



دار الأوبرا السلطانية مسقط
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE MUSCAT



SEASON 2017 - 2018
SEPTEMBER - MAY



SEASON 2017 - 2018

Marking the seventh season of outstanding world-class performances at the Royal Opera House Muscat since the Inauguration in 2011, the new 2017- 2018 Season is called *A Legendary Season* to reflect the stature of the many stars who will appear on stage in unforgettable performances whether in opera, ballet, dance, orchestral music, jazz, or spectacular shows and world music.

An important highlight of the season will be a tribute to one of the world's all-time greatest opera singers, the legendary Luciano Pavarotti. To honour the man who made the world love opera, a gala concert will be performed by some of today's top opera stars and ROHM will hold an exhibition of treasured Pavarotti memorabilia. In addition to popular favourites such as ROHM's annual military music event, Omani Women's Day Celebration and the magnificent Pipe Organ Concert, the new Season includes five renowned operas, a musical, an avant-garde ballet, a tango performance, an excellent array of concerts, some very special events and an Arab musical play. One of the special events is *The Moth Princess*, an interactive production in which school children in the audience will use action props and sing in Arabic, English and Italian.

The Royal Opera House Muscat's 2017–2018 Season will take audiences on a legendary journey into the inspiring adventures and wondrous landscapes of the world's finest performing arts.

AIDA

OPERA BY GIUSEPPE VERDI

PERFORMED BY TEATRO REGIO TORINO

14 THURSDAY 16 SATURDAY 17 SUNDAY

7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM

TIER 1

This thoroughly excellent production of Verdi's grand masterpiece *Aida* is staged by the world-renowned stage director William Friedkin, famous for films such as *The French Connection*, and features outstanding interpreters of the soloist roles. Set in the Old Kingdom when Egypt was at war with Ethiopia, the story is about Aida (Kristin Lewis), an enslaved Ethiopian princess of great beauty who bravely faces the conflict between her love for the heroic Egyptian military commander Radamès (Gregory Kunde), and her loyalty to her father and their people. Similarly Radamès must choose between his ever-deepening love for Aida and his duty to the Pharaoh. The Orchestra and Chorus are conducted by Gianandrea Nosedà, Music Director of Teatro Regio Torino and winner of the International Opera Awards Conductor of the Year 2016.



SEPTMBER 2017

EBTIHALAT WITH LOTFI BUSHNAK AND MOHAMMED THARWAT

23 SATURDAY
7:00 PM
TIER 4

Lotfi Bushnak, who is an oud player and composer of beautiful lyrics as well as a singer, is considered one of the best in the Arab and Islamic world. He is joined by the acclaimed Egyptian singer Mohammed Tharwat, also known for his television animations for children. A member of the prestigious Arab Music Ensemble, Tharwat is well-experienced in singing the classic songs of Mohammed Abdel Wahab, Abdel Halim Hafez and Farid Al Atrash. This special concert is enriched by the beautiful voices of Retaj, a choir of young Omanis devoted to Inshad.



 SEPTEMBER 2017

SWAN LAKE

PERFORMED BY
THE STATE OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE “ASTANA OPERA”

28 THURSDAY 29 FRIDAY 30 SATURDAY
7:00 PM 7:00 PM 4:00 PM
TIER 1

Celebrated as the greatest achievement of nineteenth-century classicism, *Swan Lake* is among the most famous and best-loved ballets of all time. Composed by the great master Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, the incomparably beautiful score is performed by the world-class Orchestra of Teatro Carlo Felice of Genova, conducted by Giuseppe Acquaviva. The distinctive style of this exceptional production emerges in brilliant choreography, atmospheric sets and evocative period costumes.

The lake on which a graceful white swan swims in daylight was formed by a mother's tears when her beautiful daughter, Odette, was cursed by a sorcerer and changed into a swan. As night falls, Odette returns to her human self. The evil spell will be broken if a prince swears eternal fidelity to Odette.



✦ OCTOBER 2017

CLIFF RICHARD

07 SATURDAY
7:00 PM
TIER 1

Knighted in 1995 for his tremendous contribution to popular music, British superstar singer, Sir Cliff Richard released his 100th album, *The Fabulous 'in' Roll Songbook* in 2013. With more than 250 million records sold worldwide, Cliff Richard has transcended pop status appearing at more than one hundred performances at Royal Albert Hall. For more than five decades, Cliff Richard's music has met the challenges of changing times. His 1958 hit single, *Move It*, was described as Britain's first authentic rock and roll song. A decade later, John Lennon declared that "before Cliff... there had been nothing worth listening to in British music". This constantly innovative musician ultimately defied classification and became simply Cliff Richard.



© Michelle Kloboucnik

 OCTOBER 2017

THE ALEXANDROV RED ARMY CHORUS

12 THURSDAY
7:00 PM
TIER 3

Founded close to a century ago, the Alexandrov Red Army Chorus has gained tremendous popularity worldwide with the rousing voices of its robust male singers. This stunningly impressive masculine choir gave 1,500 performances in World War II, has performed throughout the Soviet Union, from the Arctic snows to the sands of Tajikistan and is the official choir of Russia's Armed Forces. Since the 1990s, army women have occasionally been included as sopranos, while dance troupes have been added with single as well as mixed gender performances. The orchestra for the Alexandrov Red Army Chorus includes both traditional and Western instruments with a repertoire that ranges from folk tunes to operatic arias and popular music.



3 OCTOBER 2017

OMANI WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION WITH BALQEES

17 TUESDAY
7:00 PM
TIER 1

Each 17th October, in honour of Omani Women's Day, the Royal Opera House Muscat pays tribute to the invaluable contributions of Omani women in community development and nation-building, celebrating their vital achievements in music, art and society. The 2017 programme features music by the Royal Oman Symphony Orchestra (ROSO) Ladies Chamber Ensemble and eight outstanding musicians from the Oman Oud Hobbyists Association, four of whom are women. ROSO's Ladies Chamber Ensemble is a shining example of the artistic independence and high level of achievement of Omani women in the arts. An exciting special guest performance will be given by the talented and charismatic young Yemeni singer, Balqeess who released her debut album, *Majnoun*, in 2013 and her second album, *Zai Ma Ana*, in 2015.



 OCTOBER 2017

L'OCCASIONE FA IL LADRO

OPERA BY GIOACHINO ROSSINI
PERFORMED BY THE ROSSINI OPERA FESTIVAL

27 FRIDAY 28 SATURDAY
7:00 PM 7:00 PM
TIER 2

The Rossini Opera Festival represents the absolute *crème de la crème* in the realm of Rossini performance. With stage direction by the great Jean-Pierre Ponnelle, and world-class stars, soprano Olga Peretyatko and tenor Maxim Mironov, *L'Occasione fa il Ladro* (*Opportunity Makes a Thief*) is a delightfully funny, beautifully sung tale of identity theft and mixed-up lovers. Through a cleverly entangled web of amusing obstacles, ill-fated deceptions and lucky twists of fate, those who are meant for each other eventually realise their hopes and dreams. The Filarmonica Gioachino Rossini will be conducted by Christopher Franklin who is sought-after as a guest conductor by many of the world's finest orchestras.



MILITARY MUSIC: OMAN AND THE WORLD

02 THURSDAY 03 FRIDAY 04 SATURDAY
7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM
COMPLIMENTARY OUTDOOR EVENT

ROHM's spectacular annual military music event, continues to be the most popular event in the seasonal calendar. In a proud display of military pageantry, hundreds of men and women will again march in stunning formation on ROHM's outdoor courtyard while playing classic military music in distinctive and colourful dress uniform. It is always a heart-stirring experience to witness the flawless military precision of the tattoo, to hear the bagpipes and the trumpets and to know that Oman's military musicians are among the finest in the world. In an expression of friendship strongly symbolising Oman's global outlook, first-class traditional guest bands from Europe and Asia will enrich the concert and open fresh windows on the world.



NOVEMBER 2017

TRADITIONAL DANCES PERFORMED BY IGOR MOISEYEV BALLET STATE ACADEMIC ENSEMBLE OF POPULAR DANCE

09 THURSDAY 10 FRIDAY
7:00 PM 7:00 PM
TIER 3

One of the world's greatest traditional dance companies - and acclaimed by some as the greatest of all - the Igor Moiseyev troupe is renowned for technical brilliance and exuberant virtuosity. Russia's State Academic Ensemble of Popular Dance is now in its seventh decade and globally popular. Reputed to be the greatest twentieth-century choreographer of character dance, a style similar to folk dance but with superior theatrics, at the dawn of the twenty-first century, the late Igor Alexandrovich Moiseyev received the UNESCO Mozart Medal for outstanding contribution to world music culture.



© E. Masalkov

STAGE PRESENTATION

27 MONDAY

6:00 PM

A FREE-TICKETED EVENT

In this special program held in the Auditorium, the Royal Opera House Muscat technicians take the audience to a magical audio-visual journey behind the scenes as the illusions and mysteries of staging are revealed and productions are brought to life. The artistry involved in staging, lighting, sound, and image projection is explained and demonstrated. The audience witnesses the stunning transformation of the Concert Hall into an Opera Theatre, as the box towers on each side nearest the stage turn inward and the proscenium framing the stage narrows. Meanwhile, the front seating rows drop into garages hidden under the floor and the orchestra pit is revealed. Participants gain an understanding of the state-of-the-art technologies of the ROHM as a world-class opera house, and leave with a greater capacity to appreciate and enjoy future performances at the ROHM.



NOVEMBER 2017

ANN HAMPTON CALLAWAY

THE STREISAND SONGBOOK

30 THURSDAY
7:00 PM
TIER 3

One of the leading champions of *The Great American Songbook*, Ann Hampton Callaway made her mark as a Platinum Award-Winning singer-songwriter as well as a pianist, composer, lyricist, arranger, actress, educator, TV host and producer. Versatile and powerful, Callaway's multi-octave voice has been described as "robust and powerful, yet restrained and cool... with truly divine huskiness" (*WBGO-FM*). She has exceptional charisma on stage, bringing "passion, playful phrasing, electricity, charm and equally exuberant and subtle nuances" to her interpretations (*Music Connection*). Callaway will sing some of Barbra Streisand's timeless classics such as *Cry me a River* and *The Way We Were*. Streisand is one of the best-selling music artists of all time, with a total of 145 million records worldwide.



© Bill Westmoreland



DECEMBER 2017

THE MOTH PRINCESS

PERFORMED BY
TEATRO SOCIALE DI COMO ASLICO

09 SATURDAY

4:00 PM

TIER 4

Designed for school children and families, this interactive opera was inspired by *Turandot*, Giacomo Puccini's great masterpiece. *The Moth Princess* will be performed by Teatro Sociale di Como AsLiCo, who brought ROHM the tremendously successful interactive operatic show, *Magic Flute for Children or Defeating the Monsters*. Children participating from their seats in the audience will use props and sing in Italian, Arabic and English.

Puccini's score is interpreted by Teatro Sociale di Como AsLiCo's Orchestra 1813. Imprisoned in her cocoon, the Moth Princess represents Turandot who is trapped by her vengeful hatred of men. Through the love of Prince Calaf, the humanity of his father and the sacrificial goodness of the slave, Liù, the Moth Princess will emerge as a butterfly.



© Alessia Santambrogio

HOMAGE TO LUCIANO PAVAROTTI

WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF FIORENZA CEDOLINS,
SUMI JO, MARCELLO GIORDANI, FRANCESCO MELI

14 THURSDAY

7:00 PM

TIER 3

To mark the tenth anniversary of the death of one the world's all-time greatest tenors, the legendary Luciano Pavarotti, the Royal Opera House Muscat has invited some of the best opera voices of today to perform in a wonderful gala concert. Along with seasoned stars known on all the great stages of the world, exceptionally talented young singers from the Luciano Pavarotti Academy will give a sparkling performance.

Pavarotti will be honoured with arias he immortalised, such as *Una furtiva lagrima* and *La donna è mobile*. The concert includes exclusive illustration with projected photographs and videos. ROHM's homage also features an exhibition of treasured Pavarotti memorabilia including costumes and other iconic items.



CINDERELLA

PERFORMED BY
BALLET DE L'OPÉRA DE LYON

21 THURSDAY	22 FRIDAY	23 SATURDAY
7:00 PM	7:00 PM	4:00 PM
TIER 2		

This unusual and intriguing interpretation of the ballet *Cinderella* with choreography and staging by the brilliant choreographer, Maguy Marin, is set in a doll's house with costumes to suit. Sergei Prokofiev's sparkling, multi-faceted music is played by the renowned PKF-Prague Philharmonia conducted by the award-winning, brilliant young Russian conductor, Konstantin Chudovsky. This avant-garde, break-through version of the tale of Cinderella, described as a brilliant theatrical triumph with an amazing manipulation of mood, has toured the world. Cinderella arrives in a scary child's land, where shadows are darkest black and full of fears. She finds that the best reassurance in the world is to be cuddled and given a lollipop.





DECEMBER 2017

AN EVENING OF ROMANTIC ARAB SONGS WITH SALAH AL ZADJALI AND MEDHAT SALEH

28 THURSDAY
7:00 PM
TIER 2

Omani star Salah Al Zadjali will make the audience feel proud as he sings well-loved songs, accompanied on stage by an ensemble of more than thirty musicians. Renowned for his traditional romantic voice, the Egyptian singer Medhat Saleh will sing some of the famous songs of the legendary singer Abdel Halim Hafez, such as *Ahwak*, *At Taubah*, as well as very popular songs from Mohammad Qandil, Mohammad Fawzi and others. Medhat Saleh will also present popular songs from his own albums, like *Kaukab Tani* and *Zay ma heya Hebeha*.



❧ DECEMBER 2017

MARCELO ÁLVAREZ

31 SUNDAY
6:30 PM
TIER 3

Internationally recognised as one of the most important tenors in the world of opera today, Argentinian singer Marcelo Álvarez is also a popular interpreter of tango as well as of Spanish and Italian traditional songs. Álvarez is acclaimed especially for his interpretation of belcanto and spinto roles and performs in major opera houses and concert halls around the world. Since the beginning of his career in 1994, he has won many prestigious awards and maintained an active touring schedule with debuts in thirty-four roles, including at top venues such as New York's Metropolitan Opera, the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Zurich Opera House, and the National Theatre Munich. Álvarez performs with the renowned PKF-Prague Philharmonia Orchestra, conducted by its Music Director and Chief Conductor, Emmanuel Villaume.



❧ JANUARY 2018

GILBERTO GIL

04 THURSDAY
7:00 PM
TIER 3

Often referred to as “The Soul of Brazil”, the multiple Grammy Award-winning singer, guitarist and songwriter, Gilberto Gil is known for his intelligently innovative music, deep musicality and quiet charisma. Gil’s deeply rooted music heralds a beloved tropical land and the culture and festivities to which it gave rise, and yet incorporates an eclectic range of genres with influences from Brazilian bossa nova and samba to American rock, African music and reggae. He calls it “the music of the land and the music of heaven”. In a career spanning four decades with over fifty albums, Gilberto Gil has played a key role in the modern development of both Brazilian and world music.



❧ JANUARY 2018

SAMI YUSUF

06 SATURDAY
7:00 PM
TIER 1

Beautiful songs on the theme of humanity will transform and elevate the mood of the audience as Sami Yusuf, the English-Azerbaijani singer-songwriter and musician, presents a unique concert. His rise to fame began in 2003 at the age of twenty-three with the release of his hit album *Al Mu'allim*. Yusuf's seventh album, *Barakah*, released in 2016, reflects the theme of a continuing spiritual journey. He has sold more than thirty-four million albums. With a strikingly strong, clear voice Yusuf performs to sold-out venues throughout Europe, the Middle East, and North America. Over 250,000 people attended his concert in Taksim Square, *The Guardian* named him "the biggest British star in the Middle East" and *Time Magazine* dubbed him "Islam's Biggest Rockstar".



LA SONNAMBULA
OPERA BY VINCENZO BELLINI
PERFORMED BY FONDAZIONE ARENA DI VERONA

18 THURSDAY 20 SATURDAY
7:00 PM 7:00 PM
TIER 1

Completed in 1831, Bellini's *La Sonnambula* (*The Sleepwalker*) is a landmark work in the belcanto repertoire. A lovely sleepwalker Amina is about to be married to Elvino, a rich landowner, but Elvino becomes jealous and discards Amina when she sleepwalks into the room of Conte Rodolfo. However, Elvino is greatly moved when he hears the sleepwalking Amina tenderly sing of her love for him - and the wedding is on again. Marvelously staged by the famous Argentine stage director, Hugo de Ana, the production features singers renowned for exquisite belcanto performances. Lyric soprano Rosa Feola honours ROHM with her debut as Amina. Elvino is sung by award-winning tenor Antonino Siragusa and Nicola Ulivieri, noted for his beautiful bass voice, sings Conte Rodolfo. The orchestra of Fondazione Arena di Verona is conducted by Antonello Allemandi.



3 JANUARY 2018

PIPE ORGAN CONCERT

WAYNE MARSHALL AND THE
ROYAL OMAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

25 THURSDAY

7:00 PM

TIER 3

The magnificent pipe organ that graces the stage of the Royal Opera House Muscat comes alive with a beautiful rendition of Camille Saint-Saëns' majestic *Organ Symphony* led by the renowned British organist, pianist and conductor, Wayne Marshall, with the Royal Oman Symphony Orchestra. Marshall performs recitals in a range of music genres at some of the world's most prestigious venues with orchestras such as the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony, the Berlin Philharmonic and the London Symphony Orchestra. In addition to being one of the most celebrated organists of our time, Wayne Marshall is the Chief Conductor of WDR Funkhausorchester in Cologne and serves as a guest conductor for Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano Giuseppe Verdi and many other fine symphony orchestras.



© Edgar Brambles

❧ FEBRUARY 2018

THE BEST OF CLASSICAL ARAB SONGS

WITH JAHIDA WEHBE AND ALI AL HAGGAR

01 THURSDAY
7:00 PM
TIER 3

Traditional Arab songs are styled to facilitate Tarab, the experience of a heightened emotional state through the intense performance of music. It is the experience of a kind of ecstasy, a rapturous state of enchantment in which normal life seems to be transcended. Performers and listeners are involved together in deeply felt emotions as they engage in exclamatory gestures and share a palpable understanding of the inner meaning of the music. The concert will be led by two remarkable singers, Ali Al Haggar, specialising in Maqam and traditional rhythms, and Jahida Wehbe, a very famous Lebanese singer with a powerful voice that captures the hearts of listeners. In a unique concert, they will sing evocative songs made famous by an array of great twentieth-century Arab singers, such as Sayyid Darwish, Um Kulthum, Warda, Asmahan, Abdel Wahab and Fairouz, among others, with new arrangements for orchestra. Accompaniment is by a traditional small music ensemble as well as by the Royal Oman Symphony Orchestra.



 FEBRUARY 2018

PAS DE DEUX FOR FINGERS AND TOES VADIM REPIN AND SVETLANA ZAKHAROVA

07 WEDNESDAY 08 THURSDAY
7:00 PM 7:00 PM
TIER 3

The man whom Yehudi Menuhin called the “best and most perfect violinist” and the woman who became prima ballerina of the Bolshoi and a shining Étoile of Teatro alla Scala bring music and movement together in a supreme expression of beauty. United on stage as they are in life, Vadim Repin and Svetlana Zakharova combine the grace of ballet and the inspiration of the violin with supreme artistry in soul-soaring performances. His fingers and her toes create an ethereal pas de deux to rival the mythical performances of Apollo and his muses. They have chosen beautiful music ranging from classic to contemporary to be played by Riccardo Muti’s excellent youth Chamber Orchestra “Luigi Cherubini” led by Vadim Repin with his 1733 Stradivari violin.



© Pierluigi Abbondanza

NORMA

OPERA BY VINCENZO BELLINI
PERFORMED BY OPÉRA DE ROUEN

A NEW COPRODUCTION BY ROHM AND OPÉRA DE ROUEN

22 THURSDAY 25 SUNDAY

7:00 PM 7:00 PM

TIER 1

Bellini's 1831 belcanto masterpiece, *Norma*, is a lyrical tragedy about a priestess of the ancient Druids whose ill-fated love for Pollione, an unfaithful Roman conqueror, leads to powerful consequences. The tragic heroine's role has challenged the world's greatest sopranos, including twentieth-century legends Maria Callas, Joan Sutherland, and Montserrat Caballé. The great Giuseppe Verdi praised Bellini for the wonderful duet, *In mia man alfin tu sei*, saying "No-one ever has created another more beautiful and heavenly". *Norma* is brilliantly realised in ROHM's exciting new coproduction with Opéra de Rouen, starring Romanian mezzosoprano, Ruxandra Donose (Norma), Belgian tenor, Marc Laho (Pollione) and Albanian soprano, Mirjam Tola (Adalgisa). Staging is by the renowned stage director, Frédéric Roels and the conductor is Fabrizio Maria Carminati, an expert in belcanto repertoire.



FEbruary 2018

PETER AND THE WOLF & OTHER ANIMAL TALES

PERFORMED BY THE ORCHESTRA OF OPÉRA DE ROUEN

24 SATURDAY

4:00 PM

TIER 4

The concert will begin by setting the tone with arias about animals by Gioachino Rossini and Maurice Ravel. An added delight is a shadow puppet show brought to life by the Arab Puppet Theatre Foundation. Then comes Peter & the Wolf LIVE, a stop-frame animation from BreakThru Films, directed by Suzie Templeton, which won an Oscar® in 2008 for Best Animated Short Film. The film is accompanied by Prokofiev's celebrated score performed by the Orchestra of Opéra de Rouen conducted by Frédéric Rouillon. In Prokofiev's action-packed score, we seem to hear Peter's duck arguing with a little bird and the explosive chaos that ensues when a wolf swallows the poor duck. Peter saves the wolf from encroaching hunters; and, amazingly the duck is heard quacking inside the wolf!



3 MARCH 2018

RECITAL CANTANGO

A TRIBUTE TO TITO SCHIPA AND CARLOS GARDEL:
OPERA AND TANGO

03 SATURDAY
7:30 PM
TIER 3

The star of the show, celebrated tenor Fabio Armiliato, collaborated with tango pianist and arranger, Fabrizio Mocata, in combining belcanto with tango to create a new kind of theatre called "Recital CanTANGO". They drew on the legacy of two early twentieth-century tango interpreters - Tito Schipa and Carlos Gardel, a prominent French-Argentinian singer-songwriter and actor.

Recitation is by Natalia Bolani, a wonderful Uruguayan actor who takes the audience on a journey back to the Rio de la Plata in Argentina and Uruguay in the era when tango was born. With instrumental accompaniment, video projection and animation, the innovative choreography is performed by Los Guardiola on the original music arrangements by Fabrizio Mocata.



© Di Carlo Braschi



PAGLIACCI

OPERA BY RUGGERO LEONCAVALLO

PERFORMED BY TEATRO DELL'OPERA DI ROMA

15 THURSDAY 17 SATURDAY

7:30 PM 7:30 PM

TIER 1

This famous opera was staged by Maestro Franco Zeffirelli widely recognised as the world's most gifted and original stage directors. The Orchestra and Chorus of Teatro dell'Opera di Roma are conducted by Paolo Olmi. *Pagliacci* is based on a true story about the tragic irony in the life of a theatre clown, Canio who makes people laugh while his own life falls apart. When Canio, sung by star tenor José Cura, discovers from Tonio (Marco Vratogna), an ill-intentioned fool, that his wife, Nedda (Davinia Rodriguez), an actor in his company, is about to elope with a lover, Silvio (Gëzim Myshketa), Canio becomes insanely jealous. Life mirrors theatre, but takes a violent turn into reality.



✦ MARCH 2018

MAJID EL MOHANDES

22 THURSDAY 23 FRIDAY
7:30 PM 7:30 PM
TIER 1

Now one of the greatest names in the Arab music scene, singer and composer, Majid El Mohandes came from a simple, hard-working Iraqi family. After graduating from university in engineering, Majid pursued his passion for music, learning how to play the oud. He supported the initial stages of his music career by working as a tailor. El Mohandes has the gift of connecting with both younger and older generations. His extraordinary appeal reaches Arab audiences across the region from Morocco in the West to Oman in the East. Accompanied by a full orchestra, El Mohandes will perform songs from hit albums such as *Ouzkourini*, *Waheshni Moot*, *Sarharni Halaha*, *Tes'alni*, *Tenadik* and *Bedun Asmaa*.



3 MARCH 2018

ROBERTO ALAGNA AND ALEKSANDRA KURZAK

25 SUNDAY
7:30 PM
TIER 2

Roberto Alagna returns to the Royal Opera House Muscat after his magnificent performance six years ago. Alagna's repertoire includes more than sixty operatic roles over three decades. Driven by his immoderate love for voice, he is invited to perform on the greatest international stages. Alongside him, Polish soprano Aleksandra Kurzak excels in both coloratura and lyric roles, appearing on the world's most prominent stages. The artists met in 2012 at the Royal Opera House in London while performing *L'elisir d'amore*. Since then, they have been an emblematic pair on stage as well as in private life, lauded by critics as "a love that flourishes and sings, a lovely duet, a real treat for both eyes and ears".



APRIL 2018

RUSSIAN NATIONAL ORCHESTRA

CONDUCTED BY PIER CARLO ORIZIO WITH
THE PARTICIPATION OF THE VIOLINIST SERGEJ KRYLOV

04 WEDNESDAY 05 THURSDAY
7:30 PM 7:30 PM
TIER 3

Described as "a living symbol of the best in Russian art", the Russian National Orchestra is one of the world's top symphonies, performing globally in the most prestigious venues. When the orchestra debuted at the BBC Proms, the *Evening Standard* wrote, "They played with such captivating beauty that the audience gave an involuntary sigh of pleasure." In two thrilling concerts that feature the astoundingly virtuoso Russian violinist, Sergej Krylov, on the first night audiences hear Saint-Saëns' *Dance Macabre* op.40; Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto in E minor*, op.64; Tchaikovsky's *Romeo & Juliet Overture-Fantasy*; and Ravel's famous *Bolero*. On the second night, in addition to the piece by Saint-Saëns, they will hear Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto in D major*, op.35 and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*.



© Mary Slepikova



APRIL 2018

MUWASHAHAT & KUDUD HALABIYA WITH RISING STAR BADR RAMI

07 SATURDAY
7:30 PM
TIER 3

Muwashahat is a name given to an Arab poetic form originating in Aleppo and Andalusia, as well as to a genre of secular music. The closely related Kudud Halabiya is a form of Syrian classical music found in poetic form and also in a secular music genre. Accompanied by an ensemble of nineteen musicians, the star of the show is Badr Rami, a Moroccan-born Syrian artist beautifully versed in both classical and contemporary Arab music. Rami began his career in the late 1990's, quickly developing an original and authentic style that is making a name for him in the contemporary Arab music scene.



APRIL 2018

PERCUSSION PRESENTATION

10 TUESDAY

5:00 PM

A FREE-TICKETED EVENT

Participants in this interesting event will enjoy learning about and hearing the different sound effects of various members of the largest instrument family, the compelling and atmospheric percussion section. The percussion family is believed to include the world's oldest musical instruments, following the human voice. Both Western and Arab percussion instruments will be expertly played by Tetraktis, a group of talented young artists, and illustrated on stage by dynamic actors.

The programme will encompass classical percussion instruments most commonly used in opera and symphonic concerts such as the timpani, drums, cymbals, the triangle, and the tambourine. It will also include more improvisational instruments typically used for jazz, pop and folk music.



APRIL 2018

À Õ
ORIGINAL VIETNAMESE SHOW
PERFORMED BY LUNE PRODUCTIONS

19 THURSDAY 21 SATURDAY
7:30 PM 4:00 PM
TIER 3

Imaginative and charming with currents of gentle humour, the À Õ Show enacts the graceful beauty for which Vietnam is known in portraits that capture the richness of Vietnamese culture, past and present. Depicting Vietnam's transition from village to city culture, the dramatization finds harmony in chaos, as peaceful village life is affectionately contrasted with the happening noise and racing discordance of urbanisation. Amid evocative sets, the show is rendered in a beautiful blend of genres with dance, acrobatics, bamboo cirque, theatre, and live Vietnamese music.



DIANNE REEVES

26 THURSDAY
7:30 PM
TIER 3

Dianne Reeves has been one of the world's top jazz singers since the late 1980's. A superior interpreter of lyrics and a skilled scat singer, she has been hailed by *The New York Times* as "the most admired jazz diva since Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald, and Billie Holiday". Dianne Reeves has become known the world over as a living legend, winning five Grammys for Best Jazz Vocal Performance, Female, the latest of which was in 2015 for *Beautiful Life*, an innovative and spectacular fusion of rhythm and blues, latin and pop elements within the framework of contemporary twenty-first century jazz. "At its essence", says Dianne, "Life is beautiful, and I wanted to celebrate that which is too often overlooked."



3 MAY 2018

PETER PAN THE MUSICAL

03 THURSDAY 04 FRIDAY 05 SATURDAY
7:30 PM 7:30 PM 4:00 PM
TIER 3

Action-packed and exciting, this award-winning production of *Peter Pan* is for people of all ages. Directed by Maurizio Colombi with music of Edoardo Bennato, twenty performers on stage animate a magical realm with special effects that include Peter Pan flying in the air with ease. In this timeless tale, Peter Pan and his mischievous fairy companion, Tinkerbell, are chasing Peter's shadow and fly through an open window into the nursery of the Darling family where the children, Wendy and her younger brothers Michael and John, are fast asleep - and wake up to a real dream. With a sprinkle of pixie dust, the children are taken across a starry sky on a fantastic journey that none of them will ever forget.



ON THE LAND OF GYPSIES A RAHBANI PRODUCTION

11 FRIDAY 12 SATURDAY
7:30 PM 7:30 PM
TIER 3

This spectacular musical play was written, composed and produced by the highly creative Ghadi Rahbani, and directed by his renowned brother Marwan. The Rahbani Brothers are acclaimed throughout the Arab World for the outstanding quality of their productions appreciated for originality, imaginative innovation and finesse. *On the Land of the Gypsies* premiered at Lebanon's Casino du Liban Theatre and ran for a solid four months in the region. The story is about a rich Lebanese-Brazilian expatriate who returns to Lebanon to build a villa for his fiancée on his ancestral land only to discover that Gypsies have established an entrenched community there and have no intention of leaving. As the owner embarks on a quest to regain his land, something unexpected happens.



EDUCATION & OUTREACH

LET LIFE BE LIKE MUSIC

The Royal Opera House Muscat stands for excellence and beauty of expression in the performing arts. The institution aims to nurture creativity and innovation in connecting meaningfully with ROHM patrons and Oman's communities. The Royal Opera House Muscat is deeply rooted in the region with a visionary global reach. It is a place of learning, entertainment and inspiration. With the aim of helping new generations to experience the magic of the performing arts, and perhaps discover their own talent, the Royal Opera House Muscat engages young people, as well as teachers and families with opera, ballet, dance, musicals, symphonic music and jazz, world music and spectacular shows.

Student and family events are vital components of our Education and Outreach mission to serve the nation in a variety of ways that reflect the diversity of Oman's communities. ROHM's rich roster of programs for season 2017-18 includes on-stage presentations, creative workshops, guided tours, lectures, informative talks with visiting artists, family concerts and shows, exhibitions, open house events - all specially tailored for children, teachers and families. Student tours are coordinated the Ministry of Education's Muscat Directorate of Education, Department of Activities.

OPEN HOUSE

ROHM's Open House events offer the public a window to enjoy a casual and welcoming atmosphere amid the inspiring beauty of the building. The doors of the Royal Opera House Muscat are opened for the public to experience a wide variety of events related to the performing arts and to the programme of the season, such as exhibitions and workshops with a special focus on the interests of children and families.

DECEMBER 14TH - JANUARY 6TH

FEBRUARY 17TH

MARCH 2ND AND MARCH 3RD

MARCH 10TH

"HOMAGE TO PAVAROTTI" EXHIBITION

ANIMAL WORLD

TANGO CLASS

CLOWN FOR A DAY

Open Houses are free-ticketed events.

For the full programme, consult www.rohmuscat.org.om

For further information please contact us at education@rohmuscat.org.om

OPEN HOUSE

HOMAGE TO PAVAROTTI

From December 14th, 2017 to January 6th, 2018

Free Entrance.

Exhibition Opening Hours: from Saturday to Thursday, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm.

To mark the tenth anniversary of the death of the legendary Luciano Pavarotti, the Royal Opera House Muscat has organised a fascinating exhibition of treasured Pavarotti memorabilia, displaying costumes and other iconic items. The exhibition honours Luciano Pavarotti, not only as one of the world's greatest tenors, but also as the simple yet noble man that he was.

Pavarotti believed in the educational power of music and the emotional importance of involving children in its magic:

For me, music making is the most joyful activity possible, the most perfect expression of any emotion. If children are not introduced to music at an early age, I believe something fundamental is actually being taken from them. It is so important for people at a young age to be invited to embrace classical music and opera. - Luciano Pavarotti



OPEN HOUSE

ANIMAL WORLD

February 17th, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

There is a special connection between animals and music that remains mysterious. Ancient Greek philosophers thought that animals, and birds in particular, invented music and human beings simply learned and imitated their musical sounds. Many composers were inspired by techniques in the vocal communication of animals and used these techniques to create their own music. Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* is one of the best examples of 'animal music' ever composed. Certain instruments were used to imitate Peter's duck, the bird, the cat and the wolf.

You will explore the world of animal music, discover Arab songs about animals, learn how to imitate an animal call, invent their own tales and create animal puppets such as those in children's TV programmes. Creative workshops and music activities specially tailored for children, teachers and for the entire family will be led by guest educators, storytellers, artists and puppeteers, in collaboration with APTF Arab Puppet Theatre Foundation.

TELL A TALE: Children are invited to write an original tale about animals. Children with the three best tales will be rewarded with two free tickets for any family concert of the season as well as a special gift.

Age: Under 14 - Submission deadline: 15th January, 2018

PETER AND THE WOLF & OTHER ANIMAL TALES by Sergej Prokofiev, a Family Concert, will be held on February 24th, 4:00 pm.



OPEN HOUSE

TANGO CLASS

March 2nd and 3rd

Tango originated in Argentina and Uruguay in the early 1900's and has become one of the world's most popular and successful dances. It is a beautiful and elegant dance that everyone can learn and enjoy, regardless of dance experience. You can learn how to dance the Tango!

ROHM will offer, for the first time, a tango class which will take place on the bright marble floor of the South Porch, with Giorgia and Marcelo Guardiola, two great tango dancers who perform in the Tango Evening on March 3rd.

Enrollment Deadline: 10th February, 2018 (Maximum 30 people)

RECITAL CANTANGO with Fabio Armiliato on March 3rd, 7.30 pm



OPEN HOUSE

CLOWN FOR A DAY

March 10th, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

If you can laugh and cry, sob and smile, you can be a Clown for a day, while theatre and life mirror one another. You can find colourful traditional Carnival masks from around the world, discover the secrets of stage make-up and create your own mask. Compositional projects and handicraft activities will be led by expert educators, performers and make-up artists.

PAGLIACCI by Ruggero Leoncavallo on March 15th & 17th, 7:30 pm



 LUNCH MUSIC

Enjoy a break from a long day of work or shopping and join us at lunchtime in ROHM's Opera Galleria for wonderful arias from popular operas and fine instrumental music. Meet the artists before their performances at the Royal Opera House Muscat.

L'OCCASIONE FA IL LADRO - OCTOBER 21ST, AT 12:30 PM

THE MOTH PRINCESS - DECEMBER 2ND, AT 12:30 PM

PAVAROTTI FOUNDATION YOUNG ARTISTS - DECEMBER 16TH, AT 12:30 PM

LA SONNAMBULA - JANUARY 13TH, AT 12:30 PM

NORMA - FEBRUARY 17TH, AT 12:30 PM

PAGLIACCI - MARCH 10TH, AT 12:30 PM

There will be a shiny piano stationed in the Opera Galleria in the central courtyard near the Information desk. Drop by and you will probably find someone playing good music.

If you want to play, you can book your PIANOTIME at: education@rohmuscat.org.om

 PRE-PERFORMANCE TALKS (PPT)

Pre-Performance Talks offer ROHM audiences a unique opportunity to participate in stimulating discussions which provide insight into performances and the underlying creative processes. The talks are informally delivered in an interactive and engaging way by specialists from the Education and Outreach Department and by visiting artists. Talks are held in the Maidan Hall one hour prior to performances. Access is restricted to ticket holders, with seating on a first-come, first-served basis.

AIDA - SEPTEMBER 14TH, 16TH, 17TH

SWAN LAKE - SEPTEMBER 28TH, 29TH, 30TH

L'OCCASIONE FA IL LADRO - OCTOBER 27TH, 28TH

CINDERELLA - DECEMBER 21ST, 22ND, 23RD

LA SONNAMBULA - JANUARY 18TH, 20TH

NORMA - FEBRUARY 22ND, 25TH

PAGLIACCI - MARCH 15TH, 17TH

RUSSIAN MUSIC - APRIL 4TH, 5TH

FROM THE ARAB CLASSICAL

FORMS: MUWASHAHAT AND KUDUD HALABIJA - APRIL 7TH

COFFEE & DATES WITH WORLD-FAMOUS STARS

In an informal “Coffee & Dates” series, the Royal Opera House Muscat invites patrons to a relaxed setting where renowned artists, whether they are musicians, singers, dancers or choreographers, will share interesting experiences such as stories of their lives on stage and anecdotes related to their careers and to the current production.

Omani coffee and dates are offered in a traditional gesture of hospitality. Participants will be encouraged to interact personally with guest artists and get to know them in meaningful ways. It is always inspiring to meet stars and gain a deeper appreciation of performances on stage. It's also a chance to get autographs and have pictures taken with famous stars.

LOTFI BUSHNAK & MOHAMMED THARWAT - SEPTEMBER 21ST

CLIFF RICHARD - OCTOBER 5TH

NICOLETTA MANTOVANI (HOMAGE TO PAVAROTTI) - DECEMBER 13TH

SALAH AL ZADJALI AND MEDHAT SALEH - DECEMBER 26TH

SAMI YUSUF - JANUARY 5TH

WAYNE MARSHALL - JANUARY 22ND

ALI EL HAGGAR AND JAHEDA WEHBE - JANUARY 30TH

SVETLANA ZAKHAROVA AND VADIM REPIN - FEBRUARY 6TH

YOUNG AMBASSADORS

Welcome Performance

Introducing a new initiative for the 2017-18 season, the Royal Opera House Muscat aims to engage young students from all over the country who have never visited the building or attended a performance. Newcomers under the age of eighteen will receive four free tickets to attend shows with their families, and have an unforgettable experience as they meet the artists and an expert personal guide provides entertaining tips and educational resources.

You can become a special Young Ambassador, one who takes his or her ROHM experience around the country in search of new Young Ambassadors.

Internships and Volunteering

University and college students are involved every year in training programs in ROHM's various Departments such as Administration, Staging, Lighting, Sound, Programming, Education, and Marketing. This is a great opportunity for students to learn in situ with highly qualified professionals.

For enquiries, please contact us at: education@rohmuscat.org.om

SCHOOL PERFORMANCES

STAGE PRESENTATION

November 27th ,09:00 am (Arabic) and 11:00 am (English)

In this special program held in the Auditorium, the Royal Opera House Muscat technicians take the audience to a magical audio-visual journey behind the scenes as the illusions and mysteries of staging are revealed and productions are brought to life. The artistry involved in staging, lighting, sound, and image projection is explained and demonstrated.

The audience witnesses the stunning transformation of the Concert Hall into an Opera Theatre, as the box towers on each side nearest the stage turn inward and the proscenium framing the stage narrows. Meanwhile, the front seating rows drop into garages hidden under the floor and the orchestra pit is revealed. Participants gain an understanding of the state-of-the-art technologies of the ROHM as a world-class opera house, and leave with a greater capacity to appreciate and enjoy future performances at the ROHM.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCES

THE MOTH PRINCESS

December 10th, 9:00 am (Arabic) and 11:00 am (English)

December 11th, 9:00 am (Arabic) and 11:00 am (English)

In a twelfth-century Persian tale that inspired a grand nineteenth-century opera by Giacomo Puccini, the beautiful, though bitter and vengeful, Princess Turandot encounters the power of Prince Calaf's genuine love. Turandot will learn the true meaning of love as her ice-cold heart melts.

The Imperial Princess Turandot becomes the Moth Princess in an entertaining interactive opera for children that will also inspire adults, as the Moth Princess emerges from her cocoon as a gorgeous butterfly. Set in a dreaming world of insects, *The Moth Princess* is designed for the interactive participation of school children aged seven to fourteen. The children create special props for their role in the performance when the conductor turns to cue the children who are sitting in the audience. Led by the conductor, the children sing some of the most famous arias from *Turandot* in Italian, English and Arabic.

THE GREAT INSECT HUNT is an art competition for all the children involved in *The Moth Princess*. The three students with the best artwork of an Omani insect will be rewarded with two free tickets for any family concert in the season as well as a special gift.

Submission deadline: 15th October, 2017

Further information at education@rohmuscat.org.om

SCHOOL PERFORMANCES

PERCUSSION PRESENTATION

April 10th 2018, 09:00 am (Arabic) and 11:00 am (English)

Believed to include the oldest musical instruments, apart from the human voice, percussion instruments also represent perhaps the largest and most varied family of musical instruments. They can be struck, scraped, or rubbed with hands or beaters. They play a crucial role in almost every music style, from military marching to jazz music, through classical orchestral compositions, to popular music, folk dances, and ceremonial music.

The presentation will show Western and Arab percussion instruments expertly played by Tetraktis, a group of talented young artists. Through interesting anecdotes and evocative pieces of music, dynamic actors on stage will illustrate the distinctive sound of various percussion instruments and explain the role of each in music. This entertaining and educational presentation will enhance the participants' enjoyment of future concerts at the Royal Opera House Muscat.

ROHM TOURS

The architectural beauty and special secrets of the Royal Opera House Muscat are revealed through fascinating guided tours. You will discover the history and genesis of Oman's premier venue for arts and culture in all its structural boldness, technical innovation; and perhaps most of all, ROHM's breathtaking decorative artistry with motifs derived from Islamic, Mughal, Oriental and European art. You will also learn about the amazing mechanisms that change the Auditorium from Theatre to Concert Mode, literally with the flick of switches. One of the important highlights is viewing the very fine collection of rare instruments here preserved.

Opening Hours: Saturday to Thursday, 8:30 am to 2:30 pm
Fees: Adult - RO 3; Child - RO 1; Group - RO 2 (per person)

For bookings and enquiries please contact the Front of House team:
T: +968 24403333/ +968 99066987

PRICING

ZONE	A++	A+	A	B	C*	D*	E*	F*
TIER 1	71 OMR	68 OMR	65 OMR	38 OMR	34 OMR	28 OMR	15 OMR	10 OMR
TIER 2	61 OMR	58 OMR	55 OMR	28 OMR	24 OMR	18 OMR	12 OMR	8 OMR
TIER 3	51 OMR	48 OMR	45 OMR	22 OMR	18 OMR	15 OMR	10 OMR	5 OMR
TIER 4	36 OMR	33 OMR	30 OMR	15 OMR	10 OMR	8 OMR	5 OMR	3 OMR

*NO DISCOUNTS ARE APPLICABLE ON ZONE C, D, E, F SEATS

PRICING

DISCOUNTS

FULL SEASON DISCOUNT

Patrons that purchase tickets to every performance in the season receive our highest discount of 40%.

SINGLE TICKET DISCOUNTS

For our single ticket buyers we offer the following discounts:

UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE STUDENTS

30% off for all full-time students. Student ID is required for all box office purchases. Tickets may also be purchased online, but will need to be collected from the box office and will be released upon verification of student ID.

SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

30% off tickets for children aged 6-17.

SENIOR CITIZENS

20% off for all senior citizens aged 65+. Tickets may also be purchased online, but will need to be collected from the box office and will be released upon verification of ID.

NOTE: DISCOUNTS AND SPECIAL OFFERS CANNOT BE COMBINED; THE HIGHEST DISCOUNT WILL APPLY WHEN THERE IS AN OVERLAP.

GROUP SALES

A group sale refers to the purchase of at least ten tickets to an individual performance for a discount and can be made by individuals and companies alike. The discount applied for a performance depends on its classification as per the information below:

1. TIER 1 EVENTS (10-24 tickets maximum):
15% discount
2. TIER 2 EVENTS (10-49 tickets maximum):
25% discount
3. TIER 3 & 4 EVENTS (10-unlimited tickets):
30% discount

NOTE: MAXIMUM TICKET PURCHASE IS DETERMINED BY THE "TIER" OF THE PERFORMANCE (TIER 1=24 MAX; TIER 2=50 MAX; TIER 3 & 4=UNLIMITED)

PACKAGES

FLEXIBLE PACKAGES

FLEXPAK 3: choose any 3 performances and receive a 15% discount

FLEXPAK 5: choose any 5 performances and receive a 20% discount

FLEXPAK 8+: choose 8 or more performances and receive a 25% discount

NOTE: MAXIMUM TICKET PURCHASE IS DETERMINED BY THE "TIER" OF THE PERFORMANCE (TIER 1=24 MAX; TIER 2=50 MAX; TIER 3 & 4=UNLIMITED)

LOYALTY PROGRAMME

As a member of our loyalty programme your visit to the Royal Opera House Muscat will entitle you to even better services and exclusive access to a range of unique benefits. The programme is divided into 3 tier segments:

SILVER (250 – 500 OMR)

Priority booking

Free Ticket Exchange up to 72 hours before performance

Discounted tickets for select events

GOLD (500 – 1000 OMR)

All of the above, plus

Invitation to exclusive events i.e. meet the performers, theatre tours

1 free playbill per event

DIAMOND (1000+ OMR)

All of the above, plus 20% off our gift shop

ROHM POLICIES

1. Auditorium doors open 30 minutes prior to performance and close 10 minutes prior to performance.
2. Absolutely no late seating is permitted. No refunds or exchanges for latecomers.
3. Dress code: formal or business including suits or dinner jackets for men and conservative dress for women (please note that local culture requires conservative dress; so please, no exposed shoulders or short dresses above the knees). Dishdasha and Massar required for Omanis. No jeans, cargo pants, t-shirts, or tennis shoes permitted. ROHM reserves the right to refuse entry to patrons who do not adhere to the dress code policy. No refunds or exchanges will be granted.
4. For security screening, attendees are advised to arrive 1 hour prior to performance.
5. Attendees must present a ticket for admission.
6. Doors to the auditorium will only reopen during intermissions and at the end of the performance, except in the case of an emergency.
7. No use of mobile phones in the auditorium. Please turn off all phones prior to entering the venue.
8. No photography or video in the auditorium. ROHM reserves the right to confiscate devices used to take photos or make videos of the performances. This matter is dealt with seriously out of respect for the performers.
9. No outside food or drinks are permitted inside the venue. Food and drink purchased inside the venue may not be brought into the auditorium at any time.
10. Attendees are required to use the seat designated on their ticket.
11. Patrons consent to the recording and filming of themselves as members of the audience.
12. Programmes may change without prior notice.
13. Out of courtesy to performers and other attendees, patrons are kindly requested not to leave the auditorium until the end of the performance.
14. Children under the age of six cannot be admitted (with the exception of children's programmes where the minimum age for admission is four).
15. Smoking is only permitted in designated smoking areas outside.
16. No whistling or talking during the performance, please.



BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

PRIMARY BOX OFFICE HOURS:

Regular box office timings are:

Saturday to Thursday, 9:00am - 6:00pm

On days of performances, box office timings are:

Saturday to Thursday, 9:00am – 11:00pm

and Friday, 4:00pm – 11:00pm

CONTACT INFORMATION

PRIMARY BOX OFFICE – LINE 1: +968 2440 3332

PRIMARY BOX OFFICE – LINE 2: +968 2440 3333

PRIMARY BOX OFFICE – LINE 3: +968 2440 3334

E-MAIL: boxoffice@rohmuscat.org.om

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