

FROM THE HEART MUSIC OF THE MOVIES

Barbican Hall, London Friday 14 February 2025, 7.30pm

Esther Abrami violin Carly Paoli soprano Toby Purser conductor London Concert Orchestra

Click on the artists to view their biogs



PART ONE

Armstrong Love Actually Bowers Bridgerton Jarre Doctor Zhivago Portman Chocolat Tchaikovsky Valse Sentimentale Dudley Poldark Horner Titanic Armstrong Romeo & Juliet Hurwitz La La Land

PART TWO

Zimmer **The Holiday** Powell **How to Train Your Dragon** Horner **Braveheart** Mancini **Breakfast at Tiffany's** Menken/Slater **Tangled** Newton-Howard **King Kong** Morricone **Cinema Paradiso** Giacchino **Up** Barry **We Have All The Time In The World** Horner **Avatar**







Esther Abrami

Esther Abrami is much more than a musician: she's an inspiration to a new generation of music enthusiasts. Through her large social media platform, Esther shares her passion for music, performance and practice sessions and shares behind-the-scenes glimpses into her life as a musician with an ever-growing community worldwide. With her dazzling talent, infectious personality and boundless enthusiasm for music-making, Esther is a rising star and her new album *Cinéma* is not to be missed.

The 26-year-old violinist studied at the Royal College of Music and completed her master's degree at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, for which she received a full scholarship. In 2019, she became the first classical musician ever to win the 'Social Media Superstar' category at the Global Awards and in 2021 she was featured in Classic FM's '30 under 30 Classical Artists to Watch' series, curated by Julian Lloyd Webber and was listed as a 'Rising Star' by BBC Music Magazine. In 2021 she was signed to Sony Classical and made her Royal Albert Hall debut in 2022.

In the UK, Esther is considered one of the most promising young classical artists of her generation and has been appointed Creative Partner and Artist in Residence by the English Symphony Orchestra.

With her debut album *Esther Abrami* (2022) and an EP dedicated to women composers recorded with 'Her Ensemble', a free-form group that seeks to address the gender gap and gender stereotypes in the music industry, Esther has become an artist who achieves wide attention outside the classical sphere. In her podcast *Woman in Classical*, Esther regularly interviews outstanding women musicians and composers from the world of classical music with the hope of inspiring young people to pursue a career in music.

Esther Abrami plays a fine Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume violin, kindly loaned to her through the Beare's International Violin Society.







Carly Paoli SOPRANO

Carly Paoli was born in Mansfield of Anglo-Italian parentage. She was described by His Holiness, Pope Francis as having, 'the voice of an angel,' and is a Classical Brit nominee and BBC Music Ambassador.

She has performed in many iconic venues around the world, including Carnegie Hall, The Roman Forum, The Royal Albert Hall, The London Palladium and with many great artists including, Andrea Bocelli, Sir Rod Stewart, José Carreras, Joseph Calleja and Michael Bolton. She has released six critically acclaimed albums; the latest, *Carly Paoli; The Christmas Collection*, features well known favourite Christmas songs and carols.

She has performed for royalty, most notably the now King and Queen at Windsor Castle and St James's Palace, and TRH The Prince and Princess of Wales as part of the televised 'Royal Variety Performance.' Carly is a favourite artist for major sporting occasions; she was the first person to sing, 'God Save the King,' at the Italy v England match at the San Siro and opened the Ryder Cup in Rome. Other memorable performances include singing on the steps of St Peter's Basilica in Rome for the televised 10th Anniversary of Pope Francis, and for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day at the National Arboretum in front of WWII veterans and TRH The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh. She toured with Alfie Boe and was a guest artist with the Fulltone Orchestra's series of concerts. In September she performed with Sir Rod Stewart at New York's 'Rainbow Rooms,' celebrating The King's Foundation.

Her film, *Christmas at the Castle*, was broadcast on Sky TV and on TV200 in Italy. She has made two further 'Castle' films which will be broadcast soon. In 2024, she was awarded an Honorary Degree (Doctor of Music) from Nottingham Trent University and in August she headlined her own concert in Galatina Italy celebrating her Italian roots. The Albert Hall Concert Hall in Nottingham saw Carly perform in her own 'homecoming' concert called, *Christmas with Carly Paoli and Friends*.







Toby Purser conductor

Toby Purser's conducting is distinguished by its exceptional stylistic versatility, and a thrilling combination of passion and musical intelligence. Equally at home in symphonic, contemporary and operatic repertoire, his work also encompasses film music programmes and inter-cultural collaborations. Toby is Artistic Director of the Peace and Prosperity Trust which supports charitable projects for young artists in the Middle East. He is also president of the Artistic Committee of the World Orchestras Festival, taking place in Vienna each summer. Head of Conducting at London's Royal College of Music, he is also recognised as a leading pedagogue and mentor in the conducting community. He launched 'Conductors in Isolation' during the Covid Pandemic, an online forum which now has over 1,800 members worldwide.

His operatic collaborations have been nominated for an OlivierAward(BestNewOperaProduction–Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* with ENO/Regent's Park Open Air Theatre) and an International Opera Award (Best Rediscovered Work – Stanford's *The Travelling Companion* with New Sussex Opera.

His inspirational music-making has prompted guest invitations from English National Opera (where he completed two seasons as ENO Mackerras Conducting Fellow), Grange Park Opera, Opéra National de Paris, St Petersburg Festival Orchestra and many leading British orchestras including the Royal Philharmonic, Philharmonia, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, which he conducted in Jesús León's debut CD *Bel Canto for* Opus Arte CD, and Sinfonia Viva.

Recent orchestral engagements have included debuts in China with the Chengdu Philharmonic, in Mexico conducting an Opera Gala with Sonora Philharmonic Orchestra, and his debut with the Philharmonia Orchestra at London's Royal Albert Hall conducting Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 5 (Soloist: Danny Driver) and Symphony No. 9. His recordings include two CDs with tenor Jesüs León and Royal Philharmonic Orchestra; music of Ernest Kaye with Britten Sinfonia; and Stanford's *The Travelling Companion*.

In 2019 he was invited to be musical director of the Vienna Opera Festival and Academy, conducting performances at the Vienna Musikverein of *Così fan Tutte, Don Giovanni* and *Hänsel und Gretel* in Vienna. As Musical Director of New Sussex Opera, Toby Purser has conducterd *Belle Lurette, The Dragon of Wantley* and *The Travelling Companion;* and recent operatic projects have further included the UK première of Jake Heggie's *Three Decembers* for Opera della Luna; *Fidelio, Hansel and Gretel* and *La bohème* for Lyric Opera, Dublin, *La Belle Hélène,* a co-production between New Sussex Opera and Opera della Luna; and the world premiere of *A Feast in the Time of Plague* for Grange Park Opera.





London Concert Orchestra

Music Director: Anthony Inglis

The London Concert Orchestra, under Musical Director Anthony Inglis, is one of the UK's most versatile orchestras. Providing audiences with well over 100 performances of the highest quality each year, repertoire ranges from popular classics and opera, to hits from films and musicals. The orchestra can be heard regularly at the Barbican, Royal Festival Hall and Royal Albert Hall in London as well on tour throughout the UK.

Over the years, the London Concert Orchestra has performed with composer Danny Elfman and other notable classical artists including Sir James Galway, Alison Balsom, Paul Lewis, Russell Watson, David Garrett and Hugh Jackman on his recent live tour. It has also had the great pleasure of working with Katherine Jenkins in her recent series of hugely popular Christmas concerts. For 12 years the LCO performed with the nation's favourite ballroom couple, Anton Du Beke and Erin Boag, on their UK tours.

On the international stage, the orchestra regularly visits the Kultur und Kongresszentrum in Lucerne, Switzerland, and has also performed with great success at the IMG Festival in Grenchen, the Zorlu Centre in Istanbul, the Marina Bay Sands Theatre in Singapore and at the Dubai Opera House where, in addition to a regular series of Christmas concerts, the orchestra was chosen to perform in their inaugural New Year's Eve Gala.

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