



SÃO PAULO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TO BECOME FIRST SOUTH AMERICAN ORCHESTRA TO TOUR CHINA

ORCHESTRA'S MUSIC DIRECTOR MARIN ALSOP MAKES HER DEBUT IN CHINA

FOUR CITY TOUR TAKES PLACE IN SHANGHAI, JINAN, BEIJING AND HONG KONG, 14 – 22 FEBRUARY 2019

Long recognised as South America's leading symphony orchestra, the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra will make history next month when it becomes the first South American orchestra to tour China.

The Orchestra will visit Shanghai, Jinan, Beijing and Hong Kong presenting two different musical programmes of Brazilian, Russian and European works, all under the baton of its Music Director Marin Alsop who also makes her Chinese debut with this tour.

From its home in one of the world's most beautiful concert halls, the Sala di São Paulo, the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra have consistently toured Europe and North America, made award-winning recordings and live-streamed many of their concerts to viewers around the world. With this tour of China, the Orchestra extends its reach further than ever and showcases the best of Brazilian culture.

Education and outreach have long been central to the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra and its Music Director Marin Alsop and this tour includes a joint rehearsal with local music students and a chamber concert.

Marcelo Lopes, Executive Director of the Orchestra said:

"Everyone at the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra is thrilled at the prospect of touring China. This is an incredible opportunity for us to not only showcase the great musicianship of our players under Marin Alsop but also to bring Brazilian music to audiences that may be unfamiliar with the riches of Villa-Lobos and Camargo Guarnieri. I particularly wish to thank our master sponsor, CBMM (Companhia Brasileira de Metalurgia e Mineração), for their support in making our dream a reality."

Marin Alsop said:

"I'm excited by the huge interest in classical music in China and can't wait to bring the wonderful São Paulo Symphony to these enthusiastic audiences and to work with the students in Hong Kong. It's been a dream of mine to visit China and I'm looking forward to experiencing these four great cities."

CBMM, the Master Sponsor of the tour said:

"CBMM understands that the promotion of education, art and culture is a transformative force for the society, and therefore, as part of its mission, support initiatives of this nature. For CBMM, 2019 marks forty years of our collaboration for the development of the steel industry, through niobium technology, with our partners in China. The support for OSESP's first China tour symbolizes part of the celebration of this milestone by promoting an icon of the musical art Made in Brazil."

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Editors' Notes

The São Paulo Symphony Orchestra's tour of China has been made possible thanks to the generosity of its Master Sponsor, CBMM. Other sponsors of the tour are: Vale; Klabin, BMA - Barbosa Mussnich e Aragão Advogados, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil and Forum Macao.

Full itinerary of the tour:

14.02 Shanghai Grand Theatre, Programme 2

15.02 Shandong Grand Theatre, Jinan, Programme 1

16.02 National Centre for the Performing Arts, Beijing, Programme 1

20.02 'Side by Side' rehearsal with students of Hong Kong conducted by Marin Alsop

20.02 OSESP Quartet, St. Andrew's Church, Kowloon, Hong Kong. Programme: Villa-Lobos String Quartets No. 11 and Tchaikovsky String Quartet No. 1.

21.02 Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Programme 1

22.02 Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Programme 2

Full programme details:

Programme 1

Prokofiev, First Symphony, the 'Classical Symphony'

Paganini, Violin Concerto No.1

Guarnieri, Vila Rica Suite, excerpts

R Strauss, Der Rosenkavalier Suite

Ning Feng, violin

Programme 2

Bernstein, Candide, Overture

Villa-Lobos, Bachianas Brasileiras No.4

Ginastera, Four Dances, 'Estância'

Rimsky-Korsakov, Scheherazade

São Paulo Symphony Orchestra

Founded in 1954, the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra is internationally renowned for its musical excellence and as a major force in the cultural life of both the state of São Paulo and Brazil as a whole, promoting deep cultural and social changes.

The Sala São Paulo was opened in 1999 and, in the following years, Symphonic, Chamber, Youth and Children's Choirs were created, along with the Centre for Musical Documentation, the Educational Programs, the Creators from Brazil publishing office and the Music Academy.

The creation of Osesp Foundation, in 2005, represents a milestone in the orchestra's history. With former Brazilian president Fernando Henrique Cardoso heading up the Administration Council, the Foundation puts into practice new management standards that have become benchmarks in the Brazilian cultural environment.

Appointed in 2011, Marin Alsop has toured with the Orchestra to London's BBC Proms and Royal Festival Hall; the Edinburgh and Lucerne Festivals, as well as many other leading international venues such as Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Berlin's Philharmonie Hall and the Salle Pleyel in Paris. Recordings include the complete Prokofiev symphonies for Naxos.

The São Paulo Symphony Orchestra and the Sala São Paulo are institutions created and mainly supported by the Government of the São Paulo State.

www.osesp.art.br/home

Marin Alsop

Marin Alsop is an inspiring and powerful voice in the international music scene, a Music Director of vision and distinction who passionately believes that "music has the power to change lives". She is recognised across the world for her innovative approach to programming and for her deep commitment to education and to the development of audiences of all ages.

Her outstanding success as Music Director of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) since 2007 has been recognised by two extensions in her tenure, now confirmed until 2021. As part of her artistic leadership in Baltimore, Alsop has created several bold initiatives: 'OrchKids', for the city's most deprived young people, and the BSO Academy and Rusty Musicians for adult amateur musicians. Alsop became Principal Conductor and Music Director of the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra (OSESF) in 2012, where she continues to steer their highly creative programming and outreach activities; her contract is now extended to the end of 2019, when she becomes Conductor of Honour.

In September 2019, Alsop becomes Chief Conductor of the ORF Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra.

Marin Alsop made history as the first female conductor of the BBC's Last Night of the Proms, which she returned to conduct in 2015.

Among her many awards and academic positions, Marin Alsop is the only conductor to receive the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship and was recently appointed Director of Graduate Conducting at the Johns Hopkins Peabody Institute. She attended the Juilliard School and Yale University, who awarded her an Honorary Doctorate in 2017. Her conducting career was launched in 1989, when she was the first woman to be awarded the Koussevitzky Conducting Prize from the Tanglewood Music Center.

www.marinalsop.com

