



CONCERT #25

Sunday 10th December 2023

@ The Rivoli Ballroom

Matinee 3pm, Evening performance 7pm

Le Chevalier de St Georges

Conducted by Hannah Jones

Joseph Bologne, aka St George, was born in Guadeloupe on Christmas Day in 1745. The son of an enslaved woman of Senegalese origin and a French plantation owner, he went on to become the first classical composer of African descent to attain widespread acclaim in European music. A contemporary of Mozart, he isn't as well recognised as his illustrious peer due to racist attitudes, both at the time and since, despite the outstanding quality of his many and varied compositions. This is St George's second outing with PCO, having played Symphonie No 2 in Concert 8.

Prince / Sinead O'Connor - Nothing Compares 2 U

Arranged and conducted by Clare Taylor

From a forgotten album cut by Prince to a song that transcends the barriers of love, dedicated to loved ones in all their forms - thanks to an intuition by Sinead O'Connor, who thought of her mother while recording the video. As she sings the lines, "All the flowers that you planted mama, in the backyard, all died when you went away," two tears rolled down her cheeks in memory of her mother. Sinead O'Connor passed away in July of this year and we choose to continue this cycle of remembrance and love.

Shostakovich; Waltz No 2

Strauss: The Emperor Waltzes (Kaiser-Walzer)

Conducted by Jeremy Crump

When he wasn't in bad odour with Stalin about his operas and symphonies, Shostakovich was a highly successful writer of music for the Soviet cinema. This waltz was written for the 1955 film The First Echelon, which is about the love of the secretary of a local Komsomol (Communist Youth) organisation and a tractor driver called Anna Zalogina during the Virgin Lands campaign in Kazakhstan. But you would never guess.

Johann Strauss the Younger was indisputably the Waltz King of Vienna when in 1889 he was commissioned to write a piece to celebrate the first meeting of the Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph and the new German Emperor, Kaiser Wilhelm II, in Berlin. The piece is a suite of four waltzes introduced by a march and with a wistful coda which recalls the excitement of the dance. The world would have been a happier place had Franz Joseph and Wilhelm spent more time dancing.

Enjoying the concert so far? Feel free to take photos and videos and tag us! Follow us if you're not already doing so on:



PeckhamChamberOrchestra

The Story of PCO

The Story of PCO tracks the history of the orchestra from its inception through to our glorious 10th anniversary concert. Frankenstein-ed together by Benji and Hannah, this labour of love is made up of works from our previous concerts, woven together to celebrate this huge milestone in what will be PCO's long history.

Badalamenti & Lynch - Twin Peaks (Concert 1)

Fire. Walk with me, on a journey back to 2013. While the first thing we ever performed was Elgar's Serenade for Strings, this was the big hit from concert 1. It's wild to think back to there being just 16 string players. Now there's over 60 of us!

Vivaldi - The Four Seasons (Concerts 1, 2, 3 & 7)

Intended to take place across our first 4 concerts, Autumn ended up waiting until concert 7 before it was performed. The incredible Tom Newell was our soloist for each season's outing. Baroque music has made a regular appearance at our concerts ever since.

Dre/Jones - The Romelle Rhapsody (Concert 3)

One of our first 'wildcards' arranged by Hannah was this ode to Andre Romell Young, aka Dr Dre, showcasing some of the amazing riffs made by this iconic producer. Don't forget about Dre.

Jones - The Sound of Rittman (Concert 11)

For this mashup Hannah imagined German Jewish composer Trude Rittman referencing the Tannhäuser overture by anti semitic composer Richard Wagner while devising the vocal sequence for Do-Re-Mi from the Sound of Music. This act of reappropriation is poignant and joyful, giving power to the often overlooked Rittman.

Dagul - I screamed 'Girl Power' (Concert 11)

OG member Rose Dagul has two inclusions in the medley, the first of which is the Viva Forever section of her glorious Spice Girls medley. This was named 'I screamed 'Girl Power' after Geri Halliwell's claim that this is exactly what she did as she exited the womb.

Powell/Gregson-Williams - Chicken Run (Concert 16)

Oh hello woodwind and brass! The Orchestra started out with just string instruments, though we did have the odd feature from our blowing friends, before our first ever piece without strings, the iconic theme from Chicken Run.

Mayer - Overture in D Minor (Concert 18)

Emilie Mayer is one of two female composers from the 19th Century we have performed, the other being Fanny Mendelsohn. Both are German Romantic composers but while Mayer released music in her own name, the majority of Mendelsohn's work had to be published under her brother's name, Felix.

PCO - 20 Days of Christmas (Concert 20)

During the lockdowns in 2020 we met up virtually to check in on each other, and to have a bit of fun. We did however put together a small lockdown concert featuring two small ensemble works led by powerhouse PCO member Jo Cooper, and a PCO twist on the 12 Days of Christmas for which members produced their own take on the classic.

Britell - Succession Theme (Concert 24)

Proposed and conducted by flautist Jocelyn Stockbridge, this was a big hit at our last concert. This was Joc's first time conducting, as it has been for many of our members. It enjoyed a second outing at our annual performance at The Peckham Festival.

Jones - Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough (Concert 9)

Have you had enough? No, we didn't think so.

Knowles - Formation (Concert 9)

Okay ladies, let's get in formation, cause PCO slays.

Price - Adoration (Concert 21)

Florence Price is noted as the first African-American woman to be recognized as a symphonic composer, and the first to have a composition played by a major orchestra. Adoration is a beautiful piece and was conducted by Jo Cooper.

Eastman - Stay On it (Concert 18)

Brought to us by the endless energy of viola player Rob Farhat, this is a frenetic work combining minimalist processes with elements of pop music, by Julius Eastman. Moving from catchy riffs to all out chaos, this work is one of the most challenging works we've played for both the orchestra and the audience!

Patterson - Paper Piece (Concert 15)

The score for Ben Patterson's piece instructs performers to do four different sets of procedures on a total of fifteen sheets of paper and three paper bags. We're only giving you one bit of paper here (cost of living crisis and climate crisis etc) but we think you'll get the idea.

Byrne - This Must Be the Place (Concert 22)

Arranged and conducted by primo pop arranger, Clare Taylor, this likely needs no introduction. Total tune.

Sammy - Heaven (Concert 19)

Again, do we need to talk about this? Just a cold hard banger arranged and conducted by primo dance track arranger, Benji Jeffrey.

Orkney - Fantasia 345 (Concert 23)

Trumpet supremo and civil servant Callum Orkney composed this wonderful ode to everyone's favourite bus route. Alongside the next piece, and works such as Haydn's London symphonies, we've have a fair few references to the wonderful locale we're all drawn to: Peckham.

Dagul - Ode to the Old Kent Hellraisers (Concert 4)

The second of the Daguls this evening is named after the VHS tapes that kept appearing on bus stops on the Old Kent Road (if you don't know about this, google it). This orchestral work is a variation on one of her most beautiful songs, The Surround, which can be found on the bandcamp for her alter ego, Rhosyn. Go buy it!

Jeffrey - The PCO List (Concert 25)

An anniversary wouldn't be complete without an elaborate shout out to the ghosts of the past, right? Well here it is, PCO style.

Summer - I feel Love (Concert 25)

In the spirit of Donna Summer placing this track at the end of her 1977 album, I Remember Yesterday, we're concluding the medley with this ode to the future and the power of love. With solos by our youngest members, sixth formers Divine Mankrado and Leandro Veiga, we're ending on a high, looking to the next 10/100/1000 years of PCO!

If you enjoyed a trip down memory lane of maybe the world's most eclectic orchestra, head to our brand new website for [the full back catalogue of 10 years worth of programme posters](#).

And if you've been inspired to join us, fill out the [form on our website](#).

Jeffrey x Cher - I Don't Need You Anymore

Arranged and conducted by Benji Jeffrey

This is a do-over from concert 13 in 2017, Benji's first stab at conducting and arranging. It's a not entirely faithful arrangement of Cher's stratospheric hit Believe, with a touch of some of her other bangers. Now including brass and woodwind, this was originally written for strings so expect something bigger and bolder and more believe-y!

Blake - Walking in the Air

Arranged by Hannah Catherine Jones

Conducted by Buki Bayode

We're ending on a festive classic, but with a twist. Crack out the eggnog, get your ugliest Christmas jumper on and prepare to be disappointed by the gifts in your cracker. The snowman's on his way.

DONATIONS

We are accepting donations for tonight's concert, which will be evenly split between PCO so we can continue to do what we do, and Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), so we can help them do the important work they do.

You can donate via GoFundMe

CAN YOU HELP US?

As our orchestra has grown, our music printing needs have multiplied beyond what we can absorb as individuals. If you are a business or individual that can sponsor us by printing music for us, please drop us a line: **PeckhamChamberOrchestra@gmail.com**

Violin I

Carrie Topley
Amanda Nash
Buki Bayode
Tafara Craig
Bea Craker-Horton
Alice Giorgio
Sahra Gure
Shaun Foster
Maria Saeki
Charlotte Tosti
Mari Young

Violin II

Leandro Veiga
Andrew Morrison
Benji Jeffrey
Caleb Assirati
Cora Engelbrecht
Jess Phillimore
John Baldwin
Maddie Farrell
Simeon Laidley-Brooks
Stina Sandstrom
Tam Cooper
Tom Broadbrent
Holly Carpenter
Sophie M

Viola

Peter Brown
Jo Cooper
Rob(ert) Farhat
Tom Pollard
Melanie Powell

Cello

Olivia Bašić
Josh de la Mare
Neha-Tamara Patel
Clare Taylor
Saskia Wong
Noah Bisseker

Double Bass

Sophie Flinders

Flute

Mhairi Bartlett
Divine Mankrado
Jocelyn Stockbridge
Stacey Williams

Oboe

Oliver Pash

Clarinet

Yukiko Ikehara
Emily Molly Rose Prisk
Catherine Steinmann

Bass Clarinet

Steffy Bugs

Alto Sax

Lewis Johnstone
James King
Finn Page

Bassoon

Jeremy Crump
James Horton
Jyoti Mehta

French Horn

Elizabeth Sills

Trumpet

Marion Coutts
Tilly Grove
Cosmo Nash
Callum Orkney

Piano

Nausicaa Ramerino