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The London Piano Festival celebrates fifth anniversary with five-day Festival featuring ten pianists and two premieres

Vadym Kholodenko | Charles Owen | Marcus du Sautoy | Marcin Wasilewski
David Owen Norris | Katya Apekisheva | Kathryn Stott | Noriko Ogawa
Finghin Collins | Janneke Brits | James Kreiling

7 – 11 October 2020 | Kings Place, London



‘The festival came off with brio, brilliance and the brightest of spirits.’
The Sunday Times, October 2018

- Solo recitals by Vadym Kholodenko and Katya Apekisheva, jazz performance by Marcin Wasilewski, Goldberg Variations with Marcus du Sautoy and Charles Owen, plus a lecture-recital by David Owen Norris – part of the Beethoven 250 celebrations.
- European premiere of a new work by Sally Beamish, co-commissioned by the London Piano Festival and New Ross Piano Festival
- Two-Piano Gala with Katya Apekisheva, Finghin Collins, Vadym Kholodenko, Noriko Ogawa, Charles Owen and Kathryn Stott, featuring *The Rite of Spring*, part of Kings Place’s *Nature Unwrapped* series.
- World premiere of a new two-piano work by the winner of the International Piano Composition Competition

The London Piano Festival today announced its 2020 programme, celebrating its fifth anniversary year, taking place between 7 and 11 October at Kings Place, London. The Festival is devised by founding Artistic Directors **Katya Apekisheva** and **Charles Owen**. Ten pianists come together for five days of recitals, jazz, a lecture-recital, family concert and the much-anticipated Two-Piano Gala. The Festival is offering a limited number of discounted tickets to under 30’s for selected events, in order to broaden the reach of the Festival. The London Piano Festival is delighted to be working with *International Piano* magazine as media partner for the fifth year running.

"We are delighted to announce the fifth anniversary edition of the London Piano Festival, a project we dreamt up together many years ago. Once again, we're excited to share the stage with eight wonderful pianists and celebrate the joy of the piano together. We are especially looking forward to working with composer Sally Beamish, a British composer with a deeply imaginative voice, who is writing a new work for us to perform together with Finghin Collins this year. We look forward to inviting audiences of all ages to the Festival!"

- Katya Apekisheva and Charles Owen, London Piano Festival Founders and co-Artistic Directors

The London Piano Festival brings together leading pianists to present a variety of performances catering for all generations of piano lovers. This year the Festival opens with a solo recital by Ukrainian pianist **Vadym Kholodenko** who makes his Kings Place debut with a programme of Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Rachmaninov and Albéniz [7 Oct]. **Charles Owen** is joined by mathematician **Marcus du Sautoy** to explore the symmetry between maths and the music of J.S. Bach, including a performance of *Goldberg Variations* [8 Oct].

Each year the Festival invites leading jazz musicians to perform, having previously had performances by Julian Joseph, Jason Rebello and Leszek Możdżer. This year presenting a Friday night jazz concert is Polish jazz pianist **Marcin Wasilewski** [9 Oct]. As well as jazz, the Festival offers education events, and this year pianist, composer and broadcaster **David Owen Norris** presents a lecture-recital – 'Beethoven the Virtuoso' – exploring Beethoven's time in Vienna in his early twenties [10 Oct], part of the worldwide *Beethoven 250* celebrations. Following this, **Katya Apekisheva** gives an afternoon recital of works by Beethoven in his early years, featuring three of his most fascinating early keyboard works [10 Oct].

The climax of the Festival is the highly-anticipated Two-Piano Gala, featuring six pianists playing works for two pianos in a variety of pairings on two interlocking Steinways [10 Oct]. **Katya Apekisheva, Finghin Collins, Vadym Kholodenko, Noriko Ogawa, Charles Owen** and **Kathryn Stott** all take to the stage for a varied programme featuring works by Stravinsky, Bartók, Saint-Saëns and more. This concert features *The Rite of Spring*, reflecting Kings Place's year-long series *Nature Unwrapped*. Celebrated composer **Sally Beamish** has been commissioned to write a piece for two pianos which will receive its European Premiere, performed by Apekisheva, Collins and Owen. **Owen Mortimer**, Editor of *International Piano*, will interview Sally Beamish in a pre-concert talk ahead of the Gala.

In collaboration with **International Piano** magazine, the Festival is launching a brand-new composition competition, encouraging applicants of any age to send in a short 2-3 minute work for four hands (one or two pianos). The winning piece will be performed in the Festival's Two-Piano Gala on 10 October 2020 at Kings Place, London. International Piano will publish the score of the winning piece, alongside an interview with the composer, in the October issue of the magazine. The jury for the competition is led by award-winning composer **Elena Langer**, joined by London Piano Festival Artistic Directors **Charles Owen** and **Katya Apekisheva**, Kings Place Artistic Director **Helen Wallace** and *International Piano* editor **Owen Mortimer**. Competition entries can be submitted via email to international.piano@markallengroup.com or posted to: International Piano, Mark Allen Group, St Jude's Church, Dulwich Road, Brixton, London SE24 OPB. Deadline for applications: 31 July 2020.

Owen Mortimer comments: *"We're absolutely delighted that International Piano is partnering with the London Piano Festival again for the fifth year in a row. Our new composition competition will celebrate an innovative contemporary work for piano duo by giving a high-profile platform to the winning entry. Huge thanks to all members of the jury for their enthusiastic support - we can't wait to hear how composers respond to this exciting opportunity!"*

Charles Owen and Katya Apekisheva, Artistic Directors of the London Piano Festival, said: *"We're thrilled to be collaborating with International Piano on a new composition competition. Contemporary music has been at the heart of the Festival since its inaugural year in 2016, and we have performed premieres of new works almost every year from composers such as Nico Muhly, Elena Langer and Jonathan Dove. This year, alongside our new commission by Sally Beamish, we're looking forward to learning a brand-new work to perform."*

Concluding the Festival is this year's family concert featuring Saint-Saëns's *Carnival of the Animals* and a special arrangement of Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite*, also part of *Nature Unwrapped* [11 Oct]. Performed by Kathryn Stott,

Finghin Collins, Janneke Brits and James Kreiling, with Guildhall School of Music and Drama Chamber Ensemble, alongside text by Ashley Wass and Matthew Trusler (Mash Productions), images by Emily Carew-Woodard and narrated by Julia Somerville.

Full Programme

Wednesday 7 October, 19:30 | Hall One

Vadym Kholodenko, piano

Beethoven *Sonata in C sharp minor, Op. 27, No. 2*
'Moonlight'

Beethoven *7 Bagatelles, Op. 33*

Mendelssohn *Variations sérieuses, Op. 54*

Albéniz *Iberia*

Book 1 Fête-dieu à Seville

Book 3 El Polo

Book 4 Eritaña

Thursday 8 October, 19:30 | Hall One

'Sounding Symmetry'

Charles Owen – piano

Marcus du Sautoy - speaker

Bach *Goldberg Variations, BWV 988*

Friday 9 October, 19:30 | Hall One

Marcin Wasilewski, piano

Saturday 10 October, 14:00 | Hall Two

'Beethoven the Virtuoso' lecture-recital

David Owen Norris

Saturday 10 October, 16:00 | Hall One

'The Young Ludwig'

Katya Apekisheva, piano

Beethoven, 10 Variations on *La stessa, la stessissima*
from the opera *Falstaff* by Salieri

Beethoven *Sonata in C minor, Op. 10, No. 1*

Beethoven *Sonata in C major, Op. 2, No. 3*

Saturday 10 October, 18:00 | St Pancras Room

**Preconcert talk - Sally Beamish in conversation with
Owen Mortimer**

Saturday 10 October, 19:00 | Hall One

Two-Piano Gala

**Katya Apekisheva, Finghin Collins, Vadym
Kholodenko, Noriko Ogawa, Charles Owen, Kathryn
Stott, piano**

Mozart arr. Grieg *Sonata in C Major, K. 545 'Sonata
facile'* (KS & NO)

Saint-Saëns *Beethoven Variations* (FC & CO)

Medtner *Russian Dance* (VK & CO)

Stravinsky *The Rite of Spring* (KA & CO)

Bartók *Mikrokosmos* (KA & VK)

International Piano Competition Winner *New Work*
World Premiere (KA & CO)

Sally Beamish *New Work* *European premiere* (FC &
CO & KA)

Rachmaninov *Suite No. 2* (KS & NO)

Lutosławski *Paganini Variations* (FC & NO)

Grainger *English Country Garden* (KS & KA)

Rachmaninov *Valse and Romance for 6 hands*

Saint-Saëns *Danse Macabre for 8 hands*

Sunday 11 October, 11:30 | Hall One

**Fabulous Beasts: The Firebird & Carnival of the
Animals**

**Janneke Brits, Finghin Collins, James Kreiling,
Kathryn Stott, piano**

**Guildhall School of Music and Drama Chamber
Ensemble**

Mash Productions – text and images

Stravinsky *Firebird Suite* (transcribed by Kreiling &
Brits)

Saint-Saëns *Carnival of the Animals*

www.londonpianofestival.com

www.kingsplace.co.uk

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For further information or to arrange interviews/press tickets please contact Premier

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- ENDS -

Notes to editors

Photos

[Dropbox of photos here](#)

Tickets

Kings Place Box Office: 020 7520 1490

Book for both David Owen Norris' lecture-recital and Katya Apekisheva's concert on Saturday 10th October and receive a 15% discount.

£8.50 under 30s tickets (limited capacity)

Biographies

Katya Apekisheva - [full biography here](#)

Katya Apekisheva, described as being a "profoundly gifted artist" by Gramophone magazine, is one of Europe's most renowned pianists, in demand internationally as both a soloist and as a chamber musician. She has been marked out as a pianist of exceptional gifts, performing with many of the world's leading orchestras, and has received widespread critical acclaim for her interpretations. Katya is a Professor of Piano at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Sally Beamish – [full biography here](#)

Sally Beamish was born in London. She studied viola at the RNCM with Patrick Ireland, and in Detmold with Bruno Giuranna, and was a founder member of the Raphael Ensemble. She also performed regularly with the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields and the London Sinfonietta, and was principal viola in the London Mozart Players and Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

Janneke Brits

Originally from South Africa, Janneke Brits is a much sought-after teacher and performer, currently living in London with her pianist-husband, James Kreiling. As concerto soloist, she has performed with the Academy Beckett ensemble as a result of winning the Early Music Prize at the Guildhall School of Music, with the Guildhall Early Music ensemble and with the Blackburn Symphony Orchestra.

Finghin Collins – [full biography here](#)

One of Ireland's most successful musicians, Finghin Collins was born in Dublin in 1977 and, following initial lessons with his sister Mary, studied piano at the Royal Irish Academy of Music with John O'Connor and at the Geneva Conservatoire with Dominique

Merlet. Winner of the RTÉ Musician of the Future Competition in 1994 and the Classical Category at the National Entertainment Awards in Ireland in 1998, he went on to take first prize at the Clara Haskil International Piano Competition in Switzerland in 1999. Since then he has continued to enjoy a flourishing international career that takes him all over Europe and the United States, as well to the Far East and Australia.

Vadym Kholodenko – [full biography here](#)

Vadym Kholodenko is fast building a reputation as one of the most musically dynamic and technically gifted young pianists. Winner of the 2013 Cliburn Competition, Kholodenko captivated audiences and critics alike with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra immediately appointing him their first Artist in Partnership for a period of three years. His latest solo disc on Harmonia Mundi, works by Scriabin won a prestigious Diapason d'Or de l'année. Previous awards include First Prizes at both the Schubert Piano Competition, Dortmund (2011) and Sendai Piano Competition (2010).

James Kreiling

James Kreiling's solo career has focused on music of the early 20th century - in particular the piano works of Scriabin - as well as composers still living. This has led to performances in the major concert halls of London, notably as a soloist at the 2007 BBC Proms. In 2008 James became a Park Lane Group young artist with solo recitals at the Purcell Room and St Martin-in-the-Fields. More recently, James has broadcast for BBC Radio 3, presenting the music of Jonathan Harvey, David Matthews, Peter Eotvos, Thomas Ades and Pierre Boulez.

Noriko Ogawa – [full biography here](#)

Noriko Ogawa has achieved considerable renown throughout the world since her success at the Leeds International Piano Competition. Noriko's "ravishingly poetic playing" (Telegraph) sets her apart from her contemporaries and acclaim for her complete Debussy series with BIS Records, confirms her as a fine Debussy specialist. Her Images Book I and II were chosen as the top recommendation 'exquisite delicacy', BBC Radio 3's CD Review, January 2014. Noriko's latest recording for BIS records is of solo piano music by Eric Satie.

Charles Owen – [full biography here](#)

Described by Gramophone magazine as "one of the finest British pianists of his generation", Charles Owen has enjoyed an extensive international career performing a wide ranging repertoire to outstanding critical acclaim. Charles Owen is a Professor of Piano at the Guildhall School in London and was appointed Steinway & Sons UK Ambassador in 2016.

David Owen Norris – [full biography here](#)

David Owen Norris FSA is a pianist, composer and broadcaster. He is Professor of Musical Performance at Southampton University, a recipient of the Gilmore Artist Award, and visiting Professor at the Royal College and Royal Northern College of Music. He is also a regular broadcaster on BBC Radio 3 and Radio 4.

Marcus du Sautoy – [full biography here](#)

Marcus du Sautoy is the Charles Simonyi Professor for the Public Understanding of Science at the Oxford University, a chair he holds jointly at the Department of Continuing Education and the Mathematical Institute. He is also a Professor of Mathematics and a Fellow of New College. He was made a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2016. In 2001 he won the prestigious Berwick Prize of the London Mathematical Society awarded every two years to reward the best

mathematical research made by a mathematician under 40. In 2004 Esquire Magazine chose him as one of the 100 most influential people under 40 in Britain and in 2008 he was included in the prestigious directory Who's Who. In 2009 he was awarded the Royal Society's Faraday Prize, the UK's premier award for excellence in communicating science. He received an OBE for services to science in the 2010 New Year's Honours List.

Kathryn Stott – [full biography here](#)

Kathryn Stott, recognised as one of Britain's most versatile and imaginative musicians. She is International Chair at the RNCM and a Professor at the Norwegian Academy of Music. Maintaining a keen interest in contemporary music, Kathryn has had many works written for her. She has also been the artistic vision behind several major festivals and concert series in the United Kingdom and in Italy, establishing a reputation as an astute programmer. She is the Artistic Director of the Australian Festival of Chamber Music.

Marcin Wasilewski

Marcin Wasilewski is one of the brightest stars of the Polish jazz scene, a celebrated ECM recording artist, recognised for his unique talent in blending jazz piano tradition with contemporary sound. His dynamic playing and melodic sound makes him one of the most defining voices of contemporary jazz. Wasilewski, solo or with his ensemble The Marcin Wasilewski Trio, has collaborated with artists such as Charles Lloyd, Al Foster, Branford Marsalis, Nils Petter Molvær, Jan Garbarek, Joe Lovano, Dino Saluzzi, Manu Katché, Jon Christensen to name a few. Wasilewski has won numerous Fryderyk Music Awards ('Polish Grammys') for Jazz Album of the Year and Jazz Artist of the Year. In 2019 his trio celebrated their 25th anniversary with a sold-out gig at London's Cadogan Hall as part of EFG London Jazz Festival.

International Piano Composition Competition

As media partner for the 5th London Piano Festival, International Piano magazine is welcoming applications for its first ever composition competition to find a brand-new work that will be performed at the Festival's Two-Piano Gala in October.

International Piano is calling on composers of any age to submit an original composition and digital audio file of a 2-3 minute piece for four hands (one or two pianos). The jury for the competition is led by award-winning composer Elena Langer, joined by London Piano Festival artistic directors Charles Owen and Katya Apekisheva, Kings Place programme director Helen Wallace and *International Piano* editor Owen Mortimer.

The winning piece will be performed in the Festival's Two-Piano Gala on 10 October 2020 at Kings Place, London. International Piano will publish the score of the winning piece, alongside an interview with the composer, in the October issue of the magazine.

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