

## Musicals, Masks, Murder and more

***Bring out your Opera glasses and evening dresses as the NCPA presents a spectacular fare of Puccini's Tosca and music of Andrew Lloyd Webber for the Ninth Celebrity Season of the Symphony Orchestra of India from September 21 to September 30, 2010***

**Mumbai, August 2010:** When Iano Tamar debuts on the Indian stage as Puccini's passionate but pure *Tosca* this September, it will be one of the many firsts for this city. It will be the first time, the NCPA will present two dramatic performances in one season — **Giacomo Puccini's celebrated Opera *Tosca* and An Andrew Lloyd Webber Gala**. It is the first time that India's first fully-professional orchestra, the Symphony Orchestra of India (SOI), will have a woman conductor, who was born in India. It will be the first time Opera Bergen, the celebrated Norwegian orchestra, will perform in Mumbai. Again for the first time, one of the most oft performed operas in the world, *Tosca*, will debut in India. The Ninth Season of the SOI has many surprises.

**To be held exclusively at the NCPA, from September 21 to September 30, 2010, the Ninth Celebrity Season** of the **SOI** will have a line-up of five fabulous performances including two performances of *Tosca*, and two evenings of an **Andrew Lloyd Webber Gala**, that will include excerpts from the composer's most popular Musicals: *Phantom of the Opera*, *Sunset Boulevard* and *Evita*. The Gala will also feature Webber's *Requiem*. Acclaimed conductor **Anna Randine Overby** will be the SOI's first woman Guest Conductor for all the performances of *Tosca* and the Andrew Lloyd Webber Gala. The season begins with a **Chamber Music Concert** on **September 21**.

**Mr. Khushroo N. Suntook, Chairman, NCPA**, who after SOI's highly successful international debut in Moscow in June (where the orchestra received a standing ovation for its performance), feels with this Season the SOI will be raising the bar further. *"It's the next big challenge for a young but talented orchestra. The first Opera that SOI did was Madama Butterfly in 2008. This is the second Opera that we will be presenting. I am particularly delighted with the collaboration between the NCPA, Marat Bisengaliev, Anna Overby and the Opera Bergen that has allowed us to create such a spectacular season of the SOI,"* he said.

Mr Suntook, who is also a great aficionado of the singing voice, is looking forward to an international cast that is well-regarded and highly experienced. *"We have a wonderful Georgian soprano, Iano Tamar, in the title role of Tosca who has sung major roles at La Scala and Covent Garden. She comes to Mumbai after appearing at the famous summer festival in Bregenz, Austria. And I'm told that the Scarpia of Anooshah Golesorkhi is especially powerful."*

***Tosca*** is a court singer in love with a painter. Scarpia is the evil police chief, who manipulates circumstances and makes the 'indecent proposal' to Tosca. It's a tale of lust, betrayal, murder and passion, against a plot that comes from the pages of a French novelist, but reeks of a Bollywood drama. The production will be sung in Italian. A surtitle machine will help audiences to follow a line-by-line translation projected in English. *Tosca* will be performed **on September 28 and September 30, at 7.00 PM at Jamshed Bhabha Theatre**.

**Conductor Anna Randine Overby**, who has conducted more than 80 operas in her long career, will assemble an extraordinary cast of 90 people to come to Mumbai and present a *"full-scale opera only for Mumbai"*. Always

ready to take on new challenges, she has relished the opportunity to work in India. “*I was born in India and lived here until I was 18,*” she says. “*Bringing opera here is like a dream come true – a personal voyage of re-connecting and re-discovering.*”

The **sets of Tosca** will be designed by the celebrated Dirk Hofacker and will be built in Mumbai. He has worked with Oscar-winning directors Maximilian Schell (*Marlene*) and William Friedkind (*the Exorcist, French Connection*), Dirk Hofacker made his debut as a set designer with Don Giovanni in Duesseldorf and has worked with conductor Kent Nagano at Los Angeles Opera and the Mariinsky Theatre in St.Petersburg.

**The costumes** will be designed by Paolo Rovati, who is famous for his classical, opera and modern ballet costumes. He has created costumes for productions at Compagnia National de Marseille with the French dancer and choreographer Roland Petit, Les Ballets Trokadero de Monte Carlo and at Teatro alla Scala, Milan. Acclaimed **stage director** Bruno Berger Gorski will be at the NCPA for Tosca. He has been a stage director for Salzburg Landestheater, Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, Liceu in Barcelona, Oviedo, Caracas and the National Theatre in Prague among others.

To balance the classical **Tosca** will be the **Andrew Lloyd Webber Gala**. According to SOI Music Director Marat Bisengaliev, the Gala will prove to be a popular evening with the Mumbai audience. The Gala will feature excerpts from **Phantom of the Opera, Sunset Boulevard, Evita** and a complete performance of the **Requiem**, and will be held on **September 23 and September 24, at 7 pm at the Jamshed Bhabha Theatre, NCPA**. “*Lloyd Webber has a degree of popular appeal among the Bombay crowd,*” says Bisengaliev. Lloyd Webber is one of the most successful composers in history with several of his musicals having run for more than a decade both in the West End in London and on Broadway in New York. **The Phantom of the Opera** is a musical phenomenon that has played all over the world, and has been one of the longest running shows on Broadway. The performance will include excerpts such as ‘**Phantom Of The Opera**’, ‘**All I Ask Of You**’ ‘**Angel Of Music**’, ‘**The Music Of The Night**’ and ‘**Think Of Me**’. **Sunset Boulevard**, based on the movie by the same name, will feature ‘**With One Look**’ and ‘**As If We Never Said Goodbye**’. In **Evita**, witness the rise and fall of Argentina’s first lady, Eva Peron, as depicted in this sung-through musical featuring the songs ‘**Don’t Cry For Me Argentina**’, ‘**I’d Be Surprisingly Good**’ and ‘**You Must Love Me**’.

The SOI is India’s first fully professional symphony orchestra that was founded in September 2006, by the **NCPA Chairman, Khushroo N Suntook** and international virtuoso violinist, **Marat Bisengaliev**, who is now its Music Director. The orchestra has a pool of talented musicians from diverse countries, including 18 Indians. **On June 11, 2010, the SOI made history, as it became India’s first fully professional orchestra to go international.** It played at the **Fifth Festival of the World’s Symphony Orchestras** in Moscow. They played on the concluding night, as part of the Grand Finale, in the presence of the highest echelons of Russian society.

**September 21: Chamber Music Concert**  
**Tickets: Rs 800, 600 & 400**

**September 24 & 25: Andrew Lloyd Webber Gala**  
**Tickets: Rs 4000, 3000, 2000 & 1000**

**September 28 & 30: Giacomo Puccini’s Tosca**

**Tickets: Rs 4000, 3000, 2000 & 1000**

**Box Office: August 16<sup>th</sup> for SOI members, August 19<sup>th</sup> for NCPA members, August 22<sup>nd</sup>  
for General Public**

To use the online booking facility visit the NCPA official website:  
**[www.ncpamumbai.com](http://www.ncpamumbai.com)**

#### **About Symphony Orchestra of India:**

The Symphony Orchestra of India is the country's first fully professional symphony orchestra, performing a series of concerts at the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Mumbai over the course of two seasons, in September and February each year. The SOI was formed in 2006 as the result of an on-going collaboration between the NCPA and the internationally acclaimed violinist, Marat Bisengaliev, who serves as the orchestra's Music Director. Players are recruited from an international field, but the orchestra places a great emphasis on developing musical potential within India itself. To date, there are 18 Indian players representing the finest local talent and providing a solid foundation for the future of orchestral playing in this country. Besides presenting orchestral and chamber music concerts, the SOI will be available as a prestigious accompanying ensemble for soloists as well as for ballets, operas and musicals. It will also offer its services internationally as a resource for making recordings.

#### **About the NCPA:**

Inaugurated in 1969, the National Centre for the Performing Arts, Mumbai, exists to provide leadership on a national level as India's premier performing arts, research and training centre through the presentation of Indian and international art forms, the promotion of excellence and the preservation of Indian & International cultural heritage.

For further information please log on to [www.ncpamumbai.com](http://www.ncpamumbai.com)

#### **For media queries please contact:**

Hanmer MS&L Communications Pvt. Ltd.

Yasmin Ranijiwala

Email: [yasmin@hanmermsl.com](mailto:yasmin@hanmermsl.com)

Mb: 09820036680