

Daring aviator Antoine de Saint-Exupéry takes flight once more in *Wind, Sand and Stars*, a new digital concert from Orchestra of the Swan



[Watch the trailer to *Wind, Sand and Stars*](#)

Monday 11 January 2021, 20:00
***Wind, Sand and Stars* – Night Owl Digital Concert**

Words by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry with music by Ravel, Satie, Debussy, Saint-Saëns, Piazzolla, Charles Trenet & David Le Page

Graham Padden narrator

In the second of their straight-to-streaming **Night Owl** digital concerts, **Orchestra of the Swan** with Artistic Director **David Le Page**, capture the daring days of early aviation when to be a pilot was a thing of wonder, in an intrepid voyage with the daring French aviator **Antoine de Saint-Exupéry**, author of *Le Petit Prince*.

Extracts from the autobiography of the great aviator, *Wind, Sand and Stars*, narrated by **Graham Padden**, interweave with a soundscape from twentieth-century France, from the velvet minimalist chords of Satie, to the brightly polished and exquisite whirring world of Ravel, from the exotic flavours of Debussy to the grit and pathos of Montmartre Chanson, with Charles Trenet's iconic *La Mer* in an arrangement by David Le Page.

Through bittersweet words and music, the digital concert captures the wonder and magic of the world seen from the sky, the desert's sand, wind and stars, which mesmerised Saint-Exupery from a solitary height: *"I know solitude. Three years in the desert have taught me its taste. What is frightening is not the consuming of youth out there in that landscape, but the perception that far away from you the whole world is growing old. The trees have formed their fruit, the earth has brought forth its wheat, the women are already lovely. The season is moving on, you want to hurry home...The season is moving on, and you are trapped far away...And the good things of the earth are slipping between your fingers like the fine sand of the dunes."*

The **Night Owl Digital Concert series** takes audiences to ethereal worlds in innovative late-night sets.



The pilot, poet, and writer **Antoine de Saint-Exupéry** grew up in an impoverished aristocratic family before qualifying as a military pilot and establishing airmail routes around the world. His seminal novella *Le Petit Prince* drew on his experiences as a pilot, including his 1935 near-death plane crash and rescue from the Saharan desert. Saint-Exupéry was declared missing, presumed dead, in 1944, following his disappearance from a WWII military reconnaissance mission; the wreckage of his plane only came to light sixty years later following the discovery of his identity bracelet.

"Flying is not the point. The aeroplane is a means, not an end. It is not for the plane that we risk our lives. ... But through the plane we can leave the cities and the accountants, and find a truth that farmers know. We are in contact with the wind, with the stars, with the night, with the sand, with the sea. We try to outwit the forces of nature. ... I have no regrets. I've gambled and I've lost...But at least I have breathed the wind of the sea."

Wind, Sand and Stars is available to stream from Monday 11 January 2021 at 20:00. Tickets are available from orchestraoftheswan.org and cost **£10**.



Luna, the celestial opening concert of the digital concert series, which tells the unprecedented scientific leap that took man to the moon half a century ago, is available to [stream now](#).

On Friday 22 January 2021, Orchestra of the Swan releases a new mixtape album on **Signum; Timelapse** sets canonical composers alongside contemporaries, with Rameau meeting Reich and Radiohead, and Schubert against Satie and The Smiths. *Timelapse* will be released on film as a **Night Owl digital concert** on 19 April 2021.

Championed in orchestral arrangements by Artistic Director **David Le Page**, *Timelapse* brings together diverse musicians past and present, from the Baroque finesse of Rameau and Couperin and the Romantic writing of Grieg and Schubert to contemporary composers Thomas Adès and Errollyn Wallen, and popular stars including Radiohead and The Smiths.

The recording creates a space where sounds of the past and present collide to form a unique musical landscape, where notions of time and style become irrelevant, inspired by David Le Page's multidisciplinary musical background.

Wind, Sand and Stars

From Monday 11 January 2021, 20:00

Online from the Play House, Stratford-upon-Avon

Wind, Sand and Stars – Night Owl Digital Concert

Words by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Ravel *Introduction and Allegro*

Ravel *String Quartet* (2nd movement)

Satie *Gnossienne 1* arr. Le Page
Trenet *La Mer* arr. Le Page/Turner
Ravel *Introduction and Allegro*
Le Page *Snow Falling on Cedars*
Debussy *Danse sacrée*
Saint-Saëns *Fantasia*
Debussy *The Girl with the Flaxen Hair*
Ravel *String Quartet* (2nd movement)
Le Page *Cinderella*
Piazzolla *Oblivion* arr. Garcia

with **Graham Padden** narrator

Timelapse CD Listings

Timelapse

Recorded at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire in January 2020

Orchestra of the Swan

Bruce O'Neil conductor

Schubert/Le Page *Sleep Softly*
Grieg *Air*
Couperin *Les Barricades Mystérieuses* (arr. Le Page)
Steve Reich *Duet*
Thomas Adès *O Albion*
[Vivaldi *Sleep 1* \(Four Seasons arr. Trish Clowes\)](#)
[Satie *Gnossienne No. 1* \(arr. Le Page\)](#)
[Radiohead *Pyramid Song* \(arr. Le Page\)](#)
Rameau *Les Boréades*
Vivaldi *Sleep 2* (Four Seasons arr. David Gordon)
Bowie *Heroes* (arr. Le Page)
Errollyn Wallen *Chorale*
The Smiths *There is a light that never goes out* (arr. Le Page)
Gorecki *3 pieces in Old Style, mvt 3*

Orchestra of the Swan



Orchestra of the Swan was founded in 1995 and is based in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, with an annual programme of over 45 concerts throughout England and Wales.

OOTS also has an international impact having toured to China, Turkey, Mexico, USA and across the UK alongside groups such as Steve Harley & Cockney Rebel and James.

The OOTS catalogue of over 20 recordings features works by Bax, Copland, Elgar, Finzi, Ireland, Mahler, Strauss and Shostakovich, with the recording of the complete symphonies by Hans Gál receiving outstanding critical acclaim.

OOTS is passionate about promoting new music and has premiered more than 70 new works by composers including Joe Cutler, Tansy Davies, Joe Duddell, Alexander Goehr, Roxanna Panufnik, Joseph Phibbs, Dobrinka Tabakova, Errollyn Wallen, Huw Watkins, John Woolrich and many others.

OOTS has been enormously successful in making a positive and effective contribution to the communities at the heart of its 'immersive residencies', with an ambitious program of work in care homes, schools and rural areas growing year by year.

OOTS is proof that an orchestra really can be an indispensable and relevant part of the community with its aim to entertain, educate and engage in a way that truly makes it a living orchestra.

orchestraoftheswan.org

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