

## Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra announces Oxford Piano Festival 2020

Welcoming Nelson Freire, Richard Goode, Alain Lefèvre, Elisabeth Leonskaja  
Paul Lewis, George Li and Nikolai Lugansky



**Saturday 1 August – Sunday 9 August**

**'an international forum to turn piano lessons into performance art'**

The New York Times

The **Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra** and Artistic Director **Marios Papadopoulos** announce the 22<sup>nd</sup> **Oxford Piano Festival** taking place from **1– 9 August**. The Festival welcomes some of the world's most distinguished pianists and teachers for a week-long series of varied concerts and masterclasses, including **Nelson Freire, Richard Goode, Alain Lefèvre, Elisabeth Leonskaja, Paul Lewis, George Li, Nikolai Lugansky**, and **Menahem Pressler**, Life President of the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra.

**Nelson Freire** makes his Festival debut on **6 August** performing Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 2 in the Sheldonian Theatre alongside the **Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra** and conductor **Marios Papadopoulos**, who also perform the composer's Symphony No. 3.

The Festival opens and closes with the sonatas and impromptus of Schubert in St John the Evangelist Church. The towering **Elisabeth Leonskaja** debuts at the Festival with the composer's 'Gasteiner' Sonata in D major on 1 August, while 24-year-old budding star **George Li** performs Schubert's 'Wanderer Fantasy' on 8 August.

Beethoven's piano writing is celebrated on 2 August as six outstanding pianists perform seven of his sonatas over the course of two concerts. An afternoon recital sees five of the most successful alumni return to the Festival before **Paul Lewis** fills the Sheldonian Theatre in the evening with some of Beethoven's best-known works including the 'Moonlight' Sonata and his monumental *Diabelli Variations*. **Nikolai Lugansky** performs Beethoven's Sonata No. 30 in the striking Christ Church Cathedral on 5 August.

Acknowledging Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra's enduring Beethoven devotion, all of the composer's piano sonatas are performed by visiting pianists over the year-long Oxford Beethoven Festival 2020, with artists including Jonathan Biss (23 January), Kristian Bezuidenhout (13 June) and Sir Andrés Schiff (18 June).

Québécois pianist **Alain Lefèvre** makes his Festival debut in the Holywell Music Room on 3 August in a singular programme of dances including arabesques by Debussy and waltzes by Liszt and Ravel alongside his own *Force fragile*. Festival veteran **Richard Goode**

returns to Merton College Chapel on 4 August with a selection of works from Mozart, Brahms, Debussy and Schumann.

Throughout the week, a busy programme of masterclasses is given by the distinguished Festival recitalists and faculty of the Festival, including **Yoheved Kaplinsky**, **Amandine Savary**, **Vanessa Latarche**, and Festival Director **Marios Papadopoulos**. On 1 August, **Ian Jones** gives a masterclass, followed by an hour-long **Piano Clinic**. Participants in the Festival take to the stage themselves on **7 August** in the Jacqueline du Pré Music Building to showcase their notable talents and learning.

The Oxford Piano Festival is held in some of Oxford's most atmospheric venues, including the **Holywell Music Room**, dating from 1748 – the oldest purpose-built concert hall in Europe – **Merton College's 13th-century Chapel**, **Christ Church Cathedral**, the Jacqueline du Pré Music Building, St John the Evangelist Church, and the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra's home, the 17th-century **Sheldonian Theatre**, designed by Sir Christopher Wren.

Every year, the Oxford Piano Festival creates a unique didactic environment for emerging young professionals to learn from some of the world's most esteemed pianists. The concept of the pianist as an all-round musician lies at the heart of the Festival: the various roles of the pianist – as virtuoso, chamber musician, accompanist, conductor, academic and teacher – are all examined. Participants are given the opportunity to take part in masterclasses, attend recitals, and showcase their talents at the Participants' Recital following fresh guidance from these pillars of the piano world.

The Oxford Piano Festival is presented by the **Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra**, which, since being established in 1998 by Music Director and esteemed pianist **Marios Papadopoulos**, has grown steadily in stature. The Orchestra attracts some of the world's leading soloists and conductors, including Valery Gergiev, Sir András Schiff, Lang Lang, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Martha Argerich and Maxim Vengerov. The musicians of the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra include some of the UK's finest players.

## Full Schedule of Events

	<b>9:30-12:45</b> <i>Masterclasses</i>	<b>14:30-17:45</b> <i>Masterclasses</i>	<b>20:00</b> <i>Concerts</i>
<b>1 August</b>		Marios Papadopoulos	<b>Elisabeth Leonskaja</b> <i>St John the Evangelist</i>
<b>2 August</b>	Elisabeth Leonskaja	Alumni Recital	<b>Paul Lewis</b> <i>Sheldonian Theatre</i>
<b>3 August</b>	Yoheved Kaplinsky	Richard Goode	<b>Alain Lefèvre</b> <i>Holywell Music Room</i>
<b>4 August</b>	Yoheved Kaplinsky	Alain Lefèvre	<b>Richard Goode</b> <i>Merton College Chapel</i>
<b>5 August</b>	Yoheved Kaplinsky	Vanessa Latarche	<b>Nikolai Lugansky</b> <i>Christ Church Cathedral</i>
<b>6 August</b>	Nikolai Lugansky	Vanessa Latarche	<b>Nelson Freire</b> <i>Sheldonian Theatre</i>
<b>7 August</b>	Marios Papadopoulos & Rob Cowan <i>Record Review</i>	Ian Jones & Ian Jones <i>Piano Clinic</i>	<b>Participants' Recital</b> <i>Jacqueline du Pré Music Building</i>
<b>8 August</b>	Amandine Savary	Menahem Pressler	<b>George Li</b> <i>St John the Evangelist</i>
<b>9 August</b>	Marios Papadopoulos		

## Concert Listings

### Saturday 1 August, 20:00

St John the Evangelist Church

**Schubert** Sonata in D major, D. 850,  
'Gasteiner'

Sonata in A minor, D. 845

**Elisabeth Leonskaja** piano

### Sunday 2 August, 15:00

Jacqueline du Pré Music Building

**Beethoven** Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op.  
2, No. 1

Sonata No. 2 in A major, Op. 2, No. 2

Sonata No. 9 in E major, Op. 14, No. 1

Sonata No. 25 in G major, Op. 79,  
'Cuckoo'

Sonata No. 11 in B flat major, Op. 22

**Ignas Maknickas** piano

**Ana Gogova** piano

**Julius Asal** piano

**Kausikan Rajeshkumar** piano

**Nuron Mukumi** piano

### Sunday 2 August, 20:00

Sheldonian Theatre

**Beethoven** Sonata No. 13 in E flat major,  
Op. 27 No. 1, 'Quasi una fantasia'

Sonata No. 14 in C sharp minor, Op. 27

No. 2, 'Moonlight'

*Diabelli Variations*, Op. 120

**Paul Lewis** piano

### Monday 3 August, 20:00

Holywell Music Room

**Debussy** Arabesque in E major from *Deux*  
*arabesques*, L. 66

*Tarantelle styrienne (Danse)*, L. 77

*Clair de lune* from *Suite bergamasque*, L.  
75

*L'Isle Joyeuse*, L. 106

**Ravel** *La Valse*, M. 72b

**Rachmaninov** *Moments musicaux*, Op. 16  
(Nos 1-4)

**Liszt** *Mephisto Waltz*, No. 1, S. 514

**A. Lefèvre** *Force fragile*

**Alain Lefèvre** piano

### Tuesday 4 August, 20:00

Merton College Chapel

**Mozart** Sonata No. 15 in F major, K. 533  
Rondo in A minor, K. 511

**Brahms** 6 Klavierstücke, Op. 118

**Debussy** *Images*, Book II. L. 111

**Chopin** Nocturne in E flat major, Op. 55  
No. 2

Mazurka in C major, Op. 56 No. 2

Mazurkas, Op. 59

Fantaisie in F minor, Op. 49

**Richard Goode** piano

### Wednesday 5 August, 20:00

Christ Church Cathedral

**Beethoven** Sonata No. 30 in E major, Op.  
109

**Chopin** Barcarolle in F sharp major, Op.  
60

Ballade No. 4 in F minor, Op. 52

**Franck** *Prélude, Choral et Fugue*, FWV 21

**Rachmaninov** Selection of *Études-*  
*Tableaux*

**Nikolai Lugansky** piano

### Thursday 6 August, 20:00

Sheldonian Theatre

**Brahms** Symphony No. 3 in F major, Op.  
90

Piano Concerto No. 2 in B flat major, Op.  
83

**Nelson Freire** piano

**Marios Papadopoulos** conductor

**Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra**

### Friday 7 August, 20:00

Jacqueline du Pré Music Building

### Participants' Recital

### Saturday 8 August, 20:00

St John the Evangelist Church

**Schubert** Impromptu No. 3 in G flat major  
from 4 Impromptus, D. 899

Impromptus, D. 899

Fantaisie in C major, D. 760, 'Wanderer  
Fantasy'

**Schumann** Fantaisie in C major, Op. 17

**George Li** piano

## 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 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, a performance for the 70th anniversary of NATO at their Brussels headquarters in November 2019, and their 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 most recent disc The Enlightened Trumpet with soloist Paul Merkelo was released on Sony Classical in September 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 '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 Oxford Philharmonic's 20th anniversary celebrations in the 2018/19 season, Vengerov, Anne-Sophie Mutter and Martha Argerich joined the Orchestra for a gala concert at the Barbican.

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.

A partnership with J & A Beare provides our distinguished members with opportunities to play on Stradivari instruments, adding a new dimension to the sound of the 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.

## Marios Papadopoulos



Described by The Times at his 1975 recital debut as 'having all the attributes of one of the world's greatest players', Marios Papadopoulos has enjoyed an international career both as pianist and conductor. He has worked with a host of eminent musicians including Vladimir Ashkenazy, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Maxim Vengerov, Renée Fleming and Lang Lang. His recordings of the Beethoven sonatas have been set on a level with Schnabel, Brendel, Barenboim, and Kempff (Daily Telegraph, Classic FM Magazine).

With vast experience directing from the keyboard, Papadopoulos has conducted the complete cycles of Beethoven symphonies and piano concertos. In 2006, Papadopoulos directed the Mozart's complete piano concertos from the keyboard, and in 2018, he performed a mini-cycle of the concertos in China with the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra. In March 2019, he conducted a new production of The Marriage of Figaro at the Greek National Opera. The Orchestra's Oxford Beethoven Festival 2020 sees him conduct all of Beethoven's piano concertos from the keyboard.

Papadopoulos's recording catalogue includes his critically acclaimed Beethoven sonatas and works by Stravinsky (with the RPO), Mozart, Mussorgsky, Franck and Shostakovich. He and Maxim Vengerov have recorded the complete Brahms violin sonatas and performed them at Vienna's Musikverein in September 2016.

Papadopoulos is dedicated to nurturing young talent and through his vast experience is able to impart knowledge to young artists, particularly during the prestigious Oxford Piano Festival, which he founded in 1999. In 2015, he served on the jury of the Leeds International Piano Competition.

Marios Papadopoulos holds a doctorate in music from City University and is a member of the Oxford University Faculty of Music and Fellow by Special Election of Keble College. Papadopoulos was awarded an MBE in 2014 for services to music.

[www.oxfordphil.com](http://www.oxfordphil.com)

# Pianist

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