

Guy Johnston announces the 11th Hatfield House Chamber Music Festival featuring Mark Padmore, Mishka Rushdie Momen, Julian Bliss, Kathryn Stott, JP Jofre, Morgan Szymanski, ORA Singers



Thursday 29 September – Sunday 2 October 2022
Hatfield House, Hertfordshire

A World of Music

Guy Johnston Artistic Director, cello

JP Jofre bandoneon
Morgan Szymanski guitar
Mishka Rushdie Momen piano
Mark Padmore tenor
ORA Singers:
Suzi Digby OBE music director

Nirmala Rajasekar veena
Adam Walker flute
Julian Bliss clarinet
Kathryn Stott piano
United Strings of Europe
The Lodestar Trio

Artistic Director **Guy Johnston** announces the 11th annual **Hatfield House Chamber Music Festival, *A World of Music***, drawing together musicians from around the globe to the historic rooms of Hatfield House, the childhood home of Queen Elizabeth I.

The Festival features **world premieres including a new Flute Quartet by Robin Holloway, and chamber works by Joseph Phibbs, Shruthi Rajasekar and Ivan Mosley** in a diverse programme including contemporary chamber works from around the world that this year celebrates Gandhi Day (2 October), John Dowland's musical connections to the House, and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Concerts predominantly take place in the House's striking **Marble Hall**, home to the famous Rainbow Portrait of Queen Elizabeth I, moving to the Old Palace for the Finale Concert.

South American bandoneon player JP Jofre, Indian veena player Nirmala Rajasekar and Mexican guitarist Morgan Szymanski join esteemed chamber musicians **Mishka Rushdie Momen, Adam Walker, Julian Bliss, Kathryn Stott, Mark Padmore** and **Guy Johnston** across the long weekend, with featured ensembles the **United Strings of Europe, ORA Singers** and music director **Suzi Digby OBE**, and **The Lodestar Trio** with UK's own **Max Baillie**.

Guy Johnston commented:

"Each year is unique at the Hatfield House Chamber Music Festival, and our 2022 theme, A World of Music, is no exception. With musicians gathering from around the globe – including Argentina, Mexico, India and Sweden – we offer a whole range of sound worlds and influences. It's hard to imagine a more diverse programme and, with our Artists in Residence, I am excited to offer such an unprecedented variety of music."

Marking **Gandhi Day** and closing this year's Festival (Sunday 2 October), one of the world's leading veena players, **Nirmala Rajasekar**, joins the weekend's Artists in Residence with ORA Singers and music director Suzi Digby OBE, and RAM Ensemble Renard in celebration of this year's theme: *A World of Music*. Rajasekar gives the **world premiere of a new work for veena and choir** by her daughter, composer **Shruthi Rajasekar**, while Guy Johnston gives the world premiere of a new work for choir and cello by **Joseph Phibbs**.



One of this year's Artists in Residence, music by award-winning bandoneon player and composer **JP Jofre** features heavily in the Festival programme, with several of his chamber compositions performed in concert on Saturday 1 October, including his *Tango Movements*. On Thursday 29 September, Jofre and clarinettist **Julian Bliss** perform his Double Concerto for Clarinet and Bandoneon, string quintet and piano.

Diverse repertoire from across the world features throughout the Festival, performed by the Artists in Residence and ensembles the United Strings of Europe and the Lodestar Trio, a Swedish folk group with British violinist Max Baillie, who perform Baroque works on traditional Scandinavian folk instruments on Saturday 1 October. This year's programme showcases in particular **contemporary chamber music** including works by **Jessie Montgomery, Caroline Shaw, Pēteris Vasks, and Osvaldo Golijov** in addition to four world premieres.

In the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year, **ORA Singers** and music director **Suzi Digby OBE** celebrate the reigns of Britain's longest-serving monarch Elizabeth II and her equally illustrious predecessor Elizabeth I, who grew up in Hatfield House (Sunday 2 October). Performed in the Marble Hall in front of the iconic Rainbow Portrait of the monarch, the programme pairs works from the two ages, including Tallis, Gibbons, Finzi, Rutter, Panufnik and Britten, a specially-commissioned reflection from Bob Chilcott and Byrd's iconic 'O Lord, make thy servant Elizabeth'.

In a second programme celebrating the history of Hatfield House and its residents, renowned British tenor **Mark Padmore** joins guitarist **Morgan Szymanski** to perform works by John Dowland, who benefitted from the musical patronage of Robert Cecil, the first resident of the present Hatfield House. They also perform songs by Stephen McNeff, Schubert and Alec Roth's 'A Road Less Travelled' (Saturday 1 October).



In a narrated concert opening the Festival on Thursday 29 September, **Jessica Duchon** explores the mystery woman behind Beethoven's 'Immortal Beloved' love letter, as pianist **Mishka Rushdie Momen** brings to life some of the composer's most beloved works for piano.

Hatfield House is the home of the 7th Marquess and Marchioness of Salisbury, whose family have owned the house since it was built in the early 1600s by **Robert Cecil, 1st Earl of Salisbury** and son of Lord Burghley, the chief minister of **Elizabeth I**. The deer park surrounding the house and the older building of the Old Palace (built in 1485 by the Bishop of Ely, John Morton), had been owned by Elizabeth's father, Henry VIII, who used

it as a home for his children, Edward, Elizabeth and Mary. It was while she was living in the Old Palace, in 1558, that Elizabeth learned of her accession to the throne.

Following Elizabeth I's reign, the House benefitted from the extensive musical patronage of its owner Robert Cecil, 1st Earl of Salisbury. Many of Britain's most celebrated Tudor and Jacobean musicians crop up in some form in the Hatfield House archive: John Dowland, lutenist and composer, and Nicolas Lanier, first ever Master of the King's Music, were in the First Earl of Salisbury's pay. Thomas Morley, William Byrd and Orlando Gibbons, amongst many others, dedicated pieces to him. More recently, the Oscar-winning 2019 film *The Favourite* is among many to have been shot at Hatfield House.

Here is an exclusive tour of Hatfield House with Lord Salisbury and Dr Emily Burns.



Festival Events

Thursday 29 September 2022, 17:00

Marble Hall

Immortal Beloved

Beethoven Sonata in A, Op. 101, first movement

Beethoven Sonata in F, Op. 10 No 2

Beethoven Sonata in E flat, Op. 31 No 3, third movement

Beethoven Andante favori

Beethoven Sonata in C minor, Op. 10 No 1, first movement

Beethoven Sonata in E, Op. 109, final movement

Mishka Rushdie Momen piano

Jessica Duchon narrator

Thursday 29 September 2022, 19:30

Marble Hall

Poulenc Sonata for Clarinet and Piano in Bb, FP 184

Bach, Couperin, and Nordic folk tunes

JP Jofre Double Concerto for Clarinet and Bandoneon, string quintet and piano

Dvořák *Waldesruhe* Op. 68 no 5

Robin Holloway Flute Quartet **WORLD PREMIERE**

Schubert Quartettsatz in C minor

Jessie Montgomery *Strum*

Adam Walker flute

Julian Bliss clarinet

JP Jofre bandoneon

The Lodestar Trio

Guy Johnston cello

United Strings of Europe

Mishka Rushdie Momen piano

Kathryn Stott piano

Friday 30 September 2022, 17:00

Marble Hall

Prokofiev Flute Sonata in D, Op. 94

Ivan Mosley New work **WORLD PREMIERE**

Manuel de Falla *Suite Populaire*

Espagnole

Bartók *Romanian Folk Dances*

Adam Walker flute

Morgan Szymanski guitar

Guy Johnson cello

Kathryn Stott piano

Friday 30 September 2022, 19:30

Marble Hall

Renewal: Themes of Love, Loss and Transformation

Peteris Vasks *Viatore*

Osvaldo Golijov *Last Round*

Caroline Shaw *Entr'acte*

Beethoven Cavatina from String Quartet in B-flat Op. 130 (arr. for string orchestra)

Mendelssohn String Quartet Op. 80 (arr. for string orchestra)

Caroline Shaw *'and the swallow'*

United Strings of Europe

Saturday 1 October 2022, 13:00

Marble Hall

Bach Gamba Sonata No 1 in G, BWV 1027

Fauré Cello Sonata No 1 in D minor, Op. 109

Beethoven Cello Sonata No 3 in A, Op. 69

Guy Johnston cello

Mishka Rushdie Momen piano

Saturday 1 October 2022, 14:00

St Etheldreda's Church

Family Concert: Once Upon A Tune

Purcell School for Young Musicians

RAM Ensemble Renard

Saturday 1 October 2022, 17:00

Marble Hall

Dowland Come ye heavy states of night

Dowland Come again, sweet love

Dowland Now, O now I needs must part

Stephen McNeff A Certain Man

Stephen McNeff Eden Rock

Schubert Nachtstück

Schubert Nacht und Träume

Alec Roth A Road Less Travelled

Mark Padmore tenor

Morgan Szymanski guitar

Saturday 1 October 2022, 19:30

Marble Hall

Baroque music in folk style
Chamber music by **JP Jofre**

Lodestar Trio

JP Jofre bandoneon

Adam Walker flute

Morgan Szymanski guitar

Guy Johnston cello

United Strings of Europe

Sunday 2 October 2022, 10:30

The Old Palace

Choral Workshop

ORA Singers

Suzi Digby OBE music director

Hertfordshire County Youth Choirs

Sunday 2 October 2022, 13:00

Marble Hall

Elizabeth, our Queen

Music by Byrd, Tallis, Gibbons, Finzi,
Rutter, Panufnik and Britten

ORA Singers

Suzi Digby OBE music director

Sunday 2 October 2022, 19:00

The Old Palace

Music by **Vivaldi**

Joseph Phibbs New work **WORLD PREMIERE**

Shruthi Rajasekar New work **WORLD
PREMIERE**

Morten Lauridsen *Lux Aeterna*

ORA Singers

Suzi Digby OBE music director

Hertfordshire County Youth Choirs

Festival resident musicians & friends

RAM Ensemble Renard

Nirmala Rajasekar veena

Hatfield House Chamber Music Festival

President: The Marquess of Salisbury

Patron: HRH The Duchess of Kent

Artistic Director: Guy Johnston

The Hatfield House Chamber Music Festival is a long weekend of concerts, curated by Artistic Director Guy Johnston, which takes place annually in September/October at Hatfield House in Hertfordshire. The setting, musicians and audiences make this a warm, friendly festival with exceptionally high artistic standards. Now in its 11th year, the Festival has grown into a very successful and much-anticipated event by both locals and also by those who make a special journey to attend the Festival.

Over the past 10 years the Festival has welcomed performers such as the Navarra Quartet, pianists Tom Poster, Kathryn Stott and Melvyn Tan, Nicholas Daniel, Alison Balsom, Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Lucy Crowe, Rachel Podger, James Gilchrist, The Sixteen and the Aurora Orchestra all to perform in the beautiful surroundings of Hatfield House.

The Festival has a very strong education strand which runs alongside the main event and is committed to commissioning new works. Previous new commissions at the Festival include works by Charlotte Bray *Perseus* for cello and piano (2015 and at least 3 subsequent performances), Mark Simpson (*Oboe Quartet* 2019, co-commissioned by Wigmore Hall and Leicester International Music Festival) In 2017 HHCMF dedicated the whole Festival theme of Creation to works by contemporary composers Sally Beamish, Alec Roth, Thomas Adès, Joseph Phibbs, Donald Grant and others.

hatfieldhousemusicfestival.org.uk

Guy Johnston



Guy Johnston is one of the most exciting British cellists of his generation. His early successes included winning the BBC Young Musician of the Year, the Shell London Symphony Orchestra Gerald MacDonald Award and a Classical Brit. He has performed with many leading international orchestras including the London Philharmonic, Philharmonia Orchestra, Ulster Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic, NHK Symphony Orchestra, BBC Symphony, Britten Sinfonia, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Orquestra Sinfônica do Estado de São Paulo, Moscow Philharmonic and St Petersburg

Symphony under conductors such as Illan Volkov, Sakari Oramo, Vassily Sinaisky, Yuri Simonov, Alexander Dmitriev, Sir Roger Norrington, Robin Ticciati, Yan Pascal Tortelier, Sir Andrew Davis, Leonard Slatkin, Daniele Gatti.

Recent and forthcoming seasons have included BBC Proms with BBC National Orchestra of Wales, concertos with Philharmonia Orchestra, Orchestra of Opera North, BBC Philharmonic, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Aurora Orchestra, Royal Northern Sinfonia and Staatsorchester Rheinische Philharmonie. Guy continues to play chamber music and recitals at prestigious venues and festivals across Europe including Wigmore Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Louvre Museum, the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory, Moritzburg Festival, Three Choirs Festival and MusicFest Aberystwyth, collaborating with instrumentalists such as Melvyn Tan, Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Janine Jansen, Lawrence Power, Anthony Marwood and Brett Dean. Guy was privileged to perform as part of the Wigmore Hall and BBC Radio 3 special series of concerts, livestreamed during the COVID-19 pandemic. He gave weekly outdoor impromptu recitals in his home village in Dorset, which was featured by the BBC during the UK lockdown.

A prolific recording artist, Guy's recent recordings include Howells' Cello Concerto with Britten Sinfonia (a piece he also gave the premiere of) and a celebration disc of the tricentenary of his David Tecchler cello, collaborating with the acclaimed Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome, where the cello was made. The 2019 season saw the release of his recording Themes and Variations with Tom Poster, comprising works by Beethoven, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Chopin, Rachmaninov, MacMillan, Fauré and Martinu.

Guy is a passionate advocate for contemporary composers regular commissioning, performing and recording new works. He gave the premiere of Charlotte Bray's 'Falling in the Fire' at the BBC Proms in 2015 and Emma Ruth Richards 'Until a Reservoir no longer remains' (with Sheku Kanneh-Mason). He has recently commissioned works by composers such as David Matthews, Mark Simpson, Joseph Phibbs and Matthew Kaner.

In addition to a busy and versatile career as an international soloist, chamber musician and guest principal, Guy is an inspiring leader of young musicians as a patron of several charities which promote music education for school children and young people including Music First and Future Talent. He is also a board member of the Pierre Fournier Award for young cellists.

Guy is Artistic Director of the Hatfield House Chamber Music Festival and a founder member of the award-winning Aronowitz Ensemble. He is Associate Professor of Cello at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York and a guest Professor of Cello at the Royal Academy of Music, where he was awarded an Hon. ARAM in 2015.

Guy Johnston plays the 1692 Antonio Stradivari cello known as the "Segelman, ex Hart" kindly loaned to him through the Beare's International Violin Society by a generous patron.

guy-johnston.com

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