



أوركسترا قطر
الفهارمونية
Qatar Philharmonic
Orchestra

Member of Qatar Foundation

QATAR PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA PERFORMS LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS/BRITISH FESTIVAL

Scottish Conductor Bob Ross To Lead Concert Of Popular Classics

Doha, Qatar, 1 April: Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra (QPO), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), will present a variety of popular music in a concert called Night of the Proms / British Festival on Friday 10 April 2015, at 7:30pm at the Ceremonial Court in Education City.

Scottish conductor Bob Ross will return to Qatar to direct works from the United Kingdom and other parts of the world in the genres of Opera, Operetta, Broadway and film music. Soprano Felicitas Fuchs and Philharmonic cellist Kirill Bogatyrev will perform as soloists. The British Council is sponsoring the concert under the banner of its 'British Festival', a month-long celebration of activities promoting Britain in Qatar and cross-cultural relations.

As a member of Qatar Foundation, Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra promotes and performs western and Arabic music to inspire the children and adults of Qatar and the Arab world to create and enjoy music. It supports QF's mission to foster a progressive society, enhance cultural life and protect Qatar's heritage. In blending these cultures, the Orchestra extends a message of peace to the world. An integral part of the Philharmonic's work is to host new and established composers, soloists and conductors from the Arab world.

Night of the Proms is modelled on the similarly entitled Last Night of the Proms, a programme that closes each season of the renowned BBC Proms Festival at the Royal Albert Hall in London. Last September, Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra performed at the 2014 Proms, in the 67th concert of this 'greatest festival in classical music', a few days before Last Night of the Proms.

The closing concert is immensely popular, not only in the UK but across the world, for its combination of lighter classics and patriotic British encores such as 'Rule Britannia', by Thomas Arne and Land of Hope and Glory, also known as Pomp and Circumstance No. 1 by Edward Elgar.

The Doha concert will open with music by Emmerich Kálmán from *The Gypsy Princess*, continue through George Frideric Handel's *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba* from *Solomon*, and offer three works by George Gershwin: *Summertime*, *The Man I Love* and *I Got Rhythm*. Other highlights include *Hedwig's Theme* from *Harry Potter* by John Williams and music from *West Side Story* and *Candide* by Leonard Bernstein.

Bob Ross has conducted the QPO on numerous occasions. Born in 1954 in Kirkcaldy, Scotland, he gained his first musical experiences in his hometown in different brass bands before he started his studies at the Royal College of Music in Glasgow.

He plays the horn with the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra and is an established conductor and entertainer as well as the founder of the Blechschaden Ensemble. Starting off as no more than a hobby, the ensemble has since become one of the most successful of brass bands, playing nearly 50 concerts per year. Concerts of Blechschaden are known for their mixture of classical and light music and for the humour and wit of Ross. Bob Ross and his musicians were honoured by ECHO Klassik Awards twice for their recordings *Brassomania* and *Blechschaden in Blech*.

More information is available at: qatarphilharmonicorchestra.org. Tickets are available at QR100 and QR150 for the 3 April performance through Virgin Megastore's Villaggio and Landmark stores and online at tickets.virginmegastore.me. The Philharmonic's next concert, Schumann's *Rhenish Symphony*, will feature conductor Fawzi Haimor on Saturday 11 April at the Katara Opera House.

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The Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra promotes and performs western and Arabic music in order to inspire the children and adults of Qatar and the Arab world to create and enjoy music. In blending these cultures the Qatar Philharmonic extends a message of peace to the world. The Philharmonic was founded in 2007 as a center in the Qatar Foundation, chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser. It is composed of 101 professional musicians chosen in international auditions from 30 countries. The Philharmonic's first music director, Nader Abbassi, was succeeded by Michalis Economou and Han-Na Chang. The orchestra has also worked with such conductors such as David Afkham, James Gaffigan, Dmitri Kitajenko, Lorin Maazel and Marc Minkowski.

The Qatar Philharmonic gives on average 60 different performances per year at their home in the Katara Opera House, which it opened in December 2010 with the world premiere of Marcel Khalifé's *Rababa Concerto*. Touring performances have included the Royal Albert Hall in London, the Kennedy Center in Washington, Teatro alla Scala in Milan, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, the Konzerthaus in Vienna for the 50th anniversary of OPEC, the Syrian Opera House in Damascus, the United Nations General Assembly, the 2014 BBC Proms and Santa Cecilia Hall in Rome.

www.qatarphilharmonicorchestra.org

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