

Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra returns to live performance with Steven Isserlis, Chevalier de Saint Georges and a UN World Environment Day concert



5, 13, 26 & 30 June 2021
Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford

Featuring
Steven Isserlis cello
Anthony Robb flute
Caroline Dale cello
Laura Ruiz Ferreres clarinet
Charlotte Scott, Yuri Zhislin, Tereza Privratska violin
Robert Murray tenor

Marios Papadopoulos director
Marios Papadopoulos, Hannah Schneider, Douglas Boyd conductors
Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra

Making their long-awaited return to live performance for the first time since March 2020, the **Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra** and Music Director **Marios Papadopoulos** will once again welcome live audiences to the historic Sheldonian Theatre. Performing four concerts throughout June, the Orchestra launches the series on UN World Environment Day with further concerts featuring Haydn's Cello Concerto No. 1 with **Steven Isserlis** and two concerts exploring the works of **Chevalier de Saint-Georges** and his contemporary, Mozart.

In a celebration of **UN World Environment Day** on Saturday 5 June 2021, the Orchestra presents a special programme centred around the Amazonian Moonflower.

Michael English's *The Moonflower* was composed in memory of the botanical artist Margaret Mee, who produced over 400 illustrations of Brazilian flora and used her art to defend environmentalism. On her final Amazonian voyage, she located and drew the rare Amazonian Moonflower, which blooms only one night a year. In 1989, Marios Papadopoulos conducted the world premiere of *The Moonflower* in Rio de Janeiro.

Continuing in the environmental theme, the programme includes a local twist with former Oxford student George Butterworth's *The Banks of Green Willow* and Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending*, performed by Charlotte Scott, Associate Concertmaster with the Orchestra. The concert is conducted by Papadopoulos and Assistant Conductor Hannah Schneider.

Two concerts on Saturday 13 & Wednesday 30 June 2021 explore symphonic works by **Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges**, champion fencer, Revolutionary colonel, violinist, conductor, and one of the first major classical composers of African ancestry. The Orchestra perform his Symphony No. 2, taken from the overture to his only surviving opera, *L'amant anonyme*, and his *Symphonie Concertante* in G major, a form that Saint-Georges pioneered, with two violinists taking prominent roles from within the ensemble.

Both works by Chevalier de Saint-Georges are paired with wind concertos by his better-known contemporary, Mozart: **Anthony Robb**, Solo Flute with the Orchestra, performs Mozart's sprightly Flute Concerto No. 2 on Saturday 13 June 2021, in a concert that also includes a selection of Mozart arias, while on Wednesday 30 June 2021, **Laura Ruiz Ferreres** joins the Orchestra in Mozart's Clarinet Concerto, his last instrumental work.

In an **all-Haydn concert** on Saturday 26 June 2021 conducted by Douglas Boyd, acclaimed cellist **Steven Isserlis** joins the Orchestra in Haydn's Cello Concerto No. 1, composed during his earliest years with the Esterházy family. Thought to be lost for almost two centuries, it is now considered one of Haydn's most successful concertos as it breaks through the limits of the Baroque style. The concerto is paired with **Haydn's 'Oxford' Symphony No. 92**, so called because Haydn is said to have conducted it at the conclusion of the ceremony at which he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Music by the University of Oxford. The Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra perform the piece again in the Sheldonian Theatre, where the ceremony was held, 230 years later almost to the day.

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

Tickets for all concerts are available from the Orchestra's website at oxfordphil.com/events. All concerts will be filmed by Apple and Biscuit Recordings for deferred release online.

This concert series has been made possible by a lifeline grant from the Government's Culture Recovery Fund and Arts Council England.

Full Listings

Saturday 5 June 2021

Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford

UN World Environment Day Concert

Delius A Song before Sunrise *

Vaughan Williams The Lark Ascending *
with **Charlotte Scott** violin

Butterworth The Banks of Green Willow *

Michael English Moonflower **UK PREMIERE**
with **Caroline Dale** cello

Vivaldi Violin Concerto in E major, RV 269, 'Spring'
with **Tereza Privratska** violin

Vivaldi Violin Concerto in G minor, RV 315, 'Summer'
with **Yuri Zhislin** violin

Hannah Schneider conductor *
Marios Papadopoulos conductor

Sunday 13 June 2021

Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford

Chevalier de Saint-Georges Symphony No. 2 in D major, Op. 11

Mozart Flute Concerto No. 2 in D major, K. 314

Mozart 'Porgi amor' from *Le nozze di Figaro*

Mozart 'Il mio tesoro' from *Don Giovanni*

Mozart 'Temerari...Come Scoglio' from *Così fan tutte*

Mozart 'Dies Bildnis ist bezaubernd schön' from *Die Zauberflöte*

Mozart 'Fra gli amplessi' from *Così fan tutte*

Anthony Robb flute

Robert Murray tenor

tbc soprano

Marios Papadopoulos conductor

Saturday 26 June 2021
Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford

Haydn Cello Concerto No. 1 in C major,
Hob.VIIb:1
Haydn Symphony No. 92 in G major, Hob.
I:92, 'Oxford'

Steven Isserlis cello
Douglas Boyd conductor

Wednesday 30 June 2021
Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford

Mozart Divertimento in B flat major, K.
137
Chevalier de Saint-Georges Symphonie
Concertante in G major, Op. 13
Mozart Clarinet Concerto in A major, K.
622

Laura Ruiz Ferreres clarinet
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 2022. 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.

www.oxfordphil.com

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