

Ahead of its star-studded 20th Anniversary concert, the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra announces future plans, including new Assistant Conductor Hannah Schneider



20th Anniversary Concert
Saturday 12 January, 7.30pm
Barbican

Bach *Concerto for Two Violins in D minor*
Schumann *Piano Concerto in A minor*
Beethoven *Symphony No. 3, 'Eroica'*

Maxim Vengerov, Anne-Sophie Mutter violin
Martha Argerich piano
Marios Papadopoulos conductor
Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra

Ahead of its **20th Anniversary concerts** in the **Barbican** and in **Oxford**, the **Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra** announces plans for its future, including the creation of a new Assistant Conductor position as part of its Programme as Orchestra in Residence at the University of Oxford.

Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra has partnered with its twin city of **Bonn** to mark the **250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth in 2020**. The orchestra will collaborate with **Beethoven-Haus Bonn** on a number of projects, and has been invited to perform in Bonn as part of the 2020 celebrations.

Working alongside Music Director **Marios Papadopoulos**, DPhil student **Hannah Schneider** has been appointed Assistant Conductor until December 2020. Her position will include conducting the Orchestra in three works during the current season, strengthening the Orchestra's ties to the **University of Oxford**, and spearheading a new orchestral performance scheme for young people in Oxfordshire.



Schneider has previously worked with Valery Gergiev and conducted the world premiere of Richard English's *Into the Void* in the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra's opening concert of the 18-19 season. This year, she will conduct a new commission by Manuel Martínez Burgos, Kelly's *Elegy for String Orchestra*, 'In Memoriam Rupert Brooke', and Stravinsky's *Symphonies of Wind Instruments*.

Recent seasons have seen the Orchestra begin to foster closer links with departments in the University, such as a multimedia lecture earlier this year, with **Marcus du Sautoy, Professor of Mathematics** and the **Simonyi Professor for the Public Understanding of Science**, which uncovered the numerical blueprint that lies beneath the surface of celebrated scores by Mozart and Haydn. On **11 May**, the Orchestra collaborates with **Martin Kemp**, the University's Emeritus Professor of Art History and Da Vinci scholar, in a concert entitled **Celebrating Leonardo**, exploring musical paintings. The Orchestra is frequently joined by the world-renowned College choirs from the University, including **Professor Owen Rees** and the **Choir of The Queen's College** on **11 November** earlier this year, and the **Schola Cantorum** and **Christ Church Choir** later this season.

Students at the University already attend the Orchestra's concerts in large numbers, with 23.85% of tickets in the 17-18 season sold to those in full-time education, thanks to the **Student Access Scheme** generously funded by the **Stavros Niarchos Foundation** and the **Sackler Trust**.

"£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

2020 will see the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra celebrate the **250th anniversary** of **Beethoven's** birth with a year-long Festival of academic and cultural events. The composer was born in **Bonn**, which is twinned with Oxford, giving the orchestra a special link to Beethoven. Besides complete performances of Beethoven's *Symphonies* and *Piano Concertos* with Music Director Marios Papadopoulos directing from the keyboard, a particular highlight of the festival will be the '**Pastoral Project**', a worldwide collaboration exploring issues of climate change in a performance of Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony*.

20th Anniversary Concert

On **12 January**, the Orchestra returns to the **Barbican**, where they held their very first concert in November 1998. With world-renowned soloists **Maxim Vengerov**, **Anne-Sophie Mutter**, and **Martha Argerich**, the orchestra celebrates its **20th birthday** performing Bach, Schumann, and Beethoven.

Maxim Vengerov and **Anne-Sophie Mutter** perform in **Bach's Concerto for Two Violins in D minor**. **Maxim Vengerov** has a long-standing link with the Orchestra, having been Artist in Residence between 2013-2017. He has performed on numerous occasions in concerts and recordings with the Orchestra over recent seasons.

'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



Anne-Sophie Mutter has an important relationship with the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra, performing as a soloist in Bruch's *Violin Concerto* and the Brahms *Double Concerto* in recent seasons and giving masterclasses and workshops as part of the Orchestra's Residency Programme.

The third world-class soloist to join the event is pianist **Martha Argerich**, who appears as the soloist in **Schumann's Piano Concerto**. Argerich returns to work with the Oxford Philharmonic, following her performance of Prokofiev's *Third Piano Concerto* in January 2017. Written in 1845, the theme in the first movement even spells out the name of the pianist, his wife, Clara – the concerto is a love letter to his wife.



The concert closes with Marios Papadopoulos conducting **Beethoven's Symphony No. 3, 'Eroica'**, a work which has long held a deep significance for the Orchestra, with Papadopoulos conducting the complete Beethoven *Symphonies* at the 2008 Beethoven Festival for the Orchestra's 10th anniversary celebrations, and again at the Orchestra's 15th anniversary celebrations.

The Orchestra's 20th anniversary programme will be repeated in the **Oxford Town Hall** on **14 January**, with Martha Argerich reprising

Schumann's *Piano Concerto* and **Anna-Liisa Bezrodny** and **Charlotte Scott**, both principals of the orchestra, taking the solo roles in Bach's *Concerto for Two Violins*.

The 20th Anniversary season continues in Oxford with appearances from a number of high-profile soloists. **Vilde Frang** and **Lawrence Power** perform **Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante for Violin, Viola and Orchestra*** as part of an all-Mozart programme on **9 February**, while Oxford Philharmonic Concertmaster **Carmine Lauri** performs **Korngold's *Violin Concerto in D major*** on **6 March** with guest conductor **Ben Gernon**, and **Nicola Benedetti** performs the **Elgar *Violin Concerto*** on **17 April**.

On **18 May**, **Krzysztof Penderecki** conducts the **UK premiere** of his ***Concertino for Trumpet and Orchestra*** and his *Viola Concerto*, performed by the orchestra's concertmaster, **Yuri Zhislin**. **Schumann's *Violin Concerto in D minor*** is explored on **1 June** in a programme inspired by presenter **Jessica Duchen's novel *Ghost Variations*** with soloist **Alena Baeva**. **Yefim Bronfman**, performs **Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 2*** on **30 April** in a programme which also includes **Farrenc's *Third Symphony***, and **Angela Gheorghiu** makes her debut performance of **Strauss's *Four Last Songs*** on **29 June**.



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.

Hannah Schneider



Noted for her 'powerful flair' and 'elegant exactitude', conductor Hannah Schneider began her musical career in violin performance at the Moscow Tchaikovsky

Conservatory in the studio of Vladimir Ivanov and Alyena Chvertok. Turning her attention to conducting, she worked as personal assistant to conductor Valery Gergiev at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg.

In 2017, she earned a master's in music from the University of Oxford and she is currently pursuing a doctorate in music at the University of Oxford, specialising in Soviet Opera. In 2016, she founded the Oxford Alternative Orchestra, an ensemble dedicated to exploring the intersection of new music, social impact, and marginalised communities. Schneider is an avid conductor of opera, and has recently conducted the first Oxford production of Harrison Birtwistle's *The Corridor* with 472 production and Verdi's *La Traviata* with The People's Opera.

Highlights of the upcoming season include her recent debut performance with Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra, and two collaborations with The People's Opera: Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*, as well as an unprecedented performance of Steve Reich's *The Cave* with Oxford Alternative Orchestra.

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