

Oxford Piano Festival to go online, with enterprising recitals from young stars, webinars and masterclasses

Welcoming young alumni Ignas Maknickas, Kausikan Rajeshkumar, Oda Voltersvik, Julius Asal & Nuron Mukumi



Monday 3 August – Friday 7 August 2020

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'an international forum to turn piano lessons into performance art'
The New York Times

The **Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra** and Artistic Director **Marios Papadopoulos** announce the 22nd **Oxford Piano Festival** will take place online from Monday 3 August to Friday 7 August 2020. The Festival typically welcomes some of the world's most distinguished pianists and teachers for a week-long series of varied concerts and masterclasses; this year, it will offer free webinars, clinics, and archive masterclasses augmented by evening concerts from five of the Festival's young alumni, recorded especially for the Festival.

Marios Papadopoulos said:

"I am delighted to take Oxford Piano Festival online this year, giving aspiring pianists across the globe a chance to experience the unique didactic environment of our Festival. I am thrilled to welcome back some of our most talented young alumni to inspire this next generation of participants."

The evening recital series opens with **Ignas Maknickas**, who performs Bach's arresting *Chaconne in D minor* (transcribed by Busoni) and Chopin's *Ballade No. 4*. **Kausikan Rajeshkumar** gives the second evening recital on 4 August, performing short works from Chopin's *Minute Waltz* to Saint-Saëns' *The Swan*, via Schubert, Liszt and Rachmaninoff.

The midweek recital is given by **Oda Voltersvik**, while on 6 August, **Julius Asal** offers Bartók's renowned *Suite, Op. 14* before concluding with Prokofiev's *'Romeo and Juliet'* selections. Closing the Festival, **Nuron Mukumi** offers a selection from Tchaikovsky's *18 pieces for piano, Op. 72*. The five alumni recitals will be streamed at 20:00 each evening on Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra's [YouTube channel](#).

Aspiring pianists can benefit from **masterclasses** with Marios Papadopoulos and Festival alumni Martin James Bartlett and Adam Heron, taken from the 2017 Festival.

A special Zoom webinar edition of **Rob Cowan's Record Review** offers audiophiles the chance to hear a selection of some of the greatest piano recordings ever made, from the golden age of the gramophone to the advent of the compact disc. On 6 August, **Ian Jones' Piano Clinic** invites pianists to have piano-related ailments diagnosed, answering questions about teaching, technique, performance and interpretation.

The **Oxford Piano Festival** creates a unique didactic environment for emerging young professionals to learn from some of the world's most esteemed pianists. The concept of the pianist as an all-round musician lies at the heart of the Festival: the various roles of the pianist – as virtuoso, chamber musician, accompanist, conductor, academic and teacher – are all explored. In typical years, selected participants are given the opportunity to take part in masterclasses, attend recitals, and showcase their talents following fresh guidance from these pillars of the piano world.

The Oxford Piano Festival is presented by the **Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra**, which, since being established in 1998 by Music Director and esteemed pianist **Marios Papadopoulos**, has grown steadily in stature. The Orchestra attracts some of the world's leading soloists and conductors, including Valery Gergiev, Sir András Schiff, Lang Lang, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Martha Argerich and Maxim Vengerov. The musicians of the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra include some of the UK's finest players.

Full Schedule of Events

	Daytime <i>Masterclasses & workshops</i>	20:00 <i>Alumni Recitals (on YouTube)</i>
3 August	Masterclass (2017) Martin James Bartlett with Marios Papadopoulos (on Facebook)	Ignas Maknickas <i>Bach/Busoni Chaconne in D minor</i> Chopin <i>Ballade No. 4 in F minor</i>
4 August	Record Review With Rob Cowan Hosted on Zoom (register through oxfordphil.com)	Kausikan Rajeshkumar Chopin <i>Nocturne in F sharp major, Op. 15 No. 2</i> Chopin <i>Waltz in D flat major, Op. 64 No. 1</i> Schubert/Liszt <i>Soirées de Vienne, Valse-Caprice No. 6</i> Liszt <i>Concert Etude Waldesrauschen</i> Saint-Saëns/Godowsky <i>The Swan</i> Rachmaninoff <i>Etude-Tableau in D major, Op. 39 No. 9</i>
5 August	Masterclass (2017) Adam Heron with Marios Papadopoulos (on Facebook)	Oda Voltersvik
6 August	Piano Clinic With Ian Jones (on IGTV)	Julius Asal Bartók <i>Suite, Op. 14</i> Prokofiev <i>Selection from 'Romeo and Juliet'</i>
7 August		Nuron Mukumi Tchaikovsky <i>Selection from Eighteen Pieces, Op. 72</i>

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, András 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 June 2021. 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 most recent disc *The Enlightened Trumpet* with soloist Paul Merkelo was released on Sony Classical in September 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 '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 Oxford Philharmonic's 20th anniversary celebrations in the 2018/19 season, Vengerov, Anne-Sophie Mutter and Martha Argerich joined the Orchestra for a gala concert at the Barbican.

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



Described by The Times at his 1975 recital debut as 'having all the attributes of one of the world's greatest players', Marios Papadopoulos has enjoyed an international career both as pianist and conductor. He has worked with a host of eminent musicians including Vladimir Ashkenazy, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Maxim Vengerov, Renée Fleming 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).

With vast experience directing from the keyboard, Papadopoulos has conducted the complete cycles of Beethoven symphonies and piano concertos. In 2006, Papadopoulos directed the Mozart's complete piano concertos from the keyboard, and in 2018, he performed a mini-cycle of the concertos in China with the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra. In March 2019, he conducted a new production of The Marriage of Figaro at the Greek National Opera. The Orchestra's Oxford Beethoven Festival 2020 sees him conduct all of Beethoven's piano concertos from the keyboard.

Papadopoulos's recording catalogue includes his critically acclaimed Beethoven sonatas and works by Stravinsky (with the RPO), Mozart, Mussorgsky, Franck and Shostakovich. He and Maxim Vengerov have recorded the complete Brahms violin sonatas and performed them 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.

Marios Papadopoulos holds a doctorate in music from City University and is a member of the Oxford University Faculty of Music and Fellow by Special Election of Keble College. Papadopoulos was awarded an MBE in 2014 for services to music.

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