

PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 25 April 2023

OAE announces full 2023/24 Season at the Southbank Centre

- Season features JS Bach's Christmas and Easter Oratorios, the complete symphonies of Mendelssohn, and programmes focusing on works by Haydn, Mozart and Sibelius.
- Season theme of 'Beginnings and Endings' explores quirks of numbering, catalogues and telling the stories of music.
- Roster of guest artists sees Orchestra renewing long-standing collaborations with Masaaki Suzuki and Sir András Schiff, alongside commitment to nurturing newer relationships with appearances by Louise Alder, Riccardo Minasi, Peter Whelan, Maxim Emelyanychev, Alina Ibragimova and new cohort of Rising Stars of the Enlightenment.
- Programme demonstrates commitment to putting residency at Acland Burghley School in Tufnell Park, north London on the 'main stage' with performance of community opera by James Redwood and Hazel Gould.

The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment is today announcing full details of its concerts as a Resident Orchestra at the Southbank Centre from October 2023 to April 2024.

TS Eliot observed in *Four Quartets* that "what we call the beginning is often the end and to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from." This idea provides the jumping off point for an artistic programme that plays upon and asks questions about how ideas evolve, where do we continue, where do we originate? The season opens with a concert that boldly asserts it contains **Haydn's First and Last** symphonies (25 October), directed by **Matthew Truscott** (one of the OAE's four leaders). Historical research has shown that No. 1 and No. 104 are almost certainly neither, but they start off a journey that playfully exploits the OAE's creative mission to bring the music and ideas of the Enlightenment to life in the here-and-now.

Introducing the season to audiences Crispin Woodhead, the OAE's chief executive, said:

"If it is true that you can hear the foundations of Bach in the music of Mendelssohn, can't you also hear the sparkling innovation in Mozart that announces later genius? What do we make of our tidy system of catalogues, of order, of convenient bundling into artistic periods – medieval to romantic – when truth is repeatedly less convenient; when the Christmas Oratorio - Bach in his stylistic prime - is just 25 years earlier than Haydn's No.1; when Mendelssohn's third symphony was really his last'.

If you aren't so sure what to make of all this, then nor are we. So join us and we can puzzle together in a magnificent season that assembles great artistic veterans alongside inspiring new generation talent"



Clockwise from left: Masaaki Suzuki, Sir Andrés Schiff, Peter Whelan, Louise Alder, Riccardo Minasi, Maxim Emelyanychev, Alina Ibragimova.

Two multi-concert projects with masters of historically informed performance will anchor the season. The OAE reignites its relationship with **Masaaki Suzuki**, the acclaimed founder of Bach Collegium Japan, to present the complete **Christmas Oratorio** (2 & 3 December). Bach's work, which would originally have been performed over six days, is more usually performed in an abridged form and these concerts will offer audiences the opportunity to experience the whole story. Following on from highly successful series of Brahms and Beethoven piano concertos, the Orchestra's flourishing partnership with principal guest artist **Sir Andrés Schiff** will be renewed in **Mendelssohn: The Complete Symphonies** (24 - 26 April). As well as all five orchestral symphonies the three-concert programme will include both the Piano Concertos, directed from the keyboard by Schiff, and the Violin Concerto in E minor with soloist **Alina Ibragimova**.

The OAE offers London audiences the chance to hear the most exciting talents of the emerging generation of conductors working in period performance. Closing the 'alpha and omega' storyline begun with the Christmas Oratorio, **Peter Whelan** will direct the **Easter Oratorio** (27 March). Currently artistic director of the Irish Baroque Orchestra, Whelan was formerly the OAE's principal bassoon and won an Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Opera in 2022. **Riccardo Minasi** and soprano **Louise Alder** join forces with the Orchestra for an all-Mozart programme (22 February) featuring the overtures and arias from *Così fan tutte* and *Le nozze di Figaro*, the concert arias *Alma grande e nobile core* (K578) and *Non più! Tutto ascoltai* (K490) and the 'Paris' Symphony. **Maxim Emelyanychev** returns to conduct the orchestra in **Sibelius Symphony No. 5** (3 April) as part of a programme that continues the OAE's recent survey of works at the boundary between the romantic and modern eras.

The OAE reaffirmed its commitment to investing in future talent with the recent announcement of a new cohort of **Rising Stars of the Enlightenment**. The programme will give six singers numerous performance and professional development opportunities with the Orchestra over the next two seasons and beyond. During this 2023/24 season at the Southbank Centre the Rising Stars will appear as soloists in the Easter Oratorio

and the 'Lobgesang' Symphony by Mendelssohn. The Rising Stars for 2023 - 2025 are: Madison Nonoa (soprano), Frances Gregory (mezzo-soprano), Rebecca Leggett (mezzo-soprano), Laurence Kilsby (tenor), Malachy Frame (baritone) and Florian Störtz (bass).

The OAE's belief in the power of music as a force for social regeneration is evident by its residency at Acland Burghley School in Tufnell Park and nationwide education programme. The Orchestra has pledged to put this vital part of its work on the 'main stage' each season as part of its Southbank Centre programme. After the triumph of *The Moon Hares* in 2022, the Orchestra will work with the same creative team, composer **James Redwood** and writer/director **Hazel Gould**, on **The Fairy Queen: Three Wishes** (17 January). This new community opera - which will include students from Acland Burghley, primary schools in Camden and the Orchestra's musical communities around the country among the performers - will transform Purcell's 1692 opera into a magical adventure for the whole family. The north London comprehensive is the base for the Orchestra's offices and library, a number of in-school programmes - such as Musical Connections, supporting students with special educational needs and disability, and the Dreamchasing Young Producers funded with support from former F1 boss Ron Dennis' foundation - as well as community performances and rehearsals.

Steven Devine, the OAE's principal keyboard and chair of the Players' Artistic Committee, said:

As a collective, the members of the OAE are looking forward to this season with real anticipation. It shows everything the Orchestra loves and stands for: from self-directed programmes to ambitious projects with the greatest visiting artists. As we continue to revel in live performances post-pandemic, we hope that audiences will be as enthusiastic to join us on this musical adventure."

The OAE's 2023/24 activity in London will also include **OAE Tots** concerts at the Southbank Centre and Acland Burghley School, another series of **Bach, the Universe and Everything** at King's Place - in which Bach's cantatas meet astronomy - and the informal chamber music event **The Night Shift** will return to pubs and bars around the capital. More details will be announced in due course.

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For further information contact:

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Notes to Editors:

Tickets can be purchased online at oae.co.uk

Priority Booking opens Tuesday 25 April for Friends & Patrons of the OAE (all events)

General Booking opens Tuesday 2 May for events between October 2023 and January 2024; and in October 2023 for events from February 2024.

Event details and guest artists

Wednesday 25 October, 7.00pm

Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall

HAYDN FIRST AND LAST

HAYDN The Representation of Chaos from *The Creation*

HAYDN Symphony No. 51 in B flat major

HAYDN Sinfonia Concertante in B flat major for violin, cello, oboe, bassoon & orchestra

HAYDN Symphony No. 1 in D major

HAYDN Symphony No. 104 in D major

Matthew Truscott *leader/director*

Saturday 2 December, 7.00pm

Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall

CHRISTMAS ORATORIO: PARTS 1 – 3

JS BACH *Weihnachtsoratorium* (Christmas Oratorio) BWV 248: Parts 1 – 3

JS BACH *Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied* (Sing to the Lord a new song!) BWV 225

Anna Dennis *soprano*

Hugh Cutting *alto*

Guy Cutting *tenor*

Choir of the Age of Enlightenment

Masaaki Suzuki *conductor*

Sunday 3 December, 7.00pm

Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall

CHRISTMAS ORATORIO: PARTS 4 – 6

JS BACH Sanctus from Mass in B Minor, BWV 232

JS BACH *Weihnachtsoratorium* (Christmas Oratorio) BWV 248: Part 4 – 6

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Anna Dennis *soprano*
Hugh Cutting *alto*
Guy Cutting *tenor*
Choir of the Age of Enlightenment
Masaaki Suzuki *conductor*

Wednesday 17 January, 7.00pm
Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall
THE FAIRY QUEEN: THREE WISHES

PURCELL/JAMES REDWOOD *The Fairy Queen: Three Wishes*

James Redwood *conductor*
Hazel Gould *director/writer*

Thursday 22 February, 7.00pm
Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall
MOZART: LOVE IS IN THE AIR

MOZART *Così fan tutte* Overture
MOZART *Alma grande e nobil core*, K578
MOZART 'Come scoglio' from *Così fan tutte*
MOZART 'Eh Susanna non vien' and 'Dove sono' from *Le nozze di Figaro*

MOZART *Le nozze di Figaro* Overture
MOZART 'Voi che sapete' from *Le nozze di Figaro*
MOZART *Non più. Tutto ascoltai... Non temer, amato bene*, K490
MOZART Symphony No. 31 'Paris'

Louise Alder *soprano*
Riccardo Minasi *conductor*

Wednesday 27 March, 7.00pm
Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall
EASTER ORATORIO

JS BACH *Erfreut euch, ihr Herzen* (Rejoice, you hearts) BWV 66
JS BACH *Bleib bei uns* (Stay with us, for evening falls) BWV 6

JS BACH *Oster-Oratorium* (Easter Oratorio) BWV 249

Choir of the Age of Enlightenment
Peter Whelan *director*

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Wednesday 3 April, 7.00pm
Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall

SIBELIUS SYMPHONY NO. 5

GLINKA *Ruslan and Ludmilla* Overture
RACHMANINOV *The Rock*
GRIEG *Peer Gynt* Suite No. 1
SIBELIUS Symphony No. 5

Maxim Emelyanychev conductor

Wednesday 24 April, 7.00pm
Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall.

MENDELSSOHN: THE COMPLETE SYMPHONIES - Nos. 1 & 4

MENDELSSOHN Symphony No. 1
MENDELSSOHN Piano Concerto No. 1
MENDELSSOHN Symphony No. 4 'Italian'

Sir Andrés Schiff *fortepiano/director*

Thursday 25 April, 7.00pm
Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall

MENDELSSOHN: THE COMPLETE SYMPHONIES - Nos. 3 & 5

MENDELSSOHN Symphony No. 5 'Reformation'
MENDELSSOHN Piano Concerto No. 2
MENDELSSOHN Symphony No. 3 'Scottish'

Sir Andrés Schiff *fortepiano/director*

Friday 26 April, 7.00pm
Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall

MENDELSSOHN: THE COMPLETE SYMPHONIES - No. 2

MENDELSSOHN Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64
MENDELSSOHN Symphony No. 2 'Lobgesang' (Song of Praise)

Alina Ibragimova *violin*
Choir of the Age of Enlightenment
Sir Andrés Schiff *fortepiano/director*