



DUBAI OPERA

The inaugural BBC Proms Dubai to be held in March 2017

Dubai UAE, 1 November: The BBC Proms, the world's largest classical music festival, together with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and BBC Singers, has today announced it is coming to Dubai for a four-day festival in March 2017.

Taking place from 21 to 24 March at Dubai Opera, BBC Proms Dubai will give audiences the opportunity to experience some of the music, talent and tradition the festival offers. Only the second time abroad, following the inaugural BBC Proms Australia in April 2016, this will be the first time the BBC Proms has travelled to the Middle East and will also mark the first visit to the UAE for the BBC Symphony Orchestra and the BBC Singers.

BBC Proms Dubai will host a rich programme including core classical repertoire, British music and new music, all accompanied by a full and varied schedule of learning activity in the region. Composer **Mohammed Fairouz's** music will feature in the festival alongside world premieres of works by Dubai-based British composer **Joanna Marsh** and Australian-Egyptian composer **Joseph Tawadros**.

BBC Proms favourites, conductor **Edward Gardner** and pianist **Benjamin Grosvenor**, will join the BBC Symphony Orchestra on stage, whilst **James Burton** leads the BBC Singers in two *a cappella* programmes of British choral music and the **Joseph Tawadros Quartet** lead their own Chamber Prom.

The series of six concerts will culminate in the traditional and wildly popular *Last Night of the Proms*, where Edward Gardner will lead the BBC Symphony Orchestra and BBC Singers performing Last Night favourites including Henry Wood's *Fantasia on British Sea-Songs*, Thomas Arne's *Rule, Britannia!* and Edward Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1*.

In the spirit of the founding principle of the Proms – to bring the best of classical music to the widest possible audience – nearly 600 'Promming' (standing) tickets will be made available each day for each concert, priced from just 50 dirhams.

In collaboration with the UK/UAE 2017 Year of Cultural Collaboration led by the British Council, there will be a comprehensive learning programme across the four-day festival, with workshops, masterclasses and open rehearsals providing budding musicians and singers with the opportunity to develop their skills and engage with the performers. Activities include a workshop for the Arabian Youth Orchestra with players from the BBC Symphony Orchestra, a series of workshops for local adult and children's choirs with the BBC Singers and a masterclass for chamber musicians at the Centre for Musical Arts in Dubai.

The BBC Proms Dubai concerts will be recorded for broadcast on **BBC Radio 3**.

Now in its 122nd year the BBC Proms is the world's largest classical music festival reaching more than 300,000 people live and many millions more both in the UK and internationally via radio, television and online. The Proms' founding principle – to bring the best of classical music to the widest possible audience – remains its primary mission today. The festival consists of an eight-week summer season of concerts, talks, workshops and family events, culminating in the world-famous Last Night of the Proms at London's Royal Albert Hall and four Proms in the Park events around the UK.

David Pickard, Director, BBC Proms says: "I am delighted that the BBC Symphony Orchestra and BBC Singers will be performing at Dubai Opera for the inaugural BBC Proms Dubai, giving audiences in the UAE an opportunity to sample a taste of the BBC Proms experience. Through this series of concerts and learning events we hope to give the audience an idea of what the Proms are all about, making classical music accessible through quality music-making, outreach work, affordable ticket prices and broadcasts."

Jasper Hope, Dubai Opera Chief Executive says: "The BBC Proms is a magical festival which I know extremely well from my time at the Royal Albert Hall and I'm thrilled that for the first time ever, residents of and visitors to Dubai will be able to enjoy a taste of the world's greatest classical music festival right here at Dubai Opera. This is yet more evidence that Dubai Opera is becoming the definitive destination in the GCC for the very best music and entertainment from the whole world, as well as being a stage on which we can celebrate the best in local and regional talent to the broadest possible audience."

Mohammed Fairouz, composer says: "The presentation of my tone-poem, *Pax universalis* at Dubai Opera will mark the first presentation of a major orchestral work of mine in my home town. Having written works over the last decade for many major institutions throughout the world, it is deeply gratifying to me on a personal level to see the establishment, growth and quick success of Dubai Opera. I once described *Pax universalis* as 'my most consistently joyful work'. It is an appropriate sentiment for the joy that I feel seeing dynamic new cultural institutions like Dubai Opera take hold in the UAE, and the foundations for a long legacy of humane arts being built in my home country."

Gavin Anderson, Director UAE, British Council says: "The UK classical music sector is much admired around the world, both for quality of performance and a tradition of innovation, and for a strong commitment to education and inclusion. We are delighted to be working with the BBC Proms and Dubai Opera to develop a learning programme that will allow the next generation of musicians to learn from some of the world's top musical talent. This programme will take place as part of UK/UAE 2017, our exciting new year of cultural collaboration that will be launched in the coming days."

For full details of BBC Proms Dubai please visit: www.dubaiopera.com

Tickets will be available from Thursday 3 November from www.dubaiopera.com

For further information, please contact:

Hannah Shanks, House of Comms, Dubai, UAE
+971 50 143 9694 / hannah@houseofcomms.com

Camilla Dervan, Communications Manager, BBC Proms

+44 20 7765 4714 / +44 7921 648 262 / camilla.dervan@bbc.co.uk

BBC Proms Dubai concert listings:

TUESDAY 21 MARCH

20:00

GARY CARPENTER

Dadaville

MOHAMMED FAIROUZ

Pax universalis

BRITTEN

Piano Concerto

WALTON

Symphony No. 1 in B flat minor

BBC Symphony Orchestra
Edward Gardner *conductor*
Benjamin Grosvenor *piano*

WEDNESDAY 22 MARCH

20:00

'Inspiration in Song'

FINZI

My spirit sang all day (from Seven Partsongs, Op. 17)

JUDITH BINGHAM

Distant Thunder

PARRY

My soul, there is a country (from Songs of Farewell)

PARRY

Never weather-beaten sail (from Songs of Farewell)

PARRY

There is an old belief (from Songs of Farewell)

MOHAMMED FAIROUZ

Different Ways to Pray

JUDITH BINGHAM

The Drowned Lovers

STANFORD

The Blue Bird

DELIUS

To Be Sung of a Summer Night on the Water

TIPPETT

Dance, Clarion Air

JOANNA MARSH

Arabesques

TIPPETT

Five Spirituals from 'A Child Of Our Time'

RICHARD RODNEY BENNETT

By Strauss

Every time we say goodbye

BBC Singers
James Burton *conductor*

THURSDAY 23 MARCH

19:30

JOANNA MARSH

Flare *world premiere*

MOZART

Piano Concerto No. 20 in D minor, K466

MENDELSSOHN

Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage

ELGAR

'Enigma' Variations

BBC Symphony Orchestra
Edward Gardner *conductor*
Benjamin Grosvenor *piano*

THURSDAY 23 MARCH

23:00

Late Night Prom: Tawadros Quartet

FRIDAY 24 MARCH

14:00

'Voices from the Isles'

STANFORD

TIPPETT

EDWARD COWIE

GRAINGER

GERSHWIN, arr. B. Chilcott

SIGLER, GOODHART & HOFFMAN

arr. PHILIP LAWSON

BBC Singers

James Burton *conductor*

Three Motets, Op. 38

Four Songs from the British Isles

Lyre Bird Motet

Stormy

Brigg Fair

Irish Tune from County Derry

Fascinating Rhythm

Everything Stops for Tea

Last Night at the Christmas Proms

FRIDAY 24 MARCH

20:00

SHOSTAKOVICH

SAINT-SAËNS

DEBUSSY

HANDEL

JOSEPH TAWADROS

HENRY WOOD

ARNE, arr. M. SARGENT

ELGAR

Festive Overture

Piano Concerto No. 2 in G minor

La mer

Zadok the Priest

New commission for oud and orchestra *world premiere*

Fantasia on British Sea-Songs – excerpts

Rule, Britannia!

Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1 in D major

BBC Symphony Orchestra

Edward Gardner *conductor*

Benjamin Grosvenor *piano*

Joseph Tawadros *oud*

James Tawadros *percussion*