

# THE NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The NSO celebrates its 75th birthday this year

Formed as a traditional symphony orchestra, the NSO's last few years under its hardworking and visionary music director, Richard Cock, have seen it retain not only the best of traditions but also ploughing new and exciting fields. This highly successful direction has reaped a rich harvest as hundreds of thousands from all walks of life, discover that orchestral music – 'classical' or pops – can be fun, entertaining and rewarding. However, while coming up with fresh ideas and exploring new territory, the NSO treasures its long-standing association with such successful events as the annual Last Night of the Proms.

In this its birthday year the orchestra – which in the past appeared in centres as far afield as Cape Town and Cairo – will perform for the first time in each of the nine provinces of South Africa. This ambitious itinerary got off to a glowing start in March when the NSO not only performed at the Klein Karoo Festival in Oudtshoorn but also presented its exciting outreach programme to hundreds of youngsters in the area. Other events this year include concerts and outreach in Magoebaskloof and Potchefstroom, and trips to Bloemfontein and Kimberley, while in Gauteng the orchestra continues to present symphony concerts twice a week in season, and big outdoor events such as the June Festival at Emmarentia and the annual Musical Fireworks.

The fact that this versatile orchestra – newly independent and battling for financial resources – achieves so much and is seen as the 'people's orchestra', is undoubtedly due to the loyal support of the music-loving public and its generous sponsors.

## SYMPHONY CONCERT

**Conductor** Richard Cock  
**Soloist** Piet Koornhof

### Programme

*Don Giovanni Overture* Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)  
*Violin Concerto No 5 in A major, K219* Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

### INTERVAL

*Symphony No 9 in E minor, Opus 95 ('New World' Symphony)* Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)

**Piet Koornhof** made his concert debut at the age of nine while he was a pupil of Alan Solomon. Since then he has performed extensively as recitalist, chamber musician and soloist with orchestras locally and abroad. He was awarded scholarships by amongst others Samro, Anglo American Corporation, the Aspen Music School, and the Juilliard School where he studied with Dorothy DeLay and took part in masterclasses with Itzhak Perlman, Pinchas Zuckerman and Segiu Luca. In 1994 he was the first South African to undertake an extensive recital tour of Russia with pianist Vladimir Yurigin-Klevke. In 1998 he presented masterclasses and performed at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand, and this year he will perform at the Palaces of St Petersburg International Chamber Music Festival, and will appear as soloist with the Moscow Chamber Orchestra. He is founder and organiser of the South African Chamber Music Society which regularly features top South African performers, and he currently teaches at Potchefstroom University, where he is a member of the Potch Trio with Francois du Toit and Human Coetzee.

## FESTIVAL FINALE

**Conductor** Richard Cock  
**Soloists** Sonja Amelio  
Musa Nkuna  
Eddie Motlhakoane  
Mfanafuthi Hlophe

### Programme

*Die Fledermaus Overture* Johann Strauss (1825-1899)  
*Hungarian Dance No 5* Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)  
*Invitation to the Dance* Carl Maria von Weber (1786-1826)  
*Scherzo (from A Midsummer Night's Dream)* Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)  
**Soloist** Sonia Amelio  
*Emperor Waltz* Johann Strauss (1825-1899)  
*Saltarello (from Symphony No 4)* Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)  
**Soloist** Sonia Amelio



### MUSIC

**Monument Theatre**  
Symphony Concert  
Sat July 10  
19:00  
Interval: 20 minutes  
Duration  
1 hour 35 minutes

**Monument Theatre**  
Festival Finalé  
Sunday July 11  
19:00  
Interval: 20 minutes  
Duration  
1 hour 35 minutes