



Press Release

Germany - A Country of Many Tunes

Doha, Qatar; 7 November, 2017: Two concerts with German compositions conclude the successful cooperation of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Goethe-Institut Gulf Region with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra during Qatar Germany 2017 Year of Culture.

In November 2017, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Goethe-Institut Gulf Region wrap up a successful cooperation with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra in the Qatar Germany 2017 Year of Culture. After the official launch of Qatar Germany Year of Culture at the Katara Opera House on 1 February 2017 with a concert by the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra, directed by the German conductor David Niemann and with a performance by the renowned German piano soloist Gerhard Oppitz, the German institutions joined forces with Qatar Foundation's orchestra several times throughout the year. Together with the Doha Film Institute two film concerts of German film classics of the silent film era were realized: the world's first horror movie "The Cabinet of Dr Caligari" in May and the world's first sci-fi movie "Metropolis" in the "Symphony of film" series in September. A chamber music concert at the Museum of Islamic Art with a program of works by Qatari and German composers alike marked the calendar in April 2017.

German ambassador Hans-Udo Muzel is delighted about the good cooperation with Qatar's great orchestra. *"For Qatar Germany 2017 Year of Culture we offer to the public another time various examples from the rich history of German music, namely Baroque music in one concert and music from German films and TV serials in the other one."*

As part of the monthly chamber music concert series hosted by the Museum of Islamic Art the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra offers a chamber music concert on 9 November. Works of German composers Georg Philipp Telemann and Johann Sebastian Bach will be performed along with works of American composer Steve Reich by a quartet of wind instruments.

Another very special musical highlight is the German film music concert *"Das Boot and other German Films"* on 24 November 2017 that concludes the cooperation between the German Embassy and the Goethe-Institut Gulf Region with Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra for Qatar Germany 2017. The concert invites the audience to embark on a journey through German film and TV history by listening to renowned German tunes from popular TV shows and film classics alike.

Kurt Meister, executive director of the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra, is very pleased to bring a sampling of the richness of German musical culture to Qatar's audiences. *"Just in these two concerts, Doha residents can hear the Baroque music of Bach and Telemann, popular musical culture from Weimar culture in songs for Marlene Dietrich, and the variety of contemporary film compositions in Germany."*

The classical concert at the Museum of Islamic Art is not ticketed. Tickets for the film music concert can be purchased via the website of Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra:

<http://qatarphilharmonicorchestra.org>

Qatar Germany 2017 Year of Culture is a yearlong program designed to deepen understanding between nations through the mutual exchange of arts, culture, heritage and sport, developed by Qatar Museums in partnership with the Goethe-Institut Gulf Region, the German Embassy in Doha and the Embassy of Qatar in Germany.



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About The Goethe-Institut:

The Goethe-Institut is a worldwide organization working to promote German language and culture. With a network of 159 institutes in 98 countries around the world and 12 institutes in Germany, the Goethe-Institut acts on behalf of the German Government to implement its cultural relations policy. The Goethe-Institut Gulf Region offers German language courses and organizes cultural events in the Gulf Region. Together with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany the Goethe-Institut Gulf Region arranges the programs of Qatar Germany Year of Culture 2017.

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About The Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra

The Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra promotes and performs western and Arabic music in order to inspire the children and adults of Qatar and the Arab world to create and enjoy music. In blending these cultures the Qatar Philharmonic extends a message of peace to the world. The Philharmonic was founded in 2007 as a center in the Qatar Foundation, chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser. It is composed of 101 professional musicians chosen in international auditions from 30 countries. The Philharmonic's first music director, Nader Abbassi, was succeeded by Michalis Economou and Han-Na Chang, and Dmitrij Kitajenko was recently named Conductor of Honor. The orchestra has also worked with such conductors such as David Afkham, James Gaffigan, Lorin Maazel, Marc Minkowski and TungChieh Chuang. As a member of the Qatar Foundation, the Philharmonic assists Qatar in its journey from carbon economy to knowledge economy by unlocking human potential. It is an integral part of the Philharmonic's work to host new and established composers, soloists and conductors of the Arab world. The Qatar Philharmonic gives on average 50 different performances per year at their home in the Katara Opera House, which it opened in December 2010 with the world premiere of Marcel Khalifé's Rababa Concerto. Touring performances have included the Royal Albert Hall in London, the Kennedy Center in Washington, Teatro alla Scala in Milan, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, the Konzerthaus in Vienna for the 50th anniversary of OPEC, the Syrian Opera House in Damascus, the United Nations General Assembly, the BBC Proms in London, Linz Brucknerhaus and Santa Cecilia Hall in Rome.

You can also visit: qatarphilharmonicorchestra.org

About Qatar Museums:

Qatar Museums connects the museums, cultural institutions and heritage sites in Qatar and creates the conditions for them to thrive and flourish. It centralises resources and provides a comprehensive organisation for the development of museums and cultural projects, with a long term ambition of creating a strong and sustainable cultural infrastructure for Qatar.

Under the patronage of His Highness the Emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and led by its Chairperson, Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, QM is consolidating Qatar's efforts to become a vibrant centre for the arts, culture and



education, in
the Middle East

and beyond. Since its foundation in 2005, QM has overseen the development of the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA), Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, and the Al Zubarah World Heritage Site Visitor Centre. QM also manages the QM Gallery at Katara Cultural Village, QM Gallery AL RIWAQ and the Fire Station: Artists in Residence. Future projects include the launch of the highly anticipated National Museum of Qatar and the 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum. QM is committed to instigating Qatar’s future generation of arts, heritage and museum professionals. At its core is a commitment to nurturing artistic talent, creating opportunities and developing the skills to service Qatar’s emerging art economy. By means of a multifaceted program and public art initiatives, QM seeks to push the boundaries of the traditional museum model, and create cultural experiences that spill out onto the streets and seek to involve a wide audience. Through a strong emphasis on originating art and culture from within and fostering a spirit of national participation, QM is helping Qatar find its own distinctive voice in today’s global cultural debates.