

*NCPA presents Symphony Orchestra of India's Autumn 2015 Season*

~19<sup>th</sup> season featuring works of Smetana, Zakir Hussain, Bartók, Saint-Saëns & Dvořák ~

~ Renowned Swiss conductor Charles Dutoit to lead the orchestra again~

25th September – 5th October, 2015 | NCPA

- 5<sup>th</sup> September : A Crash Course on Western Classical Music with Zane Dalal, Associate Music Director – SOI
- 24<sup>th</sup> September : Bridging East and West: A special discussion with Zakir Hussain and Zane Dalal on the making of *Peshkar*
- 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> September : World premiere of a new concerto written and performed by tabla Maestro, Zakir Hussain with the orchestra
- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> October : Swiss conductor Charles Dutoit will return to Mumbai to lead the orchestra in a programme featuring Dvořák's beloved 'New World' Symphony
- 5<sup>th</sup> October: Zane Dalal conducts Beethoven's Fourth Symphony and works by Glinka, Goldmark and Elgar

**Mumbai, September 2015:** The National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA), Mumbai, announces the 19<sup>th</sup> season of the Symphony Orchestra of India (SOI), from 25<sup>th</sup> September to 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.

This autumn the SOI promises to bring yet another significant season with the presentation of three grand performances. The highlight of the season will be the world premiere of a new concerto for tabla and orchestra, written specially for the SOI by tabla maestro Ustad Zakir Hussain. Titled *Peshkar*, the piece will be performed by the SOI with Zakirji as the soloist on the 25<sup>th</sup> as well as the 26<sup>th</sup> of September. Associate Music Director Zane Dalal will lead this performance, that will also include Smetana's Overture to *The Bartered Bride* and Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra.

The season will also feature the return to the SOI of legendary Swiss conductor Charles Dutoit. One of the leading conductors today, Maestro Dutoit has held numerous positions with orchestras around the world, including Chief Conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra and Principal Conductor and Artistic Director of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Dutoit first led the SOI in 2013, and will be returning for two concerts on October 1 & 2. Following their hugely successful partnership in Sibelius' violin concerto in 2013, Dutoit will once again team up with SOI Music Director and violin virtuoso Marat Bisengaliev as the soloist in Saint-Saëns' third violin concerto. The programme also features Czech composer Dvořák's 'New World' symphony, generally regarded as one of the most popular symphonies of all time, and Kodály's Dances of Galánta.

**Mr. Khushroo N. Suntook (NCPA Chairman & Founder of the Symphony Orchestra of India)** said, *“Every season, we aim to bring to our audiences world class performances with leading artists from around the world. This season also marks our first commission of a new piece of music, which is a historic occasion for any orchestra. Ustad Zakir Hussain is one of the great musicians of our time, and we are delighted that he accepted the commission and are looking forward to collaborating with him again. We are also honoured to be welcoming back Maestro Charles Dutoit to Mumbai. Maestro Dutoit is one of the world’s leading conductors today. He left an indelible mark on our orchestra on his first visit in 2013, and I am certain that music lovers in Mumbai are in for a mesmerizing performance this time, as well.*

Leading up to the SOI performance, this season will also include a **Crash Course on Western Classical Music with Zane Dalal** on September 5, 2015 where the uninitiated can learn everything about the world of western classical music in just a few hours. We will also present a panel discussion **Bridging the East and West**, with Ustad Zakir Hussain and Zane Dalal talking about the process of creating a new piece of music, the challenges writing an orchestral piece while staying true to Indian classical roots, and other topics surrounding the making of *Peshkar*. This panel will be moderated by NCPA head of Indian Music programming, Dr. Suvarnalata Rao. Both these events are free and open to the public.

A true testimony to the world class talent and work done by the Symphony Orchestra of India has come in the form of invitations to be part of two major international events that are highly acclaimed in the music field - The prestigious Migros Classics series in Switzerland that will see the European premiere of *Peshkar* and The Abu Dhabi Classics series on 7<sup>th</sup> October Both events will be two huge milestones in SOI history.

**Program:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Performance</b>	<b>Venue</b>
5 September 2015	Workshop on Western Classical Music	Godrej Dance Theatre
24 September 2015	Bridging East and West	Experimental Theatre
25 & 26 September 2015	SOI - Smetana, Zakir Hussain & Bartók	Jamshed Bhabha Theatre
1 & 2 October 2015	SOI - Kodály, Saint-Saëns & Dvořák	Jamshed Bhabha Theatre
5 October 2015	Zane Dalal conducts Beethoven 4 and works by Glinka, Goldmark and Elgar	Jamshed Bhabha Theatre



#### **About the SOI:**

The Symphony Orchestra of India (SOI), based at the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA), Mumbai, was founded in 2006 by NCPA Chairman Khushroo N. Suntook and internationally-renowned violin virtuoso Marat Bisengaliev, who serves as the Orchestra's Music Director. India's first and only professional symphony orchestra, the SOI has performed around India and internationally, as well. Zane Dalal was appointed Associate Music Director of the SOI in September 2014, following serving seven years as Resident Conductor. Piotr Borkowski serves as the Resident Conductor, taking up the role in 2015.

The SOI has worked with renowned conductors including Charles Dutoit, Augustin Dumay, Yuri Simonov, Lior Shambadal, Adrian Leaper, Johannes Wildner, Evgeny Bushkov, Rafael Payare, Duncan Ward, Karl Jenkins, Mischa Damev, Alexander Anissimov, and Christoph Poppen, amongst others. Soloists have included Maria João Pires, Augustin Dumay, Simon O'Neill, Cédric Tiberghien, Alina Ibragimova, Barry Douglas, Angel Blue, Zakir Hussain, Edgar Meyer, Béla Fleck, Tamás Vásáry and Lena Neudauer. Apart from the mainstays of the symphonic repertoire, the NCPA and SOI have also presented some large-scale productions, including fully-staged operas.

The Orchestra's core group of musicians are resident at the NCPA all year round; additional players are recruited from a talented pool of professionals from around the world. The SOI features a growing number of Indian players, representing the finest home-grown talent, which provides a solid foundation for the future of orchestral playing in the country. Many of the SOI musicians are also teachers as the orchestra places great emphasis on teaching and developing musical potential amongst young people in India. One of NCPA's educational initiatives is the Special Music Training Programme, which brings a professional level of teaching to gifted young musicians, with the aim of growing the number of Indian musicians in the SOI in the near future.

The creation of first-class cultural institutions working towards international recognition is a vital component of India's growing prestige on the world stage. Moreover, the SOI is fulfilling an important cultural and educational role within India. The NCPA will continue to build on the goal to become a centre of musical excellence, developing international standards of professionalism among its musicians, thereby addressing the aspirations of young musicians and music-loving audiences throughout India.

[www.soimumbai.com](http://www.soimumbai.com)

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

Opening its doors to the world in 1969, the NCPA became the first multi-venue and multi-purpose cultural centre to be built in South Asia. Vibrant and diverse, the NCPA today is recognized by artistes, patrons and media alike as India's premier performing arts institution. The Centre provides a fine showcase for India's rich performing arts traditions, all thanks to the institution's training and research initiatives.

The NCPA presents over 600 events each year across all major art forms, most notably Indian Music, International Music, Theatre and Film, Dance, and Literature, Visual Arts and Photography. There are Heads of Programming for each of these art forms who curate innovative events and festivals; representative of everything from classical to contemporary throughout the year. The NCPA produces its own programmes as well as collaborates with leading cultural promoters from around the world. NCPA is the only member organisation of the International Music Council (IMC) from India.

To know more visit [www.ncpamumbai.com](http://www.ncpamumbai.com). Find us on Facebook and Twitter @NCPAMumbai.

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