

Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra announces online concert series featuring Sheku Kanneh-Mason and world premieres by Mats Lidström and Libby Croad



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Fridays 1, 15, 29 January & 15 February 2021

Streamed on the [Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra's YouTube channel](#)

Following their [concert in tribute to the Oxford Vaccine Teams](#), which included the world premiere of John Rutter's *Joseph's Carol*, the **Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra** is kicking off 2021 with an online series of four concerts, streamed free to its audiences worldwide. Highlights include Dvorak's Cello Concerto with **Sheku Kanneh-Mason**, as well as **two world premieres**: Libby Croad's 'Suite for Strings' and Mats Lidström's *Sappho in Manchester*.

The four-part series will be streamed on the [Orchestra's YouTube channel](#) every fortnight at 7.30pm, beginning 1 January 2021 with star cellist **Sheku Kanneh-Mason** joining the Orchestra in his first broadcast performance of Dvořák's rich and lyrical Cello Concerto in B minor, performed in its arrangement for chamber orchestra by George Morton.

Also included in the cello-focussed programme is the world premiere of *Sappho in Manchester: Interlude for String Quartet and Orchestra*, composed by **Mats Lidström**, Solo Cello of the Orchestra. The piece is inspired by the treasured memory of Lidström's visits to his son at the Royal Northern College of Music, and their frequent trips to visit Charles Auguste Mengin's painting of Sappho at the Manchester Art Gallery.

A concert of **Baroque favourites** takes place on Friday 15 January 2021, including Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 and Vivaldi's Concerto for 4 Violins in B minor featuring soloists from the Orchestra.

On Friday 29 January 2021, Co-Concertmaster and violist **Yuri Zhislin** directs the Orchestra in the world premiere of Suite for Strings by **Libby Croad**. Zhislin also performs his own viola transcription of Glazunov's Saxophone Concerto, and the programme closes with Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings.

The series finale on Friday 15 February 2021 sees Associate Concertmaster **Charlotte Scott** perform Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 3 in G major in an all-Mozart programme, which also includes the composer's intimate Symphony No. 29 in A major.

The concerts were filmed by **Apple & Biscuit Recordings** at **London's Hellenic Centre** in October, and the series was made possible by a lifeline grant from the Government's **Culture Recovery Fund**.

Streamed concerts

Friday 1 January 2021, 7.30pm
Streamed online

Dvořák Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104 (arr. George Morton for Chamber Orchestra)

Mats Lidström *Sappho in Manchester:*
Interlude for String Quartet and
Orchestra **WORLD PREMIERE**

Sheku Kanneh-Mason cello
Marios Papadopoulos conductor

Friday 15 January 2021, 7.30pm
Streamed online

Bach Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 in G
major, BWV 1049

Vivaldi Concerto for 4 Violins in B
minor, RV 580

Bach Violin Concerto in A minor, BWV
1041

Bach Air from Orchestral Suite No. 3 in
G major, BWV 1068

Pachelbel Canon in D major

Marios Papadopoulos harpsichord /
director

Friday 29 January 2021, 7.30pm
Streamed online

Libby Croad Suite for Strings **WORLD
PREMIERE**

Glazunov Alto Saxophone Concerto in E
flat major, Op. 109 (arr. Zhislin for
viola)

Tchaikovsky Serenade for Strings in C
major, Op. 48

Yuri Zhislin viola / director

Friday 15 February 2021, 7.30pm
Streamed online

Mozart Violin Concerto No. 3 in G
major, K. 216

Mozart Symphony No. 29 in A major, K.
201

Charlotte Scott violin
Marios Papadopoulos conductor

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 disc *The Enlightened Trumpet* with soloist Paul Merkelo was released on Sony Classical in Autumn 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 the ensemble's '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 Orchestra's 20th anniversary celebrations in the 2018/19 season, Vengerov joined the Orchestra at the Barbican in a performance of the Bach 'Double' with Anne-Sophie Mutter, in a gala concert also featuring Martha Argerich.

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 launched 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.

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



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 worked with a host of eminent musicians including Vladimir Ashkenazy, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Menahem Pressler, Renée Fleming, Martha Argerich and Lang Lang.

Papadopoulos's recording catalogue includes his critically acclaimed Beethoven sonatas - which have been set on a level with Schnabel, Brendel, Barenboim, and Kempff (*Daily Telegraph*, *Classic FM Magazine*) - and works by Stravinsky (with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra), Mozart, Mussorgsky, Franck and Shostakovich. He and Maxim Vengerov have recorded the complete Brahms violin sonatas and performed them at Vienna's Musikverein in 2016.

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 to celebrate the Orchestra's 15th anniversary in the 2013/14 concert season, and will again with the 2020 Beethoven Festival, celebrating the composer's 250th anniversary.

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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