

London **Philharmonic** Orchestra

Madcap Musical Virtuosi Igudesman & Joo join the London Philharmonic Orchestra for Night of Symphonic Madness

Featuring 'Clash of the Soloists', 'Big Nightmare Music' and UK premiere of the 'Borat Suite' composed by Erran Baron Cohen

Aleksey Igudesman Violin | **Hyung-ki Joo** Piano
London Philharmonic Orchestra | **Thomas Carroll** Conductor

Wednesday 4 March 2020 | 7.30pm | Royal Festival Hall, London

"The funniest men to grace theatres and concert halls today" Vanity Fair

Boasting over 45 million YouTube views, Aleksey Igudesman and Hyung-ki Joo are musicians who have taken the world by storm with their distinctive and uproarious theatrical shows, combining riotous comedy with all genres of music as they present mashups with their own characteristic twist.

In a welcome return to London, Igudesman & Joo join the London Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO) to perform their critically-acclaimed shows 'Clash of the Soloists' and 'Big Nightmare Music', as well as the UK premiere of the 'Borat Suite', composed by special guest Erran Baron Cohen, brother of Sacha Baron Cohen, creator of the much-loved 'Borat' character. Erran Baron Cohen has compiled the 'Borat Suite' for Igudesman & Joo, including some of the popular themes written for the Borat movie. The LPO will become a choir for the fictional Kazakh national anthem, in which the entire audience is invited to participate.

Comedic masterminds as well as musical virtuosi, violinist Igudesman and pianist Joo create the unthinkable in mixing Monty-Pythoneque physical and intellectual comedy with surprisingly erudite performances of classical favourites and pop-anthems. This exceptional combination causes the duo to be enjoyed with equal gusto by audiences ranging from children to musical connoisseurs. Their humour can elicit a knowing chuckle for an inside joke about a composer or a loud guffaw for well-timed slapstick, but their buffoonery is always tempered by incredible musicianship. Said the late, lamented Terry Jones of Monty Python "...[they] bring surrealism to the concert hall and take its trousers down".

The Los Angeles Times noted: *"Through it all, Igudesman & Joo personify the idea that with skill and devotion and a good nature and perfect comic timing, we can do more than merely survive, but enjoy ourselves...We need them maybe more than we know"*.

The musical establishment whose legs they metaphorically pull is often the pair's most enthusiastic supporters. Having been so popular with the Orchestra previously, this is the duo's second time returning to perform with the LPO.

Timothy Walker, Chief Executive and Artistic Director of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, said, *"It's such a pleasure to be collaborating once again with the men that John Malkovich called 'extremely funny, very original and highly-skilled'. The London Philharmonic Orchestra has always loved performing with these incredibly talented musicians, and they bring a diversity and hilarity into our season that our audiences adore. We are greatly looking forward to an evening of symphonic musical madness in March, and this is a show not to be missed."*

The partners in comic crime have developed a huge fan base among other entertainers and have collaborated with artists of the stature of Emanuel Ax, Joshua Bell, Ray Chen, Asmik Grigorian, Gidon Kremer, Dame Felicity Lott, Mischa Maisky, Viktoria Mullova, Julian Rachlin and Yuja Wang, amongst others. *"All of the*

collaborations have come about because artists have come to us and asked how they can be involved” Igudesman & Joo say. *“A lot of ‘serious’ musicians dream about being onstage and letting loose.”*

Their collaborations don't end at classical musicians either, with their previous shows featuring the likes of Billy Joel, Midge Ure, Kim Wilde and the late Sir Roger Moore. In fact, the day after this London concert, Igudesman & Joo will begin a tour of their show 'The Music Critic' with John Malkovich.

For more information, please visit the artists' website [here](#). Tickets can be purchased from the LPO website [here](#).

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Event Listing

Igudesman & Joo

London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Thomas Carroll

Special guest Erran Baron Cohen

04 March 2020, 7:30pm

Royal Festival Hall, London

For more information or to request images, please contact:

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Download images here:

ATTACHMENTS

A selection of their immensely popular YouTube videos includes:

- **Clash of the soloists** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AsH19TxwATw>
- **Upbeat** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xJfBTt8XJOY>
- **Historical and hysterical guide to the orchestra** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yE1dYYC59ro>