



CLAUDE DEBUSSY (1862 – 1918)

CSO  
January 2019

Newsletter

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## Happy New Year 2019

January is always associated with new year's promises. CSO concerts will simulate this spirit in a special Nordic program, common repertoire featuring top-notch Italian artists, and finally Crossover concerts.

### Nordic Flair

Aziz El-Shawan was one of the most prominent Egyptian composers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. On the 12th the orchestra under maestro **Hisham Gabr** will perform an intermezzo from his opera **Anas Elegoud**, probably the only staged Egyptian opera!

Young virtuoso **Abada Ahmed** will perform Sarasate Carmen Fantasy that contains an adaptation of the Aragonaise, Habanera, an interlude, Seguidilla, and Gypsy Dance.

The concert will end by Sibelius 2<sup>nd</sup>, naturally the most appreciated of his 7 symphonies. The public generally admired the piece as its grandiose finale was connected by some with the struggle for Finland's independence, so that it was even dubbed "Symphony of Independence".



**Abada Ahmed**

Is the emerging Egyptian virtuoso in Carmen Fantasy, one of Sarasate's most well-known works performed in violin competitions and considered to be one of the most challenging and technically demanding pieces in the repertoire.

## I Solisti di Santa Cecilia in Cairo

The Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, one of the oldest musical institutions in the world, will be represented by eminent conductor **Giuseppe Lanzetta** & 4 distinguished soloists on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Nabucco is the opera which is considered to have permanently established Verdi's reputation as a composer. He commented that "this is the opera with which my artistic career really begins, and though I had many difficulties to fight against, it is certain that Nabucco was born under a lucky star". Our concert starts by the overture; often played outside the context of the complete work in orchestral concerts, it mostly consists of themes from the opera, including the Chorus of Hebrew Slaves and the warlike music when the Israelites curse Ismaele for his betrayal.

Mozart displayed affection and prominence for the wind instruments in his operas and concertos. The Sinfonia Concertante for oboe, clarinet, horn, bassoon, and orchestra is popular today, and regularly performed. It is well regarded by professional musicians and is interpreted in our concert by oboist **Francesco di Rosa**, Clarinetist **Fabrizio Meloni**, Bassonist **Francesco Bossone** and Hornist **Luca Benucci**.

The perfect conclusion is symphony No. 9, Dvorak's most popular in an international context, was written during the first year of the composer's tenure in the United States. An ideal set of circumstances had presented themselves by this stage in his career: strong impressions of his new environment, financial independence, a sense of his role as an "ambassador" of Czech music, and his ambitions to ensure that he would not fall short of expectations. All this found Dvorak at the height of his creative energy and contributed to the genesis of a work of exceptional quality. The New World Symphony is the composer's ninth, and also his last (nine is something of a magical number in the history of music: various world composers completed the same number of symphonies, such as Beethoven, Schubert, Bruckner and Mahler). The symphony was to prove the composer's theory of the possibility of using characteristic elements of African American and Native American music as the foundation for an American national school of composition which, in fact, did not exist during Dvorak's time in the United States.

The concert is organized in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute in Cairo.

### THE SOLOISTS



#### Francesco di Rosa

Oboe and

#### Fabrizio Meloni

Clarinet



#### Francesco Bossone

Bassoon



#### Luca Benucci

Horn

## The Ayoub Sisters

A unique concert in Cairo on the 26th & Alexandria on the 27th will feature Crossover duo the Ayoub Sisters under the baton of maestro Mohamed Saad Basha.

Sarah and Laura Ayoub were born three years apart to Egyptian immigrant parents and raised in a town just outside Glasgow, Scotland. They grew up with classical music, regularly attending performances of the RSNO with their parents. Sarah trained in cello and piano at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Laura in violin and piano at the Royal College of Music in London, where Sarah moved after graduating.

In 2014, they came first in the British music competition The Big Music Project, winning a chance to perform at the Royal Albert Hall for Classic FM. In 2016, pop producer Mark Ronson picked them to perform at the BRIT Awards. On the back of this, and their triumphant Royal Albert Hall performance, they were signed by Decca.



Their eponymous debut album was recorded at Abbey Road with the Royal Philharmonic and released in September 2017; it debuted at number one on the U.K. classical chart. An eclectic affair, it consisted of a few classical favorites alongside traditional melodies from Scotland and Egypt, and classicized versions of many famous pop songs.

The sisters promoted the album with a tour that included Europe, Middle East and Asia with highlights including appearances at the Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall, London Palladium, The Embassy of Egypt, The Cairo Opera House etc. with future planned performances all over the world.

On 2018 the sisters performed the Egyptian National Anthem at the closing ceremony of the World Youth Forum held in Sharm el Sheikh. They were also recipients of the WYF award, which was presented by H.E President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.

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