Celebrate the 150th Death Anniversary of Opera Composer Gioacchino Rossini with a Soprano and Harp Concert at The Royal Opera House, Mumbai

For Immediate Release

Royal Opera House, Mumbai in association with **Italian Embassy Cultural Centre, Mumbai, Furtados** and **Avid Learning** present **Gioacchino Rossini and Isabella Colbran: A Musical Marriage**.

This performance celebrates 2018 as the Rossinian Year- the 150th Death anniversary of the famed Operatic composer and is dedicated to him and his wife. Italian artistes, *Soprano* **Maria Chiara Pizzoli** and *Harpist* **Marianne Gubri** will perform classical arias by Rossini and Isabella Colbran- the singer, muse and wife of the Italian composer. The arias, sung in Italian, were composed for accompaniment by piano or harp and were published between 1805 and 1809. Contemporary renditions of these arias were recorded by the duo in a First World Recording for the Italian record label Tactus and a selection of these will be performed by them on our stage.

This programme, although celebrating the maestro's death anniversary, gives prominence to Isabella and her compositions.

Read on below for more on her career and milieu:

Even before becoming the Diva of Italian theaters, Isabella had a short but intense period of fame as a singer and composer at the Parisian salons where she was introduced by her father Juan Colbran, then violinist of the Royal Chapel of Spain. Isabella enjoyed a long and unique career as an opera singer in Italy, performing at the Teatro alla Scala in Milan, Teatro Comunale in Bologna, La Fenice in Venice, as well at theaters in Rome and Naples. Signature arias like *Assisa a piè d'un salice* and *Arpa Gentil (Viaggio a Reims)* were composed with the accompaniment of the harp to enhance her unique vocal qualities,in particular her virtuosity, vocal range and dramatic sensibility. The accompaniment of singing with the harp was a custom of the nineteenth century for the "Opera da salotto" where the instrument, thanks to important technical and interpretative advances, had gained a prominent place and had skillfully replaced the piano. There were numerous transcriptions and variations on arias of opera made by harpists-composers, the most important of all, by the Englishman Elias Parish Alvars (1808-1849), named by H. Berlioz the "Liszt of the harp" for his dazzling musical technique. Rossini himself dedicated a harp sonata to a French noblewoman called 'Cécile' during a trip to Bordeaux in 1832.

This programme is part of **Opera Season 2018** and a compelling series of events in July as a lead-up to our exciting annual opera production for 2018 which will run from **1st-3rd August 2018**. This year we are proud to present Austrian composer **Joseph Haydn's**, ***La Fedeltà Premiata (Loyalty Rewarded)*** performed by **Giving Voice Society.** Being India's only surviving Opera House, we at the **Royal Opera House, Mumbai** take the title very seriously and actively strive to be the champion and keeper of this beautiful art form whose legacy in India we must continue and enhance. In collaboration with some of our key partners, Opera has been brought to our stage time and again and this is one such event!

Where: Royal Opera House, Mumbai, Mama Parmanand Marg, Mumbai - 400 004

When: Tuesday, 17th July 2018 | 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
purchase your **tickets** at The Royal Opera House Box Office: 022 23668888/ info@royaloperahouse.in or on www.bookmyshow.com

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About the Performers:

Maria Chiara Pizzoli attended the singing course at the Conservatorio "G.B. Martini "in Bologna and the" G.Frescobaldi "Conservatory of Ferrara Within the Conservatory it is immediately brought to debut on Opera Stage, productions in collaboration with the Teatro Comunale di Ferrara. She began her solo activity with the role of Tamiri in Mozart's work "IL RE PASTORE". She has participated in numerous concerts in collaboration with "Cappella Teatina" and musicians of "Europa Galante" and "Giardino Armonico". Under the direction of M ° Herbert Handt she recorded the Mass of Glory by Rossini, with Torre del Lago orchestra. At the Teatro Regio di Parma she supported several roles including: Butterfly, Turandot, Traviata, Suor Angelica, Barbiere di Siviglia, Bohème, and Carmen. A finalist at the International Competition "Anselmo Colzani" 2003, she won the first prize as the best Mozart performance at the Competition Nuovi Orizzonti 2006, and was ranked second in the competition. She also won the contest "Città di Pistoia 2006" for the role of Donna Anna in "Don Giovanni" by W.A.Mozart. She currently teaches lyrical singing at the Gardart School of Music and continues her activity as a soprano.

Marianne Gubri started studying the Harp at a young age and obtained a Bachelor Music Degree in 1997. In 2002, she achieved her Diploma in Ancient Harp at the Conservatory of Tours, and the Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies Degree in Musicology at the University F. Rabelais of Tours (Centre d' Etudes Supérieures de la Renaissance), Venice (Università Ca' Foscari. Her performances include numerous concerts and international tours in places such as Italy, Switzerland, Sweden, France, Portugal, Netherlands, Spain, Brazil and Mexico, USA, China, Dubai. She has performed as a soloist, in a duo and with different music ensembles specialising in traditional, classical and antique music. Some of these include; Ensemble Doulce Mémoire, Ar Strobineller, Ensemble Francesca Caccini, Il Concento, Sensus, Ensemble Korymbos, Ensemble Produzioni Armoniche, Silentia Lunae, Accademia degli Astrusi, Ensemble Armonia delle Sfere, Ensemble Lorenzo da Ponte, Hrap & Hang, Celtic Dream and more. Marianne has participated in more than 10 recordings for labels such as: Mondo Musica, Tactus, Alman Music, L'Empreinte Digitale, Brillant Classics. From 2006 to 2008, Marianne taught Renaissance and Baroque harp at the Conservatory of Ferrara, then in Pesaro, Parma and Vibo Valentia, and for Colorado University. She is also the director of the Bologna Harp Festival.

About the Partners:

The 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.

The Italian Embassy Cultural Centre - Mumbai or Istituto Italiano di Cultura (IIC) is part of a worldwide network of 83 Italian government offices located in all continents with a view to promoting Italian culture and civilization. IICs organize cultural events, offer courses of Italian language and civilization, facilitate contacts between Italian and local researchers and scholars and cooperate with local cultural organizations and academic institutions. Our main mandate is to make Italian culture known to the society at large in South Western India through the organization of artistic, cultural and academic events, the provision of courses of Italian language and civilization and the dissemination of information about Italy and its society.

Furtados (Est. 1865) 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.

Avid Learning, a public programming platform and cultural arm of the Essar Group, has conducted over 900 programs and connected with more than 100,000 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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