

**London Mozart Players return to live concerts with new *Spotlight On...* series showcasing young stars Sheku & Isata Kanneh-Mason, Jess Gillam and Leia Zhu**



- London Mozart Players launch the four-concert series showcasing young British talent
- Sheku concert to reopen Fairfield Halls, where LMP is resident orchestra
- Concerts go hand-in-hand with an inspiring education programme, including masterclasses and workshops, to reach young people across the UK
- Continues LMP's 72-year tradition of supporting young musicians
- Part of LMP's [100k Challenge](#) – to reach 100,000 children and young people through music in 2021
- All four concerts will be filmed for online release

**4, 24, 26 June 2021, 9 October 2021**  
Fairfield Halls & Cadogan Hall

Showcasing four young stars of the classical music world, all 25 years old and under, London Mozart Players announces its return to live concerts in the ***Spotlight On...*** series at Fairfield Halls and Cadogan Hall this June and October, featuring star cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason, saxophonist Jess Gillam, pianist Isata Kanneh-Mason and violinist Leia Zhu. The series reopens Croydon's Fairfield Halls on Friday 4 June 2021.

The *Spotlight On...* series is a continuation of London Mozart Players' proud **72-year tradition of supporting rising stars**, with the young Jacqueline du Pré, Nicola Benedetti and Michael Collins just three of many outstanding musicians who performed with LMP at the start of their careers. The only professional orchestra in the UK managed entirely by its players, London Mozart Players was one of the first ensembles to return to live music-making in June 2020 and is poised to return to audiences this summer. Building on the success of their digital broadcasts the *Spotlight On...* series will also be available to view online for a limited period via the LMP website.

London Mozart Players is the resident orchestra at Croydon's Fairfield Halls, newly refurbished in 2019. Croydon has the largest population of young people in London, with 25% of the borough's residents under 18 years old, and two thirds of these identifying as people of colour. Alongside the concerts, LMP has planned an **extensive programme of education work**, enabling the stars of today to inspire the next generation of musicians in the borough.

The *Spotlight On...* musicians will hold Q&As with local primary school children and older players, lead masterclasses and workshops (with wind and string players from Croydon Music & Arts and aspiring young pianists from schools in Croydon). Fairfield Halls is the cultural heart of the borough and LMP will be using it to showcase Croydon's young talent as part of the series, including pre-concert performances in the foyer of Fairfield Halls from local cello and saxophone ensembles.

Through its [100K Challenge](#), London Mozart Players is committed to reaching at least 100,000 children and young people in 2021. Each concerto performance will be filmed and will be **made available free to schools** across the country with specially designed 'listening guides', targeted at different age groups from 4-18.

On Friday 4 June, the first concert at Fairfield Halls since March 2020, superstar cellist **Sheku Kanneh-Mason** joins LMP for Dvořák's stirring and poignant Cello Concerto, performed in its full version under the baton of Jaime Martín alongside Mendelssohn's Hebrides overture. Kanneh-Mason and London Mozart Players share an association that began in 2017, including their sell-out concert in January 2020; the cellist will also appear in their 2021-22 season. The filmed concert will be available online from 19 June 2021.

Former BBC Young Musician finalist and BBC broadcaster **Jess Gillam** joins London Mozart Players at Fairfield Halls on Thursday 24 June 2021 in two spectacular works for saxophone: Michael Nyman's electrifying concerto, *Where the Bee Dances*, named for the lively dances performed by foraging bees to communicate the locations of food sources, and Glazunov's 1934 Saxophone Concerto, the composer's last work. The programme is completed with Mozart's 'Haffner' Symphony No. 35, all under the baton of Jonathan Bloxham. The filmed concert will be available online from 18 September 2021.

Appearing at Cadogan Hall on Saturday 26 June 2021, charismatic young pianist **Isata Kanneh-Mason** joins London Mozart Players to perform Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto No.1, a showcase of captivating melodies and glittering passagework that highlights the prodigious talent of the BBC Young Musician finalist and four-time winner of the Royal Academy Iris Dyer Piano Prize. Kanneh-Mason is joined on stage by conductor Stephanie Childress, also in her LMP debut, who conducts London Mozart Players in Beethoven's majestic Symphony No. 2. The filmed concert will be available online from 3 July 2021.

The *Spotlight On...* series concludes on 9 October 2021, as **14-year-old violinist Leia Zhu** brings her prodigious talents to Fairfield Halls in Tchaikovsky's lyrical and expressive Violin Concerto. Conducted by Gerard Korsten, London Mozart Players also present Beethoven's Symphony No. 8 and the overture to Mozart's Magic Flute. The filmed concert will be available online from 16 October 2021.

An exceptional young musician from Newcastle, Leia Zhu made her UK concerto debut with the English Chamber Orchestra in February 2020; she has already performed at major concert halls across Europe, and has attracted thousands of subscribers on her YouTube channel 'The Violin Girl'. This June, Zhu performs the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with London Mozart Players at Grayshott Concerts (25 June 2021).

LMP Executive Director **Julia Desbruslais** commented:

*"We couldn't be more thrilled to be returning to the concert platform with a live audience whom we have missed so much, to perform alongside these supremely talented ambassadors for classical music. We hope that the Spotlight On... series will not only bring audiences flooding back to the concert hall, but through our extensive education programme, young people will be inspired and motivated to want to experience the joy and enrichment that engagement with classical music can bring."*

Tickets to the *Spotlight On...* series are available from [www.bhlivetickets.co.uk/venues/fairfield-halls](http://www.bhlivetickets.co.uk/venues/fairfield-halls) (Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Jess Gillam, Leia

Zhu) and [www.cadoganhall.com](http://www.cadoganhall.com) (Isata Kanneh-Mason). For the performances on 4, 24 & 26 June 2021, each concert is performed twice (at 16:00 and 19:30) in order to accommodate social distancing.

London Mozart Players return to live performances in the closing concert of their 2021 **Piano Explored** series at St John's Smith Square, with Conductor Laureate Howard Shelley OBE giving an insight into Ignaz Moscheles' rarely heard Piano Concerto No. 1, in a lunch-hour concert on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021, which is also being livestreamed via the London Mozart Players website.

**Images for Spotlight On...:** [www.dropbox.com/sh/seiwluxqbvzI5lo/AAANWIfC7R5n-0GWA6t-ZRrga?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/seiwluxqbvzI5lo/AAANWIfC7R5n-0GWA6t-ZRrga?dl=0)

London Mozart Players' *Spotlight On...* series has been supported by Arts Council funding as part of the government's Culture Recovery Fund.



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## Concert Listings

### Friday 4 June, 16:00 & 19:30

Fairfield Halls, Croydon

**Mendelssohn** *The Hebrides 'Fingal's Cave', Op. 26*  
**Dvořák** *Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104*

**Sheku Kanneh-Mason** cello  
**Jaime Martín** conductor  
**Ruth Rogers** leader

### Thursday 24 June, 16:00 & 19:30

Fairfield Halls, Croydon

**Mozart** *Symphony No. 35 in D Major, K.385 (Haffner)*  
**Glazunov** *Concerto in E flat for alto saxophone & string orchestra*  
**Nyman** *Saxophone Concerto, Where the Bee Dances*

**Jess Gillam** saxophone  
**Jonathan Bloxham** conductor  
**Ruth Rogers** leader

### Saturday 26 June, 16:00 & 19:30

Cadogan Hall

**Mendelssohn** *Piano Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Op. 25*  
**Beethoven** *Symphony No. 2 in D major, Op. 36*

**Isata Kanneh-Mason** piano  
**Stephanie Childress** conductor  
**Simon Blendis** leader

### Saturday 9 October, 19:30

Fairfield Halls, Croydon

**Mozart** *Magic Flute Overture*  
**Tchaikovsky** *Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 35*  
**Beethoven** *Symphony No. 8 in F major, Op. 93*

**Leia Zhu** violin  
**Gerard Korsten** conductor  
**Simon Blendis** leader

## London Mozart Players



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The London Mozart Players, the UK's longest established chamber orchestra, was founded in 1949 by Harry Blech to delight audiences with the works of Mozart and Haydn. Over the last seventy years, the LMP has developed an outstanding reputation for adventurous, ambitious programming from Baroque through to genre-crossing contemporary music, and continues to build on its long history of association with many of the world's finest artists including Sir James Galway, Dame Felicity Lott, Jane Glover, Howard

Shelley, Nicola Benedetti, James Ehnes, John Suchet and Simon Callow. The orchestra enjoys an international reputation, touring extensively throughout Europe and the Far East, most recently Dubai and Hong Kong, and records frequently for Naxos, Chandos, CPO, Signum and Hyperion Records.

[londonmozartplayers.com](http://londonmozartplayers.com)

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