

Join us for an exclusive western classical musical concert featuring violin virtuoso Aisha Syed accompanied by the Mehli Mehta Music Foundation String Ensemble and Choir

For Immediate Release

Mehli Mehta Music Foundation, Furtados, Royal Opera House, Mumbai and Avid Learning present **Symphony of Strings**, a melodious morning of Western Classical music with a concert led by *Violinist Aisha Syed* accompanied by the **Mehli Mehta Music Foundation String Ensemble and Choir**.

Please read below for a description of the performance:

Hailing from the Dominican Republic, Aisha Syed has performed as a soloist, recitalist and chamber musician at major concert venues across the globe and has also been described as 'one of the youngest and most talented ambassadors of the violin in the world'. She will perform rousing solo and chamber works in accompaniment with the Mehli Mehta Music Foundation String Ensemble. The concert will also feature the Foundation's Middle and Senior Choirs who will perform special choral pieces as well as, renditions of Christmas Carols in celebration of the season's festive spirit.

This concert is a continuation of our association with the prestigious Mehli Mehta Music Foundation, with whom we have presented many Western Classical musical programmes over the years with the aim of revitalizing the genre and popularizing it among Mumbai audiences.

At the Royal Opera House, Mumbai, we recognize the importance of lending our stage and providing a platform for the growth and development of young and emerging artistes. In this respect, we share a common vision with the Mehli Mehta Music Foundation and have collaborated with them in the past to support talented young musicians and ensembles like the Busch Trio, Luka Okros, and more recently, Guillame Bellon and Victor Julian – Lafferriere who delivered an enthralling cello and piano recital. The foundation's students also performed at *Peek-A-Book 2018*; a children's literature festival held at the Opera House last year.

WHERE: Royal Opera House, Mama Parmanand Marg, Mumbai – 400 004





WHEN: Sunday, 15th December 2019 | 11:00 AM onwards





TICKETS: www.insider.in

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The virtuoso violinist **Aisha Syed** from the Dominican Republic has been described as 'one of the youngest and most talented ambassadors of the violin in the world'. She studied at the Menuhin School, Royal College of Music and the Guildhall School and has performed as soloist, recitalist and chamber musician at festivals and major concert venues around the world. Aisha will perform solo works and concertos with the MMMF students and string ensemble. The concert will also include choral works performed by the MMMF Middle and Senior choirs.

DATE: Sunday, 15th December 2019
TIME: 11:00 AM
VENUE: Royal Opera House, Mama Parmanand Marg, Mumbai - 400 004
TICKETS: www.insider.in | Rs. 300/- onwards

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About the Performer

Aisha Syed has been described by the press in three continents as a “virtuoso” (Lietuvos Rytas in Lithuania, Frankfurter Neue Presse in Germany, Time Out Magazine and The National in the UAE, LokalNachrichten in Bern, Switzerland, Correio Braziliense in Brasil), a “deeply gifted artist” (Ft. Lauderdale Connex in Florida) and “one of the youngest and most talented ambassadors of the violin in the world” (Live Out Loud Magazine in Los Angeles, California). Aged eleven Aisha made her debut performing the Bruch violin concerto in g minor with the Dominican Symphony Orchestra becoming the youngest ever Dominican to have performed with the orchestra. She became the first latina to attend the child prodigy Yehudi Menuhin School in England where she also studied at the Royal College of Music with a full scholarship by the Soirée d’Or committee. She was also offered a full scholarship at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. She has performed all around the world as a soloist in places such as the Carnegie Hall in New York, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, National Philharmonic Hall in Vilnius, Luxembourg Palace in Paris, the Broward Center for the Performing Arts in Florida, the Palacio de Linares in Madrid, the Fontainebleau Palace in Fontainebleau, the headquarters of the Organization of American States in Washington DC, the Wigmore Hall in London, the Kauffman Hall in New York, the Clairmont Hall in Tel- Aviv, the Yehudi Menuhin Forum in Bern, the Altes Rathaus Barocksaal in Vienna, Teatro Mayor Julio Mario in Colombia, Casa de la Música in Ecuador, Reales Alcázares in Sevilla, Spain, National Theater of Nicaragua and National Theater of the Dominican Republic among many other halls. She has also performed as a soloist in many festivals including at the Yehudi Menuhin International Music Festival in Gstaad where she premiered two works as soloist in 2007 and 2009 respectively by prominent Israeli composers Maestro Noam Sherriff and Maestro Menachem Wiesenberg, the BansteadArts Festival, the Leamington Hastings festival, the Santo Domingo Music Festival, the GaidaContemporary Music Festival (where she gave the world premiere of the Alguirdas Martinaititsviolin concerto, dedicated to her, at the National Philharmonic Hall with the Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra in Vilnius and at the Fontainebleau Summer Music Festival by personal invitation of its Artistic Director Phillipe Entremont. She has performed as a soloist with the Symphony of the Americas, the Kristóforo Orchestra, the

Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra, the National Symphony Orchestra of Colombia, the Cuenca Symphony Orchestra, the Cali Philharmonic Orchestra, the Loja Symphony Orchestra, the Entre Ríos Symphony Orchestra, the Yehudi Menuhin School Orchestra, the Dominican Symphony Orchestra among others. She has worked with a number of conductors such as James Brooks, Luis Gorelik, Carlos Piantini, Phillip Entremont, Adrián Chamorro, José Antonio Molina, Alvaro Manzano and many others. Aisha Syed has won numerous awards including 4 Premio soberano Awards in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2017 as Best Classical Artist Abroad, the Casandra Award 2009 as Best Classical Artist Abroad, the Latin Pride National Award 2009 in Boston MA, USA, the Game Changer Award by the Keep Walking worldwide campaign in 2014 and many others. She has also performed in BBC Radio 3 In Tune and was made Honorary Cultural Goodwill Ambassador by the Dominican Republic Government. In 2014 she was made the youngest ever Honorary Professor of the Arts Faculty at the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo, founded in 1538. In May 2015 she became along with conductor Gustavo Dudamel an Ambassador for LEALA, an organization founded to promote the Spanish language and Latin American culture in the Los Angeles area. In 2010 she co-founded in the Dominican Republic the Music for Life Foundation, which seeks to bring classical music to those whom for social, economic, or health reasons cannot access it. The violins she performs on are an extraordinary Long Pattern Stradivarius and an Antonius Pelizon violin both kindly provided by Florian Leonhard Fine Violins. Aisha is currently on tour and has been performing in Europe, Latin America, the United States and the Middle East. Future engagements include the Tchaikovsky concerto at the Palau de les Arts with Orquesta de la Comunidad Valenciana, a recital at Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall, a recital at the Royal Opera House of Mumbai invited by the Mehli Mehta Foundation, the Tchaikovsky violin concerto at the National Auditorium in Uruguay among other performances. Aisha is a devout Christian and dedicates all her performances to God.

About Partners

Established in 1995, the **Mehli Mehta Music Foundation (MMMF)** is a not-for-profit organization that promotes western classical music through the presentation of high-quality concerts and music education for children. The Foundation honours the late Mr. Mehli Mehta (1908 – 2002), a conductor and violinist who lived in Bombay until 1954 before he emigrated to the UK and subsequently to the US, where he was conductor of the American Symphony for 33 glorious years. Between 1930 and 1954 he mentored a whole generation of aspiring musicians in Bombay and was the Founder of the Bombay String Quartet and the Bombay Symphony Orchestra. The MMMF's mission is to create greater awareness and appreciation of western classical music, to share knowledge and understanding of this music, and make music education and the joy that comes with it, accessible to all. The MMMF is dedicated to initiating, assisting and implementing the process of opening its doors and the doors of the city of Mumbai to the music of the world. The Foundation is most appreciative and deeply indebted to Zubin Mehta for his personal involvement in all aspects of the Foundation. The Foundation has also raised the public profile of western classical music through its presentation of some renowned international orchestras, soloists and ensembles in Mumbai, and its annual Chamber Music Festival "Sangat".

Established in 1865, **Furtados** has always been a leader in the field of Western music education and knowledge in India. From musical instruments & accessories to print music and digital equipment, having a complete spectrum of musical instruments in the Western and Indian categories. Furtados has grown into a household name in the music business and are spread across Mumbai, Pune, Delhi, Chandigarh, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Mangalore, Dimapur, Panjim and Margao. It has a growing retail network (17 showrooms) and over 350 dealer outlets. Furtados also holds a record number of international dealerships for top-of-the-line brands in music. www.furtadosonline.com is the quintessential Musical Instruments e-commerce site for India. In January 2011, Furtados launched a publishing joint venture with one of the world's leading music book publishers, Music Sales Ltd, UK. Music Sales Furtados (India) Pvt Ltd, is focused on publishing Indian editions of best-selling Music Sales books and special local content. Furtados School of Music (www.fsm.net.in) was launched in June 2011 to provide quality and organized music education to students and aspiring musicians across India. With the help of a path breaking international curriculum for the Piano, Keyboard, Guitar, Drums and Violin, they have been able to bring music to and currently teach over 25,000 students in over 70 points of presence. Furtados invests in developing musical knowledge through training workshops, master classes, clinics, demonstrations and exhibitions, and the sponsoring of local talent and

artistes. Furtados also invests in community development and supports several organizations across the country, including school and college events, musical activity in religious and charitable organizations, festivals as well as social upliftment projects involving a musical element.

Royal Opera House, Mumbai is widely touted as Mumbai's Cultural Crown Jewel and India's only surviving Opera House. The original idea for the space was conceived of in 1908, inaugurated in 1911 by King George V, and eventually completed in 1916. The design incorporated a blend of European and Indian detailing. The space became a cinema in later years before falling into disrepair and shutting by the 1990s. Fittingly, the space has been owned by the Royal Family of Gondal since 1952 and was eventually restored by conservation architect, Abha Narain Lambah under the leadership of His Highness, Maharaja Shri Jyotendrasinhji of Gondal. The Royal Opera House Mumbai, now one of the last remaining Baroque structures in the city, reopened after 23 years in October 2016. The building was included on the 2012 World Monuments Watch to raise awareness about its history and significance, and support preservation efforts. The building has since been recognized with an Award of Merit in the 2017 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. The restored facilities feature a 575-seater 3-level auditorium with an orchestra pit and state of the art technological upgradations, including acoustics, stagecraft, lighting and air-conditioning, alongside retaining the old-world charm of the proscenium stage, the royal boxes and the magnificent regal chandeliers. Some more enhancements to the venue include a motorized screen, co-axial ceiling speaker system, Four-zone volume control and all round wifi access. Today, it stands as a key performance and creative hub in the city's cultural landscape, while being a premier heritage landmark. *Facebook:* MumbaiOpera *Twitter:* @MumbaiOpera *Instagram:* @mumbaiopera

Avid Learning, a public programming platform and cultural arm of the Essar Group, has conducted over 1150 programs and connected with more than 140,000 individuals since its inception in 2009. Driven by the belief that Learning Never Stops, AVID's multiple formats like Workshops, Panel Discussions, Gallery Walkthroughs, and Festival Platforms create a dynamic and interactive atmosphere that stimulates intellectual and creative growth across the fields of Culture & Heritage, Literature, Art and Innovation.

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