

London **Philharmonic** Orchestra

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA LAUNCHES *LPO OFFSTAGE* – BRAND NEW PODCAST SERIES EXPLORING THE LIVES OF ORCHESTRAL MUSICIANS



12TH November 2020

Today [Thursday 12 November] the London Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO) launches its brand-new podcast *Offstage*. Saxophonist, composer and broadcaster Yolanda Brown will present the 12-episode series, talking to a range of musicians within the LPO about their experiences as orchestral musicians.

The behind the scenes podcast will cover a range of topics, with Yolanda Brown conversing with two or three musicians on each episode from across the orchestral sections. Each episode will explore different aspects of life as a working musician today, covering topics such as how the musicians approach rehearsals as opposed to performance, how venues and audiences affect a performance and working relationships with conductors. Two of the episodes will also take a deep-dive into some well-known repertoire, with this series covering Tchaikovsky's 4th Symphony and Sibelius' 5th.

Offstage will be of interest to a broad spectrum of listeners, from avid classical music lovers to those who are just curious about day-to-day life as an orchestral musician. The series will be split into two, with the first six episodes out before Christmas, and the second set of six released in the new year.

The podcast's presenter, Yolanda Brown, said "*Presenting the LPO Offstage* podcast was just awesome! Being a musician myself, it was lovely to speak to the players artist to artist. We laughed together, reminisced plenty and dreamt about the future post Covid. The chat was insightful about the inner workings of an orchestra and will definitely take the audience into some of the anecdotes from backstage"

The podcast is available free on all podcast platforms, including Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and Google Podcasts. The first six episodes of the series will be released weekly until 17 December, with the second six episodes coming in the New Year. The first episode 'Life IS a rehearsal' with principal flautist Juliette Bausor and principal percussionist Andy Barclay, is available to listen to now.

Full episode listing:

1. **Life IS a rehearsal**
How do rehearsals work?
2. **Cling film and rubber bands**
Keeping instruments in working order
3. **Where are we today?**
Venues and audiences
4. **Upbeats**
Conductors and their relationship with the orchestra
5. **Swapping seats**
Orchestral layouts
6. **On stage now!**
Concert preparations
7. **Escaping the 9-5**
Working life as an orchestral musician
8. **Inside Tchaikovsky's 4th**
Repertoire focus
9. **Where are my reeds?**
Life on the road as a musician
10. **Inside Sibelius's 5th**
Repertoire focus
11. **Oiling the valves**
How do you practise?
12. **Exploring the new**
Contemporary music

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Notes to Editors

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

One of the finest orchestras on the international stage, the London Philharmonic Orchestra was founded in 1932 by Sir Thomas Beecham. Since then, its Principal Conductors have included Sir Adrian Boult, Bernard Haitink, Sir Georg Solti, Klaus Tennstedt and Kurt Masur. In 2017 Vladimir Jurowski celebrated his tenth

anniversary as the Orchestra's Principal Conductor. Edward Gardner is currently Principal Conductor Designate, and will take up the position when Jurowski's tenure concludes in September 2021.

The London Philharmonic Orchestra has performed at Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall since it opened in 1951, becoming Resident Orchestra in 1992. It also has flourishing residencies in Brighton, Eastbourne and Saffron Walden, and performs regularly around the UK. Each summer it plays for Glyndebourne Festival Opera, where it has been Resident Symphony Orchestra for over 50 years. The Orchestra also tours internationally, performing to sell-out audiences worldwide.

The Orchestra broadcasts regularly on television and radio, and has recorded soundtracks for numerous blockbuster films including *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. It has made many distinguished recordings over the last eight decades and in 2005 began releasing live, studio and archive recordings on its own CD label.

During the 2020 pandemic period the LPO has sustained its relationship with audiences – and reached many thousands of new ones worldwide – through 'LPOonline'. From initial individual performances recorded at home, the Orchestra progressed over time to larger-scale split-screen performances, before finally being able to play together in small chamber groups for the LPO Summer Sessions from Henry Wood Hall, as well as small-scale outdoor performances at Glyndebourne. Autumn 2020 sees the Orchestra return to its Royal Festival Hall home to perform 13 full-length concerts filmed live and streamed via Marquee TV.

lpo.org.uk

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YOLANDA BROWN

Double MOBO Award winning YolanDa Brown is the premier female saxophonist in the UK, known for her delicious fusion of reggae, jazz and soul. Her career as a musician, broadcaster and philanthropist is already one defined by a determination to make a positive impact, particularly on young people.

YolanDa presents the award-winning series for CBeebies, *YolanDa's Band Jam*, the Jools Holland equivalent for children. Joined by musical guests, the show is an entry point for children to discover music. Appointed Chair of Youth Music in 2018, YolanDa shares the charity's vision that one day, all children and young people aged 0-25 will be able to have musical lives. It campaigns to advocate for those who are missing out, to invest where it's needed most and to drive change in the music industries and education.

As patron of the London Music Fund, YolanDa's commitment to young people continues with the philanthropist James JP Drake inspired Drake YolanDa Award to support emerging artists on their musical journey who express a commitment to their careers and demonstrate creative excellence and a drive to succeed. Her work is the response to her ongoing commitment to support young people which has had the royal seal of approval when meeting the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace. YolanDa has since been awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Arts by the University of East London.

Her role in music continues as the presenter for BBC Proms, BBC Young Jazz Musicians on BBC Radio 4 and the annual Young Voices event. With an unrelenting work ethic and warm infectious energy, it's no doubt she's listeners choice when it comes to her presenting on Jazz FM, BBC Radio 4 Loose Ends with Clive Anderson and regularly stepping in for Vanessa Feltz and Trevor Nelson on BBC Radio 2. Yolanda has interviewed Gregory Porter, Sophie Ellis Bexter and Frank Skinner to name a few.

Yolanda has toured with Diana Krall, The Temptations, Billy Ocean and performed headline shows at Eventim Apollo accompanied by the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra as well as dates across Europe and Australia. She's collaborated with artists such as Snarky Puppy's Bill Laurance, Bob Marley's son Julian as well as performed on BBC's Jools' Annual Hootenanny, performing 'I Put A Spell On You' with Kelly Jones from Stereophonics and 'Aint Too Proud To Beg' with Rick Astley.

Yolanda's inspiring career which spans more than a decade is a precedent of her hard work and willingness to support others in achieving their musical endeavours.

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