

The Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra announce their 2016/17 season with a host of internationally renowned guest artists, including **Martha Argerich, Maxim Vengerov, Valery Gergiev, Sir Andrés Schiff, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Yefim Bronfman, Janine Jansen & Lang Lang**



Season highlights at a glance:

- **New collaborations:** Martha Argerich, Karina Canellakis, Cédric Tiberghien, Janine Jansen, Anne Sofie von Otter, Viktoria Mullova, Yefim Bronfman and Momo Kodama
- **Return appearances:** Maxim Vengerov, Alison Balsom, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Valery Gergiev, Mark Simpson, Lang Lang, Sir Andrés Schiff and Martin Roscoe
- Focus on the symphonic, concerto and chamber works of **Brahms** and **Beethoven**
- **New & contemporary music** includes two world premieres from winners of the Oxford Philharmonic Composers' Workshop, Giulia Monducci & Eugene Birman
- Performances with two celebrated Oxford choirs, **The Choir of New College & The Choir of The Queen's College**

Established in 1998, the **Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra** (formerly Oxford Philomusica) under **Music Director Marios Papadopoulos MBE**, introduce a 2016/17 season featuring a host of exceptional guest artist appearances, many of whom are returning to the orchestra for a second time or more. With music from the age of Purcell through to two world premiere performances by emerging University of Oxford student composers, the season is presented across a number of Oxford's historic venues, including the orchestra's home in Sir Christopher Wren's 17th century **Sheldonian Theatre**.

Returning guest artists include **Alison Balsom** who opens the season performing Hummel's Trumpet Concerto, and **Maxim Vengerov** continues his deepening association as the Oxford Philharmonic's **Artist in Residence**. In the first of two appearances this season, Vengerov performs Beethoven's Violin Concerto followed by the world premiere of a new violin concerto by **Eugene Birman**, which was selected during the orchestra's annual Composers' Workshop in 2015. A former student of John Adams, Birman has already written for the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra and BBC Singers. Vengerov returns in the spring to play Mozart, first in partnership with Oxford Philharmonic **Concertmaster Natalia Lomeiko** for the C major Concertone for two violins followed by the fifth concerto, 'Turkish'. **Peter Donohoe** brings Mendelssohn's rarely performed second piano concerto to audiences in Cheltenham and Oxford followed by the return of **Vladimir Ashkenazy**, Patron of the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra and whose early support was instrumental to the



orchestra's foundation. Ashkenazy conducts the orchestra's Solo Cellist **Mats Lidström** in Lidström's own *Rigoletto Fantasy* for Cello and Orchestra. The same month, Ashkenazy and the orchestra will be in the studio for two recording projects, the first including Shostakovich's Cello Concerto, again with Lidström as soloist, for release on the BIS label, followed by a premiere recording of composer **Nimrod Borenstein's** Violin Concerto for Chandos. Two major appearances complete the roster of returning main season artists: with a programme to be announced, **Valery Gergiev** steps once more on the podium in Oxford following his triumphant Strauss/Mendelssohn concert in 2013; and **Lang Lang**, whose first appearance in 2012 similarly thrilled both audience and orchestra alike, returns with Rachmaninov's second piano concerto.



The orchestra will enjoy a number of **debut collaborations** this season with stellar artists including **Martha Argerich** who performs Prokofiev's third piano concerto in the first concert of 2017. The dynamic winner of the 2016 Sir Georg Solti Conducting Award, **Karina Canellakis**, then joins for a programme of French masterworks including Debussy's *La Mer* and Saint-Saëns's fifth piano concerto with **Cédric Tiberghien** as soloist. Beforehand Canellakis will give a pre-concert talk with journalist and broadcaster **Edward Seckerson**. A highly anticipated first visit by multi-award-winning **Janine Jansen** playing the Brahms Violin Concerto follows in February. In an all-Schubert programme, celebrated mezzo-soprano **Anne Sofie von Otter** will sing a selection of the composer's orchestrated lieder in March. With only one song arranged by Schubert himself, it fell to fellow composers such as Berlioz, Brahms, Liszt, Britten and Reger who, over time, added to the collection. In a programme also featuring Music Director Marios Papadopoulos conducting Sibelius's fifth symphony, **Viktoria Mullova** first joins the Oxford Philharmonic for three works by Estonian composer Arvo Pärt: *Passacaglia*, *Fratres* and *Tabula Rasa* – the latter seeing the Philharmonic's **Concertmaster, Carmine Lauri**, join Mullova as second soloist.

The Oxford Philharmonic became the **Orchestra in Residence at The University of Oxford** in 2002, the first of its kind at such a prestigious seat of learning. As part of its residency and complementing a primarily academically focused faculty, the orchestra provides the student body with a variety of ways to engage with its world-class orchestral players and with visiting guest artists in masterclasses. In addition, and under the banner of the Oxford Philharmonic's **Academy** programme of education initiatives, the orchestra holds an annual **Composers' Workshop**, offers a **Young Artists' Platform**, an **Apprenticeship Scheme** and undertakes collaborations onstage and in the studio with numerous college choirs. The annual **Concerto Competition** final featuring local young soloists and the **Oxfordshire County Youth Orchestra** will take place in February 2017.

The orchestra performs and records regularly with the historic university choirs of Oxford. This season sees collaborations with **The Choir of New College** and conductor Robert Quinney in a performance of Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* with **Nicholas Mulroy** as the evangelist; and an all-Mozart evening with Oxford alumnus **Mark Simpson** returning to perform the Clarinet Concerto under the baton of Owen Rees followed by the Requiem Mass with four leading soloists and **The Choir of The Queen's College**.

With an international career as both pianist and conductor, **Marios Papadopoulos** regularly steps between the podium and the keyboard. In May 2017 a special Beethoven celebration will honour Oxford's 70th anniversary twinning with the German city of Bonn and features the Philharmonic's Music Director directing the *Emperor* concerto from the keyboard.

Marios Papadopoulos established the **Oxford Piano Festival** in 1999. With its Patron

Alfred Brendel KBE and President **Sir Andrés Schiff**, the Festival attracts leading players and pedagogues to Oxford, mixing masterclasses, recitals across a variety of venues, lectures and concerto performances with the Oxford Philharmonic. Each year, a selection of leading young pianists have the opportunity to immerse themselves in performance and learning from great names of the keyboard world. The 2017 Oxford Piano Festival line-up will be announced in full later in the season but two major performances in August 2017 will include **Sir Andrés Schiff** performing Book I of Bach's *The Well-Tempered Clavier* and **Yefim Bronfman** performing Brahms's Piano Concerto No.2.

There are numerous opportunities each season to hear Oxford Philharmonic players step out in solo, chamber and ensemble roles – a strand of programming the Music Director has always encouraged. In July 2017 **The Strings of the Oxford Philharmonic** will perform in the unique setting of Merton College Chapel with a programme including Grieg's *Holberg Suite*. The **Chamber Series** visits venues such as the Ashmolean Museum and the Holywell Music Room, Europe's oldest purpose-built concert hall, with music ranging from Schubert, Shostakovich and Messiaen's profound *Quartet for the End of Time*. Led by Alasdair Malloy, three **Funomusica family concerts** will take place at Oxford Town Hall during the season.

Marios Papadopoulos MBE, Music Director, comments:

"From world premieres to great masterworks, from emerging talent to towering musical personalities, from intimate chamber music to vast symphonic voyages, I look forward to every single note."

The Oxford Philharmonic's main orchestral venue, the Grade I listed **Sheldonian Theatre**, was built between 1664 and 1668 after a design by Christopher Wren. Handel conducted the first performance of his third Oratorio *Athalia* there in 1733 and Haydn's Symphony No.92, subsequently nicknamed the 'Oxford', was performed here in the presence of the composer following his acceptance of a Doctorate. The Theatre seats 800 people and provides a unique and engaging experience for audience and musicians alike.

Maxim Vengerov on the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra: *"The orchestral players in the Oxford Philharmonic never fall into a routine of just coming to their daily job, which is quite rare. You can see that the musicians are in love with music. So of course for me as a soloist, it has been a wonderful experience. What a privilege for me to play in this great majestic Sheldonian theatre and with such a fantastic orchestra."*

Review: Barbican Centre, June 2016 – Sibelius & Tchaikovsky
"The Oxford Philharmonic and its founder Marios Papadopoulos made an infrequent visit to London and gave a concert of such vigour and splendour that I was quite blown away."

Classical Source, Edward Clark, June 2016

2016/17 Season

25 October 2016

Sheldonian Theatre, 7:30pm
Haydn *Symphony No. 44 in E minor, Hob. I:44, 'Trauer'*
Hummel *Trumpet Concerto in E major, S. 49*
Mozart *Symphony No. 36 in C major, K. 425, 'Linz'*
Alison Balsom *trumpet*
Marios Papadopoulos *conductor*
Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra

Beethoven *Egmont Overture, Op. 84*

Beethoven *Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 61*

Eugene Birman *Violin Concerto (world premiere)*

Beethoven *Symphony No. 8 in F major, Op. 93*

Maxim Vengerov *violin*

Marios Papadopoulos *conductor*
Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra

10 November 2016

Sheldonian Theatre, 7:30pm

17 November 2016

Cheltenham Town Hall, 7:30pm

Beethoven *Egmont Overture Op. 84*
Mendelssohn *Piano Concerto No. 2 in D minor, Op. 40*

Beethoven *Symphony No. 3 in E flat major, Op. 55, 'Eroica'*

Peter Donohoe piano

Marios Papadopoulos conductor

Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra

19 November 2016

Sheldonian Theatre, 7:30pm

Beethoven *Leonora Overture No. 3, Op. 72b*

Mendelssohn *Piano Concerto No. 2 in D minor, Op. 40*

Mendelssohn *Symphony No. 3 in A minor, Op. 56, 'Scottish'*

Peter Donohoe piano

Marios Papadopoulos conductor

Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra

7 December 2016

Sheldonian Theatre, 7:30pm

Brahms *Academic Festival Overture, Op. 30*

Mats Lidström *Rigoletto Fantasy for Cello and Orchestra*

Brahms *Symphony No. 2 in D major, Op. 73*

Mats Lidström cello

Vladimir Ashkenazy conductor

Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra

15 December 2016

Sheldonian Theatre, 7:30pm

Bach *Christmas Oratorio, BWV 248, Cantatas Nos. 1, 2 and 3*

Nicholas Mulroy Evangelist

The Choir of New College, Oxford

Robert Quinney conductor

Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra

21 January 2017

Sheldonian Theatre, 7:30pm

Prokofiev *Piano Concerto No. 3 in C major, Op. 26*

Guilia Monducci *Versus* (world premiere)

Stravinsky *The Firebird Suite (1919)*

Martha Argerich piano

Marios Papadopoulos conductor

Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra

28 January 2017

Sheldonian Theatre, 7:30pm

Saint-Saëns *Piano Concerto No. 5 in*

F major, Op. 103, 'Egyptian'

Debussy *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune, L. 86*

Debussy *La Mer, L. 109*

Cédric Tiberghien piano

Karina Canellakis conductor

Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra

16 February 2017

Sheldonian Theatre, 7:30pm

Brahms *Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 77*

Brahms *Symphony No. 4 in E minor, Op. 98*

Janine Jansen violin

Marios Papadopoulos conductor

Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra

6 March 2017

Sheldonian Theatre, 7.30pm

PROGRAMME TO BE ANNOUNCED

Valery Gergiev conductor

Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra

18 March 2017

Sheldonian Theatre, 7:30pm

Schubert *Rosamunde Overture, D. 644*

Schubert *Orchestrated Lieder*

Schubert *Symphony No. 9 in C major, D. 944, 'Great'*

Anne Sofie von Otter mezzo-soprano

Marios Papadopoulos conductor

Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra

13 April 2017

Sheldonian Theatre, 7:30pm

Mozart *Clarinet Concerto in A major, K. 622*

Mozart *Requiem Mass in D minor, K. 626*

Mark Simpson clarinet

Sophie Juncker soprano

Rowan Hellier mezzo-soprano

Jorge Navarro Colorado tenor

David Shipley bass

The Choir of The Queen's College, Oxford

Owen Rees conductor

Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra

23 April 2017

Sheldonian Theatre, 7pm

Mozart *Concertone for Two Violins in C major, K. 190*

Mozart *Violin Concerto No. 5 in A*

major, K. 219, 'Turkish'
Beethoven *Symphony No. 4 in B flat major Op. 60*
Maxim Vengerov *violin*
Natalia Lomeiko *violin*
Marios Papadopoulos *conductor*
Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra

27 May 2017

Sheldonian Theatre, 7:30pm
Beethoven *Piano Concerto No. 5 in E flat major, Op. 73, 'Emperor'*
Beethoven *Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67*
Marios Papadopoulos
piano/conductor
Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra

8 June 2017

Sheldonian Theatre, 7:30pm
Arvo Pärt *Passacaglia, Fratres and Tabula Rasa*
Sibelius *Symphony No. 5 in E flat major, Op. 82*
Viktoria Mullova *violin*
Carmine Lauri *violin*
Marios Papadopoulos *conductor*
Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra

1 July 2017

Sheldonian Theatre, 7:30pm
Handel *Solomon: Arrival of the Queen of Sheba, HWV 67*
Bach *Concerto for Oboe and Violin in C minor, BWV 1060*
Telemann *Orchestral Suite in C major, TWV 55:C3, 'Wassermusik'*
Vivaldi *Violin Concerto in E flat major, Op. 8 No. 5, 'La tempesta di mare'*
Bach *Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 in G major, BWV 1049*
Handel *Water Music Suite No. 3 in G major, HWV 350*
Soloists of the Oxford Philharmonic
Marios Papadopoulos *conductor*

8 July 2017

Sheldonian Theatre, 7pm
Rachmaninov *Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, Op. 18*
Tchaikovsky *Symphony No. 4 in F minor, Op. 36*
Lang Lang *piano*
Marios Papadopoulos *conductor*
Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra

15 July 2017

Merton College, 7:30pm
Elgar *Serenade for Strings in E minor, Op. 20*
Britten *Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge, Op. 10*
Bach *Violin Concerto in A minor, BWV 1040*
Purcell *Chacony in G minor, Z. 730*
Grieg *Holberg Suite, Op. 40*
Yuri Zhislin *director*
The Strings of the Oxford Philharmonic

5 August 2017

Sheldonian Theatre, 8pm
JS Bach *The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book I*
Sir Andrés Schiff *piano*

6 August 2017

Sheldonian Theatre, 8pm
Schumann *Symphony No. 2 in C major, Op. 61*
Brahms *Piano Concerto No. 2 in B flat Major, Op. 83*
Yefim Bronfman *piano*
Marios Papadopoulos *conductor*
Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra

CHAMBER SERIES

9 October 2016

Randolph Sculpture Gallery,
Ashmolean Museum, 7pm
Schubert *String Quartet No. 15 in G major, D. 887*
Schubert *String Quartet No. 14 in D minor 'Death and the Maiden', D. 810*
Soloists of the Oxford Philharmonic

22 January 2017

TS Eliot Theatre, Merton College,
3pm
Brahms *Piano Trio No. 3 in C minor, Op. 101*
Shostakovich *Piano Trio No. 2 in E minor, Op. 67*
Beethoven *Piano Trio in B flat major, Op. 97, 'Archduke'*
Natalia Lomeiko *violin*
Mats Lidström *cello*
Martin Roscoe *piano*

3 June 2017

Holywell Music Room, 7.30pm
Ravel *Piano Trio in A minor, M. 67*
Messiaen *Quatuor pour la fin du temps*
Momo Kodama *piano*
Soloists of the Oxford Philharmonic

FUNOMUSICA FAMILY CONCERTS

23 October 2016

Oxford Town Hall, 3pm
Just the Job!
Suitable ages 4-8
Alasdair Malloy *presenter*
Musicians from the Oxford Philharmonic

Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra

Philharmonic Orchestra

5 February 2017

Oxford Town Hall, 3pm
Time Travellers
Suitable ages 8-12
Alasdair Malloy *presenter*
Musicians from the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra

5 March 2017

Oxford Town Hall, 3pm
A World at Your Feet
Suitable ages 4-8
Alasdair Malloy *presenter*
Musicians from the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra

The Oxford Philharmonic is one of the leading orchestras in the UK. Praised as 'excellent' by Gramophone Magazine and 'thoroughly impressive' by BBC Music Magazine, the orchestra's reputation is based on the uncompromising artistic standards of its founder and music director, Marios Papadopoulos, and maintained by some of the finest musicians in the UK. The Oxford Philharmonic's achievements include an extensive concert season at the Sheldonian Theatre; outstanding recordings of Haydn's *Creation* with New College Choir, and the Handel/Mendelssohn *Acis and Galatea* with Christ Church; major celebrations of Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven; hugely popular family concerts; and its annual Piano Festival and Summer Academy. Since 2002, the Oxford Philharmonic has enjoyed a close association with the University of Oxford as its first-ever Orchestra in Residence. Beyond its home region, the orchestra appears often in London and other parts of the UK and is rapidly expanding its overseas touring programme and its recording catalogue. 2016 saw the premiere radio broadcast on Classic FM of new studio recordings of the violin concerti of Brahms and Sibelius by the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra, its Artist in Residence Maxim Vengerov and Music Director Marios Papadopoulos.

Marios Papadopoulos

Marios Papadopoulos is the founder, music director and driving force behind the Oxford Philharmonic, Orchestra in Residence at the University of Oxford. Described by The Times at his 1975 piano recital debut as 'having all the attributes of one of the world's greatest players', Papadopoulos has gone on to enjoy an international career both as pianist and conductor. He has appeared as soloist with and conducted many of the world's great orchestras, and worked with a host of eminent musicians. His recordings of the Beethoven Sonatas have been set on a level with Schnabel, Brendel, Barenboim and Kempf (Daily Telegraph, Classic FM Magazine Critics' Choice). Papadopoulos was awarded an MBE in the Queen's 2014 New Year's Honours List for services to music in Oxford.

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