

Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra launches a star-studded 2019/20 season including its debut at Carnegie Hall

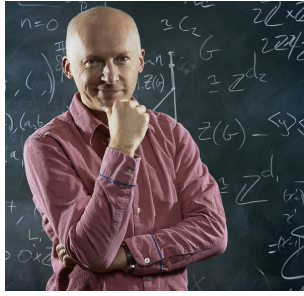


Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra and Music Director **Marios Papadopoulos** announce their 2019/20 season, which sees the Orchestra make its US debut at New York's Carnegie Hall. In 2020, the Orchestra embarks on a year-long comprehensive Beethoven celebration that brings the composer's complete symphonies, concertos and major orchestral and chamber works to Oxford, with guest appearances from **Maxim Vengerov, Mischa Maisky, Sergei Babayan**, and many more.

The Orchestra welcomes a cast of world-renowned soloists, conductors and academics to Oxford throughout the season, including **Evgeny Kissin, Lisa Batiashvili, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Angela Gheorghiu, Sir Bryn Terfel, Sir Antonio Pappano, Sheku Kanneh-Mason** and **Professor Marcus du Sautoy**, as well as no less than eight of the Orchestra's own soloists. The Orchestra appears at **New York's Carnegie Hall** on Monday 4 May 2020 in a landmark visit to America, its first appearance in the country.

Evgeny Kissin joins the Orchestra for the first time to perform Liszt's virtuosic Piano Concerto No. 2 to open the season on Saturday 5 October 2019 while 20-year-old cellist **Sheku Kanneh-Mason** performs Saint-Saëns's first cello concerto in Oxford (Saturday 2 November 2019) and Cheltenham Town Hall (Thursday 31 October 2019). **Sir Antonio Pappano** makes his Oxford Philharmonic debut with Glazunov's inventive Violin Concerto alongside Concertmaster **Carmine Lauri** as soloist to bring 2019 to a close (Friday 20 December) in an all-Russian programme that also includes Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4.

Marios Papadopoulos draws on the expertise of Oxford academic **Professor Marcus du Sautoy** to cultivate an enriching programme of mathematical and musical connections at Saffron Hall (Wednesday 16 October 2019) and Oxford



(Thursday 17 October 2019). Du Sautoy, the **Simonyi Professor for the Public Understanding of Science** and Professor of Mathematics at the University of Oxford, joins the Orchestra to uncover the numerical magic behind Debussy's *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune*, L. 86, Bartók's *Music for Strings, Percussion and Celeste* and Stravinsky's *Symphony in C*, following his appearance with the Orchestra in 2018.

Trumpeter **Paul Merkelo** performs concertos by Haydn and Leopold Mozart (Thursday 14 November 2019), in a historical programme also featuring Haydn's 'Oxford' Symphony No. 92, a work which received its moniker following the 1791 ceremonial performance during which the degree of Doctor of Music was conferred on Haydn by Oxford University. Leopold Mozart's Trumpet Concerto is performed by Merkelo on the composer's 300th birthday.

Georgian violinist **Lisa Batiashvili** performs Berg's Violin Concerto on Friday 17 January alongside Schubert's 'Unfinished' Symphony No. 8 and Brahms' Symphony No. 4. Co-Concertmaster **Yuri Zhislin** performs Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto on Thursday 27 February 2020 while an all-Sibelius programme sees Associate Concertmaster **Anna-Liisa Bezrodny** perform the composer's Violin Concerto on Thursday 12 March 2020, conducted by **Douglas Boyd**. **Maxim Vengerov** performs Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1 on Thursday 30 April 2020 in a programme also featuring Brahms' Symphony No. 1.



A focus on Richard Strauss sees the Orchestra perform two of the composer's concertos for wind instruments, as Solo Horn **Pip Eastop** performs Strauss' dashing Horn Concerto under the baton of Orchestra Patron **Vladimir Ashkenazy** (Sunday 24 November 2019) and Solo Oboe **Clara Dent** performs his Oboe Concerto on Friday 19 June 2020 in a programme with a second half of Wagner, featuring **Sir Bryn Terfel**. Romanian soprano **Angela Gheorghiu** comes to the Sheldonian Theatre on Sunday 28 June 2020 to perform arias from *Otello* and *Don Carlo* with the Orchestra in a programme also featuring the *Rigoletto Fantasy for Cello and Orchestra* by the Orchestra's own Solo Cello **Mats Lidström**.

From January 2020, the Orchestra begins a **year-long celebration of Beethoven** to mark the 250th anniversary of his birth, presenting the composer's complete symphonies and concertos alongside a chamber programme of all-Beethovenian recitals held across the city. Beethoven was born in Bonn, which is twinned with Oxford, making the English city the ideal home of a comprehensive 2020 Festival of musical, academic and cultural events.

Marios Papadopoulos directs three of Beethoven's piano concertos from the keyboard (25 January, 6 & 13 February 2020), pairing the concertos with the composer's Symphonies Nos. 1, 3, 5, and 7, a feat he repeats here following the Orchestra's 2008 Beethoven Festival and 15th anniversary season (2013-14). The 2020 Festival builds upon the successes of these previous ventures and is

crowned on Tuesday 12 May 2020 as Papadopoulos and the Orchestra are joined by **Maxim Vengerov**, **Mischa Maisky**, and **Sergei Babayan** for the composer's striking 'Triple' concerto.

Beyond the full symphonic cycle, the Festival also features a full concert performance of Beethoven's only opera, *Fidelio*, on Sunday 31 May 2020 with **Emma Bell** as Leonore and **Andrew Staples** as Florestan. Greek-American conductor **Peter Tiboris** joins the Orchestra on Wednesday 1 July 2020 in Beethoven's Mass in C major and his Overture to *Die Weihe des Hauses*, with soprano **Eilana Lappalainen** also performing the composer's concert aria *Ah, perfido*.

A special performance on Friday 5 June 2019 – **United Nations World Environment Day** – sees the Orchestra join a worldwide initiative to create a '**Pastoral for the Planet**' by performing Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 and highlighting the need for a global effort to meet the challenges of climate change and ensure sustainable development for all. The symphony will be presented at the Oxford Town Hall with leading climate experts drawing on the city's strengths as a global centre for knowledge, learning and research. The green-thumbed programme is given a local twist with former Oxford student George Butterworth's *The Banks of Green Willow* and Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending*, performed by **Charlotte Scott**, Associate Concertmaster of the Orchestra.

The Orchestra continues to nurture upcoming talent from the University of Oxford, frequently performing under the baton of Assistant Conductor and DPhil student **Hannah Schneider**. A new **Side-by-Side** scheme is inaugurated under Schneider, allowing outstanding young instrumentalists from the University and local area to perform alongside members of the Orchestra for selected works each season.



Works by two current Oxford students, **Grace-Evangeline Mason** and **Carol J Jones**, are performed during the season, on Thursday 30 April and Friday 19 June 2020. They were both selected from the Composers' Workshop 2019, part of the Oxford Philharmonic's Residency Programme at the University of Oxford. The Orchestra renews its sought-after £5 student ticket scheme which has seen students in full-time education buy 23.85% of tickets in the 2017/18 season thanks to the **Student Access Scheme**, generously funded by trusts and foundation including the **Stavros Niarchos Foundation**.

"£5 tickets have, hand to heart, been amazing – it's given me an accessibility to classical music that my friends at other universities can only dream of, and also stoked a passion for the genre that I didn't have before."

– Undergraduate Student at Jesus College

The Orchestra is joined by world-renowned college choirs from the University including a festive celebration on Thursday 12 December 2019 as the **Choirs of Magdalen and New College** perform Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas*

Carols with soloist **Roderick Williams**, and **John Rutter's** *Visions* under the baton of the composer. Maundy Thursday (Thursday 9 April 2020) is marked as the Orchestra perform Bach's *St John Passion* with the **Choir of The Queen's College**, under conductor **Owen Rees**. The Orchestra returns to Merton College Chapel on Saturday 11 July 2020 for a summertime programme of works by Foote, Tzánou, Suk, and Mendelssohn's D minor Violin Concerto with Concertmaster **Natalia Lomeiko** and conductor **Kypros Markou**.



The Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra'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 and provides a unique and engaging experience for audience and musicians alike.

The Orchestra also visits venues such as **Merton College** and **Oxford Town Hall**, where performances including three FUNomusica family concerts will take place during the season.

Season Listings

Saturday 5 October 2019

Sheldonian Theatre, 19:30

Pre-concert talk with **Katie Derham**,
18:30

Brahms

*Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80**

Liszt

Piano Concerto No. 2

Brahms

Symphony No. 2

Evgeny Kissin piano

Marios Papadopoulos conductor

Hannah Schneider conductor*

Wednesday 16 October 2019

Saffron Hall, 19:30

Thursday 17 October 2019

Sheldonian Theatre, 19:30

Music and Maths

Debussy

Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune

Stravinsky

Symphony in C

Bartók

Music for Strings, Percussion and Celesta

Marcus du Sautoy presenter

Marios Papadopoulos conductor

Thursday 31 October 2019

Cheltenham Town Hall, 19:30

Rossini

Overture to *L'Italiana in Algeri**

Saint-Saens

Cello Concerto No. 1

Mendelssohn

A Midsummer Night's Dream, Op. 21

Beethoven

Symphony No. 1

Sheku Kanneh-Mason cello

Marios Papadopoulos conductor
Hannah Schneider conductor*

Saturday 2 November 2019

Oxford Town Hall, 19:30

Mendelssohn

A Midsummer Night's Dream, Op. 21

Saint-Saens

Cello Concerto No. 1

Rossini

Overture to *L'Italiana in Algeri**
(Side-by-Side)

Mendelssohn

Symphony No. 4, 'Italian'

Sheku Kanneh-Mason cello

Marios Papadopoulos conductor

Hannah Schneider conductor*

Thursday 14 November 2019

Sheldonian Theatre, 19:30

The Enlightened Trumpet

Haydn

Symphony No. 92, 'Oxford'*

Trumpet Concerto in E flat major

L. Mozart

Trumpet Concerto in D major

Mozart

Symphony No. 39

Paul Merkelo trumpet

Marios Papadopoulos conductor

Hannah Schneider conductor*

Sunday 24 November 2019

Sheldonian Theatre, 19:30

Tchaikovsky

Serenade for Strings in C major

Richard Strauss

Horn Concerto No. 1

Elgar

Variations on an Original Theme, Op.
36 'Enigma'

Pip Eastop Vienna horn

Vladimir Ashkenazy conductor

Thursday 12 December 2019

Sheldonian Theatre, 19:30

A Christmas Celebration

Rutter

Visions

Vaughan Williams

Fantasia on Christmas Carols

Carols old and new by Warlock,

Chilcott, Rutter and many others

Natalia Lomeiko violin

Roderick Williams baritone

John Rutter conductor

The Choir of Magdalen College

The Choir of New College

Friday 20 December 2019

Sheldonian Theatre, 19:30

Tchaikovsky

Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture,
TH 42

Glazunov

Violin Concerto in A minor

Tchaikovsky

Symphony No. 4

Carmine Lauri violin

Sir Antonio Pappano conductor

Friday 17 January 2020

Sheldonian Theatre, 19:30

Schubert Symphony No. 8,
'Unfinished'

Berg Violin Concerto

Brahms Symphony No. 4

Lisa Batiashvili violin

Marios Papadopoulos conductor

Sunday 19 January 2020

TS Eliot Theatre, Merton College,
15:00

Dvořák

Piano Trio No. 3

Avro Pärt

Fratres

Janacek

String Quartet No. 2, 'Intimate Letters'

Natalia Lomeiko violin

Yuri Zhislin violin

Jon Thorne viola

Mats Lidström cello

Alexander Ullman piano

Saturday 25 January 2020

OXFORD BEETHOVEN FESTIVAL

Sheldonian Theatre, 19:30

Beethoven

Piano Concerto No. 1

Symphony No. 3, 'Eroica'

Marios Papadopoulos

piano/conductor

Concert introduced by John Suchet

Thursday 6 February 2020

OXFORD BEETHOVEN FESTIVAL

Sheldonian Theatre, 19:30

Beethoven

Symphony No.

Piano Concerto No. 4

Symphony No. 5

Marios Papadopoulos

piano/conductor

Thursday 13 February 2020

OXFORD BEETHOVEN FESTIVAL

Sheldonian Theatre, 19:30

Beethoven

Piano Concerto No. 3

Symphony No. 7

Marios Papadopoulos

piano/conductor

Thursday 27 February 2020

Sheldonian Theatre, 19:30

Tchaikovsky

Violin Concerto in D major

Rachmaninov

Symphony No. 2

Yuri Zhislin violin

Marios Papadopoulos conductor

Thursday 12 March 2020

Sheldonian Theatre, 19:30

Sibelius

Finlandia

Violin Concerto in D minor

Symphony No. 5

Anna-Liisa Bezrodny violin

Douglas Boyd conductor

Thursday 9 April 2020

Sheldonian Theatre, 19:30

Bach

St John Passion

Daniel Norman Evangelist

David Stout Christ

Mary Bevan soprano

Katie Bray mezzo-soprano

Joshua Ellicott tenor

Tristan Hambleton bass

The Choir of The Queen's College

Owen Rees conductor

Thursday 30 April 2020

Sheldonian Theatre, 19:30

Grace Evangeline Mason

*To Breathe Now**

Bruch

Violin Concerto No. 1

Brahms

Symphony No. 1

Maxim Vengerov violin

Marios Papadopoulos conductor

Hannah Schneider conductor*

Monday 4 May 2020

Carnegie Hall, 20:00

Bruch

Violin Concerto No. 1

Brahms

Symphony No. 1

Soloist to be announced
Marios Papadopoulos conductor

Thursday 12 May 2020
OXFORD BEETHOVEN FESTIVAL
Sheldonian Theatre, 19:30

Beethoven
Concerto for Violin, Cello, and Piano,
'Triple'
Symphony No. 2

Maxim Vengerov violin
Mischa Maisky cello
Sergei Babayan piano
Marios Papadopoulos conductor

Friday 31 May 2020
OXFORD BEETHOVEN FESTIVAL
Sheldonian Theatre, 19:30

Beethoven
Fidelio

Complete concert performance

Emma Bell Leonore
Andrew Staples Florestan
Marios Papadopoulos conductor

Friday 5 June 2020
OXFORD BEETHOVEN FESTIVAL
Oxford Town Hall, 19:30

Pastoral for the Planet

Mendelssohn
*The Hebrides Overture, 'Fingal's
Cave'*
(Side-by-Side)

Butterworth
The Banks of Green Willow

Vaughan Williams
The Lark Ascending

Beethoven
Symphony No. 6, 'Pastoral'*

Charlotte Scott violin
Hannah Schneider conductor
Marios Papadopoulos conductor*

Friday 19 June 2020
Sheldonian Theatre, 19:30

Carol J Jones
*The Light Thief**
Strauss
Oboe Concerto in D major
Wagner
Prelude to Act III from *Lohengrin*
Was duftet doch der Flieder from *Die
Meistersinger von Nürnberg*
Ride of the Valkyries from *Die
Walküre*
Wotan's Farewell & Magic Fire Music
from *Die Walküre*

Bryn Terfel bass-baritone
Clara Dent oboe
Marios Papadopoulos conductor
Hannah Schneider conductor*

Sunday 28 June 2020
Sheldonian Theatre, 19:30

Verdi
Overture to *La forza del destino*
Mats Lidström
*Rigoletto Fantasy for Cello and
Orchestra*
Verdi
Canzone del salice e Ave Maria from
Otello
Verdi
'Tu che le vanita' from *Don Carlo*

Angela Gheorghiu soprano
Marios Papadopoulos conductor

Wednesday 1 July 2020
OXFORD BEETHOVEN FESTIVAL
Oxford Town Hall, 19:30

Beethoven
Die Weihe des Hauses Overture
Ah, perfido
Mass in C major

Eilana Lappalainen soprano
Marta Fontanals-Simmons mezzo-
soprano
Joshua Ellicott tenor
Božidar Smiljanić bass

Choir to be announced
Peter Tiboris conductor

Saturday 11 July 2020
Merton College Chapel, 19:30

Foote
Serenade for Strings in E major
Mendelssohn

Violin Concerto in D minor
Tzánou
La vallée a rejoint la nuit
Suk
Serenade for Strings in E flat major

Natalia Lomeiko violin
Kypros Markou conductor

FUNomusica Family Concerts

Sunday 29 September 2019
Oxford Town Hall, 15:00

Bugs!!

Sunday 9 February 2020
Oxford Town Hall, 15:00

**Adventures in the Magical
Kingdom**

Sunday 7 June 2020
Oxford Town Hall, 15:00

Mission: Earth

With presenter **Alasdair Malloy**

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, Andrés 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.

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



Marios Papadopoulos is the Founder and Music Director of the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra, the 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 worked with a host of eminent musicians including Vladimir Ashkenazy, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Menahem Pressler, Renée Fleming, Martha Argerich and Lang Lang.

Papadopoulos's recording catalogue includes his critically acclaimed Beethoven sonatas – which have been set on a level with Schnabel, Brendel, Barenboim, and Kempff (*Daily Telegraph*, *Classic FM Magazine*) – and works by Stravinsky (with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra), Mozart, Mussorgsky, Franck and Shostakovich. He and Maxim Vengerov have recorded the complete Brahms violin sonatas and performed them at Vienna's Musikverein in 2016.

Papadopoulos has conducted the complete cycle of Beethoven symphonies and directed from the keyboard the five piano concertos in the Oxford Philharmonic's 2008 Beethoven Festival, a feat he repeated to celebrate the Orchestra's 15th anniversary in the 2013/14 concert season, and will again with the 2020 Beethoven Festival, celebrating the composer's 250th anniversary.

Papadopoulos holds a doctorate in music from City University and is both a member of the Oxford University Faculty of Music and Fellow by Special Election of Keble College Oxford. He became an Honorary Fellow of the Worshipful Company of Musicians in 2010 and was awarded Oxford City's Certificate of Honour in 2013. 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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