

Press Invite

**Guy Johnston returns home for the
13th Hatfield House Music Festival featuring a
world premiere of *Judas 'Wild Thing' Maccabeus*
(Handel/Beethoven/Hendrix arr. Simon Parkin)**



Thursday 10-13 October 2023
Hatfield House, Hertfordshire

After 5 years in the US, the celebrated cellist Guy Johnston marks his homecoming at the 13th Hatfield House Music Festival in the magnificent family home of Lord Salisbury from **10 to 13 October 2024**. This year's line-up of world-class musicians - **Kaleidoscope Chamber Collective** with **Elena Urioste** and **Tom Poster**, harpsichordist **Maggie Cole**, soprano **Claire Booth** and jazz pianist **Gwilym Simcock** - explore the theme of Musical Time Travel from Dowland and Handel - two composers associated with the Salisbury Family - to the anniversaries of Fauré and Schoenberg. Concerts predominantly take place in the House's striking **Marble Hall**, home to the famous **Rainbow Portrait of Queen Elizabeth I**, and **St Etheldreda's Church**.

The newly-formed **Bechstein Piano Trio** - star soloists **Priya Mitchell**, **Guy Johnston** and **Emmanuel Despax** - opens this year's festival on **Thursday 10 October** with a programme of Fauré and Brahms. To celebrate the 25th anniversary of BBC Radio 3's New Generation Artists, the **Consone Quartet** presents an evening programme of music from the two Viennese Schools - Haydn and Mozart alongside Webern and Schoenberg.

Brothers **Guy Johnston** (cello) and **Magnus Johnston** (violin) join **Maggie Cole** (harpsichord) on **11 October** for an exploration of Handel through the ages featuring

pieces by Handel, Bach, Beethoven and the **world premiere** of **Handel/Beethoven/Hendrix** Judas 'Wild Thing' Maccabeus arranged by **Simon Parkin** (1685 – 2024).

Friday evening's jazz fusion brings together **Maggie Cole** (harpsichord) and **Gwilym Simcock** (jazz piano) and **Magnus** (violin) and **Guy Johnston** (cello) jumping off from the music of Dowland. **Gwilym Simcock** returns for a later programme with saxophonist **Emma Rawicz** performing original works and arrangements from the Great American Songbook to Stevie Wonder as featured on their upcoming duo release on ACT label.

Saturday incorporates a family concert and a showcase from the **Purcell School**, followed by a recital of Rachmaninov and Haydn from emerging pianist **Victor Maslov** from the **Countess of Munster Recital Scheme**. Maslov is fast gaining an international reputation as a rising star of the future.

In the evening, **Kaleidoscope Chamber Collective**, founded by husband-and-wife **Tom Poster** (piano) and **Elena Urioste** (violin) present a diverse programme of **Mozart**, **Dora Pejačević**, **Schumann** and **Dvořák**.

On **Sunday 13 October** audiences will be transported through time with **Recordare**, a young vocal ensemble, presenting exquisite works from **Henry VIII** to **Imogen Holst**. In the early afternoon, **Stephen Johnson** and **Paul Hoskins** explore the moonstruck musical world of **Pierrot Lunaire** with **Claire Booth** before a thrilling finale of **Schoenberg's Pierrot Lunaire** and **Schubert's String Quintet in C**.



Guy Johnston, Artistic Director, comment:

"While everything we hear has a time and a place, the greatest music also manages to be timeless and belong everywhere. Hatfield House itself resonates with centuries of history and so has worked its magic as a marvellous time machine, inspiring many of the musical choices."

Hatfield House is the home of the 7th Marquess and Marchioness of Salisbury, whose family have owned the house since it was built in the early 1600s by **Robert Cecil, 1st Earl of Salisbury** and son of Lord Burghley, the chief minister of **Elizabeth I**. The deer park surrounding the house and the older building of the Old Palace (built in 1485 by the Bishop of Ely, John Morton), had been owned by Elizabeth's father, Henry VIII, who used it as a home for his children, Edward, Elizabeth and Mary. It was while she was living in the Old Palace, in 1558, that Elizabeth learned of her accession to the throne.

Following Elizabeth I's reign, the House benefitted from the extensive musical patronage of its owner Robert Cecil, 1st Earl of Salisbury. Many of Britain's most celebrated Tudor and Jacobean musicians crop up in some form in the Hatfield House archive: John Dowland, lutenist and composer, and Nicolas Lanier, first ever Master of the King's Music, were in the First Earl of Salisbury's pay. Thomas Morley, William Byrd and Orlando Gibbons, amongst many others, dedicated pieces to him.

More recently, the Oscar-winning 2019 film *The Favourite* is among many to have been shot at Hatfield House.

Full Festival Listings

Thursday 10 October 5pm, Marble Hall OPENING CONCERT

Fauré Piano Trio
Brahms Trio No 1 in B, Op. 8

Bechstein Piano Trio
Priya Mitchell violin
Guy Johnston cello
Emmanuel Despax piano

7.30pm, Marble Hall CELEBRATION CONCERT

Haydn Quartet in F sharp minor, Op. 50 No 4
Schoenberg Quartet in D
Webern *Langsamer Satz*
Mozart Quartet in D, KV 499 Hoffmeister

Consone Quartet

Friday 11 October, 19:30 5pm, Marble Hall Handel Through the Ages

Handel Violin Sonata No 2 in G minor
Bach Gamba Sonata No 2 in D
Beethoven Variations for Cello and Piano
on See the conqu'ring hero comes from
Handel's Judas Maccabaeus
Handel/Beethoven/Hendrix Judas 'Wild
Thing' Maccabaeus arr. by Simon Parkin
(1685 – 2024) world première. Co-
commission with the Handel Hendrix
House.

Magnus Johnston violin
Guy Johnston cello
Maggie Cole harpsichord

7.30pm, Marble Hall

Taking off from Dowland – Jazz Concert Part 1

Gwilym Simcock jazz piano
Maggie Cole harpsichord
Magnus Johnston violin
Guy Johnston cello

9pm, Marble Hall Free Fall – Jazz Concert Part 2

Gwilym Simcock jazz piano
Emma Rawicz saxophone

Saturday 12 October 10.30am, St Etheldreda's Church

Family Performance of Evergreen by Merryweather Theatre

12pm, Marble Hall Purcell School Showcase

Beethoven Piano Trio in D Op. 70 No 1
Ghost
Mozart String Quartet in Bb KV 458 *The
Hunt*

1.30pm – 4.30pm, St Etheldreda's Church Come and Sing the Centuries

with Festival performer **Harry
Bradford** Director of **Recordare**
Works to include Passtime with Good
Company, The Lord's Prayer by
Sheppard and Crossing the Bar by Parry

5pm, Marble Hall **First Chance to Hear...**

Haydn Sonata in B minor Hob. XVI/32
Rachmaninoff Etude-Tableau Op. 39 No 4
Rachmaninoff Sonata No 1 Op. 28

Countess of Munster Recital Scheme **Victor Moslov** piano

7.30pm, Marble Hall **Kaleidoscope Chamber Collective**

Mozart Oboe Quartet
Dora Pejačević Piano Quartet in D minor Op. 25
Schumann 3 Romances for oboe and piano
Dvořák Piano Quartet No 2 in E flat

Armand Djikoloum oboe
Elena Urioste violin
Rosalind Ventris viola
Guy Johnston cello
Tom Poster piano

Sunday 13 October **12pm, Marble Hall** **Songs through Time**

Cornysh Ave Maria Mater Dei
Cornysh Ah Robin
Henry VIII Passtime with good Company
Sheppard Lord's Prayer
Byrd O Lord, Make thy Servant
Weelkes As Vesta Was
Tomkins O God the Proud
Gibbons Nunc Dimittis
Gibbons O Clap your Hands
Stanford Justorum Animae
Elgar There is Sweet Music
Parry Crossing the Bar

Philip Moore Evening Prayers of Dietrich Boenhoffer
Imogen Holst A Hymne to Christ
Britten Ballad Green Broom
Harry Bradford arr. Pure Imagination

Recordare **Harry Bradford** conductor

1.30pm, Marble Hall
Pierrot Unmasked
Stephen Johnson and **Paul Hoskins**
explore the moonstruck musical world of Pierrot Lunaire with Claire Booth and Purcell School students.

3pm, St Etheldreda's Church **Young Musicians' Platform**

See the best of Hertfordshire's young musicians performing solos, chamber music, and in larger ensembles.

5pm, Marble Hall **Festival Finale**

Schoenberg Pierrot Lunaire
Schubert String Quintet in C

Claire Booth soprano
Ensemble 360
Juliette Bausor flute
Robert Plane clarinet
Benjamin Nabarro violin
Gemma Rosefield cello
Tim Horton piano
Magnus Johnston violin
Max Baillie violin
Brett Dean viola
Guy Johnston cello

Hatfield House Music Festival

President: The Marquess of Salisbury
Patron: HRH The Duchess of Kent
Artistic Director: Guy Johnston

The Hatfield House Music Festival is a long weekend of concerts, curated by Artistic Director Guy Johnston, which takes place annually in September/October at Hatfield House in Hertfordshire. The setting, musicians and audiences make this a warm, friendly Festival with exceptionally high artistic standards. Now in its 13th year, the Festival has grown into a very successful and much-anticipated event by both locals and also by those who make a special journey to attend the Festival.



Over the past 12 years the Festival has welcomed performers such as the Navarra Quartet, pianists Tom Poster, Kathryn Stott and Melvyn Tan, Nicholas Daniel, Alison Balsom, Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Lucy Crowe, Rachel Podger, James Gilchrist, The Sixteen and the Aurora Orchestra all to perform in the beautiful surroundings of Hatfield House.

The Festival has a very strong education strand which runs alongside the main event and is committed to commissioning new works. Previous new commissions at the Festival include works by Charlotte Bray Perseus for cello and piano (2015 and at least 3 subsequent performances), Mark Simpson (Oboe Quartet 2019, co-commissioned by Wigmore Hall and Leicester International Music Festival) In 2017 HHCMF dedicated the whole Festival theme of Creation to works by contemporary composers Sally Beamish. Alec Roth, Thomas Adès, Joseph Phibbs, Donald Grant and others.

hatfieldhousemusicfestival.org.uk

Guy Johnston

Guy Johnston is one of the most exciting British cellists of his generation. His early successes included winning the BBC Young Musician of the Year, and significant awards, notably the Shell London Symphony Orchestra Gerald MacDonald Award, Suggia Gift Award and a Young British Classical Performer Brit Award.

He has performed with many leading international orchestras including the London Philharmonic, NHK Symphony Orchestra, BBC Symphony, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Orquestra Sinfônica do Estado de São Paulo, and St Petersburg Symphony. Recent seasons have included a BBC Prom with BBC National Orchestra of Wales, concertos with The Hallé, Philharmonia Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestra of Opera North, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Aurora Orchestra, Royal Northern Sinfonia, and Orchestra of The Swan. Most recently, he has been the featured soloist of Taverner's 'The Protecting Veil' for Britten's Sinfonia 2024 UK and Ireland tour receiving critical acclaim in The Guardian and the Arts Desk.

Performances and recordings with eminent conductors have included collaborations with Alexander Dmitriev, Sir Andrew Davis, Daniele Gatti, Ilan Volkov, Leonard Slatkin, Mark Wigglesworth, Robin Ticciati, Sir Roger Norrington, Sakari Oramo, Vassily Sinaisky, Yan Pascal Tortelier and Yuri Simonov.

Guy is a passionate advocate for chamber music and recitals as founding Artistic Director of the Hatfield House Music Festival and performs regularly at prestigious venues and festivals across Europe including Wigmore Hall, Louvre Museum, the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory, and Three Choirs Festival, collaborating with instrumentalists such as Anthony Marwood, Brett Dean, Huw Watkins, Janine Jansen, Kathy Stott, Lawrence Power, Melvyn Tan, Mishka Rushdie Momen, Sheku Kanneh-Mason and Tom Poster.

A prolific recording artist often championing contemporary British composers, Guy's recent releases include Dobrinka Tabakova's Cello Concerto with The Hallé and Rebecca Dale's 'Night Seasons' with the Philharmonia Orchestra. Other recordings include a premiere of Herbert Howells' completed Cello Concerto with the Britten Sinfonia, a celebration disc of the tricentenary of his David Tecchler cello with commissions by Charlotte Bray, David Matthews, Mark Simpson and a collaboration with the acclaimed Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome, where the cello was made. 2025 will bring forth Guy's latest recording of Xiaogang Ye's My Faraway Nanjing with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

He gave the premiere of Charlotte Bray's 'Falling in the Fire' at the BBC Proms and Joseph Phibbs' 'Cello Sonata' at Wigmore Hall. His 2024/2025 season will see the world premiere of Joseph Phibbs' Cello Concerto for Guy and the BBC Symphony Orchestra. Other premières include Emma Ruth Richards' 'Until a Reservoir no longer remains' and a recording of Matthew Kaner's solo suite for cello.

In addition to a busy and versatile career as an international soloist, chamber musician and guest principal, Guy is an inspiring leader of young musicians. He was Associate Professor of Cello at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York (2018-2024) and a guest Professor of Cello at the Royal Academy of Music, where he was awarded an Hon. ARAM in 2015. He has recently been appointed President of the European String Teachers Association and is patron of several charities which promote music education for school children and young people including Music First and Future Talent. He is also a board member of the Pierre Fournier Award for young cellists.

Guy Johnston plays the 1692 Antonio Stradivari cello known as the "Segelman, ex Hart" kindly loaned to him through the Beare's International Violin Society by a generous patron. He is a Larsen Strings Artist.

guy-johnston.com

For more information on any of the above, please contact:

Nicky Thomas Media

2-6 Baches St, London N1 6DN

+44 (0)20 3714 7594 | +44 (0)7768 566 530

info@nickythomasmedia.com

www.nickythomasmedia.com