**Henry Purcell's Last Opera**

**The Indian Queen**

**Upcoming concert of the Jerusalem Baroque Orchestra, conductor: Andrew Parrott**

The Jerusalem Baroque Orchestra’s upcoming concert will give the stage to Henry Purcell, the greatest 17th century English composer, with a program to include scenes from his last semi-opera “The Indian Queen”, alongside the Israeli premiere of "Ode on the Death of Henry Purcell", written by Jeremiah Clarke. Soloists from Israel and abroad will include Yuval Oren, Simon Lillystone, Vlad Shmichkevich and Yair Polishook. The orchestra will be conducted by JBO honorary conductor Andrew Parrott (UK).

**29.11 - Zucker Auditorium, Heikhal Hatarbut, Tel Aviv (20:00)**

**1.12 - The Greek Orthodox Church of Haifa (13:00)**

**2.12 - The International YMCA Jerusalem (20:00)**

# "The most overwhelming music I've ever put on stage", said prominent director Peter Sellars, about "The Indian Queen", the last opera written by Henry Purcell, who died at the very young age of 36 before completing it. Despite his early death, Henry Purcell's music is undoubtedly inherent in the DNA of British music. This is evident in the music of rock bands from the ‘70s and ‘80s, such as The Who and The Petshop Boys, who integrated Purcell’s music into their performances and, of course, in the music of British composers from Purcell’s time and into the 20th century, among them Benjamin Britten and Michael Nyman. Purcell’s music has been incorporated into a huge variety of films, including "The Clockwork Orange", "The Draughtman's Contract", "Pride and Prejudice" and "Kramer vs. Kramer". Even in his time, his theatrical works were a constant source of popular hits. “The Indian Queen" was intended to be another link in the success chain, but a production crisis in the theater stood in the way of its success. In the end, Purcell died towards the end of writing the piece and his brother, Daniel, completed the music of the final act.

"The Indian Queen" is the story of King Ynca of Peru and his daughter Orazia, of Zempoalla, the tyrannical ruler of Mexico and her son Acacis, of the army minister Montezuma and of the sorcerer Ismeron. The subject of the play - the disintegration of a legal dynasty from which the monarchy was robbed - reflects political events of that period in England, the days of Charles II's return to power. The Jerusalem Baroque Orchestra will perform scenes from "The Indian Queen" and a number of much loved compositions by the composer: Chaconny in G and Three Parts upon a Ground. In addition, the "Ode on the Death of Henry Purcell" by Jeremiah Clarke will be performed in its Israeli premiere. This extraordinary work, full of direct- and indirect references to Purcell's style, was written by the young composer who, soon after that, took his own life. The JBO will be conducted by Maestro Andrew Parrott (UK); soloists will include soprano Yuval Oren, alto Simon Lillystone (UK), tenor Vlad Shmichkevich (Russia/Ireland) and bass Yair Polishook.

Two of the concerts will be preceded by a lecture in Hebrew by historian Oded Feuerstein: "Return of the Merry Monarch - England and the Restoration". In 1660, following a decade of dreary Republicanism, the English parliament called for Stuart monarch Charles II to assume his deposed father's throne and all of England erupted into a celebration of music, song and color. In Oded Feuerstein’s lecture, we willl take a look into the rich history of 17th century England, Charles II's colorful character, his heirs and the real legacy of the Restoration.

The lecture will take place at 19:15, prior to the Tel Aviv and Jerusalem concerts. Entrance to the lectures is free of charge to orchestra subscribers and NIS 30 for the general public.

**Concert No. 2**

**The Indian Queen**

Andrew Parrott, conductor

Soloists – Yuval Oren, Simon Lillystone, Vlad Shmichkevich, Yair Polishook.

Henry Purcell's famous semi-opera "The Indian Queen", with its songs, beautiful choral sections and orchestral pieces, will be performed alongside other instrumental works written by Henry Purcell, a composer who has been called the "English Orpheus". We will also hear the first Israeli performance of Jeremiah Clarke’s “Ode on the Death of Henry Purcell”.

Thursday, 29/11/2018 at 20:00 – Zucker Hall, Heichal Hatarbut, Tel Aviv

Saturday, 1/12/2018 at 20:00 – Catholic Church, Mar Alias, Haifa

Sunday, 2/12/2018 at 20:00 – International YMCA Jerusalem (the audience is invited for the lighting of the first Hanukkah candle)

Ticket prices: NIS 80-160

Discounts for senior citizens, students and children

Lecture – NIS 30; free of charge to JBO subscribers.

For purchasing tickets: [www.jbo.co.il](http://www.jbo.co.il) or \*6119

Other inquiries: 02-6715888