

**SUNDAY 8th
DECEMBER
2024**

**RIVOLI BALLROOM
350 Brockley Rd
SE4 2BY**



11-YEAR ANNIVERSARY EXTRAVAGANZA

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV - Scheherazade

"The Sea & Sinbad's Ship"

MILES DAVIS x M.O. DAVID - All Blues

GLORIA COATES - Symphony No. 4

PAUL WILLIAMS - Scrooge *"Chiaroscuro"*
from The Muppets Christmas Carol

ALICE COLTRANE x H.C. JONES

Journey in Satchidananda

feat. Chiron Choir

LEROY ANDERSON x STARK - Sleight Ride

**MATINEE: 3PM
&
EVENING: 7PM**

**ALL
WELCOME!**

**TICKETS:
£0-£10
EVENTBRITE:**



Rimsky-Korsakov - *Scheherezade: The Sea and Sinbad's Ship* - conducted by Hannah Catherine Jones

Composed in 1888, Russian composer Nikolai Rimsky Korsakov was inspired by the folk tales *One Thousand and One Nights* aka *The Arabian Nights* (Arabic: *ألف ليلة وليلة*, *Alf Laylah wa-Laylah*) - set of folk tales and was particularly fascinated by the main character Scheherezade - a gifted storyteller who used her skills to evade the brutal patriarchal intentions of the menacing Sultan, and ultimately, her story continues for 1001 nights. This work is an early form of cultural appropriation by today's standards - especially as this version of the story is one of the most famous iterations and obfuscates other narratives of Arabic origin. The quest for decolonisation continues amidst the challenges of sourcing music for large orchestra to play, which is not under copyright and is therefore accessible...

Scheherezade remains one of Rimsky-Korsakov's most popular works and it's not hard to understand why - the full range of the orchestra is used to its full potential to create rich textural stories within stories within stories... Tonight we are performing the first movement only, a vivid depiction of a journey by sea - listen out for: swirly rhythmic patterns of 3s & 6s representing the undulating waves, interspersed with moments of tranquil, clear waters, providing the backdrop for the different characters' narratives; most noticeably, the dialogues between the sonic representation of Scheherezade on solo violin(s) and the evil Sultan, represented through the

Miles Davis - *All Blues* - arranged by Maria O. David & conducted by Ben Davies

From arranger & clarinettist Maria: Since my teens I've been fascinated by Miles Davis's albums. Be it from the 1950s bebop sounds in *Birth of the Cool* and melancholic tones in the Louis Malle film *Lift to the Scaffold*, the 1970s psychedelia in *Bitches Brew* and *On the Corner*, or his final days in 1991 flourishing in hip hop for the posthumously released *Doo-Bop*, Miles Davis was one of the great music experimentalists.

I love how he would splice together diverse elements such as Stravinsky, sitar or Spanish guitar music. Impressively Miles's 1959 sextet (which included Alice Coltrane's saxophonist husband, John) recorded *Kind of Blue* in seven hours - no rehearsal, no retake. Our 66-piece outfit took slightly longer to prepare this Christmas mix of *All Blues*, the modal jazz masterpiece from that seminal album which the late Quincy Jones called his "daily orange juice"!

It's been a pleasure sharing this jazz project with Peckham Chamber Orchestra. Sadly, I can't be present today, but I'm delighted that cellist Ben has been able to step in and present our interpretation of *All Blues* to you. Enjoy!



Enjoying the concert so far...? Feel free to take photos & videos!
Tag us & follow us if you're not already doing so:
[@peckhamchamberorchestra](https://www.instagram.com/peckhamchamberorchestra)

Gloria Coates - *Symphony No. 4 "Chiaroscuro"* - conducted by Blue Maignon

Gloria Coates was a prolific composer who often used glissandi and microtones. I came across her work when searching for contemporary music not written by cis white men for PCO. We first exchanged emails in 2022. Immediately she was all in, all open, all curious of PCO. We continued writing to each other until in 2024 she sadly died. My very limited understanding of Gloria is that she was constantly inspired by metaphysical experiences. She wrote *Chiaroscuro* for her dad. In the notes, she states that when he passed she heard Purcell's *When I am Laid in Earth* from the opera *Dido and Aeneas* on the radio. Themes from Dido's Laments run throughout *Chiaroscuro*. In Autumn 2024, as I was working on the score, a sudden death from the same illness that took away Gloria impacted my family. I cannot stop thinking that maybe she was showing herself in this "metaphysical" moment of my life. *Chiaroscuro* is a tentacular and confusing piece, one that seems to never stop building up. It is demanding for players when they face more experimental sections, yet it always returns to the simplicity of the tune. Perhaps an overwhelming choice yet I'm so glad it's in this programme.

Paul Williams - Scrooge (from The Muppet Christmas Carol) - conducted by Caleb Assirati

Could it be the best Christmas film ever? Could it be the best film ever? That's for you to decide. But this year the Muppets are coming to South East London in the form of Peckham Chamber Orchestra. The songs from The Muppet Christmas Carol were written by the Oscar, Golden Globe and Grammy winning songwriter, Paul Williams. You may know him from the soundtrack to Bugsy Malone, his co-writing with the Carpenters, or his contributions to Daft Punk's album Random Access Memories. For me, as it is for many, this film is wrapped in nostalgia and it is hard to think of Christmas films without thinking of the Muppets and its soundtrack (particularly the iconic line, "no cheeses for us meeces!"). Unfortunately, the Muppets cast couldn't be at the Rivoli today, so in this arrangement the vocal melodies have been shared amongst the different sections of the orchestra. What this does mean though, is that there is plenty of scope for singing along if you know the words! Here's a snippet to jog your memory: **"Oh, there goes Mr. Humbug | There goes Mr. Grim | If they gave a prize for being mean | The winner would be him | Oh, Scroogey loves his money | 'Cause he thinks it gives him power | If he became a flavor | You can bet he would be sour!"**

Alice Coltrane - Journey in Satchidananda (feat. Chiron Choir) - arranged & conducted by Hannah Catherine Jones

This is probably my favourite piece of music of all time. In her life Alice Coltrane composed two versions of this work and tonight we perform my 2024 arrangement, which combines them both. The Sanskrit 'Satchidananda' is a composite word containing: 'sat'- meaning 'truth', 'chid' - meaning 'bliss' and 'ananda' - meaning 'consciousness' and reflects Coltrane's spiritual awakening and conversion to Hinduism in the mid 1970s. Emerging from the improvisational sonic abyss is a cover of the more familiar jazzy interaton - the "original" version from the 1971 album of the same name (feat. Pharoah Sanders on saxophone), then, my arrangement expands into the lesser known choral version, recorded in 1993, when Alice was more deeply travelled in her enlightenment journey - now spiritually reborn as Alice Coltrane Turiyasangitananda. This epic version was not released until 2017 on the album *The Ecstatic Music Of Alice Coltrane* (Luaka Bop). Workshopping the lyrics with Chiron Choir, we decided to focus in on one cyclical repetition of the original lyrics for a more contemporary and open interpretation:

**Our journey to the unknown has come | Our journey to the unknown has come,
Our journey's end is our journey home | Our journey home is our journey's end...**

Leroy Anderson - Sleigh Ride - conducted by Caleb Assirati

At home at my Mum and Dad's, we have framed on the walls many of the piano and vocal scores for tunes which my Granddad used when he was a singing teacher. On 1st December, they are temporarily replaced by his scores for Christmas songs; one of which is Sleigh Ride. This is a wintery classic that I'm sure many of you will be familiar with. This song has been covered numerous times over the years, most famously by The Ronettes. Leroy Anderson originally wrote the song in 1948, before the lyrics by Mitchell Parish were added in 1950. It's amazing to think about how, 70+ years on, this song is beloved by many and, on hearing it, instantly makes you think of this festive time. I think that's a tribute to the songwriting and its constant movement between joyful bounciness and sweeping melodies. What I also believe keeps these associations between art, culture and this season is our customs and traditions; whether that's taking turns to stir a Christmas pudding on the last Sunday before advent, visiting the lights in the West End, or blasting the Christmas tunes as soon as the clocks go back just to feel a bit better about things. Whatever you do, I think our traditions connect us to our own culture and history, and when I think of Sleigh Ride and see my Granddad's score up on the wall, it reminds me of that.

Violin 1:

Ruth Bretts
 Larissa Craig
 Bea Craker-Horton
 Alice Giorgio
 Amanda Nash
 Maria Saeki
 Susie Scott
 Carrie Topley
 Luzia Whitestone
 Mari Young

Violin 2:

Natasha Armstrong
 Caleb Assirati
 Tam Cooper
 Fabienne Crocket
 Kevin Eaton
 Maddie Farrell
 Maxine Garcia
 Ruby Gentry
 Simeon Laidley-Brooks

Violas:

Rob Farhat
 Hannah Catherine Jones
 Becs Mitchell
 Tom Pollard
 Lucas Rushton

Cellos:

Olivia Bašić
 Abigail Brooks
 Nathan Campbell Adams
 Ben Davies
 Martha MacBean
 Blue Maignien
 Neha-Tamara Patel
 Corinne Snow
 Clare Taylor
 Saskia Wong

Double Bass:

Sophie Flinders
 Millie Wald-Harding

Harp:

Alison Blackhall

Percussion:

Pete Hubble
 Frank Withers

Piano:

Nausicaa Ramerino

Flutes:

Noosha Alai-South
 Mhairi Bartlett
 Buki Bayode
 Florence de Schlichting
 Claire Matthews
 Phoebe Tsou
 Anna Williams
 Stacey Williams

Oboes:

Agnes Cameron
 Phoebe Jenkins
 Laura Mitchell

Clarinets:

Steffy Bugs
 Louisa Davies
 Becca Iliffe
 Emily Molly Rose Prisk
 Beatrice Loft Schulz
 Catherine Steinmann

Bass Clarinet:

Steffy Bugs

Alto Saxophone:

Lewis Johnston
 Finn Page

Bassoons:

James Horton
 Jyoti Mehta

French Horn:

Elizabeth Sills

Trumpets:

Marion Coutts
 Dan Johnston
 Callum Orkney
 Robbie Warin

Tuba:

Darren Mason

Chiron Choir:

Janice Acquah
 Seyi Adekun
 Rosa Doyle
 Jose Funnell
 Anna de Guia-Eriksson
 Hannah Catherine Jones
 Shama Khanna
 Tasnim Mahdy
 Jasmine Sachdev
 Srinithi Srivathsan
 Chooc Ly Tan
@choir.chiron

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