

Marios Papadopoulos conducts *Le Nozze di Figaro* at the Greek National Opera



23, 27, 29, 31 March, 12 April

Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center, Greek National Opera

Conductor and pianist **Marios Papadopoulos** marks his return to the **Greek National Opera** from **23 March-12 April**, conducting **Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*** in the new **Greek National Opera Stavros Niarchos Hall**, in the **Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center** that has housed the **Greek National Opera** since 2017. Papadopoulos returns in a new production directed by **Alexandros Efklidis**, 20 years after he first conducted *Le Nozze di Figaro* with the company.



Papadopoulos will conduct two separate casts of singers in the roles, including **Vassiliki Karayanni, Panajotis Iconomou, Artemis Bogri, Chrissa Maliamani, Yannis Selitsaniotis**, and **Miranda Makrynioti**. *Le Nozze di Figaro* also features the **Orchestra and Chorus of the Greek National Opera**, with set by **Yannis Katranitsas**, costumes by **Ioanna Tsami**.

Le Nozze di Figaro was the first of Mozart's three operas set to a libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte, and was based on Beaumarchais's comedy *La folle journée*. First presented in Vienna in 1786, a few years before the French Revolution, the libretto reflects the era's unrest and the growing tension between the social classes.



Count Almaviva attempt to bed his wife's maid, Susanna, on her wedding night, while the rest of the household conspire against him. This new production under director **Alexandros Efklidis** sees the action updated to the second half of the 20th century. The production, he notes: *"attempts to bring out the subtleties of the composer's musico-dramatic genius. Within a movie set Mozart's heroes morph into cogs in a strange world, [...] meanwhile, emphasis is given on the timeless struggle for social climbing and respectability."*

The **Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center** was completed in 2016 to a design by architect **Renzo Piano**. It is the home of the **Greek National Opera** with its 1,400 seat auditorium, holds the National Library of Greece, and is set in the 21-hectare Stavros Niarchos Park, all located in the centre of Athens.



Marios Papadopoulos enjoys an active international career both as pianist and conductor, and has previously appeared as guest conductor with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra & Chorus, European Union Chamber Orchestra and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Papadopoulos is the Founder and Music Director of the **Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra**, also celebrating 20 years this season.

The Greek National Opera and the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra are connected through the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, which also supports the Orchestra's outreach and educational work, including a £5 ticket scheme for students.

Le Nozze di Figaro: Cast and Crew

23 March, 19:30

29 March, 19:30

12 April, 19:30

14 April, 19:30

Stavros Niarchos Hall, Greek
National Opera

Dimitris Tiliakos Count

Almaviva

Maria Mitsopoulou Countess

Almaviva

Vassiliki Karayanni Susanna

Panajotis Iconomou Figaro

Artemis Bogri Cherubino

Elena Kelessidi Marcellina

Dimitris Kassioumis

Bartolo

Nikos Stefanou Basilio

Stamatis Beris Don

Curzio

Marilena Striftobola Barbarina

Kostis Rasidakis Antonio

Alexandros Efklidis director

Marios Papadopoulos

conductor

Giorgos Balatsinos conductor
(14 April)

Angela-Kleopatra Saroglou

dramaturg, collaborating director

Yannis Katranitsas set

Ioanna Tsami costumes

Melina Mascha lighting

Konstantinos Rigos movement

Agathangelos Georgakatos

chorus master

Greek National Opera

Orchestra

Greek National Opera Chorus

27 March, 19:30

31 March, 18:30

17 April, 19:30

20 April, 19:30

Stavros Niarchos Hall, Greek
National Opera

Dionyssis Sourbis Count

Almaviva

Myrsini Margariti Countess

Almaviva

Chrissa Maliamani Susanna

Yannis Selitsaniotis Figaro

Miranda Makrynioti Cherubino

Despoina Skarlatou Marcellina

Christophoros Stamboglis

Bartolo

Christos Kechris Basilio

Dionyssis Melogiannidis Don

Curzio

Annie Fassea Barbarina

Michalis Katsoulis Antonio

Alexandros Efklidis director

Marios Papadopoulos

conductor

Giorgos Balatsinos conductor
(17, 20 April)

Angela-Kleopatra Saroglou

dramaturg, collaborating director

Yannis Katranitsas set

Ioanna Tsami costumes

Melina Mascha lighting

Konstantinos Rigos movement

Agathangelos Georgakatos

chorus master

Greek National Opera

Orchestra

Greek National Opera Chorus

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 appeared as soloist with and conducted many of the world's great orchestras, and worked with a host of eminent musicians including Vladimir Ashkenazy, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Menahem Pressler, Maxim Vengerov, Renée Fleming, Martha Argerich and Lang Lang. His recordings of the Beethoven sonatas have been set on a level with Schnabel, Brendel, Barenboim, and Wilhelm Kempff (Daily Telegraph, Classic FM Magazine Critics' Choice).

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 again to celebrate the Orchestra's 15th anniversary in the 2013-14 concert season. As part of the worldwide celebrations for Mozart's 250th anniversary year, he directed from the keyboard the composer's complete cycle of piano concertos with the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra. The Oxford Philharmonic's 2018-19 season sees Papadopoulos direct Stravinsky's Concerto for Piano and Winds from the keyboard, as well as Mozart piano concertos in Cheltenham and Oxford.

Guest conducting and soloist appearances included a 2015 UK tour with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Alison Balsom, Philharmonia Orchestra & Chorus, European Union Chamber Orchestra, and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. In March 2018 Papadopoulos appeared with the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra at the prestigious Xinghai Concert Hall in China, where he directed a Mozart Piano Concerto Cycle from the keyboard over the course of three weeks. In March 2019, he will be conducting a new production of The Marriage of Figaro at the Greek National Opera's newly created opera house in Athens.

A prolific recording artist, Papadopoulos's catalogue includes his critically acclaimed Beethoven sonatas, performances of Stravinsky's Concerto for Piano and Wind with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (Hyperion), works by Mozart, Mussorgsky, César Franck and the twenty-four Preludes and Fugues by Shostakovich. Most recordings are now available on the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra record label. He conducts the Oxford Philharmonic in new recordings of the Brahms and Sibelius violin concertos with Maxim Vengerov as soloist. As a pianist, he and Maxim Vengerov have recorded the complete Brahms violin sonatas and performed these in a recital 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 and, in 2016, the Wieniawski Violin Competition.

Marios 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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