



أوركسترا قطر الفلهارمونية
Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra

Founded by | من إنشاء
Qatar Foundation | مؤسسة قطر

QATAR PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA PRESENTS QATAR MUSIC ACADEMY'S SOLOISTS

www.qatarphilharmonicorchestra.org

Programme

Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra Presents Qatar Music Academy's Soloists

Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 7:00
Katara Cultural Village Opera House

Giovanni Pasini, conductor
Qynn Zhang, piano
Tarek El Hussein, cello
Tinghe Ann Cao, violin
Law Sze Han, violin
Neha Susan Chindu, piano
Hayk Amirkhanyan, alto saxophone
The Master Takht
Qatar Youth Orchestra

Master Takht

Yazan Saoub, kaman
Josef Alkotami, qanun
Adam Alkotami, oud
Taj Shalghin, qanun
Laith Shalghin, nay
Youssef Hanfi, riqq
Ali Al-Naama, bongo

Qatar Youth Orchestra

Violin I

Law Sze Han
Tinghe Anne Cao
Nayla Mrndic
Aliya Alkhiyami
Sasha Salameh
Carmelita Widiyanto
Ronaldo Widiyanto
Esther Xin Jing
Liam Ryu
Yara Al-Naemi

Violin II

Nathaniel Bair
Reyana Semaan
Elizabeth Bair
Stephanie El Hajj
Ahmed Jouni
Katrina Liu
Timaa Kamar
Sidra Smith
Yasmine Ayoubi
Furat Merzah

Viola

Ethan See
Omeed Tafreshi

Cello

Tarek Elhusseiny
Batu Akkaya
Gia Houry
Yahya Elasaad
Miryam Bontems

Double Bass

Ioana Vladica

Flute I

Klara Horeczky

Oboe I

Allison Kim

Clarinet II

Owen Wooters

Horn I

Aaron Rozario

Horn III

Batuhan Sireli

Horn IV

Lily Schnurman

Trumpet I

Stefan Vladica

Trumpet II

Gabriel Bontems

Cornet II

Cai Napier

Percussion

Eitan Cohen, castanets
Zhou Ying, timpani

Programme

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Riyad Al-Sunbati:
(1906 -1981) **Longa by the Master Takht (Nay, Qanun, Oud, Kaman, Percussion) and String Orchestra** (arr. Kamal Skaykar)

Ludwig van Beethoven:
(1770-1827) **Piano Concerto No. 1 in C Major, Op. 15** by Qynn Zhang
Mov. I: Allegro

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky:
(1840-1893) **Pezzo Capriccioso, Op.62 for Cello & Orchestra**
by Tarek El Hussein

Pablo de Sarasate:
(1844-1908) **Introduction et Tarantella, Op. 43 for Violin & Orchestra**
by Tinghe Ann Cao

Felix Mendelssohn:
(1809-1847) **Violin Concerto in E Minor, Op. 64** by Law Sze Han
Mov. III: Allegro molto vivace

Dmitri Shostakovich:
(1906-1975) **Piano Concerto No. 2 in F Major, Op. 102,**
by Neha Susan Chindu
Mov. I: Allegro

Henri Tomasi:
(1901-1971) **Ballade for Alto Saxophone and Orchestra**
by Hayk Amirkhanyan

Camille Saint-Saëns:
(1835-1921) **Danse Bacchanale (from Samson et Dalila, Op. 47)**
Performed by Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra and the Qatar Youth Orchestra

Out of respect for the musicians and fellow audience members please silence your mobile phones. Applause between movements is not customary. Please also refrain from flash photography. Seating begins 30 minutes before performances. Latecomers cannot be seated during the concert. Children 6 and over are welcome at Philharmonic concerts. The Philharmonic retains the right to expel anyone disturbing other. Food and beverages can be consumed in the lobby only.



Longa by Riyad Al-Sunbati

Riyad Al-Sunbati's Longa is a vibrant example of the longa form, a fast-paced, rhythmic instrumental piece rooted in Ottoman and Arabic musical traditions. Known for his contributions to Egyptian classical music, Al-Sunbati (1906-1981) was a master composer and oud virtuoso, celebrated for his rich, expressive melodies and deep understanding of traditional maqamat (modes).

Originally a Turkish instrumental dance piece, the Longa consists of four sections (khanat), each followed by a recurring passage (taslim). It is typically composed in a lively and rhythmic structure, with the iqa' Fox rhythm used for the khanat and iqa' Malfuf for the taslim.

This longa showcases intricate melodic runs, lively ornamentation, and dynamic shifts that highlight the interplay between Eastern and Western influences in Arab music. Its energetic character and rhythmic drive make it a favorite among instrumentalists, often performed as a showcase of technical skill and musical artistry.

The Master Takht

The traditional Arabic ensemble, known as a Takht, consists of four primary melodic instruments: the Oud, Nay, Qanun, and Kaman, along with a main percussion instrument, the Riqq. The Riqq is sometimes supplemented or replaced by the Tabla, Daff (frame drum), or the Bongo.

The Master Takht at Qatar Music Academy performs traditional maqam music and explores improvisational techniques. This ensemble performs a variety of technically challenging maqam repertoire at a high level, emphasizing collaborative music-making and a deep appreciation for Arab musical traditions. Notably, the Master Takht has showcased its musicianship at prestigious events such as the Teaching and Learning Forum organized by Qatar Foundation's Pre-University Education division, Qatar National Day celebrations, the Global Innovation in Sustainability Summit in Doha, and the Qatar Foundation Schools Commencement Ceremonies.

Today, selected students from the Master Takht will perform Longa by the renowned Egyptian composer Riyad al-Sunbati.





Ludwig van Beethoven
composer

Piano Concerto No.1 in C Major, Op. 15

Composed in 1795, Beethoven's First Piano Concerto had to go through many substantial revisions—in 1796, 1798 and 1800—before it took its final form. These multiple corrections only indicate how much the composer was keen on offering the public a most dense, accomplished version possible of it.

Beethoven's First Piano Concerto already held what was to characterize the composer's forthcoming concertos and symphonies: sustained thematic work including a subtle connection between the movements governed by, most importantly, the principal of contrast between them.

Conceived in the spirit of Mozart's last piano concertos, the First Piano Concerto opens solemnly in the bright and imperious C Major tonality. The opening *allegro con brio* starts with an energetic, revolutionary French march. An extraordinary ardor animates the wind/timpani fanfare from the first bars. A secondary theme in a remote tonality hints at the harmonic mood of the slow movement.

12-year-old Zhang Zhuoyue began playing the piano at the age of 5. Since 2018, she has been studying at the Qatar Music Academy under the guidance of Ms. Nayoung Kim.

Zhuoyue made her first public appearance at QMA in 2019 at the Shining Soloists concert. Since then, she has been selected to perform in numerous QMA concerts and masterclasses, including at the D'Reesha Festival (2021) and the Future Artists Gala Night (2022 & 2023), as well as participating in the Tony Yike Yong Masterclass. At such a young age, she has already won many prizes in international competitions.

Her accomplishments include Second Prize in the "Muse 2020" International Music Competition in Greece, a Grand Prix Diploma in the 2021 "Z Group" International Classic Music Competition, Second Prize in the MAP International Music Competition (U.A.E., 2022), and a bronze medal at the 10th Singapore Raffles International Music Festival (2024). Additionally, she was awarded a scholarship to audition for the AMADEUS Vienna International School Piano Program in 2023.



Qynn Zhang
piano



Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
composer

Pezzo Capriccioso, Op.62 for Cello & Orchestra

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky composed his *Pezzo capriccioso*, Op. 62, for cello and orchestra within a single week in August 1887.

Contrary to what its title suggests, this composition is set in the somber key of B minor, which is also the key of his Symphony No. 6, Pathétique.

The term “capriccioso” does not imply a lighthearted nature; rather, it reflects Tchaikovsky’s imaginative exploration of a simple theme.

Although the piece features some brisk passages and transitions to a major key, Tchaikovsky maintains a consistent pulse and a serious tone throughout. This gravity is attributed to Tchaikovsky’s emotional turmoil following the death of his friend Nikolay Kondratyev, with his anguish resonating through the music he was creating.

Tarek El Husseiny is a passionate young cellist from a Lebanese musical family, currently based in Qatar. His musical journey began at age six with piano, guided by his mother, before transitioning to cello at seven under Christoph Schmitz. Since 2019, he has been Principal Cellist of the Qatar Youth Orchestra and is a member of the QMA Ad Libitum String Quartet, led by Stefan Robu. In 2023 and 2024, he had the honour of performing as a soloist with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra.

Tarek has appeared at prestigious venues, including the Reina Sofía Sony Auditorium (Madrid), Kempinski Hotel Doha, Dreesha Festival, and Katara Amphitheatre. He has also performed at Katara Jazz Festival with the Orchestre National de Jazz de France and the Palestinian Youth Orchestra in Jerash-Amman (2024) under Lamar Elias.

He has refined his artistry through masterclasses with Philipp Comploi, Prof. Miguel Colom, Prof. Michal Dmochowski, Hayk Sukiasyan, and Daniel Müller-Schott. Tarek’s accolades include the Gold Prize in Chamber Music (Beethoven International Music Competition 2024) and multiple scholarships from QMA, Reina Sofía Music School Summer Camp (Spain), and Amadeus International School Vienna.

Dedicated to his craft, Tarek continues to inspire young cello players through his performances and artistic growth.



Tarek El Husseiny
cello



Pablo de Sarasate
composer

Introduction et Tarantella, Op. 43 for Violin & Orchestra

The exceptional talent of Pablo de Sarasate (1844-1908) was evident from a young age, as he performed his inaugural violin recital in northern Spain at the age of eight. His remarkable abilities soon attracted the attention of Queen Isabella II, whose support allowed him to pursue his studies at the Paris Conservatoire. Following his solo debuts in both Paris and London, he gained widespread acclaim as an international violinist, with his capacity to attract large audiences and command substantial fees largely attributed to his technical prowess and the purity of his tone. Sarasate's compositions are heavily influenced by Spanish folklore, although several notable pieces also incorporate melodies and dances from various other cultures. Among these, the "Zigeunerweisen" and the "Introduction et Tarentelle" stand out as particularly popular examples. His "Introduction et Tarantelle," Op. 43, composed in 1899 for violin and piano, is a work characterised by its considerable charm and brilliance. Like many of his compositions, it consists of two distinct sections; a slow and expressive Moderato transition into a series of rapid arpeggios, culminating in a dazzling tarantella that offers the soloist an exhilarating challenge.

Ann Cao is a rising young violinist recognised for her technical mastery, expressive musicality, and captivating stage presence. She began her violin studies at the age of six, quickly demonstrating exceptional talent and achieving notable success in international competitions, including a Gold Medal at the Beethoven International Music Competition (2024) and a First Place winner at the Vienna Virtuoso Music Competition (2024).

Since moving to Qatar in 2023, Ann has been studying at the Qatar Music Academy (QMA) under the tutelage of Mrs. Egle Valute and Ms. Rolanda Ginkute. She is an active member of both the Qatar Youth Orchestra, conducted by Mrs. Rachel Seay, and the Ad Libitum Quartet, led by Mr. Stefan Robu. Ann's passion for performance extends beyond the Academy, reflecting her strong commitment and ambition.

In recognition of her dedication and accomplishments, Ann was awarded the prestigious QMA Scholarship for 2024-2025. She has furthered her musical development through masterclasses with Prof. Miguel Colom (2025) and participation in the Harmundi International Music Summit (2024). Her performance highlights include a concerto appearance with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra (2024) and a performance at the European Jazz Festival (2024) with Ad Libitum string quartet.



Tinghe Ann Cao
violin



Felix Mendelssohn
composer

Violin Concerto in E Minor, Op. 64

Mendelssohn's Second Violin Concerto stands among the major pieces of the violin repertoire of nineteenth-century romantic German music. The Violin Concerto in E Minor, Op. 64, was finished in 1844, 6 years after the composer had started a first draft of it.

The piece found a great success since its first performance the following year by famous violinist Ferdinand David. This concerto could be considered Mendelssohn's last major work for orchestra.

Born in 2011, Sze Han Law (Han) is a gifted young musician studying violin at Qatar Music Academy (QMA) under Lorena Manescu. She achieved distinction in ABRSM Grade 8 piano in 2022 and has been Concertmaster of the Qatar Youth Orchestra since 2022. In 2024, she became the first recipient of the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra (QPO) Scholarship.

Han has won numerous awards, including the "Special Jury Prize" and "Most Promising Young Musician" at the Qatar National Music Competition (2017). She has been a laureate in international competitions across Serbia, France, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, the UK, and the USA. In 2024, she was named BSME "Young Musician of the Gulf" winner and received the "Bowed String" Award, achievement she repeated in 2025, alongside the Knight's Bequest Award.

Han has performed with QPO, at AJYAL Film Festival, Katara Jazz Festival, Qatar Museums, and embassies. She played Young Mozart in "Mozart: A Musical Sitcom" (2019, 2024) and collaborated with Dana Al Meer on the 2024 Eid song "Aqbalta."

A rising star, Han continues to shine on international stages.



Law Sze Han
violin



Dmitri Shostakovich
composer

Piano Concerto No. 2, in F Major, Op. 102

Piano Concerto No. 2 in F major, Op. 102, composed by Dmitri Shostakovich in 1957, was created to celebrate the 19th birthday of his son, Maxim. The premiere took place on May 10, 1957, during Maxim's graduation concert at the Moscow Conservatory.

This concerto shares several characteristics with Shostakovich's Concertino for Two Pianos, as both compositions were designed to be approachable for aspiring young pianists. Notably, it is a piece that exhibits an unusually bright and cheerful disposition for Shostakovich.

The first movement is very happy, after a few bars the orchestra builds on the main melody while the piano plays scales and tremolos, which lead into a joyous few lines of chords and octaves by the piano, with the main theme finally resurfacing and bringing the movement to a bouncy close.

Neha Susan Chindu is a dedicated 17-year-old musician from India, who has been passionately pursuing her musical interests at the Qatar Music Academy since 2014, focusing on piano, and more recently Western voice. She has performed in numerous recitals and concerts, achieving distinction in multiple piano exams. In December, she played the lead role of Gretel in QMA's first opera performance "Hansel and Gretel".

She is keenly interested in choral music. Her favorite vocal ensemble is VOCES8, and last summer, she attended their International Summer School in the UK, performing Brahms' German Requiem. She was a member of the Qatar Youth Choir, and provides vocal coaching to several vocal ensembles in Qatar.

Neha plans to complete her Grade 8 ABRSM Piano Exam this year and continue her piano studies and musicianship under the guidance & tutelage of Dr. Deborah Armstrong. Her relationship with Shostakovich began before the arrival of Covid with her previous teacher Aydan Alakbarova, and she has enjoyed further exploring his music with Dr. Debbie. Neha is delighted to perform this extraordinary piece of music tonight for you all with the highly regarded QPO orchestra.



Neha Susan Chindu
piano



Henri Tomasi
composer

Ballade for alto saxophone and Orchestra

Ballade for Alto Saxophone and Piano was composed in 1938 by the French composer Henri Tomasi (1901-1971). Introduced by a poem by Suzanne Mallard, his wife, Ballade is a 15-minute work that covers and alternates between different styles such as andantino, guigue and blues. The poem refers to a clown who claims his story to the night. It is a short poem of four verses, composed with rhymes in A/B/A/B formation.

Henri Tomasi, who won the Grand Prix de Rome in 1927, also composed a variety of concertos for alto saxophone, clarinet, trumpet and for trombone, as well as some ballades.

Hayk Amirkhanyan is a talented young saxophonist from Armenia, currently residing in Qatar. He began playing the saxophone in 2022, developing skills in both jazz and classical music. As a passionate performer, he actively shares his performances on YouTube and Instagram.

Hayk began his musical education at Avet Gabrielyan Art School in Armenia, before continuing his studies at Qatar Music Academy, where he became a member of the QMA Jazz Band. His performances have taken him to major events, including the 2024 European Jazz Festival, where he showcased his excellent ensemble playing.

His achievements include 1st place in his school talent show (2023) and passing ABRSM Grade 5 with distinction. Dedicated to continuous growth, Hayk is committed to refining his craft and inspiring audiences with his expressive performances.

In 2024, he was selected to perform with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra, gaining invaluable orchestral experience. He has also appeared in 51 East, school events, and various public concerts, demonstrating his versatility across different musical settings.



Hayk Amirkhanyan
alto saxophone



Camille Saint-Saëns
composer

Danse Bacchanale (from Samson et Dalila, Op. 47)

Camille Saint-Saëns has been called “the most remarkable child prodigy in history, and that includes Mozart.” In addition to his skills as an organist, pianist and composer, he was accomplished in literature, Greek and Latin, mathematics and astronomy. Samson and Delilah is the best-known of his twelve operas, with the destruction of the Temple of Dagon as the dramatic climax. But the preceding Bacchanale, staged as a ballet depicting the corruption of the Philistine society, inevitably is the most memorable scene of any production. Twisting melodic themes and dazzling orchestral colour build in layers of intensity, an indescribably elegant middle section intervenes, then the excitement builds a second time to a fever of timpani, unison strings and brass explosions.



Qatar Youth Orchestra

Qatar Youth Orchestra (QYO), the nation’s first and only dedicated youth orchestra, offering advanced young musicians an unparalleled platform to explore the transformative world of symphonic music-making. Open to students of ABRSM Grade 5 and above (or equivalent), QYO welcomes talented players across strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion, providing a vibrant and inspiring environment for artistic growth. Through meticulously planned weekly rehearsals, featuring sectional coaching with expert instrumentalists and full-ensemble practice, members gain a comprehensive foundation in orchestral performance while refining their technical and interpretative skills.



Giovanni Pasini
conductor

Throughout a prolific 25-year career as principal viola in prestigious international orchestras and numerous solo performances with renowned orchestras worldwide, Giovanni Pasini has had the opportunity to work alongside extraordinary figures such as Lorin Maazel, Riccardo Muti, Giuseppe Sinopoli, Georges Prêtre, Neville Marriner, Colin Davies, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Bernard Haitink, Riccardo Chailly, and others. The passion and respect for music instilled by these great maestros gradually inspired him to pursue orchestral conducting.

In 2014, upon being appointed Principal Viola of the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra (QPO), Giovanni was able to establish a parallel career in conducting, supported by the QPO leadership and his colleagues, earning a master's degree in conducting from the Gurska Foundation in Madrid under the guidance of Maestro George Pehlivanian.

Since then, he has conducted the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, Auckland Philharmonia, Sydney Sinfonia, Bohuslav Martinu Philharmonic, Cairo Symphony Orchestra, Bled Opera Academy in Slovenia, and the Orchestra Sinfonica Siciliana, among others. Currently, he serves as the conductor of the Qatar Concert Choir (QCC), Qatar Youth Orchestra, Doha Baroque Ensemble, and Cinemoon Ensemble, the latter two part of the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra. With these ensembles, he regularly presents programs focused on Baroque music, film scores, opera, musicals, and educational projects. For the past two years, he has been a regular guest with the Cinemoon Ensemble at the Kusadasi International Music Festival in Turkey.

Giovanni has made numerous recordings with both the choir and orchestra, collaborating closely with local and visiting artists. He has developed a special relationship with Dana Alfardan, a renowned Qatari composer and cultural ambassador, for whom he has arranged and orchestrated numerous pieces. A frequent presence at major media events in Qatar, Giovanni conducted the Philharmonic for two widely televised opening ceremonies: the FIFA Arab Cup in 2021 and the Formula 1 in 2023. Since 2023, Giovanni has also served as a jury member on the popular talent show "Naghham," dedicated to discovering vocal talent in Qatar.

Upcoming Concerts

Qatar Philharmonic Presents: Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1

Saturday, 19 April 2025

Katara Opera House

7:30-9:30pm

Join the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra for an evening of extraordinary music at the Katara Opera House. Under the baton of Michalis Economou, the programme features a captivating selection of orchestral masterpieces. The concert opens with Giuseppe Verdi's dramatic Overture to *La Forza del Destino*, followed by Max Bruch's lyrical and passionate Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Op. 26, performed by renowned violinist Anastasiya Petryshak. The evening concludes with Dmitri Shostakovich's powerful Symphony No. 10 in E minor, Op. 93.

Qatar Philharmonic Presents: Mahler's Symphony No. 5

Saturday, 26 April 2025

QNCC, Auditorium 3

7:30-9:30pm

Experience the profound emotional journey of Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 5 in C-sharp minor in a stirring performance conducted by Hossein Pishkar. From the sombre opening funeral march to the radiant beauty of the famous Adagietto, Mahler's Fifth Symphony is a masterpiece of contrast, drama, and triumph. This concert promises an evening of deep intensity and soaring lyricism, showcasing Mahler's genius.

Musicians



LIONEL SCHMIT



JOO YOUNG OH



VITALII PERVUSHYN



LORENA MANESCU



DMITRI TORCHINSKY



TOBIAS GETTE



MICHAELA LINSBAUER



TAEHYUN KIM



ANNEMARI AINOMAE



DINA LEINI



PAVLO DOVHAN



RALUCA GETTE



ANA MARIA RUSU



FULVIO FURLANÜT



ROLANDA GINKUTE



MAIAS ALYAMANI



REEM KHOURY



GEORGES YAMMINE



ISLAM EL HEFNAWY



SHAZA OWEDA



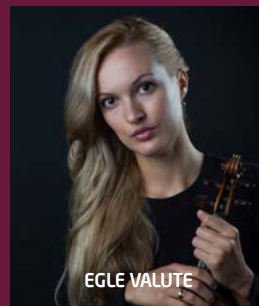
JULIA KORODI



ANNE-CATHRIN EHRLICH



MOHAMED OWEDA



EGLÉ VALUTE



GIOVANNI PASINI



ANCA BOLD

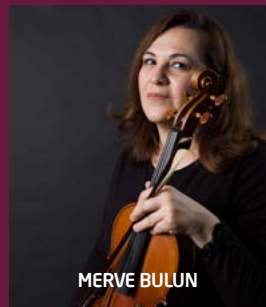


ANDREA MEREUTA

Musicians



VICTOR SUMENKOV



MERVE BULUN



INES WEIN



ISLAM ABDELAZIZ



KAHRAMAN SEREF



KIRILL BOGATYREV



HASSAN EL MOLLA



ANTON PAVLOVSKY



CHRISTOPH SCHMITZ



HARALD GEORGI



NICOLAS ROJANSKI



GENNADY KRUTIKOV



SANDOR ONODI



MATTEO GASPARI



RADOVAN HETSCH



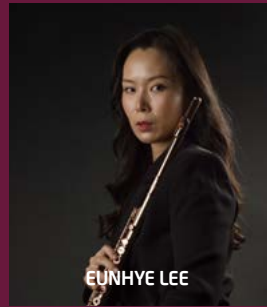
SERGIY KONYAKHYN



ALEKSANDR HASKIN



JIHOON SHIN



EUNHYE LEE



GERMAN DIAZ BLANCO



MOHAMED IBRAHIM SALEH



CLAIRE GLAGO



RONNY MOSER



THOMAS GNAUSCH



SIMONE ZANACCHI



DANIEL HRINDA



YOSHIKO KOYAMA

Musicians



MIROSLAV STOYANOV



PETER DAVIDA



GIDEON SEIDENBERG



ATILLA SZÜCS



ZSOLT PÉTER



LASZLO FROSCHL



JORIS LAENEN



DANIEL EDELHOFF



PHILIPP REBMANN



TOMOKI KIRITA



DIMO PICTHALOV



MARK SANCHEZ MARTI



SEBASTIAN ZULUAGA



RICHARD ALBERTO DIAZ



ALEXANDER KAMENAROV



KEE GUAN NG



GEORGI VARBANOV



MARKUS STEINER



JULIE SGARRO

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