

Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra and Marios Papadopoulos launch their 20th anniversary season with a star-studded line-up: Martha Argerich, Maxim Vengerov, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Rowan Atkinson, Krzysztof Penderecki, and Vadim Repin



Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra and Music Director **Marios Papadopoulos** celebrate their **20th anniversary** year with a **2018/19 season** featuring top international artists and composers, including **Krzysztof Penderecki, Martha Argerich, Vadim Repin, Nicola Benedetti, Angela Gheorghiu** and actor **Rowan Atkinson**. There are four premieres by **Krzysztof Penderecki, Giorgos Koumendakis, Manuel Martínez Burgos** and **Richard English**.

Highlights of the season include a birthday concert at the Barbican on 12 January with **Martha Argerich, Maxim Vengerov** and **Anne-Sophie Mutter**, and a Remembrance day concert on **11 November** with **Rowan Atkinson**. During his **85th birthday year**, **Krzysztof Penderecki** conducts a programme of his own works on **18 May**.



The 2018/19 season opens with three outstanding string soloists: cellist **Narek Hakhnazaryan** and violinists **Vadim Repin** and **Natalia Lomeiko**. Music Director **Marios Papadopoulos** opens the season on **6 October**, conducting Hakhnazaryan in **Dvořák's Cello Concerto**, while Rhodes Scholar **Hannah Schneider** conducts the world premiere of **Richard English's Into the Void**. Vadim Repin continues the season on **25 October** with **Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 2**, while concertmaster Natalia Lomeiko joins the orchestra on **24 November** to perform **Beethoven's Violin Concerto** in a programme also featuring **Mahler's Symphony No. 4**.

Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra commemorates **Remembrance Day** and **the centenary of the end of World War One** on **11 November** with a programme of British and German music, beginning with **The Banks of Green Willow** by **George Butterworth**. Butterworth, who studied at Trinity College Oxford, was killed on 5 August 1916 during the Battle of the Somme. He was only 31, and his body was never recovered. The London premiere of *The Banks of Green Willow* was likely the last time Butterworth heard his own music performed. Whilst

studying at Oxford he became close friends with **Ralph Vaughan Williams**, whose brooding work **An Oxford Elegy** also features in this programme, narrated by **Rowan Atkinson**, who studied at The Queen's College. **Brahms's Ein Deutsches Requiem**, with its messages of comfort and peace for the living, closes the programme, with soloists **Mary Bevan** and **David Stout** and the **Choir of The Queen's College**.

*And thou from earth art gone
Long since and in some quiet churchyard laid –
Some country nook, where o'er thy unknown grave
Tall grasses and white flowering nettles wave,
Under a dark red-fruited yew-tree's shade.
– An Oxford Elegy, words by Matthew Arnold*



The Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra celebrates their **20th birthday** in a star-studded performance at the **Barbican** on **12 January**, with soloists **Maxim Vengerov** and **Anne-Sophie Mutter** performing **Bach's Concerto for Two Violins** while pianist **Martha Argerich** appears as the soloist in **Schumann's Piano Concerto**. The concert closes with Marios Papadopoulos conducting **Beethoven's Symphony No. 3, 'Eroica'**. This work has long been significant to the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra, for Papadopoulos conducted the complete Beethoven *Symphonies* at the 2008 Beethoven Festival, and again at the Orchestra's 15th anniversary celebrations. The programme is repeated at **Oxford Town Hall** on **14 January**.



'I feel a special bond with Marios Papadopoulos, this superb orchestra and the city of Oxford which, for me, creates a perfect environment for music-making. We have enjoyed so many wonderful performances together and I greatly look forward to each opportunity to return.'
– Maxim Vengerov

On 9 February, **Vilde Frang** and **Lawrence Power** perform **Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante for Violin, Viola and Orchestra** as part of an all-Mozart programme. On **6 March**, the violin is showcased in much later writing, as concertmaster **Carmine Lauri** performs **Korngold's Violin Concerto in D major**, under conductor **Ben Gernon**, who makes his debut with the Orchestra. International star **Nicola Benedetti** appears with the orchestra on **17 April** for the **Elgar Violin Concerto**. Composed for Fritz Kreisler, one of the greatest violinists of all time, Elgar's *Violin Concerto* was first recorded by a teenage Yehudi Menuhin and is often considered one of the most difficult concertos in the violin repertoire. Here it is paired with **Elgar's Introduction & Allegro**, which was composed in 1905 for the newly formed London Symphony Orchestra to show off their virtuosity.

On **11 May** the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra welcomes Oxford University's Emeritus Professor of Art History, **Martin Kemp**, to the **Oxford Town Hall** to present an event marking the **500th anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci's death**. The programme, based on works inspired by paintings, includes a new commission by Spanish composer **Manuel Martínez Burgos**, who has recently been awarded the first Osgood Memorial Award from Oxford University, and is currently carrying out multidisciplinary research there involving music history,



linguistics, anthropology, analysis, and composition.

On **18 May**, **Krzysztof Penderecki** conducts the **UK premiere** of his **Concertino for Trumpet and Orchestra**, with soloist **Gábor Boldoczki**, alongside his **Sinfonietta for String Orchestra**, and **Adagio for String Orchestra from Symphony No. 3**. Named 'Poland's greatest living composer' by *The Guardian*, Penderecki has written for musicians including Anne-Sophie Mutter and Janine Jansen, and is a recipient of the Commander's Cross, Prix Italia, and five Grammy Awards amongst other awards. Oxford Philharmonic's own concertmaster **Yuri Zhislin** is the soloist in Penderecki's **Viola Concerto**. Zhislin's father Grigori Zhislin gave premieres of Penderecki's *Viola Concerto* and first *Violin Concerto* with the composer conducting, and remained close friends with Penderecki throughout his life.



Schumann's Violin Concerto in D minor is explored on **1 June** in a programme inspired by presenter **Jessica Duchén's novel Ghost Variations** with soloist **Alena Baeva**. The novel is a fictionalised retelling of the rediscovery of Schumann's lost *Violin Concerto*, which remained unplayed and hidden in an archive for 80 years. Composed in 1853 shortly before his attempted suicide, Schumann's widow, Clara, and violinist Joseph Joachim blocked the work's premiere on the grounds that it might betray signs of Schumann's worsening mental health, and the manuscript remained undiscovered until Joachim's grand-niece – the famous Hungarian violinist Jelly d'Áranyi – received a mysterious communication, where the spirit of the composer asked her to find his long-suppressed work. A struggle ensued with the premiere eventually taking place in Nazi Germany before Yehudi Menuhin premiered the work in the US just a week later.



Following his performance at the **Oxford Piano Festival in 2017**, long time friend of the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra and Marios Papadopoulos, **Yefim Bronfman**, performs **Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 2** on **30 April**. On **29 June**, **Angela Gheoghiu** sings **Strauss's Four Last Songs** for the very first time, as part of a larger programme of Strauss and Mahler that also includes the UK premiere of **Koumendakis' Amor Fati**. The Greek composer is highly acclaimed, having won the Prix de Rome and scored the opening and closing ceremony of the Greek Olympics in 2004, besides a residency in London.

The orchestra performs **Handel's Messiah** with **Schola Cantorum of Oxford** on **13 December** to celebrate Christmas with soloists **Mhairi Lawson**, **Catherine Wyn-Rogers**, **Daniel Norman** and **Matthew Brook**.

The wind players of the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra are showcased on **26 January** with **Stravinsky's Concerto for Piano & Wind** and **Symphony of Psalms**, with conductor **Marios Papadopoulos** at the piano. Papadopoulos also directs from the piano on **21 February**, performing **Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 20 in D minor** and **No. 27 in B flat major**. This programme is repeated on **23 February** at **Cheltenham Town Hall**. A second programme is performed at Cheltenham Town Hall on **13 June** and the Sheldonian Theatre on **14 June**, when **Steven Osborne** will perform **Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 2 in F major**.

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. The **Chamber Series** visits venues such as **Merton College** and the **Holywell Music Room**, Europe's oldest purpose-built concert hall, with music from Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev and Bartók. Led by **Alasdair Malloy**, three **FUNomusica family concerts** will take place at Oxford Town Hall during the season.

The Oxford Philharmonic's main orchestral venue, the Grade I listed **Sheldonian Theatre**, was built between 1664 and 1668 after a design by Sir 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.



2018/19 Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra Season Listings

Saturday 6 October

Sheldonian Theatre, 7:30pm
Dvořák *Cello Concerto in B minor*
Richard English *Into the Void*^{WORLD PREMIERE}
Dvořák *Symphony No. 8*

Narek Hakhnazaryan cello
Marios Papadopoulos conductor
Hannah Schneider conductor

Thursday 25 October

Sheldonian Theatre, 7:30pm
Saint-Saëns *Introduction & Rondo Capriccioso*
Prokofiev *Violin Concerto No. 2*
Shostakovich *Symphony No. 9*

Vadim Repin violin
Marios Papadopoulos conductor

Sunday 11 November

REMEMBRANCE DAY CONCERT
Sheldonian Theatre, 7:00pm
Butterworth *The Banks of Green Willow*
Vaughan Williams *An Oxford Elegy*
Brahms *Ein Deutsches Requiem*

Mary Bevan soprano
David Stout baritone
Rowan Atkinson narrator
Owen Rees conductor
Queen's College Choir

Saturday 24 November

Sheldonian Theatre, 7:30pm
Beethoven *Violin Concerto*
Mahler *Symphony No. 4*

Heidi Stober soprano
Natalia Lomeiko violin
Marios Papadopoulos conductor

Thursday 13 December

Sheldonian Theatre, 7:30pm
Handel *Messiah*

Mhairi Lawson soprano
Catherine Wyn-Rogers mezzo-soprano
Daniel Norman tenor
Matthew Brook bass
Marios Papadopoulos conductor
Schola Cantorum

Saturday 12 January

20TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT
Barbican, 7:30pm
Bach *Concerto for Two Violins in D minor*
Schumann *Piano Concerto in A minor*
Beethoven *Symphony No. 3, 'Eroica'*

Maxim Vengerov violin
Anne-Sophie Mutter violin
Martha Argerich piano

Marios Papadopoulos *conductor*

Monday 14 January

Oxford Town Hall, 7:30pm

Bach *Concerto for Two Violins in D minor*

Schumann *Piano Concerto in A minor*

Beethoven *Symphony No. 3, 'Eroica'*

Anna-Liisa Bezrodny *violin*

Charlotte Scott *violin*

Martha Argerich *piano*

Marios Papadopoulos *conductor*

Saturday 26 January

Sheldonian Theatre, 7:30pm

Stravinsky *Octet for Wind Instruments*

Stravinsky *Concerto for Piano and Wind Instruments*

Stravinsky *Symphonies of Wind Instruments*

Stravinsky *Symphony of Psalms*

Marios Papadopoulos

piano/conductor

Steven Grahl *chorus master*

Christ Church Cathedral Choir

Saturday 9 February

Sheldonian Theatre, 7:30pm

Mozart *Symphony No. 35, 'Haffner'*

Mozart *Sinfonia Concertante for Violin, Viola and Orchestra in E flat major*

Mozart *Symphony No. 41, 'Jupiter'*

Vilde Frang *violin*

Lawrence Power *viola*

Marios Papadopoulos *conductor*

Thursday 21 February

Sheldonian Theatre, 7:30pm

Mozart *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*

Mozart *Piano Concerto No. 27*

Mozart *Piano Concerto No. 20*

Marios Papadopoulos

piano/conductor

Saturday 23 February

Cheltenham Town Hall, 7:30pm

Mozart *Serenade No. 6, 'Serenata notturna'*

Mozart *Piano Concerto no. 27*

Mozart *Piano Concerto no. 20*

Marios Papadopoulos

piano/conductor

6 March

Sheldonian Theatre, 7:30pm

Korngold *Violin Concerto in D major*

Tchaikovsky *Symphony No. 5*

Carmine Lauri *violin*

Ben Gernon *conductor*

Wednesday 17 April

Sheldonian Theatre, 7:30pm

Elgar *Introduction & Allegro*

Tippett *Concerto for Double String Orchestra*

Elgar *Violin Concerto in B minor*

Nicola Benedetti *violin*

Marios Papadopoulos *conductor*

Tuesday 30 April

Sheldonian Theatre, 7:30pm

Beethoven *'Ruins of Athens' Overture*

Beethoven *Piano Concerto no. 2*

Farrenc *Symphony No. 3*

Yefim Bronfman *piano*

Marios Papadopoulos *conductor*

Saturday 11 May

Celebrating Leonardo Da Vinci

Oxford Town Hall, 7:30pm

Respighi *Three Botticelli Pictures*

Manuel Martínez Burgos *New Commission* **WORLD PREMIERE**

Mussorgsky *Pictures at an Exhibition*

Martin Kemp *presenter*

Marios Papadopoulos *conductor*

Saturday 18 May

Krzysztof Penderecki

Sheldonian Theatre, 7:30pm

Penderecki *Adagio for String*

Orchestra from Symphony No. 3

Penderecki *Viola Concerto*

Penderecki *Sinfonietta for String Orchestra*

Penderecki *Concertino for Trumpet and Orchestra*

Yuri Zhislin *viola*

Gábor Boldoczki *trumpet*

Krzysztof Penderecki *conductor*

Saturday 1 June

Oxford Town Hall, 7:30pm
Frederick Septimus Kelly *Elegy 'In Memoriam Rupert Brooke'*
Schumann *Violin Concerto in D minor*
Bartók *Concerto for Orchestra*

Jessica Duchen presenter
Alena Baeva violin
Marios Papadopoulos conductor

Thursday 13 June

Cheltenham Town Hall, 7:30pm
Friday 14 June
Sheldonian Theatre, 7:30pm
Stravinsky *Concerto in E flat major, 'Dumbarton Oaks'*
Shostakovich *Piano Concerto No. 2*
Ravel *Pavane pour une infante défunte*
Bizet *Symphony in C major*

Steven Osborne piano
Marios Papadopoulos conductor

Saturday 29 June

Sheldonian Theatre, 7:30pm
Mahler *Adagietto, Symphony no. 5*
Strauss *Don Juan*

Giorgos Koumendakis *Amor Fati*^{UK}
PREMIERE

Strauss *Four Last Songs*

Angela Gheorghiu soprano
Marios Papadopoulos conductor

Saturday 6 July

Sheldonian Theatre, 7:30pm
Bach *Complete Brandenburg Concertos*

The Soloists of the Oxford Philharmonic

Saturday 13 July

Merton College Chapel, 7:30pm
Vivaldi *Sinfonia in B minor, 'Al Santo Sepolcro'*
Telemann *Don Quixote*
Handel *Water Music Suite No. 2*
Bach *Violin Concerto in A minor*
Pachelbel *Canon*
Handel *Music for the Royal Fireworks*

Marios Papadopoulos director

Saturday 27 July – Sunday 4 August

Oxford Piano Festival

Chamber Series

Tuesday 23 October

Jacqueline du Pré Music Building,
7.30pm
Prokofiev *Sonata for Two Violins in C major*
Shostakovich *String Quartet No. 8 in C minor*
Tchaikovsky *Piano Trio in A minor*

Vadim Repin violin
Natalia Lomeiko violin
Mats Lidström cello
Marios Papadopoulos piano
The Soloists of the Oxford Philharmonic

Sunday 20 January

T S Eliot Theatre, Merton College,

3:00pm
Kodály *String Quartet No. 2*
Dohnányi *Piano Quintet No. 2*
Bartók *String Quartet No. 5*

Martin Roscoe piano
The Soloists of the Oxford Philharmonic

Thursday 9 May

Holywell Music Room, 7.30pm
Mozart *Serenade No. 12 for Winds in C minor, 'Nachtmusik'*
Francaix *Sixtuor*
Janáček *Mládí*
Gounod *Petite symphonie*

The Soloists of the Oxford Philharmonic

FUNomusica

Sunday 21 October

Oxford Town Hall, 3:00pm

Spooktacular

Sunday 17 February

Oxford Town Hall, 3:00pm

Summon the Superheroes

Sunday 2 June

Oxford Town Hall, 3:00pm

Animal Antics

Alasdair Malloy *presenter*

Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra

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.

As an orchestra of the highest quality, the Oxford Philharmonic attracts some of the world's greatest artists to appear in its series, including Valery Gergiev, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Martha Argerich, András Schiff, Renée Fleming, Lang Lang, Janine Jansen, Yuri Temirkanov and Vladimir Ashkenazy. 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 and recorded the violin concertos of Brahms and Sibelius, with commercial releases pending. Recent collaborations with Vengerov include a recording of Mendelssohn's *Octet* and appearances at Cheltenham Music Festival and Saffron Hall. Besides an annual concert season, the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra's achievements include touring performances across the UK and a growing list of international engagements; and the annual Oxford Piano Festival. Recent releases include works by Nimrod Borenstein for Chandos, and cello concertos by Shostakovich and Mats Lidström (Solo Cello of the Oxford Philharmonic) on the BIS label, both conducted by Vladimir Ashkenazy.

The Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra has been firmly committed to outreach work from its earliest days. Its various projects focus on taking music to areas of social and economic disadvantage, including work in special schools and hospitals, and partnerships with Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council provide tuition and performance opportunities for hundreds of talented young musicians. 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.

A recent partnership with J & A Beare provides the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra's distinguished members with opportunities to play on Stradivari instruments, adding a new dimension to the sound of the Orchestra.

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 including Vladimir Ashkenazy, Hélène Grimaud, Nicola Benedetti, John Lill, Menahem Pressler, Maxim Vengerov, Nigel Kennedy 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 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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