



BERNSTEIN & TCHAIKOVSKY

CSO
September 2018

Newsletter

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Homage à Leonard Bernstein

Welcome to Cairo Symphony Orchestra 60th season featuring, among others, highlight from Bernstein beloved musicals on his birth centennial, popular Tchaikovsky works and Berlioz masterpieces on the occasion of their 125th and 150th Death Anniversaries respectively.

Opening Gala Concert

As a composer, conductor, educator, and humanitarian, Lenny is regarded as a singular figure in American cultural history. Known for his life-affirming compositions, he created music that has echoed through generations. Based on Shakespeare Romeo & Juliet, his West Side Story is probably the most performed musical in the globe. Its dark theme, extended dance scenes,

and focus on social problems marked a turning point in American musical theatre. On the other hand, Candide a comic operetta inspired by Voltaire's novel is entitled Optimism which is the true message of both the author and composer to manage to make our world a much better place. The concert includes also arias from opera "A Quiet Place" and musical "Peter Pan". CSO is bringing incredible talents to its stage including American Coloratura Soprano **Jennifer Zein** who will perform with Tenor **Amr Medhat** accompanied by A Cappella choir. Musical Director **Ahmed El Saedi** will conduct. The concert is organized in collaboration with the American Embassy in Cairo.



Jennifer Zein

Soprano



Amr Medhat

Tenor

Tchaikovsky: a Celebration to a beloved composer

His music is a perfect balance of accessibility and sheer melodic and harmonic greatness. Once you hear his compositions, you'll be humming the tunes for the rest of your life: There's enough ingenious ideas to spend a lifetime exploring the related structure, harmony, and compositional mastery.

The first concert that pays tribute to Tchaikovsky on the occasion of his 125th Death Anniversary will include his first symphony and is conducted by **Ahmed El Saedi** on the 15th in collaboration with Italian Culture Institute. Entitled "Winter Dreams" by the composer's brother, he successfully remodeled the form into a truly Russian style, staking out territory that his five other symphonies continued to explore.

The program smartly includes a charming work by Tchaikovsky's preferred composer: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

His Sinfonia Concertante for Violin, Viola and Orchestra can be considered as his most successful realization in this cross-over genre between symphony and concerto. It will be interpreted by 2 Italian virtuosos: **Luca Marziali**, violin and **Anna Serova**, viola.

The concert will start by the exotic Polovtsian Dances from opera Prince Igor by Alexander Borodin featuring A Cappella choir under **Maya Gvineria**.

Tchaikovsky's 3rd Symphony is unique in his symphonic output in two ways: it is the only one of his symphonies in a major key and it is the only one to contain five movements. It was entitled "Polish", in reference to the recurring Polish dance rhythms prominent in its final movement.

In the second Tchaikovsky concert on the 29th, guest conductor **Marc Moncusi** will interpret, along with Tchaikovsky's 3rd symphony, a masterpiece of his great compatriot: De Falla's Tricorne suite No. 2. The original ballet was commissioned by Sergei Diaghilev with sets and costumes created by Pablo Picasso and choreography by Léonide Massine.

The soloist is this special gala in collaboration with the Spanish Embassy is Egyptian violonist wunderkind **Salma Serour**.

She will perform a quite challenging concerto of the repertoire: the first of Nicolo Paganini. He was the most celebrated violin virtuoso of his time, and left his mark as one of the pillars of modern violin technique. His 5 concertos and his 24 Caprices for Solo Violin are among the best known of his compositions, and have served as an inspiration for many prominent composers.

THE SOLOISTS



Luca Marziali
Violin



Anna Serova
Viola



Salma Serour
Violin