

كلاسيكات مشرفة

CLASSICAL ARABESQUE
with Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra



OMAR RAHBANY GHADY RAHBANI

NEW WORKS - WORLD PREMIERE

14 FEBRUARY 2026 - 8 PM - KATARA OPERA HOUSE

Programme

Classical Arabesque

Katara Cultural Village, Opera House
Saturday, 14 February 2026
8:00pm

Pablo Mielgo, conductor
Omar Rahbany, piano and composer
Ghady Rahbani, composer
Lyonel Schmit, concertmaster
Ibrahim Kadar, nay & kawala
Taoufik Mirkhan, qanun
Antoine Dib, accordion
Bassem Salha, clarinet
Elie El Houry, oud
Joseph Rouhana, oud
Raymond Hage, tabla
George Oro, req
Jawad Jabak, percussion

Program

Part 1 :
Zook: The Power Station | Omar Rahbany
Piano & Orchestra Work No.1 "Arabic Baroque Overture" | Omar Rahbany
Piano & Orchestra Work No.2 | Omar Rahbany
Pavane "Ravel in the Middle East" | Maurice Ravel - Omar Rahbany
Umbrella Woman | Omar Rahbany

Intermission

Part 2 :
Boléro: Maurice Ravel, Abdel Wahab, Ghady Rahbani
Invention à 2 Voix: Johann Sebastian Bach, Ghady Rahbani
Impromptu Hongrois: Franz Schubert, Ghady Rahbani
Für Elise: Ludwig van Beethoven, Ghady Rahbani
Marche Militaire: Franz Schubert, Ghady Rahbani
Le Coucou: Louis-Claude Daquin, Ghady Rahbani
Danse Hongroise: Johannes Brahms, Ghady Rahbani

Classical Arabesque

The concept of Classical Arabesque seeks to highlight the contribution of Arabic music and culture to the foundations upon which Western art music, particularly the Baroque, later evolved. It is conceived as a dialogue moving in two directions.

On one hand, it explores how an Arab composer trained in the Western classical tradition composes music today, drawing naturally from Arabic influences while working within classical forms. This perspective is presented in the first part of the concert through the works of Omar Rahbany.

On the other, it poses a hypothetical question: how might the great classical masterpieces of the past have sounded had their composers lived and created within the Arab world? This second part of the concert explores that idea through the music of composer Ghady Rahbani.

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.



Omar Rahbany
piano and composer

Born in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1989, Omar Rahbany is a composer, pianist, and producer hailing from a celebrated musical lineage. As part of the third generation of the Rahbani family, he was immersed in the worlds of music, theatre, cinema, and dance from an early age stimulating his interest in the interdisciplinary concept of total Art.

Omar began his musical journey studying piano and the fundamentals of composition under the guidance of Hagop Arslanian. Seeking to broaden his artistic vision, he moved to Barcelona to study with conductor Jordi Mora, and later continued his training in Munich under Christopher Schlären, conductor and musicologist.

Throughout his career, Omar has graced some of the world's most prestigious stages and festivals, including the Royal Court Theatre in London, Carnegie Hall in New York, the Abu Dhabi Festival, and the Beiteddine Art Festival, with performances across Paris, Geneva, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait City, and Beirut.

Omar Rahbany's music is a tapestry that fuses Western classical influences with jazz harmonies and grooves, and diverse world music traditions, all seamlessly interwoven with his deep-rooted Arabic heritage.

A Word From the Composer Omar Rahbany

Having been trained in Western classical music while growing up within the artistic universe of the Rahbanis, the question of an Arabic sophisticated orchestral musical form has occupied my thoughts for many years. It arises from a fundamental dilemma I continue to explore: can Arabic music, with its maqamat and quarter tones, be composed for the orchestra in the Western sense?

This is a question that must be approached with great care, attention, and honesty, as a superficial patchwork can easily be mistaken for a true integration of Arabic and orchestral traditions.

The *Works for Piano and Orchestra* presented this evening represent only the second step in this ongoing journey, following my first piano concerto, which focused primarily on rhythmic exploration.

After rhythm, tonight's premiere turns its attention toward texture and sonority. These works attempt to experiment with the merging of a *takht* and a Western orchestra through contemporary original composed music within a formal framework, before fully engaging Arabic maqamat as an intrinsic part of the compositional DNA at a later stage.

The program also includes music specially adapted for this occasion from my earlier repertoire namely my first Album Passport works, in which Arabic and Rahbanian influences emerge with particular clarity, shaped through a symphonic approach.



Ghady Rahbany
composer

Ghady Rahbani, born in 1960, is a composer, author, poet, dramaturge, and producer. He studied music under the renowned Lebanese-Armenian educator Hagop Arslanian.

From 1987 to 2008, he co-composed and orchestrated numerous major theatrical works by his father, **Mansour Rahbani**, one of the celebrated Rahbani Brothers. These works include **Sayf 840, The Last Days of Socrates, Al-Moutanabi, Moulouk Al-Tawaef, and Zenobia**. In parallel, Rahbani wrote, composed, and produced his own original musicals, notably **Al Inkilab** (1995) and **Aa Ard El Ghajar** (2012).

A central aspect of his artistic work lies in transforming theatrical music into large-scale symphonic compositions. Works such as **Jebal Al-Souwan** and **Fakhreddine** have been performed by leading international ensembles, including the **Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra** and the **National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine**.

Renowned for his eclectic musical voice, Rahbani is also one of the most influential songwriters in the Arab world. His repertoire spans popular, romantic, and socio-political themes, with widely recognized songs such as **Mechwar Rayhin Mechwar, Kossotna Bi Hal Mojtamaa, El Zouama Fallou, and Charchahtou Al Balad**.

A Word from the Composer Ghady Rahbani

This evening, we perform musical works by some of the world's greatest classical composers in an unique concert with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra, presented through a new musical vision. These are pieces we have long listened to, memorized, and loved; melodies that have accompanied our lives across time and place. From the moment of their creation to the present day, they have endured and they will continue to endure as long as beauty, goodness, and creativity exist.

These works are presented here in a renewed form, preserving their melodic and harmonic foundations while enriching them with an Arabic musical embroidery, colored by Arabic maqams and infused with quarter tones.

This project is a musical voyage I have developed, beginning with Bach, Rameau, and Daquin, passing through Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, and Brahms, and culminating with Ravel and Abdel Wahab, all brought together within a single musical vision.

Music unifies people. Our aim this evening is to build bridges of encounter between Eastern and Western civilizations, and to reveal the natural harmony and fusion between Eastern and Western musical modes, coming together to form a single space of beauty, individuality, and musical innovation.



Pablo Mielgo
conductor

Pablo Mielgo is considered one of the most prominent Spanish musicians of his generation, not only as a conductor, but also as the founder of international music projects. In our days, he is Music Director of the "Madrid me suena" Music Festival, Co-Artistic/Music Director of the Medellin Philharmonic Academy and Artistic/Music Director of the SaludArte Foundation.

He has founded since 2003 the following musical projects; BandArt Orchestra (chaired by Sir Colin Davis), Spain-Venezuela Festival (in collaboration with Venezuelan Orchestral Sistema), "Madrid me Suenan" Music Festival, Iberopera (Lyric Ibero-american program). For seven years, he was Music and Artistic director of the Presjovem Festival and Academy for Music, where he founded the Presjovem Spanish National Orchestra with the most talented young Spanish musicians.

Mielgo is the Artistic and Music Director of the SaludArte Foundation, based in Miami and Madrid, where he has led projects in collaboration with the Teatro Real in Madrid, New World Symphony Orchestra in Miami, Simon Bolivar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela and the Florida Grand Opera.

As well he had worked with recognized artists such as Michael Tilson Thomas, Frühbeck de Burgos, José Antonio Abreu, Gustavo Dudamel and Plácido Domingo.

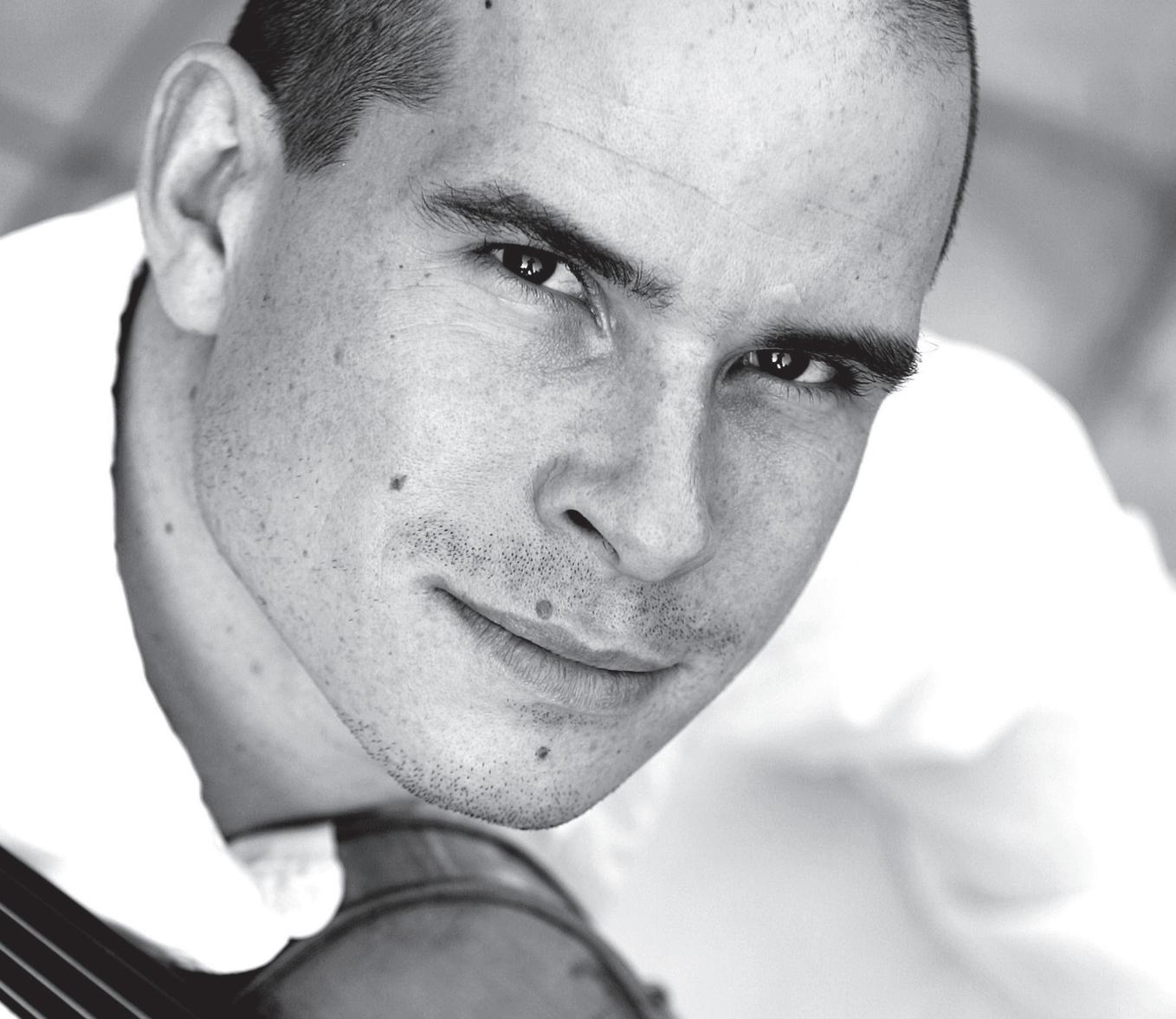
Pablo Mielgo has conducted principal orchestras and Theaters of Latin America, USA, Europe and the Middle East. In 2013-2014, in addition to his established music commitments, Mielgo made his debut at the Arena di Verona season.

He has recorded for the Spanish television and the Venezuelan Orchestral "Sistema."

Mielgo has been the assistant conductor of James Conlon (Los Angeles Opera), Jesus Lopez Cobos (Teatro Real de Madrid), as well as collaborating with Daniel Barenboim (Staatsoper Berlin) and Claudio Abbado (Lucerne Festival).

Mielgo was born in Madrid in 1976. He studied in Madrid (Reina Sofia School of Music and the Royal Music Conservatory) and London (Guildhall School of Music and Drama).

Pablo Mielgo is married to the Austrian-German violinist Nina Heidenreich.



Lyonel Schmit
concertmaster

Renowned for his phenomenological approach to music, the French violinist Lyonel Schmit likes to think about his work that it is more sounds than notes: Ovest France quoted "His rich and subtle sonority acts like a magic spell".

This deep and holistic approach started with obtaining the highest distinctions of the Conservatory of Paris in 1997, thanks to the meeting of Ivry Gitlis but especially of Michael Hentz, heir and close to Sergiu Celibidache until his death.

His fertile ground was shaped when he was a 7 year old boy in Metz, thanks to Patricia Reibaud and his mentor Nadezhda Beshkina (professor at the Tchaikovsky conservatory of Moscow).

Later he went to the Conservatoire National Supérieur in Paris in the class of Devy Erlih, and achieved his cursus with the pre-PHD of Régis Pasquier.

Lyonel is also a laureate of the international competition T.Varga, R.Lipizer and young European soloists, where he won the gold medal.

Besides he is supported by Foundations such as the Cziffra Foundation, Fondation de France, Fond instrumental français, Fondation Zilber . Curious and unclassifiable artist, he has been increasing the wealth of his experience with the symphonic repertoire since his earliest childhood.

Invited for many years as concertmaster of various orchestras such as the Opéra de Marseille, the Orchestre National de Lyon, the Tasmanian Symphonic Orchestra, La Monnaie de Bruxelles, the Luxembourg Philharmonic Orchestra, he has been as well the concertmaster of the Luxembourg Chamber Orchestra since 2012. Most recently, from September 2019, he has join the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra as the 1st concertmaster position.

An eclectic violinist, his repertoire ranges from chamber music to soloist repertoire, from contemporary music to electro-acoustic and tango with the encounter of Richard Galliano. He shared the stage with him around the world nearly two hundred times between 2004 and 2008. Recording side, "The Rothschild violin" is obviously the project that characterizes the most his artistic approach.

Lyonel Schmit plays a violin by Domenico Busan, made in Venice around 1770, graciously loaned by the Ghasarossian company.

Upcoming Concerts

QPO Presents: Strauss' Don Quixote

Qatar National Convention Centre, Auditorium 3
Friday, 27 March 2026
7:30 pm

Elias Grandy, conductor
Danielle Müller-Schott, cello
Giovanni Pasini, viola

Immerse yourself in a rich evening of Richard Strauss with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Elias Grandy. The program opens with Strauss' symphonic tone poem *Don Quixote*. Cellist Daniel Müller-Schott and QPO's violist Giovanni Pasini bring the story to life as the voices of Don Quixote and Sancho Panza, tracing their comic adventures and moments of touching lyricism.

After the intermission, the orchestra continues its Strauss journey with the impassioned *Don Juan*, a whirlwind of exuberance and tragedy, followed by the sumptuous *Suite from Der Rosenkavalier*. Filled with soaring waltzes and opulent orchestral color, the suite closes the evening in a spirit of romance, showcasing Strauss at his most dazzling.

Program

Richard Strauss: Don Quixote, Op. 35, TrV 184

Intermission

Richard Strauss: Don Juan, Op. 20, TrV 156
Der Rosenkavalier Suite, Op. 59, TrV 227

QPO Presents: Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade

Katara Cultural Village Opera House
Tuesday, 31 March 2026
7:30 pm

Elias Grandy, conductor
Taoufik Mirkhan, qanoun
Rania Shehab, narrator
Joo Young Oh, concertmaster

Under the baton of Elias Grandy, QPO performs Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, a vivid symphonic journey inspired by *One Thousand and One Nights*. Across four scenes, the orchestra conjures sweeping seas, glittering courts, and bold adventure, all held together by the work's iconic violin solo, *Scheherazade's* voice, led by Concertmaster Joo Young Oh.

Joining the performance are Taoufik Mirkhan on qanun and Rania Shehab as narrator, adding an extra layer of atmosphere to this journey through myth and imagination.

A special surprise will be included as part of the evening.

Program

Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov: *Scheherazade*, Op. 35

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 FURLANÙT



ROLANDA GINKUTE



MAIAS ALYAMANI



REEM KHOURY



GEORGES YAMINE



ISLAM EL HEFNAWY



SHAZA OWEDA



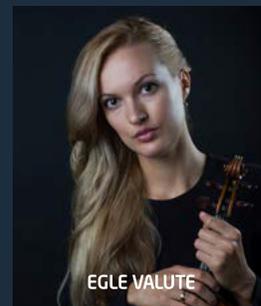
JULIA KORODI



ANNE-CATHRIN EHRLICH



MOHAMED OWEDA



EGLÉ VALUTE



GIOVANNI PASINI



ANCA BOLD



ANDREA MEREUTA

Musicians



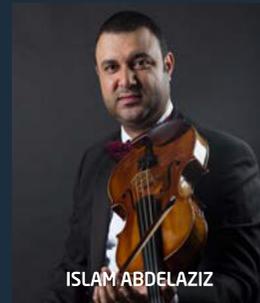
VICTOR SUMENKOV



MERVE BULUN



INES WEIN



ISLAM ABDELAZIZ



KAHRAMAN SEREF



KIRILL BOGATYREV



HASSAN EL MOLLA



ANTON PAVLOVSKY



CHRISTOPH SCHMITZ



HARALD GEORGI



NICOLAS ROJANSKI



GENNADY KRUTIKOV



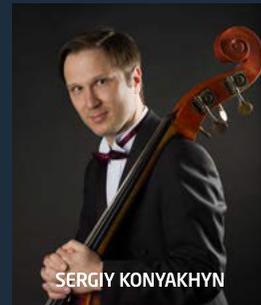
SANDOR ONODI



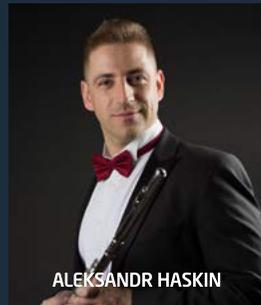
MATTEO GASPARI



RADOVAN HETSCH



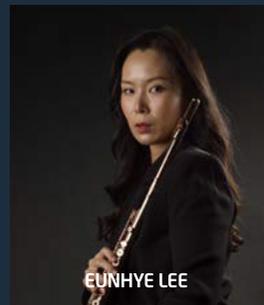
SERGIY KONYAKHYN



ALEKSANDR HASKIN



JIHOON SHIN



EUNHYE LEE



GERMAN DIAZ BLANCO



MOHAMED IBRAHIM SALEH



CLAIRE GLAGO



RONY MOSER



THOMAS GNAUSCH



SIMONE ZANACCHI

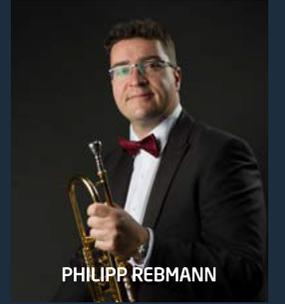


DANIEL HRINDA



YOSHIKO KOYAMA

Musicians



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