

## **A Tribute Concert to India's only living Opera Diva Celia Lobo at The Royal Opera House, Mumbai**

### **For Immediate Release**

**Celia Lobo Academy of Voice (CLAV), Furtados, Royal Opera House, Mumbai and Avid Learning** present **A Musical Extravaganza: A Tribute Concert To Celia Lobo**, celebrating India's only living Opera Diva – *Opera Singer, Vocal Coach & Mentor and Stage Director Celia Lobo*.

*Please read below for a description of the performance:*

Spearheaded by Celia's daughter, acclaimed *International Concert Artist, Vocal Coach & Consultant Deirdre Lobo*, this distinctive evening will bring together both prolific songstress' former students who hail from all sections of the performing arts ecosystem, to commemorate Celia's life, her inspiring work & career and her rich legacy.

This unique concert will feature rousing duet and solo vocals, with accompaniment on the piano, percussion and guitar. Former students who are now accomplished Artistes will perform excerpts from well-known Operas, Broadway Musicals, songs from the repertoires of Barbara Streisand and Andrea Bocelli, classical western pieces, Christmas songs and Indian classical renditions.

With her musical career beginning in 1956, today, Celia has achieved international acclaim and renown as an operatic heroine, soloist in concert and recitalist. She has also earned much respect as a vocal coach and teacher. She has worked with singers from all walks of life be it Musical Theatre, Pop, Jazz, Western Classical, Bollywood, etc. Many of her students have gone on to make careers in singing, acting, and dance, such as Sunidhi Chauhan, Shweta Shetty, Ella Castellino Atai, Dalip Tahil, Ashley Lobo, Anahita Mehta, Zenobia Vakil, Ismail Bashey, Shiamak Davar, etc.

Some more outstanding students, who will be performing in tribute include- Deirdre Lobo herself, along with Pia Sutaria, Suneeta Rao, Clynton Fernandes, Elizabeth Dias, Chevron De Souza Lobo and Joseph Gomes among others!

The Royal Opera House, Mumbai provides a unique platform in the city for people to encounter the breadth of musical genres, cross-disciplinary musical dialogues, such as this, and eclectic fusion collaborations. We are keen to support and showcase unique events that defy easy categorization and blend the traditional with the contemporary, and find synergies in fascinating ways. This event celebrates the best of Opera, western & Indian classical, and popular music.

**Asad Lalljee, SVP, Essar Group, CEO of Avid Learning and Curator, Royal Opera House Mumbai**, says, "Opera is an intrinsic part of our heritage and being the only surviving Opera House in the country, we regularly strive to present programs that uphold it's lasting legacy and support artistes, especially ones like Celia, who excelled in Opera in India and internationally, and took it to even greater heights. The Royal Opera House is honoured to present this tribute to a truly celebrated Opera diva and talented multi-genre singer on our stage!"

Celia, now based in San Francisco, and on what will probably be her last trip to India, will be in the audience. Join us for a very special evening to applaud this living legend!

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

**WHEN:** Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019 | 7:00 PM onwards

**TICKETS:** [www.insider.in](http://www.insider.in)

**PRESS EMAIL / CALL:** Ayeshah Dadachanji on [ayeshah.avid@gmail.com](mailto:ayeshah.avid@gmail.com) / +91 9820155297

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Join us for a musical Concert celebrating India's only living Opera Diva — *Opera Singer, Vocal Coach & Mentor and Stage Director* **Celia Lobo**. Spearheaded by Celia's daughter, acclaimed *International Concert Artist, Vocal Coach & Consultant* **Deirdre Lobo**, this distinctive evening will bring together both prolific songstress' former students who hail from all sections of the performing arts ecosystem, to commemorate Celia's life, her inspiring work & career and her rich legacy. This unique concert will feature rousing duet and solo vocals with accompaniment on the piano, percussion and guitar. Former students who are now accomplished Artistes will perform excerpts from well-known classical western pieces, Christmas songs and Indian classical renditions as well as music from other genres.

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## About Celia Lobo

**Celia Lobo** was born to Edwin and Emma Baptista of Mumbai, India. Both parents were music lovers. She is the second of five children. She grew up in an extremely musical family, with her father Edwin being a very gifted baritone and pianist, holding a degree from the Trinity College of Music, London, and her aunt Muriel Ribeiro a fine soprano. Her other two aunts Ella Gonsalves played the violin, and Ida Fernandes the piano. Celia and her sisters were musical as well. Celia's training began with her first stage appearance at 16 years in *Geisha* (1953). In 1956, despite the early death of her father, and limited financial resources, and upon graduating from Sophia College, Celia left for London at the age of 19 years. Celia managed to get a part-time course at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama where she studied with her voice teacher, Sumner Austin. After five years of training there, she returned to India and married her longtime partner in crime, Trevor Lobo. On returning to India, Lobo's Opera career took off. At that time the Bombay Madrigal Singers Organization (BMSO) staged operas in Bombay. Celia played the leading lady in the following operas: *Lucia di Lammermoor* (1965); *La Traviata* (1962); *Norma* (1965); *Rigoletto* (1967); *Tosca* (1968); and in later years, two One Act operas *Bastien und Bastienne* and *La Serva Padrona*. Due to the heavy costs of doing these productions and lack of funding, the BMSO disbanded in 1970. That is when Celia began her solo operatic recital career with her fabulous accompanist, Tehmie Gazdar. In the 1980s, Celia along with Leon D'Souza put together a musical called *Cascades* which kick started her career as a director. More plays followed including *They're Playing Our Song*, and *Best of Broadway*. Here is when she started her teaching career and trained many stars including Ella Castellino-Attai, Farid Curim, Shiamak Davar, Sunidhi Chauhan, Neethi Mohan, Shweta Shetty, Sunita Rao, Francois Castellino, Darren Das, Sachin Tendulkar (speech), to name a few.

## About Deirdre Lobo

Of Indian origin, now based in San Francisco, California, USA, acclaimed International Concert Artist, Vocal Coach & Consultant, **Deirdre Lobo** comes from an extremely artistic family with her mother Celia Lobo, India's only living Opera Diva, her sister Carolyn Vincent an accomplished Speaker and Community Enthusiast in Australia, and her brother Ashley Lobo, International Dance Choreographer. Deirdre is winner of the GRAND PRIZE in the Messiah Soloist Competition, San Diego, California (Dec 4, 2011), and SECOND PRIZE in the Barry Alexander International Vocal Competition, New York (Dec 19, 2011). A versatile artist, Deirdre frequently performs as soloist in concert, and in recital internationally. Deirdre has performed close to 75 concerts in her musical career. With more than 30 years of experience in the music business, Deirdre has coached, and directed singers, choirs, actors, and speakers in classes, presentations, productions, and workshops worldwide. Some of Deirdre's students have gone on to have international careers in singing, acting, and dance, including Tara Sutaria, Pia Sutaria, Meher Mistry, Shweta Shetty, Shiamak Davar, and Abhilasha Chellam, to name a few. It is with her versatile and holistic technique, and approach to vocal coaching that students are able to sing ANY genre of music (Pop, Broadway, Hip Hop, Blues, Jazz, Western Classical, Indian Classical, Bollywood) or speak with elegance and finesse! Deirdre has done over 50 workshops worldwide; and directed over 17 musical and stage productions worldwide. In 2015 Deirdre founded the Celia Lobo Academy of Voice (CLAV) ([www.clavusa.com](http://www.clavusa.com)), where she is artistic director & founder, to carry on the legacy of her mother. Deirdre coaches students internationally via her ONLINE VOICE STUDIO and currently has a huge presence in India, Germany, and the United States. She prepares students for Trinity College of Music, ABRSM, and London College of Music examinations remotely in the areas of Western Classical, Rock & Pop, and Musical Theatre. Most recently, CLAV collaborated with SINGERS EDGE, Toronto, CANADA – a Pop Music Technique Program used by Grammy Award winning artists like Michael Jackson, Barbara Streisand, Beyoncé, etc. Additionally, CLAV is also in collaboration with the ROYAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC (RCM), Toronto, CANADA and now provides for its students in the United States and Canada a structured and progressive examination curriculum for accreditation to High School and College education.

## About Partners

**The Celia Lobo Academy of Voice (CLAV USA)** ([www.clavusa.com](http://www.clavusa.com)) has been founded by Deirdre Lobo, to carry on the legacy of her mother Celia Lobo. The Academy Philosophy is to Believe-Visualize-Touch Lives-Make a Difference! CLAV USA develops students holistically, and artistically and is known for its vocal strengthening, confidence building, development of self-expression, unparalleled creative, and performance experience, and holistic development. Students learn vocal technique enabling them to sing any genre of music from Broadway–Pop–Western Classical–Bollywood and even Indian Classical. CLAV USA offers programs to ALL inclusive of all abilities, and its programs are progressive, and structured enabling them to achieve their music goals! The programs train and mentor students for a performance or teaching career! CLAVUSA is now in collaboration with the ROYAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC (RCM), Toronto, Canada and now offering a Comprehensive Certificate Program recognized worldwide AND the MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA (MTAC) sponsored Certificate of Merit program. In addition, CLAV USA recently collaborated with SINGERS EDGE, Toronto, Canada – a Pop Music Technique Program used by Grammy Award winning artists like Michael Jackson, Barbara Streisand, & Beyoncé. It is via its Online Voice Program that CLAV USA is now able to reach students worldwide. Students are prepared and appear for Trinity College of Music, ABRSM, and London College of Music examinations remotely in the areas of Western Classical, Rock & Pop, and Musical Theatre.

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](http://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](http://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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