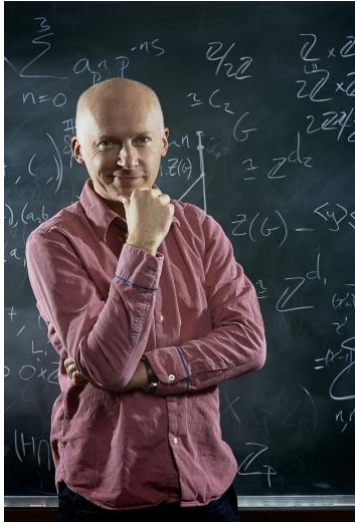


Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra announce Spring concert series with Nicola Benedetti, Lawrence Power & Marcus du Sautoy from the Sheldonian Theatre



**Sundays 18 April, 9 & 23 May, 22 June 2021**  
From the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford

Featuring  
**Nicola Benedetti** violin  
**Lawrence Power** viola  
**Marcus du Sautoy** presenter

**Marios Papadopoulos** director  
**Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra**

Free tickets available at: [oxfordphil.com](https://www.oxfordphil.com)

This Spring, **Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra** and Music Director **Marios Papadopoulos** release an online series of four concerts filmed in the city's historic Sheldonian Theatre.

Streamed free to its audiences worldwide, highlights of the series include a programme of maths and Stradivari from **Marcus du Sautoy**, an all-star rendition of Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante for Violin, Viola and Orchestra with **Nicola Benedetti** and **Lawrence Power**, and an interplanetary family concert celebrating Earth Day.

The four-part concert series will be streamed through the Orchestra's YouTube channel on Sundays in April, May and June at 7.30pm, with free tickets available for each concert through the Orchestra's website: [oxfordphil.com](https://www.oxfordphil.com). The concerts will be available indefinitely, with the exception of Nicola Benedetti's programme which is available for 28 days from 23 May 2021.

Linking music and maths on Sunday 18 April 2021, Professor **Marcus du Sautoy** joins the Orchestra to explore mathematical theories behind the designs and resonances of the historic instruments made in the Stradivarius workshop, including a demonstration of the Chladni Plates experiment, where sound oscillates through a layer of salt, displacing grains to create spectacular hidden symmetries and patterns.

Three violinists with the Orchestra will perform on **Stradivarius instruments**. Two instruments are on generous loan from J & A Beare and the Beare's International Violin Society, and the instrument played by Charlotte Scott is supported by the Stradivari Trust.

Du Sautoy introduces a programme of Rameau's 'The Arts and the Hours' from *Les Boréades* and Bach's Concerto for Two Violins in D minor and Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 in F Major. Bach and Rameau were both composers for whom mathematical thought influenced their art, fusing the intellectual and the emotional.

*"Notwithstanding all the experience I may have acquired in music from being associated with it for so long, I must confess that only with the aid of mathematics did my ideas become clear."*

- Rameau, *Traite de l'harmonie* (1722)

Du Sautoy is the Simonyi Professor for the Public Understanding of Science and Professor of Mathematics at the University of Oxford, and has worked with the orchestra on several occasions to unveil links between mathematics and music.

Star violinist **Nicola Benedetti** directs the Oxford Philharmonic on Sunday 23 May 2021 in an all-Mozart programme including his highly-inventive Sinfonia Concertante for Violin, Viola and Orchestra in E flat major, joined by **Lawrence Power** in musical conversation. The concert opens with Benedetti leading Mozart's radiant 'Turkish' Violin Concerto in A major from the violin, the composer's fifth and final Violin Concerto, written at just 19 years old.

To be released on Sunday 9 May 2021, Marios Papadopoulos conducts the Orchestra in an **all-Haydn programme**: his 'Trauersinfonie' Symphony No. 44 in E minor, reported to have been requested by the composer at his funeral, and Symphony No. 49 in F minor, 'La Passione', perhaps intended for a religious performance.

The Spring series closes in June as Papadopoulos directs the Orchestra in **three works by Mozart**, including his 'Serenata notturna' – Serenade No. 6 in D major – paired with Mozart's celebrated Eine Kleine Nachtmusik.

On **Earth Day**, Thursday 22 April 2021, Alasdair Malloy leads the Orchestra in a tour around the Earth as an interplanetary tour guide in the family concert **FUNomusica: Mission Earth**. He is joined by the Orchestra's Jamie Hutchinson from the Orchestra's family-friendly *OP at Home* series. The *Mission Earth* series is presented in partnership with Oxford City Council.

The four episodes focus on the four colours visible on the planet from space: red correlates with the desert, blue with the ocean, white with the ice caps and green for forests and jungles. All four episodes of the Mission Earth journey will be released on 22 April 2021.

The Orchestra's Spring concerts have been filmed by **Apple & Biscuit Recordings** and are made possible by a lifeline grant from the Government's Culture Recovery Fund.

The Orchestra perform from Oxford's Grade I listed **Sheldonian Theatre**, the Oxford Philharmonic's main orchestral venue, built between 1664 and 1668 after a design by Sir Christopher Wren. Handel conducted the first performance of his third oratorio *Athalia* there in 1733.

## Full Listings

**Sunday 18 April 2021, 7:30pm**  
From the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford

### **Baroque and Beyond**

**Rameau** 'The Arts and the Hours' from  
*Les Boréades*, Act IV, Sc. IV  
**Bach** Concerto for Two Violins in D  
minor, BWV 1043  
**Bach** Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 in F  
major, BWV 1047

**Marcus du Sautoy** presenter

**Tamás András, Charlotte Scott,**  
**Alicja Śmietana** violins  
**Anthony Robb** flute  
**Peter Facer** oboe  
**Christian Barraclough** trumpet

**Marios Papadopoulos** director  
**Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra**

**Thursday 22 April 2021, 3:00pm**  
From Oxford Town Hall

### **FUNomusica: Mission Earth**

Includes:  
**Mendelssohn** The Hebrides Overture  
(Fingal's Cave)  
**Strauss** Also Sprach Zarathustra  
**Mozart** Rondo alla Turca

**Alasdair Malloy** presenter, conductor  
**Jamie Hutchinson** presenter  
**Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra**

## 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-

**Sunday 9 May 2021, 7:30pm**  
From the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford

**Haydn** Symphony No. 44 in E minor  
**Haydn** Symphony No. 49 in F minor

**Marios Papadopoulos** director  
**Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra**

**Sunday 23 May 2021, 7:30pm**  
From the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford

**Mozart** Violin Concerto No. 5 in A  
major, 'Turkish'  
**Mozart** Sinfonia Concertante for Violin,  
Viola and Orchestra in E flat major, K.  
364

**Nicola Benedetti** violin, director  
**Lawrence Power** viola  
**Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra**

**Sunday 20 June 2021, 7:30pm**  
From the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford

**Mozart** Serenade No. 6 in D major, K.  
239, 'Serenata notturna'  
**Mozart** Divertimento in D major, K. 136  
**Mozart** Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, K. 525

**Marios Papadopoulos** director  
**Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra**

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

---

**For more information on any of the above, please contact:**

**Nicky Thomas Media**

2-6 Baches St, London N1 6DN

+44 (0)20 3714 7594 | +44 (0)7768 566 530

[info@nickythomasmedia.com](mailto:info@nickythomasmedia.com)

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