



## **NSO CONGRATULATES CONCERT PIANIST IOANNIS POTAMOUSIS BECOMING LATEST 'STEINWAY ARTIST'**

***Joins other Notable Artists - Lang Lang, Diana Krall, Gershwin & Rachmaninov***

Abu Dhabi, UAE. 10 May 2022 - [NSO Symphony Orchestra UAE \(NSO\)](#) has congratulated its concert pianist collaborator Dr. Ioannis Potamouisis, who has just been awarded the accolade 'Steinway Artist' by historic piano-maker, Steinway & Sons.

The first-ever Steinway Artist in the UAE, the internationally acclaimed and charismatic performer Dr. Ioannis Potamouisis joins the ranks of other world-renowned musicians and composers, including Lang Lang, Diana Krall, George Gershwin and Sergei Rachmaninov.

Dr. Ioannis will present a concert in the NYUAD Music Recital Series 'from Romantic to Disney' on Sunday 15 May, along with fellow pianist Elizabeth Yoonjung Han, with a programme that includes Schubert's Impromptus, Chopin's second sonata and the Joo-Hye Lee's arrangement, *Animation Music Medley* for two pianos. He is also performing a recital in the Alliance Française in Dubai on 21 May, featuring Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, arranged for piano solo and sting quintet.

NSO Founder & CEO, Mrs. Janet Hassouneh, said: "I had the opportunity to get to know Ioannis in my role as a concert organizer and musical events producer in Dubai since 1998, and as Founder and CEO of the NSO Symphony Orchestra in the UAE since 2011.

"Ioannis is highly self-motivated. While playing concerts around the world he consistently pushed himself and encouraged those who collaborated with him to significantly raise the bar on performance. He is a man on a mission and stays focused on that. He has appeared in all major venues in the UAE and has impressed all audiences with his pianistic skills and musical ability. He is known to dazzle audiences with his pianistic artistry, beautiful sound, brilliant technique and sophisticated performances.

"Ioannis, or 'Yanni' as he is commonly referred to, is one of the finest pianists I have encountered in my career and, without question, among the best musicians in the UAE. While he is indeed a wonderful pianist, he also possesses more rare qualities like integrity, a sense of humour and drive that will guarantee his success in his future ventures."

Dr. Ioannis has performed numerous times with NSO across the UAE and the Holy Land and started the orchestra's Young Artist Concerto Competition (YACOCO).

In addition to his active performance schedule, he is a successful educator in the UAE. He is the Head of Keyboard Studies at Brighton College Abu Dhabi, as well as part of the piano faculty at the New York University in Abu Dhabi, and his students are competition prize-winners.

He has also a passion for community projects and has organized several music events that bring people together from all cultures and backgrounds, including 'Pollen-spreading the Seeds of Music'.

Dr. Ioannis expressed his gratitude in receiving the 'Steinway Artist' award, saying: "Playing on a Steinway feels like an extension to my soul. It is a huge honour to be nominated a 'Steinway Artist' from an historic company who has previously nominated legendary pianists that I personally admire.

"However, besides the honour I feel the responsibility to not only represent the title as successfully as I can but also continue to promote classical music both as an education and pianist in the UAE and the world. I am grateful to my mentors who taught me how to serve music but also to the UAE who has given me the chance to reside in this country and through several activities have managed to collaborate with many institutions and performing organisations in the country.

"NSO and Mrs. Janet Hassouneh have played a key role in my residency as a musician in the UAE as through the organisation I was able to share my passion for music both as a performer, organiser and educator with the greater community."

For decades, Steinway & Sons has cultivated special relationships with pianists from every genre. From classical pianists like Lang Lang, to jazz stars like Diana Krall, to pop icons like Billy Joel, to 'immortals' like Cole Porter and Sergei Rachmaninov – more than 1,600 artists make the Steinway their own.

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### **About NSO**

NSO comprises the NSO Symphony Orchestra (UAE), the NSO Chamber Orchestra, the NSO Symphonic Pops Orchestra, the NSO Big Band, the NSO Strings Orchestra, the NSO Opera & Chorus and the NSO Music Agency and Events.

Launched in 2011, NSO is made up of more than 100 musicians of some 20 nationalities, who live in six of the seven emirates. They are professional musicians and musical educators who have performed regularly for their own national orchestras. NSO Symphony Orchestra performs major symphonic and operatic works, as well as more popular forms, ranging from film scores to orchestral standard repertoire. Every concert aspires to feature musical contributions from the UAE, whether a composer, solo singer or musician.

Over the past ten years, NSO has performed superb orchestral pieces in concert in the UAE, 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 10,000 people at du Arena on Yas Island and at Al Ula, KSA, which was televised throughout the Middle East. They also

performed live for the screening of Disney's animated film, Frozen, Video Games Live from LA, the BBC's The Blue Planet with Sir George Fenton for the opening ceremony of the Volvo Ocean Race, the World Skills event in Abu Dhabi, as well as worldwide TV audiences for the Dubai World Cup horse racing opening ceremony extravaganza.