

## The Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra performs works by Krzysztof Penderecki in honour of his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday



**Saturday, 18 May 19:30**  
Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford

### **Krzysztof Penderecki**

*Adagio* for String Orchestra from Symphony No. 3  
Viola Concerto  
Serenade for String Orchestra  
Concertino for Trumpet and Orchestra **UK PREMIERE**

On **Saturday 18 May**, the **Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra** celebrate **Krzysztof Penderecki's 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday** in Oxford's **Sheldonian Theatre**, performing works including his *Viola Concerto* with the Orchestra's own concertmaster Yuri Zhislin, and the UK premiere of his *Concertino for Trumpet and Orchestra*, with soloist Gábor Boldoczki. The concert will be conducted by Maestro Penderecki's Assistant Conductor, Maciej Tworek.

Multi-award winning Polish composer **Krzysztof Penderecki** is one of the most distinguished musicians of his generation. Works including his *Threnody for the Victims of Hiroshima*, *St Luke Passion*, *Cello Concerto no. 2*, *Polish Requiem*, *Violin Concerto no. 2*, and the *Double Concerto* are now considered masterworks of our time. 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.

Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra's concertmaster **Yuri Zhislin** is the soloist in Penderecki's *Viola Concerto*, which incorporates a broad range of musical techniques into a taut and compact time-span. Yuri Zhislin has a personal connection to the piece: his father Grigori Zhislin gave the premiere of the *Viola Concerto* in its chamber orchestration in 1985, with

the composer at the podium. Penderecki remained lifelong friends with Grigori Zhislin.

*In a stringed instrument you can always find something different. A new sound. It's like the human voice, and every good player is different. There is really no limit.*

- Krzysztof Penderecki

**Gábor Boldoczki** gives the UK premiere of Penderecki's **Concertino for Trumpet and Orchestra**, written for the trumpeter in 2015. The Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra also perform the **Adagio for String Orchestra** from Penderecki's Symphony No. 3 and his **Serenade for String Orchestra**.

Krzysztof Penderecki's 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday concert falls in a busy period for the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra, which celebrates **Leonardo da Vinci's 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary** by premiering a new commission – Codex – by **Manuel Martínez Burgos** alongside **Respighi's Three Botticelli Pictures** on **11 May** and unearths **Schumann's Violin Concerto** with **Alena Baeva** on **1 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, Andrés 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.

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

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