

OSJ50

ORCHESTRA OF ST JOHN'S

AFGHAN WOMENS ORCHESTRA RESIDENCY MARCH 2019



In collaboration with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the Afghanistan Embassy London, Harrow Council, Somerville College, the Oxfordshire County Music Service (OCMS) and the University of Oxford Faculty of Music, OSJ is engaging with the young musicians of the Afghanistan National Institute of Music (ANIM) through a variety of online and in person educational and social interactions to cultivate musical and personal skills and develop mutual understandings across cultural boundaries. These include an ongoing mentorship programme for ANIM instrumentalists, conductors and composers, a distance musical mentorship programme between Oxford University and ANIM students, and a week-long residency in Oxford for the Afghan Women's Orchestra (Ensemble Zohra). The residency will include workshops, academic panel discussions, community engagement activities and performances in Oxfordshire and London with OSJ, OCMS and OU student musicians. This is the first time that the entire orchestra has travelled to the United Kingdom, and OSJ is pleased to be the driving force behind this historic event.

Through this project we are cultivating cultural leaders by empowering students to become creative thinkers, building confidence through performance and skill acquisition, and collaborating with colleagues across cultural boundaries. We are fostering enduring relationships and networks between the young people already in places of opportunity in order to aid their further development into civic leaders in any field, be it in government, education, business, the arts, and most importantly, within their families and communities.

Distance Music Lessons

Currently OSJ is providing much-needed online music lessons for the students of ANIM in trumpet (Paul Archibald), composition (Toby Young) and conducting (Cayenna Ponchione). We are currently working to obtain funding to continue and build on this programme. Please contact admin@osj.org.uk for information on how to sponsor music lessons for a student at ANIM.

Oxford-ANIM Musical Mentorship Programme

Oxford University Students meet with younger students at regular intervals during term time, to discuss musical backgrounds and share musical experiences. The mentorship programme, in its pilot stage, is designed to build connections across cultural and physical boundaries.

Afghan Women's Orchestra (Ensemble Zohra) Residency

The Afghan Women's Orchestra, Ensemble Zohra, will be in residence at Somerville College from the 12th-19th of March. During this time they will play alongside OSJ, Oxford University, Harrow Young Musicians and Oxfordshire County Music Service students, take part in masterclasses, panel discussions, and perform in schools concerts in Oxfordshire. They will perform at the Harrow Arts Centre, Sheldonian Theatre, Holywell Music room and Lancaster House.

We are 75% of the way to meet our fundraising needs for this unprecedented residency. Please contact admin@osj.org.uk if you can help.

HOW TO SUPPORT OSJ

Cayenna Ponchione has recently joined us as Associate Conductor, and plans a range of new community projects.

We need your support to fund these projects.

To learn more about how you can help our work with the Afghan Women's Orchestra and with refugees, please contact us on admin@osj.org.uk

We have recently been awarded our first Arts Council England grant for a decade, to support our community projects.

Please help build on this success by making a donation via the CAF Donate button on our website.

Fostering Cultural Leadership through Music

OSJ50

Displaced Voices

Amplifying the voices of young refugees through collaborative composition and performance

Afghanistan National Institute of Music Mentorship Programme

Bringing British and Afghan youth together through music and education

Supported using public funding by



**ARTS COUNCIL
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In collaboration with

Oxford Spire Academy
Oxfordshire County Music Service
University of Oxford Faculty of Music
Somerset College
The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities

Tickets www.osj.org.uk

EVENTS

Afghan Women's Orchestra

Timetable

12th March Arrive in London from Sweden
- go directly to Oxford

13th March Rehearsals & masterclasses.
Evening presentation and demonstration
of traditional Afghan instruments/music in
Oxford with John Baily and Veronica
Doubleday (public event in the historic
Holywell Music Room)

14th March Schools concerts followed by
Panel Discussion at Somerville College on
women's education in Afghanistan (public
event)

15th March Concert and fundraising event
at British Museum

16th March Rehearsals with Oxfordshire
county youth orchestra. Evening concert
at Harrow Arts Centre

17th March Rehearsals and concert in the
Sheldonian Theatre Oxford (public
concert)

18th March Lancaster House concert
(invitation only)

19th March Sight seeing in London

20th March Return to Kabul

Formal concerts/events:

Wednesday 13 March Traditional
Afghan instruments demonstration at
Holywell Music Room, Oxford

Thursday 14 March Schools concerts in
Oxford

Thursday 14 March Panel discussion at
Somerville Tickets some.ox.ac.uk

Friday 15 March Concert and
fundraising event at British Museum
for Afghan Embassy, London Tickets
britishmuseum.org

Saturday 16 March Concert at Harrow
Arts Centre. Tickets harrowarts.org

Sunday 17 March Sheldonian Theatre
Oxford at 5pm Tickets osj.org.uk

Monday 18 March Lancaster House,
London (invitation only)

Fostering Cultural Leadership through Music

osj50

Concert at Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford
Sunday 17 March 2019 at 5pm
Afghan Women's Orchestra
Orchestra of St John's

*Afghanistan National Institute of Music Mentorship
Programme*

Bringing British and Afghan youth together through
music and education

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ORCHESTRA OF ST JOHN'S

O SJ was founded fifty years ago by its Director, John Lubbock OBE, at its original home St John's Smith Square in Westminster. OSJ appears regularly in London, at SJSS and elsewhere, and at concert halls and festivals throughout the country. Its concerts have regularly featured world famous soloists such as Dame Felicity Lott, Sir James Galway, John Lill, Yuri Bashmet, Tasmin Little and Steven Isserlis. Recent performers have included the fabulous Sheku Kanneh-Mason.

The orchestra has built an impressive following. It presents a series of 'Proms' in Oxford's Ashmolean Museum alongside regular orchestral concerts in Dorchester Abbey. We present concert series in London at St John's Smith Square, Wigmore Hall and Kings Place, and other venues at Christmas and at Easter. Autumn brings our 'Music in the Abbey' festival in Dorchester. Our 'My Music' series features famous people talking about their lives, with a soundtrack provided by the orchestra playing their favourite pieces. Our record label OSJ Alive releases recordings of some concerts. Another new series is Oratorios in Cathedrals, inaugurated in Chester Cathedral in November 2018.

The Orchestra has always been engaged at the heart of the community sharing its music with diverse audiences and exploring new ways of involving minority groups. Its musicians provide more than fifty musical events each year for children with autism, adults with dementia, and refugees. Our Young Performers scheme helps the development of many aspiring professional and supports performance by musicians of young talent from a range of ethnic and social backgrounds. OSJ also has a rich history of commissioning and performing new works from young composers.



JOHN LUBBOCK OBE *Conductor*

JOHN LUBBOCK is well known as the founder and conductor of the Orchestra of St John's. He began his musical life as a chorister at St George's Chapel Windsor Castle and later, having studied singing at the Royal Academy of Music, went on to sing with the John Alldis choir, was a founder member of the London Symphony Chorus and was a member of the Swingle Singers.

John founded his orchestra in 1967, whilst still a student at the Royal Academy of Music, with the aim of building an orchestra that would serve the community and not just be part of the 'music scene'. The community bias has been the main drive behind his tireless enthusiasm and life-long commitment to making the highest quality of music making available to those who might otherwise have had little or no musical experience. He has single-handedly gathered around him a group of distinguished musicians who are not only outstanding performers but who share his ethos of bringing music to people of all ages and from all walks of life.

Besides the orchestra's public concerts John and his players give around 50 concerts a year to autistic children and others with learning difficulties through the charity 'Music For Autism' started by his wife Christine Cairns in 2002. They have also over the last three years developed a series of concerts for people with dementia. Since the birth of his autistic son he has become very involved in the world of music and disabled children. Apart from Music for Autism he is a founder trustee of the Thomley Hall Centre for children with all special needs, where Music For Autism has provided and equipped a music building. He is a trustee of the Music for Life Foundation which enables gifted, but disabled musicians to access music making of the highest calibre and some have performed with OSJ and OSJ Voices. He is also a trustee of the Clear Sky Foundation, which provides play therapy for emotionally damaged children and with whom the members of OSJ will be participating, again sponsored by Music for Autism.

In 1999 John received an Honorary Fellowship from the Royal Academy of Music. In 2015 he was awarded an OBE for services to the Orchestra of St John's and to people with autism and learning difficulties in the UK. He was a finalist in the prestigious The Times/Sternberg Active Life Award 2015.



CAYENNA PONCHIONE *Associate conductor*

Originally from Fairbanks, Alaska, Cayenna Ponchione is a UK-based conductor committed to social justice and environmental sustainability through the arts and the promotion of gender and ethnic equality in conducting and composition. In addition to her post as Associate Conductor of the Orchestra of St John's, Cayenna is the music director of the GrassRoots Festival Orchestra and is the Director of Research for the Oxford Conducting Institute. She holds masters' degrees in orchestral conducting and percussion performance and wrote her doctoral thesis on the social psychology of orchestral musicians' interactions and decision-making at the University of Oxford where she is currently a postdoctoral researcher on the AHRC-funded research project Transforming 19th-Century Historically Informed Practice. She is a Junior Research Fellow at Somerville College, and a College Lecturer in Music, at St Catherine's College, University of Oxford.

Cayenna has received multiple awards and grants for her collaborative social and environmental work through music as well as her advocacy for women composers. Alongside her work with OSJ's community engagement activities, Cayenna has been running two other commissioning schemes: Water-Culture: Women's Work(s), which highlights global water scarcity and women's historic role in domestic water provision, and Sounding2020 which commissions works dealing with current social and environmental issues. Recent commissions have included compositions by Nicola Lefanu, Kate Whitley, Solfa Carlile, Rachel Lockwood, Shirley Thompson, Joshua Oxford, Katie Ballantyne, Max Morganus, Toby Young and Deborah Pritchard.

Her own compositions for percussion have been recorded on the ALM and Capstone labels and performed by leading percussionists worldwide.

In September 2018 Cayenna was appointed to be the Orchestra of St John's first Associate Conductor in its 50-year history. Cayenna will work alongside John to support OSJ's mission for bringing concerts of unrivalled artistic excellence to OSJ's communities with the aim of making the emotion, drama and culture of live classical music available to everyone.

See www.cayennaponchione.com



Tickets www.osj.org.uk

OSJ

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Benefactor Toby Blackwell

Patrons Music in the Abbey: Rick Rowse

St John's Smith Square: David and Marie-Jane Barnett

Ashmolean Proms: Sir Martin and Lady Smith, Ian and Caroline Laing, Bernard and Sarah Taylor.

Fitzwilliam Museum: Sir Charles and Lady Chadwick-Healey

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The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH)