

# KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra

## World Symphony Series Spring Season

### *Durban 25 Aug – 13 October 2016*

The Durban City Hall will be alive with glorious music when the KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra launches the Spring Season of its World Symphony Series taking place every Thursday from 25 August until 13 October.

“In this season, we will introduce the ‘Passport Series’ as the orchestra takes audiences on a global tour from Russia to Europe to Scandinavia and to South Africa,” says Bongani Tembe: CEO and Artistic Director of the KZN Philharmonic. “The season includes concerts acknowledging Heritage Month and the National Youth Concerto Festival,” he continued.

The KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra continues its primary mission of bringing excellence in music-making to the city of Durban. The Winter Season features top South African and international musicians in an eclectic and carefully created programme of amazing music. “We are committed to bringing the highest quality concerts to Durban thereby enriching the city and province through music,” says Tembe.

- Spring Season: every Thursday from 25 August until 13 October
- Subscribe to the Spring Season – ph 031 3699 438
- Or buy single tickets: [www.computicket.com](http://www.computicket.com) / 0861 915 8000 / Shoprite Checkers Money Market counters
- For more info: visit <http://kznphil.org.za/>

### ***25 August 2016***

The KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic kicks off its Spring Season of the 2016 World Symphony Series with a roaring trio of Russian masterpieces.

Associate Guest Conductor of the KZN Philharmonic Daniel Boico leads the orchestra on this grand opening evening. The evening begins with Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov’s orchestral suite entitled *Capriccio Espagnol*.

KZN Philharmonic Concertmaster Joanna Frankel then joins Boico and the orchestra to perform the cheerful and tuneful *Violin Concerto in D* by Igor Stravinsky. The concerto, while written for a large orchestra, often feels like a cross between a violin concerto and a piece of chamber music as it exploits delicate textures and conversational writing.

The concert closes with Sergei Rachmaninoff’s *Symphony No. 3 in A minor*. The final symphony by the great pianist/composer is packed full of traditional Russian folk tunes and dances. These powerful works sets the Spring Season in motion.

### ***1 September 2016***

In Daniel Boico’s second concert of the Spring Season the American maestro leads the orchestra through an evening of Romantic repertoire from Germany. The concert begins with the overture to *Tannhäuser* by Richard Wagner.

The newly-appointed concertmaster of the Utah Symphony (and former concertmaster of the Baltimore Symphony) Madeline Adkins joins Boico and the KZN Philharmonic to perform one of the most popular works from the violin concerto repertoire – Max Bruch’s *Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor*.

The programme closes with the fourth symphony by Brahms.

## ***8 September 2016***

The third concert of the Spring Season features Dutch conductor Arjan Tien leading the KZN Philharmonic through a different perspective of French repertoire. The evening begins with the Symphony in D major by the little-known composer Joseph Boulogne.

The French evening continues as Pallavi Mahidhara returns to Durban to perform Maurice Ravel's Piano Concerto in G major. The work is a mix between the French impressionism of Debussy and Ravel and jazz textures that Ravel encountered when he travelled through the United States of America in 1928 on invitation from George Gershwin.

A genre of music that is often neglected in modern concert halls is French Baroque. This is partly due to the fact that composers of the period such as Jean-Baptiste Lully, Marin Marais and Jean-Philippe Rameau were focused on composing operas for the courts.

The concert closes with one of Joseph Haydn's Paris symphonies – Symphony No. 83 in G minor, which has been given the nickname 'La Poule' or 'The Hen' due to the apparent sound of clucking in the first movement.

## ***15 September 2016***

In Arjan Tien's second concert of the Spring Season with the KZN Philharmonic the orchestra embarks on a tour of Scandinavia (with a little zest of France mixed in). The programme begins with Valse Triste (or Sad Waltz) by the Finnish composer Jean Sibelius.

The music continues with Wedding Day at Troldhaugen by the Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg.

KZN Philharmonic principal flautist Sabine Baird then joins Tien and the orchestra to perform the exotic and evocative Flute Concerto by the French composer Jacques Ibert.

The concert closes with Jean Sibelius's Symphony No. 1 in E minor. The lush and romantic symphony is packed with bubbling excitement and tender melodies.

## ***22 September 2016***

In this concert, the KZN Philharmonic celebrates Heritage Day with a unique set of pieces all composed by South African composers, performed by South African soloists and choirs and conducted by Naum Rousine.

The orchestra honours 40 years of compositional output by one of South Africa's prolific composers, Professor Phelelani Mnomiya with excerpts from his new operatic masterpiece – uZiyankomo. The programme continues with a concerto for marimba and string orchestra by one of the country's legacy composers – Hendrik Hoymeyr.

Following intermission the orchestra premieres a new work by Durban based artist Warren Bessey, titled Nandi, iNdlovukazi yesiNdlovukazi (Queen of Queens) which is a celebration of the life of uShaka's mother – Queen Nandi.

## ***29 September 2016***

The National Youth Concerto Festival has been a tradition in South Africa for over 40 years. Founded by David Tidboald in 1971 in Cape Town and brought to Durban in 1983 as part

of the inaugural year of the Natal Philharmonic Orchestra, the concert has provided an annual stage for South Africa's emerging musical talent. South African international classical music stars such as Ben Schoeman, Anton Nel and François du Toit all received their first taste of performing in front of an orchestra through the National Youth Concerto Festival.

2016 will feature a diverse selection of soloists performing repertoire from Mozart to Ravel to Liebermann. These young musicians worked through a rigorous audition process in order to share the stage with the musicians of the KZN Philharmonic on this special evening.

Join us on 22 September and hear the stars of tomorrow today!

## ***6 October 2016***

Justus Frantz returns to conduct two concerts with the KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic, the first of which focuses on England. The brass band is among the oldest community based musical traditions in Great Britain. The KZN Philharmonic begins the evening with the brass section of the orchestra performing a work by the Italian Baroque composer Domenico Gabrielli. The traditional concert structure is flipped as the KZN Philharmonic performs a concerto at the end. Russian violinist Sergey Malov joins Frantz and the orchestra to perform one of the giants of the violin concerto repertoire – Edward Elgar’s Violin Concerto in B minor. Composed for the legendary violinist Fritz Kreisler, it is one of his longest and most powerful works for violin and orchestra. Malov has performed as a soloist with the London Philharmonic, BBC Symphony, St Petersburg Philharmonic and others. He excites audiences with repertoires ranging from the baroque to modern.

## ***13 October 2016***

The 2016 World Symphony Series of the KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic closes with a concert of magnum opuses that were left incomplete by their composers. The programme begins with Franz Schubert’s Symphony No. 8 “Unfinished”. Schubert finished two movements of the symphony and then abandoned work on it. Those movements were gifted to a friend but never performed until 37 years after the composer’s death. Since then it has become known as one of the first truly romantic symphonies. It is a work full of passion and lyricism, as the crisp phrases of classical period music are set aside in favour of the new lush style of composition.

The evening then closes with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s final (incomplete) composition – his Requiem Mass in D minor. From the beginning of his work on the piece in October of 1791 Mozart was already quite ill. Mozart succumbed to illness on the 5th of December of that year, leaving only one complete movement and numerous excerpts and scraps of movements (including a lacrimosa that eerily trails off after only eight bars). The work was completed through manuscripts and notes the following year by Mozart’s copyist Franz Xaver Süssmayr. It represents some of Mozart’s finest and most intimate music and is the perfect end to a year of music with the KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic.

## ***Ends***

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