

Guy Johnston announces the 9th Hatfield House Chamber Music Festival will take place online with behind-the-scenes tours by Lord Salisbury



Concerts will be premiered free on the Festival's YouTube channel
Fridays 11, 18, 25 September & 2 October 2020

Guy Johnston Artistic Director, cello

Melvyn Tan piano
Iestyn Davies countertenor
Elizabeth Kenny lute
Richard Gowers organ

Katherine Broderick soprano
Kathryn Stott piano
Navarra Quartet
Julian Bliss clarinet

Filming of private concerts at Hatfield House will take place in late July 2020

Artistic Director **Guy Johnston** announces the 9th annual **Hatfield House Chamber Music Festival**, with four chamber concerts to be made available as free online streams. The private concerts will be filmed in late July in the historic rooms of Hatfield House, and will premiere on the Festival's [YouTube channel](#) on Friday evenings during September, with forewords by Lord Salisbury.

Each concert will offer a **rich cultural feast** with programmes augmented by exclusive interviews with artists, curators, historians, and the **Salisbury family** who have owned Hatfield House since 1607. While maintaining local support, filming opens the Festival up to a new audience worldwide for a truly unique experience, going behind the scenes at one of Britain's most celebrated historic houses, the childhood home of Elizabeth I.

Artistic Director Guy Johnston has devised a stimulating programme spanning 400 years from John Dowland, who appears in the House's archives, to the world premiere of a new work by composer **Matthew Kaner**. The repertoire for each concert will be introduced by **Stephen Johnson**.

Guy Johnston commented:

"We are thrilled to go ahead with the Festival and turn it into a family affair. We are giving audiences the opportunity to go behind the scenes with Lord Salisbury, who will introduce Hatfield House's historic features with art historian Dr Emily Burns. I am



delighted to invite many of the musicians who have become firm favourites at the Festival to perform under these unusual circumstances, with no audience except the Salisbury family. Rather than abandoning this year's Festival, we felt it was so important to keep musicians seen and heard, and above all employed."

Guy Johnston and pianist **Melvyn Tan** perform Mendelssohn's *Cello Sonata No. 2 in D Major*, and the **Navarra Quartet** unite with clarinettist **Julian Bliss** for Mozart's *Clarinet Quintet*. Soprano **Katherine Broderick** is joined by pianist **Kathryn Stott** in a programme of chamber songs by Quilter, Schubert and Fauré.



A historical concert in two parts delves into the sacred and secular seventeenth-century music-making of Hatfield House. Countertenor **Iestyn Davies** and lutenist **Elizabeth Kenny** perform songs by John Dowland in the Long Gallery, while organist **Richard Gowers** revives music from the House's archives on the remarkable 1609 Hahn organ in the Armoury.

Following Elizabeth I's reign, the House benefitted from the extensive musical patronage of its owner **Robert Cecil, 1st Earl of Salisbury**. Many of Britain's most celebrated Tudor and Jacobean musicians crop up in some form in the Hatfield House archive: John Dowland, lutenist and composer, and Nicolas Lanier, first ever Master of the King's Music, were in the First Earl of Salisbury's pay. Thomas Morley, William Byrd and Orlando Gibbons, amongst many others, dedicated pieces to him.

Hatfield House is the home of the 7th Marquess and Marchioness of Salisbury. It was built in the early 1600s by Robert Cecil, 1st Earl of Salisbury and son of Lord Burghley, the chief minister of **Elizabeth I**. The deer park surrounding the house and the older building of the Old Palace (built in 1485 by the Bishop of Ely, John Morton), had been owned by Elizabeth's father, Henry VIII, who used it as a home for his children, Edward, Elizabeth and Mary. It was while she was living in the Old Palace, in 1558, that Elizabeth learned of her accession to the throne.

The performances will be filmed by **Apple and Biscuit Recordings** in high quality and intimate multi-camera set-ups. Filming locations will include several of Hatfield House's historic and striking rooms, including the **Marble Hall**, home to the famous Rainbow Portrait of Queen Elizabeth I, and the Chapel, consecrated in 1614 and still used as a regular place of worship. The Oscar-winning 2019 film **The Favourite** was largely shot at Hatfield House.



The Festival will celebrate its **10th anniversary in 2021**, with celebrations set to include returning Festival Artists from the last ten years.

Programme

**Fridays 11, 18, 25 September
& 2 October 2020**

Bach *Cello Suite no. 2 in D minor*
Matthew Kaner *New Commission* **WORLD**

PREMIERE

Schubert *Impromptu*, Op. 90 no. 2
Mendelssohn *Cello Sonata No. 2 in D Major*

Beethoven *Trio in B-flat major*, Op. 11
for Clarinet, Cello, and Piano
Mozart *Clarinet Quintet*, K. 581
Schubert, Fauré, Quilter *Songs*
Dowland *Songs*
Handel, Bach, Tallis *Organ pieces*

With:

Guy Johnston cello
Melvyn Tan piano

Julian Bliss clarinet
Navarra Quartet
Iestyn Davies countertenor
Elizabeth Kenny lute

Richard Gowers organ
Katherine Broderick soprano
Kathryn Stott piano

Hatfield House Chamber Music Festival

President: The Marquess of Salisbury
Patron: HRH The Duchess of Kent
Artistic Director: Guy Johnston

The Hatfield House Chamber Music Festival is a long weekend of concerts, curated by Artistic Director Guy Johnston, which takes place annually in September/October at Hatfield House in Hertfordshire. The setting, musicians and audiences make this a warm, friendly festival with exceptionally high artistic standards. Now approaching its 9th year, the Festival has grown into a very successful and much-anticipated event by both locals and also by those who make a special journey to attend the Festival.

Over the past 8 years the Festival has welcomed performers such as the Navarra Quartet, pianists Tom Poster, Kathryn Stott and Melvyn Tan, Nicholas Daniel oboe, Alison Balsom trumpet, Sheku Kanneh-Mason cello, Lucy Crowe soprano, Rachel Podger baroque violin, James Gilchrist tenor, The Sixteen and the Aurora Orchestra all to perform in the beautiful surroundings of Hatfield House.

The Festival has a very strong education strand which runs alongside the main event and is committed to commissioning new works. Previous new commissions at the Festival include works by Charlotte Bray Perseus for cello and piano (2015 and at least 3 subsequent performances), Mark Simpson (Oboe Quartet 2019, co-commissioned by Wigmore Hall and Leicester International Music Festival) In 2017 HHCMF dedicated the whole Festival theme of Creation to works by contemporary composers Sally Beamish, Alec Roth, Thomas Adès, Joseph Phibbs, Donald Grant and others. A special piece has been commissioned for Guy Johnston and Melvyn Tan by Joseph Phibbs which will be premiered at the 10th anniversary Festival.

hatfieldhousemusicfestival.org.uk

Guy Johnston



Guy Johnston is one of the most exciting British cellists of his generation. His early successes included winning the BBC Young Musician of the Year, the Shell London Symphony Orchestra Gerald MacDonald Award and a Classical Brit. He has performed with many leading international orchestras including the London Philharmonic, Philharmonia, Ulster Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic, NHK Symphony Orchestra, BBC Symphony, Britten Sinfonia, Deutsches Symphonie Orchester Berlin, Orquestra Sinfonica do Estado de Sao Paulo, Moscow Philharmonic and St Petersburg Symphony.

Recent and forthcoming seasons have included concertos with BBC Philharmonic (Ilan Volkov), BBC Symphony Orchestra (Sakari Oramo), Philharmonia, Aurora Orchestra, Royal Northern Sinfonia and Rheinische Philharmonie. Guy continues to play chamber music and recitals at prestigious venues such as Wigmore Hall, Queen Elisabeth Hall, Louvre Museum and the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory and in festivals across Europe and is presenting programmes with Sheku Kanneh-Mason and Melvyn Tan.

A prolific recording artist, Guy's recent recordings include Howells' Cello Concerto with Britten Sinfonia (a piece he also gave the premiere of) and a celebration disc of the tricentenary of his David Tecchler cello, collaborating with the acclaimed Accademia di Santa Cecilia in Rome, where the cello was made. The 2018/19 season saw the release of his recording Themes and Variations with Tom Poster, comprising works by Beethoven, Grieg, Chopin, MacMillan, Schumann and Martinu.

Guy is a passionate advocate for contemporary composers regular commissioning, performing and recording new works. He gave the premiere of Charlotte Bray's 'Falling in the Fire' at the BBC Proms in 2015 and will be giving the Netherlands performance of a new cello concerto by Gerald Barry at the Cello Biennale Amsterdam in 2020. He has recently commissioned works by composers such as David Matthews, Mark Simpson and Joseph Phibbs.

In addition to a busy and versatile career as an international soloist, chamber musician and guest principal, Guy is an inspiring leader of young musicians as a patron of several charities which promote music education for school children and young people including Music First and Future Talent. He is a board member of the Pierre Fournier Award for young cellists.

He is Artistic Director of the Hatfield House Chamber Music Festival and a founder member of the award-winning Aronowitz Ensemble. He is Associate Professor of Cello at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York and a guest Professor of Cello at the Royal Academy of Music, where he was awarded an Hon. ARAM in 2015.

Guy plays a 1714 David Tecchler cello, generously on loan from the Godlee-Tecchler Trust which is administered by The Royal Society of Musicians.

guy-johnston.com

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