

## **LONDON SINFONIETTA 2020/21 SEASON: FIRST EVENTS ANNOUNCED**

**26 September 2020 – 7 July 2021**

**“The world’s top new music ensemble” *The Times***

The London Sinfonietta announces its first events for the 2020 / 21 season featuring a host of exciting and significant premieres that seek to reflect and engage with the world we live in.

Resident Orchestra at Southbank Centre and Artistic Associates at Kings Place, the London Sinfonietta continues to create fertile collaborations between other genres and disciplines, and uses its artistic programme as a catalyst to engage wider communities as well as develop audiences both live and online.

### **SEASON SUMMARY**

- **Nine premieres as part of Southbank Centre season including a new commission by Laura Bowler, inspired by Extinction Rebellion manifesto, plus new works by James Dillon and George Lewis**
- **Wide ranging opportunities for the public to take part and create alongside the London Sinfonietta throughout its season**
- **New Digital Channel expands to include new binaural digital commissions with an inaugural work by Shiva Feshareki**
- **Performing in association with Music Theatre Wales presenting tour of major new work by Tom Coult and Alice Birch**
- **New composers and performers given opportunities to develop their professional work through Writing The Future, Blue Touch Paper, London Sinfonietta Academy programmes**

### **A NOTE FROM ANDREW BURKE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR:**

*We believe that new music matters to society, and the work of the London Sinfonietta can act as a catalyst for positive development in individuals and communities. Work we produce with composers and artists can both reflect what is happening and, in some way, influence change. It’s important to us that we make a point of*

*showcasing new work that, in different ways, is engaged with the way we live today, while also celebrating music as an art in itself, and giving world-class performances that can be an inspiration to anyone who hears them.*

## THE MUSIC OF NOW

The London Sinfonietta's 2020/21 season proudly features many new works, many of which engage with society today - encouraging thought and reflection about the world in which we live.

**Laura Bowler's *Extinction*** sets text from Extinction Rebellion's manifesto to music performed by mezzo soprano **Jessica Aszodi** (world premiere, Southbank Centre's Purcell Room, 30 April 2021). The London Sinfonietta also performs ***more more more*** by (and with) **Matthew Herbert**, inspired by Gursky's *Untitled XIII*, a fascinating and unnerving photograph of a landfill site in Chimalhuacán, Mexico City which the ensemble originally commissioned and premiered as part of the major Hayward Gallery's major Andreas Gursky exhibition (Kings Place, 6 November 2020).

**Luke Bedford's *In the Voices of the Living*** featuring tenor **Mark Padmore** uses text from voices from the past - Petrarch, Joyce, Leopardi and Shakespeare - which resonate with the challenges of today (world premiere, Southbank Centre's Purcell Room, 19 January 2021), with an intergenerational community project running alongside.

The London Sinfonietta also curates and produces inspiring performances to Southbank Centre festivals such as a new commission by **George Lewis** and the UK premiere of **Dai Fujikura's *Shamisen Concerto***, conducted by **Vimbayi Kasiboni** as part of **SoundState** new music festival (Queen Elizabeth Hall, 24 February 2021). It also produces an evening of works as part of as part of **Southbank Centre's Claude Vivier** focus (Queen Elizabeth Hall, 13 May 2021), including his masterpiece ***Lonely Child***, sung by **Claire Booth** and conducted by **Ivan Volkov**, with a world premiere of a new work by **Nicole Lizée** addressing personal isolation.

## INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION FOR ALL

Providing access to new music for as many people as possible remains a core part of London Sinfonietta's mission, with opportunities across the 20/21 season to take part and create alongside the ensemble.

**Assemble** presents a free 'mini festival' afternoon of new music in the Clore Ballroom offering entry points for everyone from contemporary classical newbies to the mega fan (Southbank Centre, 3 October 2020). Bite-sized music sets will run throughout the afternoon, coupled with engaging talks and live podcast recordings in open-to-all, informal settings.

**Sound Out 2021** sees the culmination of a year of collaborations with schools and music hubs, with children of all ages able to experience the wonder of music-making in the Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall in a concert performed and composed by their peers and London Sinfonietta musicians ( 24 March 2021).

As part of **LS OPEN**, a series dedicated to putting the public on stage as both performers and composers, **Cathy Milliken's** new work ***Night Shift*** is inspired by Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and will feature two amateur choirs and contributions from members of the public and the audience on the night (world premiere, Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall 17 March 2021). This commission is part of the Connect series, funded by the Art Mentor Foundation, Lucerne, created in partnership with Ensemble Modern, Asko Schoenberg and Remix Ensembles in Europe.

## CONTEMPORARY COLLABORATIONS

London Sinfonietta continues to create fertile new collaborations between the worlds of jazz and contemporary classical music with new commissions by the rising star **Elliot Galvin** (Dinosaur / Elliot Galvin Trio) (world premiere, in the London Jazz Festival at the Southbank Centre, Nov 2020). Plus students from Central Saint Martins create new works in response to the London premiere of acclaimed Scottish composer **James Dillon's *Pharmakeia*** (Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall, 3 December 2020).

As part of its ongoing association with Music Theatre Wales, the London Sinfonietta tour ***Violet***, the hotly anticipated new opera by **Tom Coult** and **Alice Birch** to Linbury Theatre, Royal Opera House and Sherman Theatre, Cardiff following its premiere at Aldeburgh Festival (June 2020) and performances at Clwyd Theatr Cymru in Mold and Buxton Festival (July 2020) .

## DIGITAL CHANNEL

The London Sinfonietta's new digital channel at [londonsinfonietta.org/channel](https://londonsinfonietta.org/channel) goes from strength to strength with a series of new binaural works commissioned specifically to be experienced via headphones, with the first by **Shiva Feshareki**.

New content is regularly added including a special edit of **Richard Ayres' *The Garden*** by the video artist **Martha Colburn**, which will receive a premiere screening at **HOME**, Manchester in May 2020 and online.

## SUPPORTING SCHOOLS AND THE COMMUNITY

The London Sinfonietta was the first ensemble in the UK to deliver an education programme and has pioneered activity in music education ever since. Its ***Sound Out*** programme – which works in different locations around the UK - includes creative classroom projects as well as its annual concert for primary schools where they can explore iconic repertoire and be inspired to compose. The concert at Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall on 24 March 2021 also features the premiere of a new piece featuring young musicians from the London Sinfonietta's work with partner schools and music services in Haringey, Ealing and Waltham Forest boroughs.

The ensemble's ongoing **Connect** initiative sees amateur choirs performing with the London Sinfonietta in a new commission by Cathy Milliken.

## DEVELOPING TALENT

London Sinfonietta plays a key role in developing emerging composers and performers through a wide range of activity. The fourth edition of the composer development programme ***Writing the Future*** will come to a head in the 20/21 season, with pieces performed which have been created by diverse composers challenged to re-imagine the work of the ensemble.

The 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the **London Sinfonietta Academy** will provide year-round workshops for young musicians culminating in an annual Summer Academy encouraging young players from around the UK to hone their new music performance skills in a public performance in July 2020. Plus the newly formed **London Sinfonietta Junior Academy** offers workshop days and performance opportunities for younger musicians.

## **LISTINGS INFORMATION:**

### **TOM COULT / ALICE BIRCH: VIOLET**

From 26 September 2020,  
Linbury Theatre, Royal Opera House  
Sherman Theatre, Cardiff

### **ASSEMBLE**

Free afternoon mini-festival of new music  
Saturday 3 October 2020, Southbank Centre's Clore Ballroom

### **RESPONSE**

James Dillon's major new work *Pharmakeia*  
Thursday 3 December 2020, Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall

### **LESSONS FROM THE PAST**

World premiere of new piece by Luke Bedford sung by Mark Padmore  
Tuesday 19 January 2021, Southbank Centre's Purcell Room

### **WORLD VOICES**

World premiere of new work by George Lewis, and UK premiere of music by Dai Fujikura  
Wednesday 24 February 2021, Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall  
Part of the Soundstate Festival

### **NIGHT SHIFT**

World premiere of new work by Cathy Milliken, with public participation from amateur choirs  
Wednesday 17 March 2021, Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall  
Part of the Connect – Audience As Artist Series

### **SCHOOLS SOUND OUT**

Fourth major London boroughs schools creative music making concert  
Thursday 24 March 2021, Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall

### **EXTINCTION**

World premiere of Laura Bowler's new piece which addresses climate change  
Friday 30 April 2021, Southbank Centre's Purcell Room

### **LONG SONG OF SOLITUDE**

Focus on the music of Claude Vivier, including his masterpiece *Lonely Child*  
Thursday 13 May, Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall

### **MUSICIANS OF TOMORROW**

Annual showcase and celebration of the best early-career performing talent  
Wednesday 7 July 2021, Southbank Centre's Purcell Room

**FOR FULL EVENT LISTINGS PLEASE VISIT [LONDONSINFONIETTA.ORG.UK/WHATS-ON](https://www.londonsinfonietta.org.uk/whats-on)**

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## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

The London Sinfonietta is one of the world's leading contemporary music ensembles. Formed in 1968, our commitment to making new music has seen us commission over 400 works and premiere many hundreds more.

Our ethos today is to constantly experiment with the art form, working with the best composers and performers and collaborating with artists from alternative genres and disciplines. We are committed to challenging perceptions, provoking new possibilities and stretching our audiences' imaginations, often working closely with them as creators, performers and curators of the events we stage.

Resident at Southbank Centre and Artistic Associate at Kings Place, with a busy touring schedule across the UK and abroad, the London Sinfonietta's core 18 Principal Players, are some of the finest musicians in the world. As well as our commitment to reaching new audiences with world-class performances of new music, and developing the talent of composers and musicians, the organisation holds a leading position in education work. We believe that arts participation is transformational to individuals and communities, and that new music is relevant to all our lives.

These values are enacted through primary and secondary school concerts across the UK, interactive family events, and the annual London Sinfonietta Academy; an unparalleled opportunity for young performers and conductors to train with our Principal Players. The London Sinfonietta has also broken new ground by launching its own new digital Channel, featuring video programmes and podcasts about new music. We also created Steve Reich's Clapping Music App for iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch, a participatory rhythm game that has been downloaded over 400,000 times worldwide. Recent recordings include George Benjamin's opera *Into the Little Hill* (Nimbus; 2017), Benet Casablancas' *The Art of Ensemble* (Sony Classical; 2018), David Lang's *Writing on Water* (Cantaloupe Music; 2018) and Philip Venables' debut album *Below the Belt* (NMC; 2018) and Marius Neset's *Viaduct* (ACT; 2019).

### **About Southbank Centre**

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre and one of the UK's top five visitor attractions, occupying a 17 acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. We exist to present great cultural experiences that bring people together and we achieve this by providing the space for artists to create and present their best work and by creating a place where as many people as possible can come together to experience bold, unusual and eye-opening work. We want to take people out of the everyday, every day.

The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is made up of Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as being home to the National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. It is also home to four Resident Orchestras (London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, London Sinfonietta and Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment) and four Associate Orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra and National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain).. For further information please visit [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)

### **VENUE PARTNERS**

This London Sinfonietta is a proud Resident Orchestra at Southbank Centre where it has been giving pioneering new music performances since 1968, and has been Artistic Associate at Kings Place for over 10 years, collaborating on innovative new concert formats and education work.

**SOUTHBANK  
CENTRE**  
RESIDENT

**Artistic Associate at  
KINGS PLACE**

## **SUPPORTERS**

The London Sinfonietta is grateful to **Arts Council England** for its continuing support of the ensemble's work through its National Portfolio Funding, and to its Corporate Partners **Lark Music**.



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