

The Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra announces Oxford Piano Festival 2022

Welcoming Víkingur Ólafsson, Elisabeth Leonskaja, Ingrid Fliter,
Alim Beisembayev, Alain Lefèvre, Nikolai Lugansky and Samantha Ege



Saturday 30 July – Sunday 7 August 2022

"An international forum to turn piano lessons into performance art"
The New York Times

The **Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra** and Artistic Director **Marios Papadopoulos** announce the 24th **Oxford Piano Festival** taking place from **30 July – 7 August 2021**. The Festival welcomes some of the world's most distinguished pianists and teachers for the week-long series of varied concerts and masterclasses. This year, concerts and masterclasses are given by Víkingur Ólafsson, Elisabeth Leonskaja, Ingrid Fliter, Alim Beisembayev, Alain Lefèvre, Nikolai Lugansky and Samantha Ege, while the faculty also includes Stephen Kovacevich, Ferenc Rados and Emanuel Krasovsky. A number of concerts and masterclasses will be livestreamed.

Joining the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra and Marios Papadopoulos in an all-Mozartian programme at the Sheldonian Theatre on Sunday 31 July, **Ingrid Fliter** is the soloist in the ever-popular Piano Concerto No. 23 in A major; Fliter is the winner of the 2006 Gilmore Artist Award, one of only a handful of pianists and the only woman to have received this honour. The Orchestra completes the concert with Mozart's Symphony No. 40.

Opening the Festival on Saturday 30 July, celebrated Russian pianist **Elisabeth Leonskaja** brings Brahms's first and only three Piano Sonatas to St John the Evangelist Church. The first two sonatas, presented to Robert and Clara Schumann at their famous meeting with the young composer in 1853, would be carefully chosen for publication as his Opus No. 1 & 2.

Icelandic pianist **Víkingur Ólafsson** appears for the first time at the Festival on Thursday 4 August at the Sheldonian Theatre, performing from his latest album of music by Mozart and his contemporaries Galuppi, Cimarosa, CPE Bach and Haydn, which was recently named a Gramophone Magazine Editor's Choice.

Like Leonskaja, also schooled in the grand tradition of Russian pianism is **Nikolai Lugansky**, performing on Wednesday 3 August in Christ Church Cathedral. Lugansky pairs two of Beethoven's most tumultuous piano sonatas, Sonata No. 17 in D minor, Op. 31, 'Tempest' and Sonata No. 23 in F minor, 'Appassionata' with Rachmaninov's first set of 'picture pieces', his *Études-Tableaux*, Op. 33 and selections from *Vergessene Weisen* by his Russian contemporary Nikolai Medtner.

Québécois pianist **Alain Lefèvre** makes his Festival debut in the Holywell Music Room on Tuesday 2 August with a recital taking in two centuries of changing French styles from Franck, Debussy and Ravel to Pierre-Max Dubois – from whom Lefèvre took composition lessons – whose music builds on that of Les Six.

Championing the neglected piano music of four remarkable and women composers from the Black Chicago Renaissance and abroad, **Samantha Ege** performs works by Florence Price, Vítězslava Kaprálová, Margaret Bonds and Betty Jackson King (Monday 1 August; Jacqueline du Pré Music Building). Musicologist and pianist Dr Ege is the Lord Crewe Junior Research Fellow in Music at Lincoln College, University of Oxford and her first three albums presented first recordings of works by Florence Price, Margaret Bonds and Betty Jackson King.

The Piano Festival closes on Saturday 6 August with **Alim Beisembayev**, First Prize winner at The Leeds International Piano Competition in September 2021. In St John the Evangelist Church, the rising star pairs selections from Liszt's *Études d'exécution transcendante* with the final piano works written by two great composers: Haydn's Variations in F minor and Beethoven's visionary final Sonata No. 31 in C minor, Op. 111.

Throughout the week, a busy programme of masterclasses is given by the distinguished Festival recitalists and further Festival faculty, including Stephen Kovacevich, Emanuel Krasovsky, Ian Fountain, Ferenc Rados, Yulia Chaplina, Martin Roscoe and Festival Director Marios Papadopoulos.

The Oxford Piano Festival recitals are held in some of Oxford's most atmospheric venues, including the **Christ Church Cathedral, Holywell Music Room** – the oldest purpose-built concert hall in Europe, dating from 1748 – **St John the Evangelist Church**, and the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra's home, the 17th century **Sheldonian Theatre**, designed by Sir Christopher Wren. The Festival is based in the **Jacqueline du Pré Music Building** at St Hilda's College, Oxford, where the Festival participants perform themselves on Friday 5 August.

The **Oxford Piano Festival** creates a unique didactic environment for emerging young professionals to learn from some of the world's most esteemed pianists. The concept of the pianist as an all-round musician lies at the heart of the Festival: the various roles of the pianist – as virtuoso, chamber musician, accompanist, conductor, academic and teacher – are all explored. Participants are given the opportunity to take part in masterclasses, attend recitals, and showcase their talents following fresh guidance from these pillars of the piano world.

The Oxford Piano Festival is presented by the **Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra**, which, since being established in 1998 by Music Director and esteemed pianist **Marios Papadopoulos**, has grown steadily in stature. The Orchestra attracts some of the world's leading soloists and conductors, including Valery Gergiev, Sir Andrés Schiff, Lang Lang, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Martha Argerich and Maxim Vengerov. The musicians of the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra include some of the UK's finest players.

Full Concert Listings

Saturday 30 July 2022, 20:00

St John the Evangelist Church

Brahms Piano Sonata No. 1 in C major, Op. 1

Brahms Piano Sonata No. 2 in F sharp minor, Op. 2

Brahms Piano Sonata No. 3 in F minor, Op. 5

Elisabeth Leonskaja piano

Sunday 31 July 2022, 20:00

Sheldonian Theatre

Mozart Piano Concerto No. 23 in A major, K. 488

Mozart Symphony No. 40 in G minor, K. 550

Ingrid Fliter piano

Marios Papadopoulos conductor

Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra

Monday 1 August 2022, 20:00

Jacqueline du Pré Music Building

Vítězslava Kaprálová *Dubnová preludia*, Op. 13

Betty Jackson King *Four Seasonal Sketches*

Margaret Bonds *Spiritual Suite*

Florence Price *Fantasie Nègre* No. 1 in E minor

Vítězslava Kaprálová *Sonata* *Appassionata*, Op. 6

Florence Price *Fantasie Nègre* No. 2 in G minor

Samantha Ege piano

Tuesday 2 August 2022, 20:00

Holywell Music Room

Franck *Prélude, Fugue et Variation*, Op. 18

Debussy *Deux arabesques*, L. 66

Debussy *Clair de lune* from *Suite bergamasque*, L. 75

Debussy *Pour le piano*, L. 95

Debussy *Rêverie*, L. 68

Debussy *Ballade*, L. 70

Debussy *Tarentelle styrienne*, L. 69

Dubois *Sonate pour piano*

Dubois *Aria, Scherzando and Oubanghi* from *Dix études de concert*

Ravel *La valse*, M. 72 (tr. for piano)

Alain Lefèvre piano

Wednesday 3 August 2022, 20:00

Christ Church Cathedral

Beethoven *Piano Sonata* No. 17 in D minor, Op. 31, No. 2, 'Tempest'

Beethoven *Piano Sonata* No. 23 in F minor, Op. 57, 'Appassionata'

Medtner Selection from *Vergessene Weisen*, Op. 38

Rachmaninov *Études-Tableaux*, Op. 33

Nikolai Lugansky piano

Thursday 4 August 2022, 20:00

Sheldonian Theatre

Galuppi I. *Andante spiritoso* from *Sonata* No. 9 in F minor

Mozart *Rondo* in F major, K. 494

CPE Bach *Rondo* in D Minor, Wq. 61/4

Cimarosa *Sonata* No. 42 in D minor (arr. Ólafsson)

Mozart *Fantasia* No. 3 in D minor, K. 397/385g

Mozart *Rondo* in D major, K. 485

Cimarosa *Sonata* No. 55 in A minor (arr. Ólafsson)

Haydn *Sonata* in B minor, Hob. XVI:32

Mozart *Kleine Gigue* in G major, K. 574

Mozart *Sonata* No. 16 in C major, K. 545, 'Sonata facile'

Mozart III. *Adagio* from *String Quintet* No. 3 in G minor, K. 516 (arr. Ólafsson)

Galuppi I. *Larghetto* from *Sonata* No. 34 in C minor

Mozart *Sonata* No. 14 in C minor, K. 457

Mozart *Adagio* in B minor, K. 540

Mozart *Ave verum corpus*, K. 618 (tr. Liszt)

Víkingur Ólafsson piano

Friday 5 August 2022, 20:00

Jacqueline du Pré Music Building

Participants' Recital

Saturday 6 August 2022, 20:00

St John the Evangelist Church

Haydn *Variations* in F minor, Hob. XVII:6

Beethoven *Sonata* No. 32 in C minor, Op. 111

Liszt Selections from *Études d'exécution transcendante*, S.139

Alim Beisembayev piano

Full Schedule of Events

* to be livestreamed

	9:30-12:45 <i>Masterclasses</i>	14:30-17:45 <i>Masterclasses</i>	20:00 <i>Concerts</i>
30 July		* Emanuel Krasovsky	Elisabeth Leonskaja <i>St John the Evangelist Church</i>
31 July	* Elisabeth Leonskaja	Emanuel Krasovsky	Ingrid Fliter <i>Sheldonian Theatre</i>
1 August	* Ingrid Fliter	Marios Papadopoulos	Samantha Ege <i>Jacqueline du Pré Music Building</i>
2 August	* Marios Papadopoulos	Ian Fountain	Alain Lefèvre <i>Holywell Music Room</i>
3 August	Alain Lefèvre	Yulia Chaplina	* Nikolai Lugansky <i>Christ Church Cathedral</i>
4 August	Nikolai Lugansky	* Stephen Kovacevich	Víkingur Ólafsson <i>Sheldonian Theatre</i>
5 August	Stephen Kovacevich	Ferenc Rados Marios Papadopoulos	* Participants' Recital <i>Jacqueline du Pré Music Building</i>
6 August	Ferenc Rados Marios Papadopoulos	Martin Roscoe	* Alim Beisembayev <i>St John the Evangelist Church</i>
7 August	* Ferenc Rados * Marios Papadopoulos		

Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra



The Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra occupies a unique position in the UK's orchestral landscape. It counts some of the world's greatest artists as its regular collaborators, including Maxim Vengerov, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Martha Argerich and Sir Andrés Schiff. Since its establishment in 1998, it has built a reputation maintained by some of the finest musicians in the UK and rooted in the uncompromising artistic standards of its founder and Music Director, Marios Papadopoulos.

In addition to an annual concert season in Oxford and performances across the UK, the Oxford Philharmonic presents family concerts, a chamber music series and the annual Oxford Piano Festival. It boasts a growing list of international engagements, having recently played at the Tivoli Festival in Copenhagen. In 2022, it will make its debut at Carnegie Hall in New York.

The Oxford Philharmonic has made acclaimed recordings of music by Nimrod Borenstein for Chandos as well as the first cello concerto of Dmitri Shostakovich for the Swedish label BIS – both conducted by Vladimir Ashkenazy and the latter featuring the Orchestra's Solo Cello, Mats Lidström, as soloist. The Orchestra has recorded for Sony Classical, Delphian and Novum labels and collaborated on record with the renowned choirs of New College, Merton College and Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.

Maxim Vengerov became the Oxford Philharmonic's first Artist in Residence following a remarkable debut with the ensemble in 2013. Over an unprecedented four-season collaboration, Vengerov and the Orchestra performed across the UK and recorded the violin concertos of Brahms and Sibelius in addition to Mendelssohn's Octet. As part of the Oxford Philharmonic's 20th anniversary celebrations in 2018/19, Vengerov was joined by Anne-Sophie Mutter and Martha Argerich for a gala concert with the Orchestra at the Barbican Centre in London.

In December 2020, in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Orchestra recorded a concert in a tribute to all those working on developing a vaccine for Covid-19 at the University of Oxford, including the world premiere of John Rutter's *Joseph's Carol*, commissioned by the Orchestra for the occasion. Rutter and the Orchestra were joined in their tribute by Sir Bryn Terfel, Alexandra Lowe, chorister Alexander Olleson, and the Choir of Merton College. The film included a special performance by Maxim Vengerov alongside tributes from Anne-Sophie Mutter, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford Louise Richardson, and HRH Princess Alexandra, the Orchestra's Royal Patron.

The Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra has been firmly committed to outreach work from its earliest days, taking music to areas of social and economic disadvantage including hospitals and special schools in partnerships with Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council.

In 2002, the Oxford Philharmonic 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 symphonic ensemble.

A partnership with J & A Beare provides the Orchestra's distinguished members with opportunities to play on Stradivari instruments, adding a new dimension to the sound of the Orchestra.

Marios Papadopoulos



Marios Papadopoulos is the Founder and Music Director of the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra, the Orchestra in Residence at the University of Oxford.

His 1974 recital at London's Queen Elizabeth Hall was described by the *The Times* as an 'astonishing debut', with his recital in the same venue a year later eliciting further praise from the same critic who described him as having 'all the attributes of one of the world's greatest players'. Papadopoulos has since gone on to enjoy an international career both as pianist and conductor. He has worked with a host of eminent musicians including Maxim Vengerov,

Vladimir Ashkenazy, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Evgeny Kissin, Joyce DiDonato, 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.

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.

His book *Beyond Dreams and Aspirations* was published in summer 2020 and charts his early career, the creation of the Oxford Philharmonic and his thoughts on musical interpretation.

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