



Classically Liberating

30 November 2021



ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE



LONDON CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Live at St John's Smith Square, London & available online



Tonight's concert

Classically Liberating

30 November 2021

7.30pm

DJ Mr Switch

Presenter Gabriel Prokofiev

Conductor Christopher Warren-Green

Gabriel Prokofiev *Concerto for Turntables and Orchestra No.1*

Errollyn Wallen *Horseplay*

Errollyn Wallen *Mighty River*

Prokofiev *Symphony No. 1 in D Major Op. 25 'Classical'*

Interval 20 minutes

In accordance with the requirements of Westminster City Council persons shall not be permitted to sit or stand in any gangway. The taking of photographs and use of recording equipment is strictly forbidden without formal consent from St John's Smith Square. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in St John's.

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I warmly welcome you tonight for an evening of music exploring history, humanity, movement and freedom. This is a programme of historic intersections, of

entwined time. Gabriel Prokofiev's piece, which marries the modernity of turntables expertly performed by soloist Mr Switch, with the tradition of the chamber orchestra, is coupled with one of his Grandfather's most popular works, itself a modern interpretation of Haydn and Mozart, written during the backdrop of revolution. Just as the two Prokofiev pieces are inextricably linked in time, so too is the work of Errollyn Wallen, who in *Mighty River* explores the history of the slave trade. It is a particularly important piece for us to play, not only for the vital theme it explores, but also because it was commissioned by LCO Trustee and great friend of the orchestra Rev. John Wates, whose wife, Carol, is a direct descendant of William Wilberforce, who, of course, led the movement to abolish the slave trade. I am incredibly proud that Gabriel, Errollyn and John and Carol Wates are all here with us tonight, to join together in a very special evening, weaving together past and present and the ongoing pursuit of freedom.

Christopher Warren-Green
Music Director & Principal Conductor



In 1921 when Anthony Bernard founded LCO, it was with a vision to embrace and perform new music. Since then the orchestra has performed over 100 UK

premieres championing some of the greatest composers of the 20th and 21st century, while also playing classic repertoire with a vigour and joy that is unique to LCO. Just as with the pieces we are playing tonight, we both celebrate our legacy, particularly in this our centenary year and also look to the future. Our aspirations and vision bely our small size. We welcome you to join us to play a part in our future, by becoming a member of LCO Together, our new membership club. The antithesis of a faceless scheme, LCO Together is a very special club, bringing together music lovers at LCO concerts and special events and offering unique insights and access to the orchestra. Vitally, every membership ensures we are able to continue to share our music, to commission new work and to engage young people with the joy of classical music. I do hope you will consider joining us today, every member at every level will make a vital difference to the orchestra, ensuring we continue to grow, to innovate and to thrive – together.

Jocelyn Lightfoot
Managing Director



London Chamber Orchestra

Violins

Janice Graham
Ciaran McCabe
Alexandra Caldon
Guy Button
Takane Funatsu
Peter Nall
Valeria Kucharsky
Stella Di Virgilio

Charles Sewart
Harriet Murray
Venetia Jollands
Kirsty Mangan
Jo Watts
Edward McCullough
Selini Sewart
Julia Clare

Violas

Ursula John
Christine Anderson
Cara Coetzee
Daisy Speirs
Jill Valentine

Cellos

Robert Max
Takami Sugimoto
Susie Winkworth
Corinna Boylan
Angelique Lihou

Basses

Andrew Marshall
Tim Amherst
Marianne Schofield

Flutes

Harry Winstanley
Christine Hankin

Oboes

Gordon Hunt
Alison Alty

Clarinets

Jonathan Parkin
Christopher Goodwin

Soprano Saxophone

Simon Harram

Bassoons

Graham Hobbs
Emma Harding

Horns

Stephen Craigen
Elise Campbell
Anna Douglass
Phillippa Slack

Trumpets

Kaitlin Wild
Erika Curbelo

Trombone

Andrew Connington
Ruth Molins
Sam Freeman

Timpani

Tristan Fry

Percussion

Joby Burgess
Chris Blundell
Martin Owens
Geoff Boynton

Harp

Sally Pryce

Piano

Neil Georgeson

Programme notes

An eclectic and vibrant evening of music awaits. From DJs and decks, slavery and oppression, to ballet music, and new freedoms – we explore all aspects of what it means to be human with this immersive and exciting programme. This is the past reimagined, where will tonight take us?

Gabriel Prokofiev *Concerto for Turntables and Orchestra No.1*

Gabriel Prokofiev is the grandson of Sergei Prokofiev. His father, the artist Oleg Prokofiev, settled in London in 1971 after defecting from the USSR. His first musical ventures were in electronic and dance music, not least because his grandfather's legacy was inevitably intimidating. Eventually, though, he embraced the greater creative freedom that classical genres offered. 'For a while I was trying to juggle everything,' he recounted, in an interview with the present writer a few years ago, 'and when I should have been networking at record industry parties, instead I was in my studio writing a string quartet.'

When Will Dutta first approached him to suggest a concerto for DJ, Prokofiev was reluctant at first. Nevertheless, the musical possibilities of this soon began to intrigue him. The use of pre-recorded sounds in classical music goes back to Pierre Schaeffer's *Musique Concrète* (a development



“ ... their DIY approach led to the evolution of a very exciting new instrument ”

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We will soon share the concert on our website and YouTube channel for those unable to attend, or for those who simply want to relive the experience!

Prokofiev

Symphony No.1, 'Classical'

How extraordinary to think that Prokofiev penned this lively, innocent-sounding work in 1917, the year of the Russian Revolution. Aged 26, he was well established, after his studies at the St Petersburg Conservatory, as a composer of progressive leanings. Yet for his first take on symphonic form, he chose to write the kind of piece that he thought Haydn would have produced had he lived another 100 years.

Prokofiev's home base during the Revolution period was the countryside near his home city – renamed Petrograd – and here he threw himself into his work and out of his comfort zone. Previously he had preferred to compose at the piano, his own instrument: "I was intrigued with the idea of writing an entire symphonic piece without the piano... so this was how the project of writing a symphony in the style of Haydn came about," he wrote. "It seemed it would be easier to dive into the deep waters of writing without the piano if I worked in a familiar setting."

Neoclassicism, perhaps serendipitously, was all the rage at the time – as Stravinsky and Diaghilev found a couple of years later. This symphony's four movements mirror classical structure exactly: an opening allegro, a tranquil, not-too-slow andante, a dance movement (this one is a gavotte) and a whirling finale.

Prokofiev conducted the premiere himself in April 1918. Later that year he left Russia for Paris. It was not until 1936 that the Soviet regime lured him back with a commission for a ballet score for *Romeo and Juliet* – a trap into which Prokofiev fell all too readily. As a postscript, it is worth noting that in the ballet he recycled the Gavotte from the 'Classical' Symphony to close the ballroom scene. Nostalgia, perhaps, of a kind.

Jessica Duchon



Watch online

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Relive the concert experience by watching on our website and YouTube channel soon after the live performance



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ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE



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ENGLAND**



Christopher Warren-Green

Working extensively in Europe and North America, British conductor Christopher Warren-Green is Music Director of both the London Chamber Orchestra and Charlotte Symphony in North Carolina.

2021/22 marks the final season as Warren-Green's tenure as the Music Director of Charlotte Symphony, when he will step down after 12 years at the helm becoming the Conductor Laureate whilst remaining as Artistic Advisor. This season he will conduct an all-English programme to celebrate the orchestra's 90th birthday, and conduct performances of Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* with soloist Paul Huang, concluding with Beethoven Symphony No.9 as an appropriately spectacular finale.

This season Warren-Green leads the London Chamber Orchestra with programmes including the world premiere of a new commission by Cheryl Frances-Hoad based on Holst's *The Planets*. Additional engagements include conducting Beethoven Symphony No.9 at the Barbican Centre with Raymond Gubbay and two return engagements in Finland with both Oulu Symphony Orchestra and Tampere Philharmonic Orchestra.

A violinist by training, Warren-Green began his career at the age of 19 as concertmaster of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, followed by the Philharmonia Orchestra and the Academy of St Martin in the Fields. He is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music, having been a Professor there for eight years, and has appeared numerous times on television and radio.

Gabriel Prokofiev

Presenter

Concerto for Turntables and Orchestra No.1

Composing music that both embraces and challenges western classical traditions, Gabriel Prokofiev has emerged as a significant voice in new approaches to classical music at the beginning of the 21st century. After completing his musical studies at Birmingham and York Universities, he developed a parallel music career as a dance, grime, electro and hip-hop producer. This background in dance music combined with his classical roots gives his music a unique and truly contemporary sound.

Gabriel has built up a large body of orchestral and chamber works and has composed seven concertos (three featuring turntables), as well as many electronic works, often combining synthesisers and samples with classical instrumentation. His works have been performed internationally by orchestras including Seattle Symphony, Detroit Symphony, St Petersburg Philharmonic and BBC Philharmonic. Also, he frequently collaborates with contemporary dancers and has worked with companies including Stuttgarter Ballet, Rambert Dance and Birmingham Royal Ballet. In 2019, his first full-length opera *Elizabetta* was premiered by Regensburg Opera in Bavaria.

Gabriel is also an events curator, producer and founder of the Nonclassical record label and club night, home to a host of artists who defy conventions. Gabriel studied electroacoustic composition under Jonty Harrison in Birmingham, and a Masters in composition with Ambrose Field & Roger Marsh. He is published by both Faber Music and Mute Song, and resides in Hackney, London, with his wife and their three young children.





Errollyn Wallen

Horseplay
Mighty River

Errollyn Wallen is a Belize-born British composer whose output includes twenty operas and a large catalogue of works which are performed internationally. Her latest large-scale work, a re-imagining of Parry's *Jerusalem, Jerusalem – our clouded hills* for soprano and orchestra, was performed at last year's Last Night of the Proms and broadcast around the world from Royal Albert Hall. *This Frame is Part of the Painting* for mezzo-soprano and orchestra, is a BBC Proms commission for 2019 and was performed by BBC National Orchestra of Wales, conducted by Elim Chan, to a sold out Royal Albert Hall. Her acclaimed *Concerto Grosso* was released on the NMC label in January 2020, performed by Chineke! who also premièred the chamber work *Nnenna*. Her opera *The Silent Twins* (libretto by April De Angelis) will receive its US première in New York in 2022.

Her arrangement of Johnnetta Bryant's song, *I'm a Young Black Man* (composed in response to George Floyd's murder) for Clean Bandit and Friends has received over 86,000 views to date on YouTube. It features Grace Chatto, Sheku and Braimah Kanneh-Mason, Nicola and Stephanie Benedetti.

Other works in progress include a piano concerto (commissioned by Royal Birmingham Conservatoire) and a new opera, *Dido's Ghost*, commissioned by Dunedin Consort

and the Barbican which will premiere at the Barbican in June and receive its Scottish premiere at the Edinburgh Festival. Errollyn is also composing a new opera for Chicago Opera Theatre and is writing a book on composing. Errollyn Wallen's albums include *Errollyn*, *The Girl in My Alphabet* and *Meet Me at Harold Moores*. These have travelled 7.84 million kilometres in space, completing 186 orbits around the Earth on NASA's STS115 mission. Her latest orchestral album, *Photography* with Orchestra X, was voted into the Top Ten Classical Albums by USA's National Public Radio.

Peace on Earth, an EP of her choral works performed by King's College Choir (the last recording conducted by Sir Stephen Cleobury) was released by King's College Recordings in November 2020 to great acclaim.

Errollyn is co-curator of Spitalfields Festival 2020 and 2021. Her new radio documentary, 'Classical Commonwealth', has just been broadcast on Radio 3.

Errollyn was awarded the MBE in 2007 and was made a CBE in the 2020 New Year Honours List. In 2015 she became an Honorary Fellow of Mansfield College, Oxford and in 2019 an Honorary Fellow of Goldsmiths, London. She has received an Ivor Novello Award for Classical Music, a British Composer Award and a FIPA D'Or for Best Music for a Television Series. These honours come with further garnishes: an Honorary Doctorate from York St. John's University, one of BBC's 100 Women 2018 and one of London University's 150 Leading Women.

March 2021

www.errollynwallen.com

Mr Switch

Mr Switch aka Anthony Culverwell is one of the most accomplished & talented DJs ever to come out of the UK – as a 4 times World DJ Champion, 7 times UK champion, and the first DJ in history to have performed at the BBC Proms, he's achieved a lot more than most!

Initially known as DJ Switch, Anthony won his first world championship – the DMC Battle For World Supremacy – in 2008, aged just 19. He successfully defended



the title for 3 years running (2008, 2009 and 2010) – the first DJ ever to do so. After changing his stage name to Mr Switch, he returned to the battle scene one final time to win the title of DMC World DJ Champion in 2014.

Always looking to explore what is possible with turntables, Mr Switch entered the world of classical music when he was offered the chance to perform Gabriel Prokofiev's *Concerto for Turntables and Orchestra No.1*. The piece of music features a DJ as the soloist with a traditional orchestra, scratching classical sounds taken exclusively from the orchestra (strings, brass, percussion, etc.), and melding the worlds of hip hop & classical.

Since debuting the piece at the BBC Proms in 2011 – and becoming the first ever DJ to perform there – he has played the piece more than 70 times, and performed as a classical soloist across 20 different countries. This has led to numerous spinoff projects – including several new pieces written by Prokofiev for Switch, and Mr Switch's own orchestral group 'Symphonica', which fuses classical music with dancefloor destroying beats & Switch's scratch skills.

But Mr Switch is not just renowned for his technical wizardry... He is an expert party-rocker, who spins multiple music genres & always entertains the audience. He has spun tunes in every conceivable kind of music venue, collaborated with a full variety of musicians, and played in a literal A-Z of countries around the world. A favourite at festivals, Switch has performed closing DJ sets at Bestival, Shambala and Glastonbury. Radio credits include DJ mixes & performances for Radio 1, 1Xtra, Kiss FM & BBC Asian Network. Numerous TV appearances include BBC Breakfast, Go For It (ITV), I've Never Seen Star Wars (BBC) & Blue Peter.

DJ Mr Switch marks himself out from other DJs as being truly one-of-a-kind. Known worldwide for his astonishing scratch skills, multi-genre mastery, party-rocking vibes & unique versatility, he is able to take any challenge thrown at him.

The Guardian: *"Relishing his role as concerto soloist, Mr Switch's takes on the classical show-off cadenza were breathtaking in their dexterity"*

The Independent: *"...scratching and mixing between his turntables in a series of itchy hip-hop, beatbox, manipulations... the funky interplay between the two was like flicking a time-switch between the 20th and 21st centuries"*



LONDON CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

You are warmly welcomed to our

Centenary Fundraising Auction

hosted by our friend, the actress, writer, business woman and superstar baker **Jane Asher**.

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SUN | 5 | DEC

at **The In & Out**
(Naval & Military Club),
St. James' Square,
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for an evening of music, parlour games and convivial festivities!

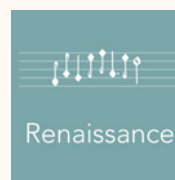
Tickets are now extremely limited, please contact
Lynne Farnell lynne@lco.co.uk for further information.

Join the LCO Family

Every LCO experience is designed to be vibrant and joyous, from our thrilling, immersive concerts, to our after show parties, bringing together our players and audience. Becoming an LCO member enhances your experience, with exclusive access, offers and the opportunity for your membership to directly support some of our most transformative education and outreach work.

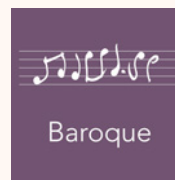


We have three dedicated levels of membership;



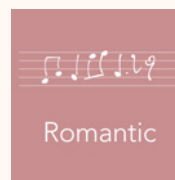
Renaissance £8 per month / £80 annually

Our entry level membership offers a range of special benefits from priority booking, ticket offers and free fizz at LCO events, to exclusive access to performances only available in our digital concert hall



Baroque £80 per month / £900 annually

All the benefits of Renaissance membership, but with some very special extras, including a range of complimentary and half price ticket offers for members, their friends and family



Romantic £260 per month / £3,000 annually

Our most significant membership, which includes extra enhancements including; complimentary tickets to every LCO concert and pre show event, a personal booking service and the opportunity to make a truly significant impact to our education and outreach work

Join before Christmas or buy one of our gorgeous gift membership packs and receive a bottle of fizz from our friends at Bluestone Vineyards.*

We are extremely grateful for the support of donors, like you, who allow us to deliver the highest quality orchestral concerts and our pioneering music education project, Music Junction, to all. We warmly welcome you to LCO Together!

To find out more please contact Lynne Farnell at lynne@lco.co.uk or go to www.lco.co.uk/support-lco

(*for Baroque and Romantic members only)



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"Life is for celebrating and you should celebrate more. The small things, the big things and the in between things. You don't need an excuse, do what you like, do what you love! Just be sure to do it with the ones you love and a glass of Bluestone in hand." *Nat McConnell, Founder*

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LCO New



As part of LCO's 2021-22 Season we are excited to be reviving the orchestra's composer development scheme, LCO New.

LCO New will offer a nurturing and high profile opportunity for 5 emerging composers to work with our Composer in Residence, Freya Waley-Cohen, and have their work performed in concert next season. Past participating composers have included Daniel Kidane, when the scheme was initially active in the early 2000s. We hope to reach a range of composers at an early stage in

their careers, who have never heard their work performed by professional musicians. Applications will open in January 2022 for a closing deadline in March.

If you know someone who would be interested, please spread the word! Keep an eye on our website for more information or contact Hattie Rayfield at hattie@lco.co.uk.



Join us next time

Save the date for our next concert *Horns at Play* on 14 December 2021, 7.30pm at Fairfield Halls, Croydon!

Horns at Play

14 December 2021

Timothy Jackson *Three Worlds*
Ft. Students from the **Royal Academy of Music**

Haydn *Concerto for 2 Horns in Eb Major*
Ft. **Richard Watkins** and **Michael Thompson**

Britten *In Memoriam Dennis Brain*
For 4 horns and strings

-Interval-

Timothy Jackson *Spiegelstück*

Schumann *Konzerstück*
Ft. **Guild of Hornplayers**

Hannah von Wiehler *Conductor*
Richard Watkins *Presenter*

In Collaboration with the **Guild of Hornplayers** and
Royal Academy of Music



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