Strauss's hilarious *Die Fledermaus opera overture* used in *Tom & Jerry's A Night at the Hollywood Bowl*.

Concert Master [Nadine Artuhanava](#) is the featured violin soloist for *Ladies in Lavender*, while the NSO's Three Sopranos & Tenors will perform *Brindisi* from Verdi's *La Traviata*. World champion Irish dancers will accompany NSO's rendition of Bill Whelan's *Riverdance*.

The Chorus, made up of members of the Dubai Singers, will perform the stunning *O Fortuna* from Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, and the concert's pièce de résistance and finale, the stirring chorus of Tchaikovsky's powerful *1812 Overture*.

The gala will be enhanced by performances by Emirati Composers Hamad Altaee and Eman Alhashimi, who will perform their pieces on piano, accompanied by the orchestra, and guest composer from Italy, Frederico Torri.

NSO Founder & Executive Director, Mrs. Janet Hassouneh, said: "We are grateful for our loyal audiences of music lovers who have been coming to our concerts over the past seven years and we have strived to give great performances every time.

"Though there is an abundance of concerts across the UAE, NSO is the only UAE-resident, professional symphony orchestra and, with continued support, we will hold our own concerts and perform for government, corporate and private events across the emirates and beyond."

Hamad Altaee is a pilot and, in his free time, plays piano and composes music. He finds his greatest inspiration to write music is when he's flying and discovering the planet. Hamad says his goal is to share his happiness, simplicity and positivity with everyone he meets along the way.

Eman Alhashimi is the first female Emirati composer, mixing Western and Arabic musical instruments in her works. She was the first pianist to play in 'World Music Day', which was hosted by the UAE in 2000, was the first pianist to represent the UAE abroad when she performed at Expo Milano 2015 and was the first Emirati pianist

to perform at the Louvre Museum in Abu Dhabi. Eman, who has a BA in Human Resources, is currently studying for her master's in media.

Over the past 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*.

The orchestra has also been contracted to accompany Andrea Bocelli when he sang for some 10,000 people at du Arena in 2016, and to perform live at the screening of Disney's animated film, *Frozen*, in 2016, the BBC's *The Blue Planet* with Sir George Fenton for the opening ceremony of the Volvo Ocean Race in 2014, at the World Skills event in 2017, and to worldwide TV audiences such as the World Cup horseracing extravaganza in 2014.

NSO Orchestra will close the season on Friday 27 April and the NSO Music Agency will continue to supply the orchestra, classical and contemporary music ensembles and soloists for government, corporate and private events, as well as commercial brand launches, etc, and can be contacted at info@nsouae.org.

The evening gala on Friday 27 April is at 7.30pm; younger adults may like to attend the matinee at 4.30pm, which is also an 'open rehearsal', a fascinating opportunity to watch the orchestra and chorus at work and see how a piece of music is shaped and polished by Maestro Berryman and the musicians as they prepare for the gala evening.

NSO's season finale 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 is supporting the [Make-a-Wish Foundation UAE](#), which will be present

at the concert venue.

Tickets are available online now at [Ticketmaster](#):

Matinee: Platinum AED250; Gold AED200; Silver AED150; Balcony AED100.

Gala: Platinum AED350; Gold AED250; Silver AED175; Balcony AED125.

Food stations with finger-food, popcorn and beverages will be available before the performances and during the interval.

Contact: Frances Barton, frances@nsouae.org; Mobile: 050 650 3900.

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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