



Press Release

DUBAI OPERA TO WELCOME BALLET RUSSES IN NOVEMBER

Dubai UAE 12 April 2017: Dubai Opera has announced Russian Seasons of the 21st Century will perform masterpieces of the Ballet Russes from 16th-18th November 2017. Over a hundred years since the Ballets Russes debuted on the European stage, Artistic Director Andris Liepa - the multi-award winning former Bolshoi Ballet star turned ballet director and producer - recreates the performances of Sergei Diaghilev's repertoire *Chopiniana* and *The Firebird* in three dazzling evenings of storytelling, music, choreography and design.

The Ballets Russes was originally established by Sergei Diaghilev and is still renowned as being the most influential ballet company of the 20th century; performing from 1909 to 1929 and creating a huge sensation. The company championed ground-breaking artistic collaborations between choreographers, composers, designers, and dancers, who were all at the forefront of their respective creative movements.

Diaghilev reinvigorated performance art by commissioning works from composers including Igor Stravinsky, Claude Debussy, and Sergei Prokofiev, artists including Vasily Kandinsky, Alexandre Benois, Pablo Picasso, and Henri Matisse, and costume designers; Léon Bakst and Coco Chanel.

Chopiniana is a dreamy, romantic ballet blanc that was born in St Petersburg in 1907 and moved to Paris in 1909 under the new name of *Les Sylphides*. Fokine's choreography, set to music by Chopin, was introduced to the public in 1893 and conducted by Rimsky-Korsakov. "It defies an obvious single label - it's a ballet of mood, a white ballet, a choreographic suite. It is pure, simple and requires no introduction or context."

The Firebird tells a story of sorcery, freedom and immortality with music by Igor Stravinsky and choreography by Mikhail Fokine. It is based on a great variety of Russian fairy tales. Fokine, the author of libretto, was primarily attracted by the mysterious Firebird whose astonishing fiery flights are described in quite a few fairy tales. The first act opens with twilight and a tremendous horseman – the Night and leads into scenes of abduction and the triumph of beauty and boldness over evil.

Acclaimed by Music OMH who featured that 'the list of things to praise is substantial and includes an amazing score (that you don't get to hear every day), excellent conducting (courtesy of Alevtina Ioffe), fascinating sets and costumes, strong movement and outstanding individual performances' these are evenings not to be missed.

Dubai Opera's Chief Executive, Jasper Hope, commented: "Diaghilev's dance company, the Ballets Russes, was created more than a century ago but continues to inspire today. Dazzling dancing, striking design and innovative music were the hallmarks of every performance then



and I am delighted that Dubai Opera can host this fantastic celebration of one of the world's greatest-ever ballet ensembles.”

Tickets for Ballet Russes programme will go on sale at **9am on Thursday 13 April 2017**.

For more information, please sign up to the mailing list on the [Dubai Opera website](#), where all members will be informed regarding all ticket sales.

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Note to Editors

About Dubai Opera:

Dubai Opera is a truly unique venue and the city's first purpose built multi-format performing arts theatre, situated in the heart of Downtown Dubai. With an iconic dhow shaped design rooted in Emirati heritage, Dubai Opera offers the ultimate flexibility of a proscenium arch theatre, an acoustic concert hall and a 2000m2 flat floor event space, and is the definitive destination for quality entertainment productions and performances. Dubai Opera's stage will host an incredible array of world-class talent, with opera, ballet and classical music concerts and productions at the core, Dubai Opera will also stage musical theatre, fashion shows, jazz, comedy, family shows and a full range of live entertainment.

www.dubaiopera.com