

Beethoven's overlooked contemporaries celebrated in a six-concert chamber series curated by Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra cellist Mats Lidström



Friday 6 – Saturday 7 March
Friday 27 – Sunday 29 November
Holywell Music Room, Oxford

Beethoven and his Colleagues

Beethoven, Diabelli, Haydn, Hummel, Kreutzer, Mozart, Paganini
Ries, Rolla, Romberg, Schubert, Spohr, Viotti & Wölfl

Pairing chamber works by Beethoven with those of his contemporaries, a six-concert chamber series curated by cellist **Mats Lidström** uncovers the overlooked music that surrounded and influenced the great composer during his lifetime.

The ***Beethoven and his Colleagues*** recital series takes place in Oxford's Holywell Music Room over two weekends, **6-7 March** and **27-29 November**, and is part of the year-long Oxford Beethoven Festival 2020, created by Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra, where Lidström holds the position of Solo Cello.

Mats Lidström said:

"Beethoven's music belongs to what is crucial in art and creativity in the world we know, but that does not lessen the importance of the musicians and composers around him. They were highly creative and utterly productive, and seem to have lived by an unquestionable passion for music. We are here to uncover the music, and calibre of music, which Beethoven himself encountered in his daily life."

The series interweaves Beethoven's Sonatas for Violin and Cello with chamber works by his contemporaries, especially those whose works have evaded posterity. Many were close friends of Beethoven, including lifelong friend **Hummel**, Beethoven's student and later assistant **Ferdinand Ries**, the virtuosic pianist **Joseph Wölfl**, or violinist **Louis Spohr**.

Colleagues included **Bernhard Romberg**, who turned down the composer's offer of premiering a Cello Concerto, spurring Beethoven to instead develop his Triple Concerto. **Alessandro Rolla's** love for the composer's music saw Beethoven's name firmly established in Italy.

Some are known today only through their immortalisation by Beethoven's hand: **Rodolphe Kreutzer** was the dedicatee of Beethoven's 'Kreutzer' Sonata (though he never performed the work, originally dedicated to George Bridgetower), and **Anton Diabelli's** waltz setting inspired Beethoven's thirty-three *Diabelli Variations* (themselves performed in the Oxford Beethoven Festival by Paul Lewis on Sunday 2 August).

Across the series, Mats Lidström is joined by colleagues and members of the Orchestra including violinists Carmine Lauri, Natalia Lomeiko and Anna-Liisa Bezrodny, cellist Peter Adams and pianist Katya Apekisheva.

The chamber series is held in Oxford's **Holywell Music Room**: dating from 1748, it is the oldest purpose-built concert hall in Europe. Famed for its excellent acoustic, the Holywell Music Room was essential to the musical fabric of Oxford during Beethoven's lifetime and was crucial in popularising works by his one-time teacher Haydn (the most performed composer there from 1788-1791).



The most comprehensive 250th anniversary celebration of the great composer's life and work in the UK, **Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra** and Music Director Marios Papadopoulos present the **Oxford Beethoven Festival 2020**. Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) was born in Bonn, twinned with Oxford, making the historic English city the ideal UK home of the **year-long Festival** of musical, academic, and cultural events.

Mats Lidström, Solo Cello with the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra, curates his *Beethoven and his Colleagues* series in association with the Orchestra and as part of the Oxford Beethoven Festival 2020. The Orchestra offers numerous opportunities each season to hear its players step out in solo, chamber and ensemble roles – a strand of programming the Music Director has always encouraged.

Chamber Series: Full Listings

Friday 6 March, 19:30

Holywell Music Room

Beethoven Sonata for Cello and Piano No. 1 in F major, Op. 5 No. 1

Beethoven Sonata for Cello and Piano No. 5 in D major, Op. 102 No. 2

Mozart Andantino in B flat major, K. Anh. 46/K. 374g

Diabelli Sonatina for Cello and Piano in C major

Beethoven Sonata for Cello and piano No. 2 in G minor, op. 5 No. 2

Peter Adams cello

Magdalena Nasidlak piano

Saturday 7 March, 15:00

Holywell Music Room

Beethoven Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 2 in D major, Op. 23 No. 1

Beethoven Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 2 in A major, Op. 12 No. 2

Spohr *Mazurka* and *Scherzo* from *Sechs Salonstücke*, Op. 135

Beethoven Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 5 in F major, Op. 24, 'Spring'

Viotti Serenade in A major for Two Violins, Op. 23 No. 1

Tamás András violin

Evgenia Epshtein violin

Katya Apekisheva piano

Saturday 7 March, 19:30

Holywell Music Room

Ries Sonata for Violin and Piano in F minor, Op. 19

Paganini *Cantabile*, Op. 17

Beethoven Sonata for Violin and Piano
No. 8 in G major, Op. 30 No. 3

Kreutzer *La Molinara*

Beethoven Sonata for Violin and Piano
No. 10 in G major, Op. 96, 'The
Cockcrow'

Anna-Liisa Bezrodny violin

Charlotte Scott violin

Diana Ketler piano

Friday 27 November, 19:30

Holywell Music Room

Beethoven Rondo in G major, WoO 41

Haydn Violin Sonata No. 2 in D major

Beethoven Sonata for Violin and Piano
No. 6 in A major, Op. 30 No. 1

Schubert *Rondo brilliant* in B minor, D.
895

Beethoven Sonata for Violin and Piano
No. 7 in C minor Op. 30 No. 2

Carmine Lauri violin

Eva Bindere violin

Simon Hester piano

Saturday 28 November, 19:30

Holywell Music Room

Mats Lidström



Cellist, composer and music publisher Mats Lidström holds the position of Solo Cello of the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra, and is also a teacher at the Royal Academy of Music. Born in Stockholm, Mats studied with Ms Maja Vogl at the Gothenburg Conservatoire for six years before continuing with Leonard Rose for four years at the Juilliard School of Performing Arts (1977-81). As an international soloist and chamber musician he has gained a reputation for performances of great insight and

virtuosity. Mats has recorded for EMI, BIS, Decca, Hyperion, Deutsche Grammophon and for his own company CelloLid.com. He features as the soloist on the Oxford Philharmonic's recording of Shostakovich Cello Concerto No. 1 and his own Rigoletto Fantasy with Vladimir Askenazy on the BIS label.

Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra



Praised as 'excellent' by *Gramophone* magazine and 'thoroughly impressive' by *BBC Music Magazine*, the Oxford Philharmonic 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.

Established in 1998 and formerly known as Oxford

Beethoven Sonata for Cello and Piano
in F major, Op. 17

Romberg Sonata for Cello and Piano in
E minor, Op. 38 No. 1

Beethoven Sonata for Cello and Piano
No. 3 in A major, Op. 69

Hummel *Les charmes de Londres* for
Solo Piano, Op. 119

Wölfl Grand Duo for Cello and Piano in
D minor, Op. 31

Beethoven Sonata for Cello and Piano
No. 4 in C major, Op. 102 No. 1

Mats Lidström cello

Sholto Kynoch piano

Sunday 29 November, 19:30

Holywell Music Room

Beethoven Sonata for Violin and Piano
No. 4 in A minor, Op. 23, 'Little Kreutzer'

Beethoven Sonata for Violin and Piano
No. 3 in E flat major, Op. 12 No. 3

Rolla Duo for Violin and Viola, Op. 12
No. 3

Beethoven Sonata for Violin and Piano
No. 9 in A major, Op. 47, 'Kreutzer'

Natalia Lomeiko violin

Yuri Zhislin violin

Iván Martín piano

Philomusica, the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra occupies a unique position within the UK orchestral landscape. As an orchestra of the highest quality, the Oxford Philharmonic attracts some of the world's greatest artists to appear in its series, including Maxim Vengerov, Valery Gergiev, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Martha Argerich, András Schiff, Renée Fleming, Lang Lang, Nicola Benedetti, and Vladimir Ashkenazy.

In addition to the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra's annual concert season in Oxford, touring performances across the UK, family concerts, annual Oxford Piano Festival, and Chamber Music Series, it boasts a growing list of international engagements including the Orchestra's debut at the Tivoli Festival in Copenhagen in June 2019, and an upcoming US debut at Carnegie Hall in May 2020. Acclaimed recordings include works by Nimrod Borenstein for Chandos, cello concertos by Shostakovich and Mats Lidström (Solo Cello of the Oxford Philharmonic), both conducted by Vladimir Ashkenazy, on the BIS label, *A Merton Christmas* with Merton College Choir, Haydn's *The Creation* with the Choir of New College, and the Handel/Mendelssohn *Acis and Galatea* with Christ Church Cathedral Choir. The Orchestra's upcoming disc *The Enlightened Trumpet* with soloist Paul Merkelo will be released on Sony Classical in Autumn 2019.

Following his remarkable debut with the Orchestra in 2013, Maxim Vengerov became its first Artist in Residence. Over an unprecedented four-season collaboration, Vengerov and the Oxford Philharmonic performed across the UK, recorded the violin concertos of Brahms and Sibelius as well as Mendelssohn's Octet. In July 2018 Vengerov appeared at Cheltenham Music Festival and Saffron Hall with the Soloists of the Oxford Philharmonic - a tight-knit group of musicians described by *The Times* as the ensemble's 'glorious individual players' and by Jessica Duchon as 'a line-up to match any top-notch international chamber ensemble and probably beat them on their own turf'. As part of the Orchestra's 20th anniversary celebrations in the 2018/19 season, Vengerov joined the Orchestra at the Barbican in a performance of the Bach 'Double' with Anne-Sophie Mutter, in a gala concert also featuring Martha Argerich.

The Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra has been firmly committed to outreach work from its earliest days, with projects taking music to areas of social and economic disadvantage, including hospitals, special schools, and partnerships with Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council. In 2002, the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra was appointed the first ever Orchestra in Residence at the University of Oxford, and frequently collaborates with the Faculty of Music in educational programmes. In the 2019/20 season, the Orchestra launches its Side-by-Side scheme for school and University students, which provides an opportunity for young musicians to perform within the ranks of a professional orchestra.

The Orchestra and its Music Director were awarded the City of Oxford's Certificate of Honour in 2013, in recognition of their contribution to education and performance in Oxford.

The continual search for excellence underpins the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra's reputation, and is reflected in an Orchestra that strives to create bold musical statements with every concert it presents.

www.oxfordphil.com

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