St Catherine's Presents...

Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment



in concert with

The Symphony Orchestras of St Catherine's, Bramley

and

George Abbot, Guildford

Thursday 7th November, 2024
7.30pm

Auditorium, Anniversary Halls

Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

Director: Leo Duarte

Curtain Tune — Locke

Concerto Grosso Op. 3 No. 2 — Handel
movements II & V

Ouverture Suite, TWV 55:F4 — Telemann
movements I, III & V

Water Music Suite No. 3 — Handel

Brandenburg Concerto No. 1 — J.S. Bach

Our instruments look and sound rather different to the modern instruments you might be familiar with. To give you a proper taste of these distinct flavours we've chosen music to showcase each section of the orchestra. We have theatrical music from England to raise the curtain on the strings; some music by England's greatest adopted son, Handel, to introduce the woodwind; Telemann – who, in his day, was probably the most famous composer in Europe – shows off the natural horns; and Bach brings all of us together in a rousing dance to close the first half of the show before we join forces with the orchestras of St Catherine's and George Abbot Schools for musical fireworks and more!

Leo Duarte

Interval

20 minutes

Refreshments are available to purchase at the Bar in the Lower Atrium

The Combined Symphony Orchestras of St Catherine's and George Abbot with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring — J.S. Bach

Conductor: Donald Lloyd

Suite — Clarke

Conductor: Lucia Švecová

Waltz No. 2 — Shostakovich

Conductor: Michael Hartley

Water Music Suite No. 2: *Hornpipe* — Handel

Gabriel's Oboe — Morricone

Gymnopédie No. 1 — Satie

Conductor: Donald Lloyd

Music for the Royal Fireworks — Handel

Conductor: Leo Duarte

Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

In 1986, a group of inquisitive London musicians took a long hard look at that curious institution we call the Orchestra, and decided to start again from scratch. They began by throwing out the rulebook. Put a single conductor in charge? No way. Specialise in repertoire of a particular era? Too restricting. Perfect a work and then move on? Too lazy. The *Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment* was born.



And as this distinctive ensemble playing on period-specific instruments began to get a foothold, it made a promise to itself. It vowed to keep questioning, adapting and inventing as long as it lived. Residencies at the Southbank Centre and the Glyndebourne Festival didn't numb its experimentalist bent. Record deals didn't iron out its quirks. Instead, the *OAE* examined musical notes with ever more freedom and resolve.

That creative thirst remains unquenched. The Night Shift series of informal performance taking place in pubs and bars redefines concert formats. Its association with another London venue, Kings Place, has fostered further diversity of music-making including the innovative series Bach, the Universe and Everything.

The *OAE* continues to tour around the UK – appearing in the major cities and concert halls as well as towns that most orchestras don't check in to – and internationally. In 2024/25 the *OAE* performs at the Brucknerhaus in Linz, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Musikverein in Vienna, Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, in Copenhagen, Budapest, Graz, Antwerp, Munich, Zurich and on tour to the USA and Asia.

The *OAE* has never had a music director. It enjoys many long term collaborations and the title of Principal Artist is currently held by John Butt, Sir Mark Elder, Adam Fischer, Iván Fischer, Vladimir Jurowski, Sir Simon Rattle and Sir András Schiff.

In keeping with its values of always questioning, challenging and trailblazing, in September 2020, the *OAE* became the resident orchestra of Acland Burghley School in Camden (London). The residency – a first for a British orchestra – allows them to live, work and play amongst the students of the school.

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