

## Press Release

### Passing the Baton

Founder and Conductor of the Qatar Youth Choir and Qatar Junior Choir, Alena Pyne, will depart Doha this summer, leaving the choirs under the direction of the Qatar Music Academy.

The two choirs, established in September 2013, have developed and flourished under Pyne's direction, so that today, all singers are competent at reading music, with the older, world-class Youth Choir successfully performing and recording demanding repertoire. Both choirs have presented concerts throughout Europe. In July, Qatar Youth Choir will undertake its final tour under the Pyne's leadership, competing in the 26<sup>th</sup> International Choral Competition in Preveza, Greece.

Qatar Music Academy is a center of national excellence for music in Qatar and the region. The Academy offers thoughtfully and professionally developed music programs in Western and Arab Music that adhere to the highest international educational standards. The Academy's Director, Zlatan Fazlic, an established choral conductor for over 25 years in the UK, prior to his arrival to Doha, will lead the choir into 2023 and beyond.

Pyne says, "I am thrilled that Qatar Music Academy and its parent Qatar Foundation have supported this move. The Academy is the best place for the choirs to grow, and I am confident they will continue to go from strength to strength under Mr Fazlic's leadership. Not only is he imminently qualified and experienced as a choral conductor, he has a great sense of humour and spirit of fun that the singers will connect with instantly. I wish the singers to continue to be as kind to each other as they are now, to support and encourage each other and their new conductor, and to become outstanding and capable young musicians and leaders."

"We are delighted to have three leading youth ensembles under one roof here at Qatar Music Academy: Senior Takht, Qatar Youth Orchestra and Qatar Youth Choir. We are already looking forward to some enjoyable and challenging ensemble music-making and showcasing some great combined concerts," said Mr Fazlic.

New members wishing to join the choirs should email: [info@qyj-choir.com](mailto:info@qyj-choir.com) or [zfazlic@qf.org.qa](mailto:zfazlic@qf.org.qa) for further information.

Pyne wishes to acknowledge Music Square, the German International School Doha, Doha College, the Swiss International School Qatar, the Hamilton International School, Millennium Hotel Group, Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra and the Embassy communities for their immense support and encouragement these last eight years.

The choirs will give their first public concert since the pandemic on Sunday 12 June in the theatre at Hamilton International School. Tickets to 'Tales of Yore' are available at <https://www.q-tickets.com/Events/EventsDetails/9270/tales-of-yore>

This will be Alena Pyne's final concert in Doha.

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If you need more information please contact: 5578 0355