

DATE AND TIME : JUNE, MONDAY 2ND, 2008 AT 8PM

THAILAND CULTURAL CENTER (GRAND AUDITORIUM) >> MRT Thailand Cultural Center

Admission fees : 1200 / 1000 / 800 / 400 THB (100 THB for students)

Ticket Purchase : www.thaiticketmajor.com / on site

Collaboration between France and Thailand is the core symbol of the “La Fête” 2008. Therefore the Festival proudly presents, as the grand opening, a great classical music concert performed by the Bangkok Symphony Orchestra and conducted by Michaël Cousteau. Invited for the second time to lead the Orchestra, Michaël Cousteau has returned to Bangkok accompanied by the famous soprano singer Sophie Marin-Degor. Together with almost 60 Thai musicians, they will play celebrated masterpieces of French classical music.

This concert is dedicated to the memory of Her Royal Highness Princess Galyani Vadhana Krom Luang Naradhiwas Rajanagarindra, in the presence of Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

Musical programme

First Part		INTERVAL	Second Part	
Maurice Ravel	A Tribute in memory of HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana <i>Pavane for a Dead Princess and Child song</i> (extract from <i>The Bewitched Child</i>)		Charles Gounod	<i>First Symphony in D major</i>
Hector Berlioz	<i>Villanelle, The Wraith of a Rose, The unknown Land</i> (Three melodies extracts from <i>Summer nights</i> , Opus 7)		Charles Gounod	<i>King of Thule and Jewel songs</i> (extract from the <i>Opera Faust</i>)
Claude Debussy	<i>Clair de Lune</i> , extract from <i>La Suite Bergamasque</i>			
Georges Bizet	<i>I say myself nothing daunts me...</i> (Michaela's Aria, extract from <i>Carmen</i>)			
Gabriel Faure	<i>Sicilian</i> (extract from <i>Pélleas et Mélisande</i> , Suite for Orchestra)			
André Messager, Jacques Offenbach	Three operettas extracts : <i>Julia songs</i> (extract from <i>Passionément</i>), <i>I have two lovers</i> (extract from <i>L'amour masqué</i>), <i>Griserie</i> (extract from Offenbach's <i>La Périchole</i>)			

Michaël Cousteau

Michaël Cousteau has learned conducting from Jean-Sébastien Béreau, Julius Kalmar and Karl Oesterreiche and has been assisting renowned conductors such as Zoltan Pesko in Düsseldorf, Gary Bertini in Paris and Emmanuel Krivine in Lyon. During his career, he has regularly accompanied the greatest French soloists and conducted major orchestras like the “Orchestre National de Lyon”, the “Orchestre National de Montpellier Languedoc-Roussillon”, and the “Symphony and Lyrics Orchestra of Nancy”. Laureate of the programme of Culturesfrance, *One Conductor, One Orchestra*, Michaël Cousteau has been acclaimed in many countries and he has conducted in Mascate the “Royal Oman Symphony Orchestra”, in Minsk “The National Belarussian Radio and Television Orchestra” and “The National Philharmonic Orchestra of Belarussia”.

Sophie Marin-Degor

Soloist from the Master Choir of Radio-France, Sophie Marin-Degor indulges herself in many other passions: music, dance and drama. She had performed for two years at the “Comédie Française” in Paris before dedicating herself to contemporary opera with J.C. Malgoire. With him, she took on leading roles in Opera and baroque oratorio productions (Haëndel, Lully...), before specializing in Mozartean opera. She has then worked and recorded with famous conductors like Gardiner, Jacobs, Christie, Nagano, and Harnoncourt. In Germany, she has been one of the 3 nominees for “best lyric artist of the year” by “Opernwelt” in 2003 for *Marianne* and for *Armide* in 2004. This season (2007/2008), she has sang *Mélisande* directed by Olivier Py and conducted by Marc Minkowski in Moscow and *La Chauve-Souris* at the “Capitole” in Toulouse, in Monte Carlo and the German version in Lausanne. Her discography includes more than twenty CDs, the latest being *Polyphemus* by Jean Cras (nominated for best lyric record of the year 2003).

Bangkok Symphony Orchestra

The Bangkok Symphony Orchestra has the privilege to enjoy the Royal Patronage of the Crown Prince of Thailand, His Royal Highness Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn and is the most prestigious symphony orchestra of the Kingdom since its performance at the Opening Ceremony of the 13th Asian Games in Bangkok. As Thailand's finest *Cultural Ambassador*, the Bangkok Symphony Orchestra performs a broad repertoire of classical and contemporary music, while preserving the musical heritage of Thailand. Not only the recording of Thai classics, such as “Khamen-Sai-Yoke” and “Bua Kao”, but also compositions based on the Buddhist story “Mahajanaka Symphony” and “The Story of Mahajanaka”, in honour to His Majesty the King, illustrate its commitment. As the seasons and encounters go by, the 70 professional musicians of the Bangkok Symphony Orchestra have expanded their talents under the baton of many internationally-renowned guest conductors including Loris Tjeknavorian, Takuo Yuasa, Massimo Paris, Paul Nadler, Zheng Xiaoying and Mickaël Cousteau in 2007, alongside guest soloists such as Peter Donohoe, Anthony Camden and Dang Thai Son.