



أوركسترا قطر
الفهارمونية
Qatar Philharmonic
Orchestra

Member of Qatar Foundation

QATAR PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA TO PERFORM WORLD PREMIERES BY MARCEL AND RAMI KHALIFÉ

World-Class Musicians to Perform as Soloists

Doha, Qatar, 9 April 2016: Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra (QPO) is set to perform two new large-scale compositions this week: Rami Khalifé's *Stories* for piano and orchestra, and Marcel Khalifé's third concerto for oud. David Niemann will conduct the performances, with Rami Khalifé on piano and Kenan Adnawi on oud.

Born in 1981 in Beirut, Rami Khalifé has been called, "a musician of extreme calibre and pure expression...a welcome experimental detour from the norm of today and in the relatively conformist world of classical composition." Rami calls the seven tracks from *Stories* "a series of soundscapes." "*Resistance* blends techno with contemporary and a dash of romanticism...*Pulse, Life and Goose Bumps* emerges as the pop song of the series...and *Steps on the Dance Floor* is a DJ spinning turntables," he says.

UNESCO Artist for Peace Marcel Khalifé has renewed the character of the Arabic song, reformulating it in more than 30 albums, as well as writing music for both film and dance. In these concerts, he will sing two of his songs, *Ya Nassim el Rih* and *Ya Bahriyyeh*, in new orchestral arrangements.

Marcel is also set to perform his third oud concerto as another world premiere. Through his long career full of masterpieces for the oud, he has tried to set the instrument free from the strict techniques that traditionally governed it, greatly expanding its possibilities.

Marcel has played a fundamental role in the establishment and development of the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra. The Arabian Concerto, which he composed specifically for its inaugural concert, was performed during the orchestra's first international tours.

QPO is a member of Qatar Foundation (QF). Reflective of QF's aspiration to contribute to a progressive society, the event aims to enhance cultural life in Qatar by promoting unique artistic events.

The concert will be performed on 15th and 16th April 2016 at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC). However, due to extraordinary demand, no tickets remain available for either performance. More information about this and other concerts is available at qatarphilharmonicorchestra.org.

Image Captions:

Image 1: Marcel Khalifé, a Lebanese composer, singer, and oud player, is set to perform at Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra's (QPO) upcoming concert.

Image 2: Rami Khalifé is a French-Lebanese composer, pianist, and artist who will be performing with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra (QPO).

Image 3: Performing at Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra's (QPO) upcoming concert, Kenan Adnawi is a well-established oud player from Syria.

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The Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra

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, and Dmitrij Kitajenko was recently named Conductor of Honor. The orchestra has also worked with such conductors such as David Afkham, James Gaffigan, Lorin Maazel, Marc Minkowski and Tung-Chieh Chuang .

As a member of the Qatar Foundation, the Philharmonic assists Qatar in its journey from carbon economy to knowledge economy by unlocking human potential. It is an integral part of the Philharmonic's work to host new and established composers, soloists and conductors of the Arab world.

The Qatar Philharmonic gives on average 50 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 BBC Proms in London, Linz Brucknerhaus and Santa Cecilia Hall in Rome.

You can also visit:

qatarphilharmonicorchestra.org

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Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF) is a private, non-profit organisation that is supporting Qatar on its journey from carbon economy to knowledge economy by unlocking human potential, for the benefit of not only Qatar, but the world. QF was co-founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Qatar Foundation's Chairperson. QF's work encompasses education, research and community development. World-class universities are brought to Qatar to help create an education sector in which young people can develop the attitudes and skills required for a knowledge economy. At the same time, QF builds Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by developing and commercialising solutions through key sciences. The Foundation also works to foster a progressive society while enhancing cultural life, protecting Qatar's heritage and addressing immediate social needs in the community.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>