

MANCHESTER CAMERATA CELEBRATES ITS 50th ANNIVERSARY WITH A YEAR OF COLLABORATIONS, PREMIERES AND A WIGMORE HALL DEBUT

- The Camerata makes its Wigmore Hall debut alongside Resident Artist Jess Gillam
- *Mozart, Made in Manchester* series continues with Music Director Gábor Takács-Nagy and pianist Jean-Efflam Bavouzet
- World premiere performance of a new work by Alex Ho as part of the Royal Philharmonic Society Composer programme
- A 16-piece Manchester Camerata orchestra accompanies a screening of Charlie Chaplin's *The Kid*
- Collaborations with cabaret star Le Gateau Chocolat as well as Manchester-based artists including music duo Space Afrika and composer, producer and DJ Afrodeutsche
- 40th anniversary of The Hacienda celebrated with performances of Hacienda Classical at the Royal Albert Hall and Castlefield Bowl
- Continuing partnerships with Nevil Holt Opera, the Royal Northern College of Music, Opera Up Close and Joy Division's Peter Hook

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2022 marks the 50th anniversary of **Manchester Camerata**, an innovative orchestra which has continued to push boundaries and challenge traditions throughout its history. The Orchestra today reveals some of its plans for the anniversary year which sees them perform all across the UK with artists ranging from **Jess Gillam** and **Jean-Efflam Bavouzet** to DJ **Afrodeutsche** and Joy Division's **Peter Hook**. This year also sees the Camerata continue its popular short film series **UNTOLD** as well as ground-breaking community projects such as **Music in Mind** and **Hidden Histories**.

Bob Riley, Chief Executive of Manchester Camerata, said: *"Our 50th anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate what has happened so far as well as our plans for the future. Everyone leaves a mark at the Camerata, be that a musical style, a way of thinking, or something else distinctive. We have countless anecdotes, recordings and community projects as part of our collective legacy. We want to invite our audience to join us as we reflect on our history and initiate new partnerships across the year to come."*

JESS GILLAM AND WIGMORE HALL DEBUT

Kicking off the year is a series of concerts with the Manchester Camerata's Resident Artist **Jess Gillam** in Manchester's **Stoller Hall** [11 March] and London's **Wigmore Hall** [20 March], which will be the Orchestra's debut at the iconic venue. Gillam will perform Alexander Glazunov's Concerto in E-flat major in a programme that also includes [Daniel Kidane's *Be Still*](#), a work commissioned and premiered by Manchester Camerata last year. Jess returns to the stage with the Camerata in May for a performance at King George's Hall, Blackburn [20 May] and The Coronation Hall in Ulverston [17 Sept].

Jess Gillam said: *"It's always an absolute pleasure and honour to work with the orchestra - the musicians and the whole wider team alike. The ethos and spirit of the organisation and their commitment to sharing the wonders of music with every part of society is extremely inspiring. I'm*

looking forward to joining them on stage in the new year as part of their anniversary celebrations - here's to the next 50 years!"

MOZART, MADE IN MANCHESTER

The Orchestra releases the sixth volume of its popular *Mozart, Made in Manchester* recording series on Chandos with Music Director **Gábor Takács-Nagy** and pianist **Jean-Efflam Bavouzet** [1 April]. The series also returns in concert form, with performances at Stoller Hall on 25 March and 23 September. **Gábor Takács-Nagy** will be featured in the Camerata's next instalment of **UNTOLD**, its short film series which uses music to share personal stories. The episode will see Gábor talk about his monumental move from playing the violin to conducting, a pivotal moment in his career following 17 years leading the Takács Quartet. In this film set to a soundtrack chosen by Gábor, the Camerata explores the undeniable power of music and how music provided spiritual medicine for Gábor at a time most needed.

PREMIERES AND NEW COLLABORATIONS

Other highlights of the year include the world premiere of a new commission by composer **Alex Ho** as part of the **Royal Philharmonic Society Composer programme**, which will be part of an intergenerational performance by the people of Gorton, Manchester, where the Camerata is based [17 Nov].

The Camerata takes to the stage with Manchester-based music duo **Space Afrika** for a performance of Steve Reich's *Music for 18 musicians* at Stoller Hall [14 May]. The Orchestra is also working with Manchester-based composer, producer and DJ **Afrodeutsche** on a new project and takes to the stage with cabaret star **Le Gateau Chocolat** on his show *Pandora*. Details about both projects will be announced soon.

Manchester Camerata continues to push boundaries with **Unquiet**, its new series focussing on the intersection between contemporary classical and electronic music culture. Curated by **Robert Ames** in partnership with **NEWFORM Music**, the series will feature new commissions from cutting edge artists and composers.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

The Orchestra returns to Huddersfield Town Hall for a concert of Bach's *St John Passion* with the Huddersfield Choral Society, conducted by **Gregory Batsleer** [2 April]. Audiences will also have the opportunity to watch a screening of Charlie Chaplin's 1921 silent film **The Kid** with the Camerata performing the score live at HOME in Manchester [16 June]. December 2022 will see the return of the Manchester Camerata's popular **Festive Happening** concert at Manchester's Albert Hall and a performance of Handel's **Messiah** at their home The Monastery in Gorton.

Other performances of the show are scheduled all across the UK throughout the year. The Orchestra also has performance plans with **Opera Up Close**, **Salaam Festival** and **Orchestras Live** in addition to other R&D projects, all of which will be announced in due course.

ONGOING PARTNERSHIPS

2022 also sees Manchester Camerata continue collaborations with various partners, including **Nevill Holt Opera** where the Orchestra performs Puccini's *La bohème* [8-14 June] and a return the stage with **Peter Hook** for his **The Sound of Joy Division Orchestrated** shows at the O2 Apollo in Manchester and the London Palladium [14-15 Oct]. **Peter Hook** will be featured in the Camerata's

UNTOLD short film series later this year. Manchester Camerata present two big performances of **Haçienda Classical** at the Royal Albert Hall [13 May] and Castlefield Bowl [8 July] to mark the 40th anniversary of the series, which has seen the Orchestra perform at Glastonbury, Isle of Wight Festival and more.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY WORK

In addition to its performance work, Manchester Camerata also continues its ongoing partnership with the **Royal Northern College of Music** where it takes part in chamber music workshops, a conducting weekend and other opportunities for students. A number of musicians in the Camerata, including its leader **Caroline Pether**, were students at the College.

Following its move to **The Monastery** in Gorton East Manchester, Manchester Camerata continues to embed itself in the local communities there through its participant-led music-making programme.

The organisation continues its successful **Music in Mind** programme for people with dementia and their carers. Two new PhD studies will begin later in the year, continuing our decade-long partnership with the University of Manchester and its research teams, led by Professor John Keady. The Camerata will be working in partnership with other tech and dementia groups to further develop its **Music in Mind: Remote** training app and online resource for carers for wider impact across Greater Manchester.

In its younger people's programme, Camerata is partnering with Gorton's Hideout Youth Zone to continue their creative song-writing choir. A series of workshops in St Peters High School in Longsight will bring together students and multi-genre artists in grime and hip hop, such as artist **LayFullStop**, to help inspire the students in all aspects of musicianship. Composer **Lavender Rodriguez** leads the Camerata's **Hidden Histories** schools project, which celebrates the works of underrepresented composers of the past.

Other schools' work outside Greater Manchester includes projects with long-term partners **Orchestras Live** in the North East, The Entrust Partnership Stoke, Staffordshire and Telford, plus inspiration projects in Sefton and Knowsley.

- ENDS -

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PHOTOS

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MANCHESTER CAMERATA

★★★★★ **'It doesn't get much better than this' (The Independent)**

Manchester Camerata is a registered charity, working and performing in Manchester and worldwide since 1972.

With 5-star reviews from The Independent, and the accolade of ‘Britain’s most adventurous orchestra’ (The Times), Camerata has a reputation for doing things differently - be that opening Glastonbury Festival with an orchestral rave, touring and recording Mozart or making profound impact for people living with dementia. Manchester Camerata believe in the transformative and connecting nature of music. That connection drives them, and they work with the best creative talent to make this happen.

Camerata’s inspiration stems from the visionary mindset of Music Director Gábor Takács-Nagy, who believes passionately that ‘music is spiritual medicine’. His extraordinary musicianship drives the development of their craft and nurtures the artistic and human qualities of Manchester Camerata’s musicians, which in turn gives the whole organisation courage to innovate beyond an orchestra’s normal limits. It is these qualities combined which create powerful emotional connections, which makes life better. This approach has led them to collaborate with diverse international artists, from New Order to Martha Argerich to Aziz Ibrahim to Lewis Capaldi.

Empowering people to make positive change in their lives is the focus for Manchester Camerata’s award-winning community programme. From a child or a teacher in school to a frontline care worker or a person living with dementia, it’s about the difference they can make in society through music. All activity is informed by research and fully evaluated, so they can articulate their impact. A social impact plan for Greater Manchester will see the number and diversity of people we reach increase, and that work begins in their new home - The Monastery in Gorton.

Over the past 10 years, they have developed a music therapy programme for people with dementia and their carers in partnership with the University of Manchester, a leading global dementia research centre. University research shapes the development of Camerata’s programme, which is now in demand across Asia and Europe, and has established us as a sector-leader in this field. As Manchester Camerata approach their 50th anniversary in 2022, they invite you to share these moments with them.

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