Indian Baritone Frazan Adil Kotwal Makes Long-Awaited Mumbai Debut at the Royal Opera House

Western classical music has long evolved through the exchange of ideas, styles, and traditions, shaped by centuries of creative exploration and emotional expression. Its forms are built on balance and contrast, where intimacy meets grandeur and simplicity coexists with complexity. In its essence, it invites attentive listening. It unfolds gradually, allowing melody and harmony to create mood, atmosphere, and meaning. Whether reflective or dramatic, restrained or expansive, it can slow time, draw focus inward, and open space for emotional connection without the need for words.

Rooted in tradition yet endlessly expressive, this music speaks through nuance and detail, rewarding patience and curiosity. Each phrase carries intention, each silence holds weight, and each musical idea builds toward something quietly transformative. In doing so, Western classical music continues to offer moments of beauty, clarity, and shared experience that feel both timeless and immediate. It is within this spirit of homecoming and reflection that an evening of Western classical vocal music unfolds at the Royal Opera House, Mumbai.

Avid Learning presents **From Dawn to Dream: A Western Classical Vocal Recital** in collaboration with the **Consulate General of Germany in Mumbai, Royal Opera House, Mumbai, Steinway and Sons,** and **Furtados**. The recital features Indian baritone Frazan Adil Kotwal, living in Germany, accompanied by pianist **Nadine Jo Crasto**, marking Frazan's much-anticipated Mumbai debut.

As an internationally sought-after baritone and the first Indian artist to perform several iconic operatic roles on professional European stages, including the Count in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* and the title role in *Don Giovanni*, Frazan brings a voice rich in depth, nuance, and expressive power. Accompanying him is Nadine Jo Crasto, a Steinway Young Artist and one of India's leading pianists, widely respected for her sensitivity, musical insight, and enduring contribution to Mumbai's Western classical music landscape. Together, they create a partnership of refined artistry, where voice and piano engage in an intimate and compelling musical dialogue.

This recital is the first in a series of **three international performances** presented by Avid Learning at the Royal Opera House, Mumbai. It is a distinguished line-up of global classical artists, moving from lyrical intimacy to virtuosic brilliance and choral grandeur, an unmissable month for lovers of Western classical music. This performance will be followed by a piano recital by the internationally acclaimed **Katya Grineva**. We will close January with a vocal ensemble performance by the Russian **M. Turetsky Choir**.

Avid Learning continues its commitment to presenting exceptional global musical voices in India while fostering meaningful cultural exchange. As a cultural catalyst, Avid Learning curates and brings together diverse artists, genres, and traditions to create innovative musical experiences that transcend borders. Through thoughtfully designed programmes, Avid continues to enrich Mumbai's cultural landscape while nurturing dialogue through the universal language of music.

Join us for an unforgettable evening of Western classical vocal music, where the artist's journey comes full circle in a performance of rare beauty and emotional resonance.

When: Wednesday, 21st January 2026 | 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM
Where: Royal Opera House, Mumbai
Register: www.avidlearning.in
Press Contact: Ayeshah Dadachanji (ayeshah.avid@gmail.com)

About Artists:

Frazan Adil Kotwal – Baritone Frazan Adil Kotwal, baritone, was born in Mumbai and is internationally celebrated for combining musical excellence, social commitment, and deep artistic integrity. After graduating from Jaihind College in Mumbai in 2015 with a degree in Mass Media and Journalism, he turned his passion toward classical music and has since used his talent to make a meaningful difference. Since 2011, he has led impactful classical music projects for underprivileged children in the slums of Mumbai, bringing access to the arts to those who need it most.

In 2017, Frazan moved to Germany to study with Prof. Ulrike Sonntag at the State University of Music and Performing Arts Stuttgart. His talent and dedication earned him scholarships to prestigious international festivals, including the AlpenKammerMusik Festival in Austria and the Art Song Preservation Society in New York. In Stuttgart, he completed both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees with distinction and received honours such as the Fritz Wunderlich Prize, the Yehudi Menuhin Live Music Now Scholarship, the DAAD Prize for exceptional work, etc. He is currently mentored by Sir Simon Keenlyside, Catherine Foster, and Jack LiVigni.

Since November 2024, Frazan has served as the Second Chairperson of the Christel-Guthörle Foundation in Reutlingen. This foundation is dedicated to supporting young musicians, and Frazan is deeply committed to continuing its mission and nurturing future generations of artists.

Nadine Jo Crasto – Piano
Young Steinway Artist Nadine Jo Crasto began learning the piano at the tender age of 9, under the tutelage of Myrna Fernandes. In 2015, she graduated with a Master of Arts Degree in Piano Performance at the Royal Academy of Music, London, studying under Colin Stone. She completed the LTCL Examination in 2009 at the age of 17 and received two awards for the ATCL Examination, having achieved the highest marks in Mumbai.

She has participated twice in the All-India Music Quest Competition, achieving Gold Seals and winning first place in the Jazz and Popular Music section in 2011, as well as in the All-India Con Brio Festival, at which she was a semi-finalist in the year 2010. In 2018, she was invited to join the contingent of Con Brio competition winners and participate in the festival.