

Opera Season July - August 2018

The Royal Opera House, Mumbai announces its Opera Season 2018 and a line-up of exciting Opera events for July-August 2018

For Immediate Release

Being India's only surviving Opera House, we at the **Royal Opera House, Mumbai** take the title very seriously and, in collaboration with some of our key partners **Giving Voice Society, Avid Learning, Furtados** and **Italian Embassy Cultural Centre, Mumbai** actively strive to be the champion and keeper of this beautiful art form whose legacy in India we must continue and enhance.

The opening night in October 2016 had featured *International Soprano Patricia Rozario* accompanied by *Pianist Mark Troop* singing operatic arias and songs. In July 2017, Patricia and Mark, and their Giving Voice Society presented Domenico Cimarosa's // *Matrimonio Segreto* featuring an all-Indian cast and orchestra and played four sold out shows which were very well received by the audience and the press.

After the success of the opera house inauguration and several operatic performances that followed, The Royal Opera House, Mumbai is proud to inaugurate its **Opera Season 2018** which will feature many more exciting Opera-related events.

The descriptions of the events are as below:

We have embarked on an education program, taking on the task of educating people in the city on Opera in an approachable and engaging manner. In order to make Opera more accessible to curious music lovers and cultural attendees we kicked off our music genre workshops with two well-received workshops on Opera Appreciation (February and April 2018) conducted by Mark Troop.

On **14th July 2018**, Come experience the magic of the Opera in a way you've only ever imagined - from the wings! **Royal Opera House, Mumbai** in association with **Giving Voice Society, Avid Learning, Furtados, Italian Embassy Cultural Centre, Mumbai** and **The Quarter** is set to enquire a third workshop in our Opera Appreciation series with *Pianist and Opera Accompanist Mark Troop*. Having laid much-needed historical and critical groundwork, in **Making of an Opera**, Mark will now turn to more practical aspects of actually realising an Opera on stage- using our upcoming annual in-house production as a working example. This is an exciting opportunity for those who have only seen or heard recorded versions of opera to experience how it comes alive on stage. Mark will be joined later in the day by *Italian Opera Coach Maestro Massimo Taddia*.

On **17th July 2018**, **Royal Opera House, Mumbai** in association with **Italian Embassy Cultural Centre, Mumbai, Furtados** and **Avid Learning** will 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. 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.

On **28th July 2018**, Join the **Royal Opera House Mumbai Curator, Asad Lalljee** and *Conservation Architect Kruti Garg* on an illuminating Opera Walkthrough and Tour through the iconic venue that will provide historical nuggets on its heritage and restoration as well as its legacy of Opera.

We have curated these compelling series of events in July as a lead-up to an opera production which will run from **1st- 3rd August 2018**. This year we are proud to collaborate with **Giving Voice Society** in presenting Austrian composer **Joseph Haydn's, *La Fedeltà Premiata (Loyalty Rewarded)***. A light comedy of amorous mix-ups, this is a sparkling classical work by Haydn. Written in 1791, this opera is considered one of his very best. In the unlucky town of Cumae, faithful couples are sacrificed to a lake monster, making infidelity a good emotional life plan! After many amorous mix-ups involving local nobility and the High Priest, a solution is found, and the town returns to its happy monogamous ways.

The production will have **Patricia Rozario** and **Mark Troop** as *Artistic Directors* and **Natalie Murray Beale** as the *Conductor*. For this year, *Associate Directors* **Alison Wong** and **Tim Nelson**, have chosen to set the opera in India, which allows for the introduction of local touches, through costuming and dance, that will surely delight local audiences. The production will also feature trained Indian singers from **Giving Voice Society** and Indian instrumentalists. *Italian Opera Coach* **Maestro Massimo Taddia** will provide special instruction in Italian pronunciation to the singers.

During the three days of the opera run, be sure not to miss an exclusive **Fashion Pop-Up** of graceful Opera-inspired gowns by Mumbai-based designer duo Karan Berry and Leon Vaz of the House of **Karleo** that are sure to enhance the elegant atmosphere of the production.

Her Highness, Maharani Saheba Kumud Kumariji of Gondal has expressed her support personally, saying, "Opera is an intrinsic part of our heritage and we are delighted to continue to nurture it and create a contemporary legacy for future generations."

Mr. Asad Lalljee, Curator of the Royal Opera House, Mumbai says, "Following the resounding success of our earlier opera collaborations, we return this season with a robust Opera program including more international collaborations, educational events like our successful workshops, fashion pop-ups and opera walks. We are delighted to present this season in association with our valued partners- Furtados, Giving Voice Society, and Italian Embassy Cultural Centre, Mumbai."

Ms. Stefania Costanza, Consul General of Italy in Mumbai says "Opera is an Italian word used in every language to identify the art of having on the scene music, dance and acting at the same time. The "bel canto" started out in Italy in the XVII Century and today its enthusiasts around the world are countless. Being 150 years since he died, 2018 is dedicated to Gioacchino Rossini, the worldwide famous Italian composer. Through his music we celebrate love and life. Together with Haydn's opera, *La Fedeltà Premiata*, that is a masterpiece in the opera panorama, and a master class on opera, Italy is glad to collaborate with the Royal Opera House to make this opera season a very special one!"

Whether you are an enthusiast, connoisseur or just simply curious, do not miss rare opportunity to engage with the art of Opera like never before!

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

When:

Saturday, 14th July 2018 | *The Making of an Opera: A Curtain Raiser to La Fedelta Premiata* | 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Tuesday, 17th July 2018 | *Gioacchino Rossini and Isabella Colbran: A Musical Marriage* | 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Saturday, 28th July 2018 | *Opera Walkthrough and Tour* | 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Wednesday, 1st August 2018 | Thursday, 2nd August 2018 | Friday 3rd August 2018 | *La Fedelta Premiata* | 7:00 PM onwards

purchase your **tickets** at The Royal Opera House Box Office: 022 23668888/ info@royaloperahouse.in or on www.bookmyshow.com

Press Email / Call: Ayesah Dadachanji on ayeshah.avid@gmail.com / +91 9820155297

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The City's Cultural Crown Jewel

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE MUMBAI

PRESENTS

2018 OPERA SEASON

JULY • AUGUST

THE MAKING OF AN OPERA: A CURTAIN RAISER TO 'LA FEDELTA PREMIATA' | SATURDAY, 14TH JULY 2018
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Experience the magic of the Opera in a way you've only ever imagined - from the wings! Join us for a third workshop in our Opera Appreciation series with *Pianist and Opera Accompanist Mark Troop*.

GIOACCHINO ROSSINI AND ISABELLA COLBRAN: A MUSICAL MARRIAGE | TUESDAY, 17TH JULY 2018
7:00 PM ONWARDS

Celebrate 2018 as the Rossinian Year- the 150th Death anniversary of the famed Operatic composer as Italian artistes, *Soprano Maria Chiara Pizzoli* and *Harpist Marianne Gubri* perform classical arias by Isabella Colbran- the singer, muse and wife of the Italian composer.

THE OPERA WALKTHROUGH | SATURDAY, 28TH JULY, 2018
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Join the Royal Opera House, Mumbai Team on an illuminating Opera Walkthrough and Tour taking you through the iconic venue and get an exclusive sneak-peek into the making of the upcoming production of *La Fedeltà Premiata*.

'LA FEDELTA PREMIATA' | WEDNESDAY 1ST, THURSDAY 2ND, FRIDAY 3RD AUGUST 2018
7:00 PM ONWARDS

Experience our exciting annual opera production for 2018 presenting Austrian composer Josef Haydn's 'La Fedeltà Premiata' performed by **Giving Voice Society**. A light comedy of amorous mix-ups, this is a sparkling classical work by Haydn. During the three days of the opera run, be sure not to miss an exclusive Fashion Pop-Up of graceful Opera-inspired gowns by Mumbai-based design house **Karleo**.

TICKETS: Box Office: 022 23668888 | E: info@royaloperahouse.in | www.bookmyshow.com

    

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About Primary 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.

Giving Voice Society is an educational foundation devoted to improving western singing in India. Founded by by India's acclaimed soprano, Patricia Rozario OBE, the Society runs subsidised courses in Indian cities and facilitates study abroad for gifted students. Most importantly GVS is training the next generation of Indian singers through tried and tested methods and empowering Indians teachers to teach them.

To date we have sent 7 students abroad for study internationally and dozens more in international courses. All our students come back to India to join us for productions and concerts, and some of them will appear this summer at the ROHM.

GVS promotes concert performance and opera in India so that Indian singers may get the experience usually afforded foreign artists only. Our singers have sung at Mumbai's Con Brio Festival for the last five years, for NCPA's opera double-bill *Cav and Pag*, at the Monte Festival Goa. In a defining moment for GVS, and for opera in India, we launched our first all-Indian opera cast in 2013 – Britten's *Little Sweep*.

This was so successful we raised the game and produced Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* in 2014, touring it in Mumbai, Pune, Goa and Delhi, and in 2017 produced Cimarosa's *Il Matrimonio Segreto* at ROHM to sell-out houses.

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.

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.

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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