

**EMBARGOED until 00.01, Thursday 21 February 2019**

barbican

## Barbican announces its 2019-20 classical music season

On 21 February, the Barbican announces its 2019-20 classical music season.

- **Ground-breaking collaborations and innovative projects**
- Celebrating **Ludwig van Beethoven** in his **250<sup>th</sup> birthday** year
- Leading venue for artistic excellence the season includes world-class **visiting orchestras**
- Some of the most renowned **soloists of our time**
- **Premieres** and **rediscovered** music
- Thousands of **discounted tickets** to 14 – 25-year-olds through the **Young Barbican** scheme

**Huw Humphreys**, Barbican's Head of Music says: *With the world around us changing, I believe the Barbican's vision of "Arts without Boundaries" is more vital than ever – whether those boundaries be literal or metaphorical. We bring to the capital the best international orchestras, conductors and soloists to complement the unrivalled artistic backbone of our resident and associate orchestras: the **London Symphony Orchestra**, the **BBC Symphony Orchestra**, **Britten Sinfonia** and the **Academy of Ancient Music**. Close collaborations with our neighbouring **Guildhall School of Music & Drama** also allow us to develop a vibrant Creative Learning programme whilst enabling the artists of the future to get to work and perform with some of the biggest stars of our time.*

Always at the forefront of **ground-breaking collaborations and innovative projects**, the season at the Barbican includes:

- **Los Angeles Philharmonic** and **Gustavo Dudamel** with iconic jazz pianist **Herbie Hancock** as part of a major residency celebrating the LA Phil's centenary (19 Nov)
- As part of the Barbican's *Life Rewired* season, composer **Emily Howard**, who has a background in mathematics and computer science, curates an evening of new music and talks, inspired by 19<sup>th</sup>-century computer pioneer **Ada Lovelace**; featuring world premieres of Barbican-commissioned works performed by **Britten Sinfonia** as well as music generated by **artificial intelligence** (2 Nov). In addition, the world premiere of Emily Howard's *Antisphere* opens the LSO's season (14 Sep), and the BBC SO performs Howard's *Torus* (1 Nov), a piece that began the geometry-inspired triptych of works that *Antisphere* completes.
- As part of their Barbican residency, the **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis** collaborating with **London Symphony Orchestra** (LSO) and **Sir Simon Rattle** on the European premiere of Marsalis' *The Jungle* (Symphony No. 4), inspired by the multicultural asphalt jungle of New York City (30 & 31 May)
- **BBC Symphony Orchestra** (BBC SO) performing with two great storytellers of our time: bestselling authors **David Walliams** (2 May) and **Neil Gaiman** (12 Nov)
- **Australian Chamber Orchestra** (ACO) and **Richard Tognetti** performing *Luminous*, a cross-genre musical and visual project devised with visionary photographer **Bill Henson**, as part of the ACO's residency at Milton Court (4 Oct)
- Pioneering composer **Steve Reich** and **Gerhard Richter**, one of the most significant visual artists in modern art history, collaborate on a project that

examines the intersection between Richter's formula for his *Patterns* series, which divides, mirrors, and repeats a single painting, and Reich's repeating musical structures in a genre-crossing film. Performed by **Britten Sinfonia** and conductor **Colin Currie** (23 Oct)

- Celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the **Philip Glass Ensemble** will be revisiting one of Glass' early masterpieces, the trailblazing *Music with Changing Parts*, featuring a rare chance to see the **composer himself** performing with his pioneering group. This new arrangement includes the **Tiffin Chorus** from the Tiffin School in Kingston upon Thames (30 Oct)
- BBC SO and the Barbican presenting the UK premiere of **Joby Talbot's** opera *Everest*, based on the tragic climbing disaster on Mount Everest in 1996 (20 Jun); and Chief Conductor **Sakari Oramo** conducting the BBC SO in William Alwyn's little-known opera *Miss Julie* (3 Oct)
- Acclaimed trumpeter **Alison Balsom** is Milton Court Artist-in-Residence, and recreates Samuel Adamson's award-winning theatre-piece *Gabriel* for the concert hall, in collaboration with director **Dominic Dromgoole** (21 Oct). A theatrical celebration of Baroque music and 17<sup>th</sup>-century London, *Gabriel* premiered at Shakespeare's Globe in 2013.
- LSO and the Barbican presenting an evening of music and visuals exploring the life of the maverick and eccentric genius **Percy Grainger**, whose life was as colourful and as unpredictable as his compositions; conducted by Sir Simon Rattle, with **Gerard McBurney** as creative director
- BBC SO presenting its first ever *Total Immersion* for families, inspired by the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the moon landing (1 Dec), as well as two further *Total Immersions*: **Semyon Bychkov** conducts the main evening concert in a day of work by **Detlev Glanert** (7 Dec) and **Sakari Oramo** leads a day exploring composer **Anders Hillborg** (22 Feb)
- *Bach: A Beautiful Mind* explores different aspects of the genius of JS Bach during a weekend of music and talks: Featuring the author **James Gaines**, harpsichordist **Mahan Esfahani** performing *The Musical Offering*, baritone **Benjamin Appl** and the **Academy of Ancient Music** (AAM) in sacred solo cantatas, and **Accademia Bizantina** in *The Art of Fugue* (18 & 19 Jan)

Throughout 2020, and in the months leading up to it, the Barbican celebrates **Ludwig van Beethoven**, one of the most iconic figures in Western classical music, in his **250<sup>th</sup> birthday** year. As a cross-arts venue, the Barbican is perfectly placed to shine a light on different aspects of this complex composer. Some of the highlights include:

- **Beethoven Weekender** (1-2 Feb), a weekend that builds on the success of the Barbican's *Sound Unbound* festival, giving new and existing audiences the chance to explore the great composer in a fresh and informal way. It features a complete symphony cycle performed by 5 leading UK orchestras and their chief conductors: **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra/Karabits**; **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra/ Gražinytė-Tyla**; **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra/Petrenko**; **Royal Northern Sinfonia/Vogt**; and **Hallé Orchestra/Elder**; as well as specially curated chamber music concerts, talks, films, family events and foyer activities.
- As part of the Weekender there will be a exhibition from **Beethoven-Haus Bonn**, including objects such as the composer's ear trumpet, sketch books, an original print by Andy Warhol, and Beethoven's own violin, performed in concert.
- New responses to Beethoven's music: **stargaze**, a network of multi-talented and classically-trained European musicians presents *Beethoven NEIN!* with **Matthew Herbert** as part of the Weekender; and the BBC SO performs the European premiere of **David Lang's** *prisoner of the state*, a

Barbican co-commission, a contemporary response to themes of power and liberty in Beethoven's only opera, *Fidelio* (11 Jan)

- **Sir John Eliot Gardiner** and his **Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique** performing a complete symphony cycle (11-16 May)
- Performances by acclaimed soloists **Anne-Sophie Mutter** (violin sonatas, 8 Apr), **Sir András Schiff** (all five piano concertos with the Budapest Festival Orchestra), **Evgeny Kissin** (*Pathétique*, *Tempest* and *Waldstein* sonatas on 6 Feb), and **Paul Lewis** (Piano Concerto No. 4 with the BBC SO on 7 May)
- **LSO** and **Sir Simon Rattle** juxtaposing Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* and the rarely performed oratorio *Christ on the Mount of Olives* with music by Alban Berg (19 Jan) as well as presenting an LSO Discovery Singing Day featuring the oratorio (22 Sep); **BBC SO and Chorus** performing *Missa Solemnis* (4 Mar); and the **AAM** giving a rare performance of the complete incidental music to *Egmont* (2 Oct).

#### World-class visiting orchestras:

- Barbican International Orchestral Partner, the **Los Angeles Philharmonic**, conducted by Music & Artistic Director **Gustavo Dudamel**, celebrates its centenary this year and presents a cross-section of its illustrious history and commitment to new commissions during this residency; including the UK premieres of LA Phil centennial commissions from Andrew Norman's *Sustain* to a new piano concerto by the LA Phil's Creative Chair **John Adams** featuring dazzling soloist **Yuja Wang**. The programme also includes Bruckner's *Symphony No 4*, Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*, music by Ginastera, new commissions from contemporary Latin American composers Paul Desenne and Gabriela Ortiz, and a collaboration with the legendary jazz pianist, and the Philharmonic's Creative Chair for Jazz, **Herbie Hancock** (18-20 Nov). For this orchestra, a centennial is more than a celebration of the past. It is an opportunity to define the future.
- **Australian Chamber Orchestra** and **Richard Tognetti** are the Barbican's International Associate Ensemble at Milton Court. Their 2019 residency features a string arrangement of Bach's *Goldberg Variations*, Tognetti's arrangement of Bach's *Canons on a Goldberg Ground*, music by Adès, Webern and Britten, works by Vaughan Williams and Schoenberg, performed side-by-side with Guildhall musicians, as well as *Luminous*, a cross-genre musical and visual project devised with photographer **Bill Henson**, including music by Britten, Janáček, Vasks and REM (3-5 Oct).
- Barbican International Associate Ensemble, the **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis** comes to the Barbican for a residency, including a collaboration with the **LSO** and **Sir Simon Rattle** on the European premiere of Marsalis' *The Jungle* (*Symphony No. 4*), inspired by the multicultural asphalt jungle of New York City (30 & 31 May, further residency details to be announced)
- **Jaap van Zweden** makes his first London appearance as Music Director of the **New York Philharmonic** in Mahler's first two symphonies and Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 25 with soloist Daniil Trifonov (30 Apr, 1 May)
- **Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra** and **Mariss Jansons** performing Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 4*, and Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 22 with **Igor Levit** (7 Apr)
- **Budapest Festival Orchestra** conducted by **Iván Fischer** pairing music by Dvořák with a complete Beethoven piano concerto cycle with soloist **Sir András Schiff** (Nov and May)
- **Oslo Philharmonic** and **Vasily Petrenko** perform Strauss and Shostakovich as well as Grieg's Piano Concerto with soloist **Leif Ove**

## Andsnes (22 Oct)

Leading venue for artistic excellence, further **featured soloists** include:

- A season-long Artist Spotlight on pianist **Yuja Wang**, featuring the London premiere of John Adams' *Must the Devil Have All the Good Tunes?* with the LA Phil, a recital, and chamber music concerts
- Trumpeter **Alison Balsom** as Milton Court Artist-in-Residence performs Miles Davis' *Sketches of Spain* with Guildhall Jazz Ensemble (18 Mar) and leads Britten Sinfonia in the world premiere of John Woolrich's *Hark! The echoing air* in a concert showcasing composers' fascination with other composers' music (14 May)
- **Antoine Tamestit**, one of the world's great viola players is the subject of the season's *LSO Artist Portrait*
- Known for his intellectual drive and technical brilliance, pianist **Igor Levit** is this season's *Barbican Featured Artist* and performs four concerts including Shostakovich's complete *Preludes and Fugues*
- Superstar pianist **Lang Lang** performing the *Goldberg Variations* (6 Apr)
- Further pianists include **Tamara Stefanovich** exploring *The Art of the Etude* (10 Nov); **Hélène Grimaud** (27 May); **Jeremy Denk** (12 Jun); **Simon Trpčeski** (25 Feb)
- Multi-Award-winning mezzo-soprano **Joyce DiDonato** presents her project *Songplay* with music from the Baroque and Classical periods coupled with jazz ballads and music from the Great American Songbook
- Sopranos including **Angela Gheorghiu** (10 Dec), **Pretty Yende** (25 Nov), **Rowan Pierce** with the AAM for a programme of music for soprano and trumpet (24 Oct); **Lise Davidsen** (10 Feb); **Mary Bevan** and **Jennifer France** exploring Handel's heroines with the AAM (19 Mar);
- Mezzo-soprano **Dame Sarah Connolly** and tenor **Stuart Skelton** perform Oskar Fried's *Verklärte Nacht* with the BBC SO, and Skelton returns to the BBC SO to perform in Lehár's *Fieber*, a tone poem for tenor and orchestra
- Harpsichordist **Jean Rondeau** makes his much anticipated AAM debut (20 Feb)
- Violinist **Vilde Frang** joins Chief Conductor Sakari Oramo to perform Stravinsky's Violin Concerto with the BBC SO (22 May)
- Two of the UK's most admired musicians, pianist **Benjamin Grosvenor** and Britten Sinfonia leader, violinist **Thomas Gould** perform in a programme of Bach, Mozart, and a new commission by Robin Haigh (26 Nov)
- Cellist **Jean-Guihen Queyras** pairs Bach's cello suites with contemporary works, commissioned to echo the originals (4 Apr)

Further **premieres** and **rediscovered** music:

- The LSO's season opens with the world premiere of **Emily Howard's** *Antisphere*, commissioned for Sir Simon Rattle and the LSO by the Barbican, and part of the Centre's *Life Rewired* season. The LSO's season also includes works by composers from the current *Panufnik Composers Scheme*, **Sophya Plevaya** and **James Hoyle**, *Jerwood Composers+* **Daniel Kidane** and **Amir Konjani**, and eight further new composers, who will hear their work rehearsed by the LSO and François-Xavier Roth, guided by mentors **Colin Matthews** and **Christian Mason**.
- AAM and Music Director **Richard Egarr** combine Beethoven's *Egmont* with the *Mass* by his Czech contemporary, **Jan Ladislav Dussek**. Recently rediscovered by Egarr, and following extensive research and preparation, the *Mass* will receive its first performance in modern times (2 Oct).

- As part of AAM's ongoing *From Her Pen* project, revealing the work of female composers of the baroque and classical eras, the ensemble performs a lesser known gem of early orchestral repertoire, the *Sinfonia* from **Maria Grimani's** oratorio *Pallade e Marte* (20 Nov)
- The BBC SO, conducted by newly appointed Principal Guest Conductor **Dalia Stasevska**, performs the UK premiere of a new violin concerto by **Helen Grime**, featuring soloist **Leila Josefowicz** (17 Apr), and Sakari Oramo leads the world premiere of a violin concerto by **Victoria Borisova-Ollas** featuring soloist **Baiba Skride** (3 Apr).
- The BBC SO also performs the world premiere of **Detlev Glanert's** *Requiem for Hieronymus Bosch* (7 Dec), one of 15 world and UK premieres in their 2019-20 season.
- **Britten Sinfonia** and tenor **Allan Clayton** give the UK premiere of **Mark-Anthony Turnage's** *Refugee*, based on poems by Emily Dickinson, Benjamin Zephaniah, Warsan Shire, Brian Bilston and W H Auden (20 Sep)
- Britten Sinfonia joins **The Sixteen** for the London premiere of **James MacMillan's** Symphony No. 5, *Le grand inconnu*, commissioned by the Genesis Foundation for Harry Christophers and The Sixteen (14 Oct)
- The Barbican has co-commissioned *Voices*, a new work by composer **Max Richter**, known for his style that combines the classical tradition with the experimentalism of contemporary electronica. The world premiere performance will be given by an orchestra featuring a radically reimaged instrumentation (16 & 17 Feb)
- **Third Coast Percussion** will give the UK premiere of *Perpetuum*, a new percussion piece by **Philip Glass**, in a concert also featuring UK premieres of music by **Devonté Hynes** and **Gavin Bryars** (21 Sep).

The 2019-20 season runs from September 2019 – July 2020. **Tickets** go on sale online to Barbican Members Plus from 26 February, Barbican Members on 28 February and to the general public on 5 March. The detailed **listings** will go live at midnight on 21 February: [www.barbican.org.uk/classical1920](http://www.barbican.org.uk/classical1920)

Thousands of **discounted tickets at £5, £10 or £15** are available to 14 – 25-year-olds through the [Young Barbican](#) scheme. The scheme launched in 2014 and there are now over 64,000 members.

Please contact the Barbican communications team if you would like to receive a digital or physical copy of the **2019-20 season brochure**.

## ENDS

### Notes to Editors

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### **About the Barbican**

A world-class arts and learning organisation, the [Barbican](#) pushes the boundaries of all major art forms including dance, film, music, theatre and visual arts. Its creative learning programme further underpins everything it does. Over 1.1 million people attend events annually, hundreds of artists and performers are featured, and more than 300 [staff](#) work onsite. The architecturally renowned centre opened in 1982 and comprises the Barbican Hall, the Barbican Theatre, the Pit, Cinemas One, Two and Three, Barbican Art Gallery, a second gallery The Curve, foyers and public spaces, a library, Lakeside Terrace, [a glasshouse conservatory](#), conference facilities and three restaurants. The City of London Corporation is the founder and principal funder of the Barbican Centre.

The Barbican is home to Resident Orchestra, [London Symphony Orchestra](#); Associate Orchestra, [BBC Symphony Orchestra](#); Associate Ensembles the [Academy of Ancient Music](#) and [Britten Sinfonia](#), Associate Producer [Serious](#), and Artistic Partner [Create](#). Our Artistic Associates include [Boy Blue Entertainment](#), [Cheek by Jowl](#), Deborah Warner, [Drum Works](#) and [Michael Clark Company](#). The [Los Angeles Philharmonic](#) are the Barbican's International Orchestral Partner, the [Australian Chamber Orchestra](#) are International Associate Ensemble at Milton Court and [Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra](#) are International Associate Ensemble.

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### **About the London Symphony Orchestra**

The LSO was established in 1904 and has a unique ethos. As a musical collective, it is built on artistic ownership and partnership. With an inimitable signature sound, the LSO's mission is to bring the greatest music to the greatest number of people. The LSO has been the only Resident Orchestra at the Barbican Centre in the City of London since it opened in 1982, giving 70 symphonic concerts there every year. The Orchestra works with a family of artists that includes some of the world's greatest conductors – Sir Simon Rattle as Music Director, Gianandrea Noseda and François-Xavier Roth as Principal Guest Conductors, Michael Tilson Thomas as Conductor Laureate and André Previn as Conductor Emeritus. Through LSO Discovery, it is a pioneer of music education, offering musical experiences to 60,000 people every year and over 100

live events at its music education centre LSO St Luke's on Old Street. With the formation of its own record label LSO Live in 1999 the LSO pioneered a revolution in recording live orchestral music. The LSO strives to embrace new digital technologies – having successfully moved into digital film, Blu-Ray Audio, downloads, streaming and virtual reality – and it continues to innovate with platforms such as LSO Play, a web-based video player that allows people to observe the Orchestra from different angles. The LSO is also a highly successful creative enterprise, with 80% of all funding self-generated. [www.lso.co.uk](http://www.lso.co.uk)

### **About the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus**

At the heart of British music for over 80 years, the BBC Symphony Orchestra performs an exciting, distinctive and wide-ranging season of concerts at the Barbican in its role as Associate Orchestra, offering everything from works at the heart of classical music to world premieres from today's finest composers. The BBC SO provides the backbone of the BBC Proms, performing around a dozen concerts each year, including the First and Last Nights, and is often flanked by the BBC Symphony Chorus - one of the finest amateur choruses in the country. The BBC SO performs throughout the world, and works regularly with its Chief Conductor Sakari Oramo, Semyon Bychkov, its Günter Wand Conducting Chair and Conductor Laureate Sir Andrew Davis. Strongly committed to twentieth-century and contemporary music, it has given recent premieres of works by Harrison Birtwistle, Betsy Jolas, George Walker and Raymond Yiu. Central to its life are recordings made for BBC Radio 3 during sessions at its studios in Maida Vale, London, some of which are free for the public to attend. The vast majority of its concerts are broadcast on BBC Radio 3, streamed live online, and a number are televised, giving it the highest broadcast profile of any UK orchestra. [www.bbc.co.uk/symphonyorchestra](http://www.bbc.co.uk/symphonyorchestra)

### **About the Academy of Ancient Music**

The Academy of Ancient Music is an orchestra with a worldwide reputation for excellence in Baroque and Classical music. It takes inspiration directly from the music's composers, using historically informed techniques, period-specific instruments and original sources to bring music to life in committed, vibrant performances.

The ensemble was founded by Christopher Hogwood in 1973 and remains at the forefront of the worldwide early music scene more than four decades on; Richard Egarr became its Music Director in 2006. AAM is proud to be the most listened-to orchestra of its kind online and has released more than 300 discs, most recently on its own record label, AAM Records. Among its countless accolades for recording are Classic BRIT, Gramophone and Edison awards.

The AAM is based in Cambridge and is Orchestra-in-Residence at the city's university. Its London home is the Barbican Centre, where it is Associate Ensemble, and it is also Orchestra-in-Residence at the Grange Festival, Chiltern Arts Festival, Music at Oxford and the Apex, Bury St Edmunds. [www.aam.co.uk](http://www.aam.co.uk)

### **About Britten Sinfonia**

Just over 25 years ago, Britten Sinfonia was established as a bold reimagining of the conventional image of a chamber orchestra. A flexible ensemble of some of the UK's leading soloists and chamber musicians came together with a unique vision: to collapse the boundaries between old and new music, to collaborate with composers, performers and guest artists across artforms and genres; and to create involving, intelligent music events that both audiences and performers experience with an unusual intensity.

Britten Sinfonia is an Associate Ensemble at the Barbican in London and Resident Orchestra at Saffron Hall, with residencies in Norwich and Cambridge and

performs a chamber music series at Wigmore Hall. The orchestra has a busy international touring schedule, appearing throughout Europe, the USA and Asia and its 2018 performance with The Sixteen at the Sistine Chapel reached more than a million people worldwide. [www.brittensinfonia.com](http://www.brittensinfonia.com)