

Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra releases family-friendly videos to entertain children this Winter



Tuesday 1 December 2020

[Watch A Christmas Special on Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra's YouTube Channel](#)

This Winter, the **Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra** releases family-friendly music videos with members of the Orchestra online, designed to entertain and infuse music-making with a sense of fun. The **four videos** follow the success of their summer 'OP at Home' series and will be released on the Orchestra's [YouTube Channel](#). Due to the coronavirus crisis, musicians are unable to continue their usual work in schools meaning that, without these videos, children might miss out on these music-making activities.

To be released on 1 December 2020 is [A Christmas Special](#), featuring a brass quintet playing festive favourites, sleigh bells, Christmas jumpers, and tons of tinsel. An episode all about **Dance** will be released around the New Year, and a **Brass Movies** episode will follow in 2021.



The series launched in October with the Halloween-themed [Spooky Strings](#) which saw members of the string section enthrall young viewers with Saint-Saëns' Dance Macabre, a Monstrous Disco Medley and encouraged viewers to join in making spooky sound effects on their instruments.

The series has been created by **Jamie Hutchinson**, Principal 2nd Violin with the Orchestra, and musicians from the Orchestra in hopes of sending music, fun and creativity to children watching at home and in school. The videos take place in the beautiful church of St Augustine's in Kilburn, and were filmed and edited by **Tall Wall Media**.

The new series follows the success of the Orchestra's six-week **#OPatHome** series, filmed from the musician's own homes during the first lockdown. The series introduced primary school children to music-making, with members of the Orchestra introducing their instruments, telling stories, performing legendary musical excerpts and suggesting interactive activities.

Education has always been at the heart of the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra's mission. The Orchestra's educational programmes bring music-making, masterclasses and tuition to children from primary school age to University students. In addition, their

FUNomusica Family Concerts held in conjunction with the Oxford City Council foster a love of music for young children and their families during the Orchestra's concert season.

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 upcoming disc *The Enlightened Trumpet* with soloist Paul Merkelo will be 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 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.

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

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

www.nickythomasmedia.com