4th

LONDON FESTIVAL OF BULGARIAN CULTURE

MUSIC

EXHIBITION

ART

THEATRE

BALKAN BLAZE

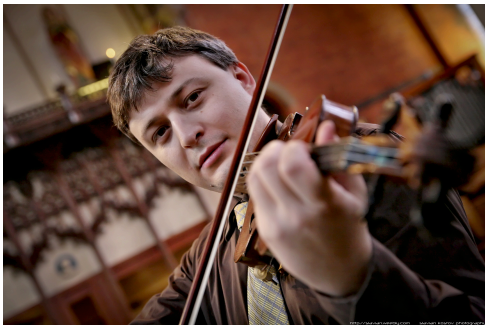
Tuesday 25 October 2016, 7.30pm
Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC2Y 8DS

barbican

London Festival of Bulgarian Culture
lfbc

LONDON FESTIVAL OF BULGARIAN CULTURE

Join the Balkan Adventure



WELCOME TO THE 4TH EDITION OF OUR FESTIVAL!

At tonight's opening concert we are very excited to present a programme representing the best of our Bulgarian and Balkan music heritage. Joining forces as soloists with an orchestra and choir are two incredible musicians who defy categorization – the superstar and always inventive Nigel Kennedy and our very own Bulgarian gudoulka virtuoso and composer Georgi Andreev - the fantastic partnership between them on stage will not leave you sitting still in your seats for long!

We also have some brilliant events as part of our festival coming up in November; please do browse the programme enclosed at the back of the booklet for full details. We hope that you enjoy being part of the celebration of our culture tonight and throughout this year's festival!
Ivo Stankov – Founder Director of LFBC

LFBC BRIEF HISTORY

London Festival of Bulgarian Culture has already celebrated 3 successful editions in 2010, 2012, and 2014. More than 40 events – music, cinema, theatre, and exhibitions have been presented in the month of November every two years since 2010. Over three hundred Bulgarian, British, and international artists and formations such as the English Chamber Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, London Bulgarian Choir, Le Mystere Des Voix Bulgares, The Big Band of Bulgarian National Radio, etc., have participated in concert venues in London, attracting a combined audience of more than 20 000. The presentation of lesser known music composed by historic Bulgarian composers, and new music created by both British and Bulgarian composers has been one of the principal aims of the festival which has already seen its objective largely fulfilled through the presentation of over 30 World, UK, and London premières. Many theatre, cinema, exhibitions and cultural events have also been presented and organized by the Bulgarian Cultural Institute as part of the Festival, showcasing Bulgaria's rich cultural heritage. In addition, a number of educational projects (which are also part of the Festival's principal aims) have seen the participation of some of London's top schools: Whitgift School, James Allen's Girls' School, and St. Paul's Girls' School. The London Festival of Bulgarian Culture is a partner organisation with the Bulgarian Cultural Institute in London, and is supported by the Bulgarian Embassy in London. Patrons of LFBC are the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture, Prince Kyril Saxe-Coburg, and Sonia Rouve – Uvalieva.

BALKAN BLAZE

Programme to include:

PART ONE

London Bulgarian Choir
Philharmonia Orchestra
Conductor: Rossen Milanov

Sarabanda and Small March, from 'Classical and Romantic'
Pancho Vladigerov

Bulgaria's Four Seasons
Rano Mi E More Slŭntse Ogreyalo
Trad. arr. Kiril Todorov
Koledarska
Kiril Todorov
Soloists: Dessislava Stefanova & Diana Tsokova

Devojko, Mari Hubava
Trad. arr. Guencho Guenchev
Solo: Bernard Burns, Col Prosser & Giulio Agostini

Lale Li Si, Zyumbyul Li Si
Trad. arr. Georgi Andreev
Solo: Vania Vatralova-Stankov, soprano

From Dobrudzha to Pirin
Trad. arr. Kiril Todorov
Solo: Dessislava Stefanova

Prayer
Kiril Todorov, based on Yoan Kukuzel and Dobri Hristov

Byalo Rade
Kiril Todorov
Solo: Polly Hunt, Mirella Koleva, Dessislava Stefanova, Catriona Langmuir, Helen Brice, Ulrike Speyer
Percussion: Giulio Agostini

Bubamara
Trad. arr. Daniël Hamburger
Solo: Dessislava Stefanova and Georgi Andreev

PART TWO

Nigel Kennedy – violin
Georgi Andreev – gudoulka
Kennedy Quintet:
Rolf Bussalb – guitar
Julian Buschberger – guitar
Tomasz Kupiec – bass / double bass
Pawel Tomaszewski - piano
Adam Czerwinski – drums / percussion
Philharmonia Orchestra

Gipsy Party
Georgi Andreev

Fallen Forest (For Isaac Stern)
Nigel Kennedy

Southern Sea
Georgi Andreev

Melody in the Wind (For Stephane Grappelli)
Nigel Kennedy

Aegean Dances
Georgi Andreev

Gib It (For Marc O'Connor)
Nigel Kennedy

ARTISTS

Nigel Kennedy - violin

For over twenty-five years, British violinist, Nigel Kennedy, has been acknowledged as one of the world's leading virtuosos. His unique talent and mass appeal have brought fresh perspectives to both the classical and contemporary repertoire and he is the best-selling classical violinist of all time.

From a young age, as Yehudi Menuhin's most famous protégé, he studied at the Menuhin School (where it emerged, following Menuhin's death, that the legendary violinist had personally financed the young Kennedy throughout his education at the school) before moving to the Juilliard School of Music in New York to study under celebrated teacher, Dorothy DeLay.

During his career, Nigel Kennedy has undertaken countless international tours, performing with the world's leading orchestras and conductors throughout Europe, North America, Central and South America, South East Asia and Australia. Major debuts have included London's Royal Festival Hall in 1977, the Berlin Philharmonic in 1980, his New York orchestral debut in 1987, France in 2004 and Russia in 2012.

Nigel Kennedy has attracted an enormous amount of worldwide media attention throughout an extraordinary career and his international television appearances have been wide and varied. He has given public and private performances for members of the British royal family and has also been presented with many awards including Outstanding Contribution to British Music and Male Artist of the Year at the UK Brit Awards; in France a Vivement Dimanche Gold Award, numerous Echo Awards; in the USA Grammy Awards; Bambi in Germany and Switzerland's Gold Rose of Montreux.

Kennedy's multi-award-winning discography is extensive. His first highly-acclaimed concerto recording was Elgar's Violin Concerto, voted 1985 Record of the Year by Gramophone magazine and awarded Best Classical Album of the Year at the BPI Awards, selling in excess of 300,000 copies. His first landmark recording of Vivaldi's Four Seasons earned a place in the Guinness Book of Records as the best-selling classical work of all time. It sold in excess of 2 million copies and the album remained top of the UK classical charts for almost two years. His second Vivaldi volume with the Berliner Philharmoniker won the prestigious German Echo Award for Best Performance of 18th Century music and the supreme Austrian Classical Award, The Amadeus Prize, for Best Instrumental Recording. He has also made best-selling concerto recordings of Bach, Beethoven, Berg, Brahms, Bruch, Mendelssohn, Sibelius, Tchaikovsky and Walton, alongside chamber music and recital discs.

His passion for jazz resulted in the album “Blue Note Sessions”, made under the eye of Grammy award winning producer Jay Newland, featuring a band of jazz giants such as Ron Carter and Jack DeJohnette, amongst others.

In September 2002, Kennedy was appointed Artistic Director of the Polish Chamber Orchestra, a role the late Lord Menuhin once held. With this orchestra, he rediscovered a stunning and forgotten late Romantic Polish concerto, Emil Mlynarski's Violin Concerto No 2 and combined it with Mieczyslaw Karlowicz’s Violin Concerto in A major, which was released under the title ‘Polish Spirit’ in 2007. ‘Polish Spirit’ has won numerous awards the world over, including the prestigious Echo Klassik Award in Germany (Instrumentalist of the Year) and Poland‘s Fryderyki Album of the Year Award.

At the heart of Kennedy’s output is his work with the Nigel Kennedy Quintet, made up of the violinist and four of the most dynamic musicians on the Polish jazz scene. His 2009 release, named in typically idiosyncratic fashion, “A Very Nice Album”, marked a typically bold excursion into non-classical repertoire. The earlier Bluenote album focussed on interpreting compositions from past masters of the jazz repertoire but, for A Very Nice Album, Kennedy stepped to the fore as composer as well as improviser. 2010 saw the release of the latest Nigel Kennedy Quintet release of mainly original Kennedy compositions, entitled SHHH! The album also features Kennedy’s arrangement of Nick Drake’s Riverman, sung by Boy George. In May 2010, Nigel Kennedy took over London’s South Bank Centre as Artistic Director of a major Polish weekend, a three day event celebrating Polish culture which brought together musicians and artists from a wide range of backgrounds and styles.

The violinist recently founded a new orchestra, made up of vibrant young (mainly Polish) musicians. The Orchestra of Life has a classical chamber group as its nucleus but is uniquely adaptable to perform the diverse music styles Kennedy embraces. In April 2010, the Orchestra of Life made its debut tour in Germany, presenting a programme of Duke Ellington and Bach, before going on to perform in major cities and festivals around Europe. Kennedy presented a programme inspired by the music of Jimi Hendrix at Ronnie Scotts (the last venue Hendrix performed at) on the 40th anniversary of the musician’s death.

Nigel Kennedy records for Sony, which released the premiere of his brand new composition, the Four Elements. Composed for members of the Orchestra of Life and voices, the Four Elements is a highly descriptive composition for acoustic and electric instruments, inspired by the elements of earth, water, air and fire.

Another very popular series which Kennedy is touring through Asia, South and North America and Europe is his Bach PLUS series. An acoustic programme, the first half consists of solo Bach and the second part includes Kennedy’s own arrangements of the music of Fats Waller for violin, guitar, bass and percussion. Having captivated a sold out late night Proms audience with the programme, Kennedy then toured it around the world in 2014.

In March 2013, Sony released RECITAL. The album features the music of Fats Waller, Kennedy/JS Bach and repertoire which featured on his 2014 international tour.
Another recording, released by Sony in early 2014, was Nigel Kennedy's exhilarating “re-write” of Vivaldi’s Four Seasons.
Nigel Kennedy starred in the BBC’s Last Night of the Proms at the Royal Albert Hall in September 2013. The previous month, he performed his own idiosyncratic interpretation of Vivaldi’s Four Seasons at the Proms with his Orchestra of Life and the young Palestine Strings.

Nigel Kennedy is an Aston Villa fan and attends as many games as his schedule allows. He has one son, and divides his time between homes in the UK and Poland.

BRITISH BULGARIAN SOCIETY

www.b-bs.org.uk

The British-Bulgarian Society celebrated its Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

It is a non-political organization which aims to promote understanding and cultural relations between the people of Britain and Bulgaria.

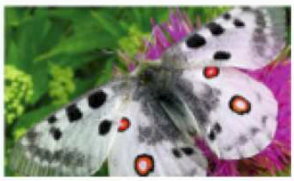
It runs a programme of special interest tours to Bulgaria, including:

- birdwatching
- butterflies
- wine and food
- folklore festivals
- archaeology

Proceeds from the tours are donated to a variety of conservation and educational projects.

The Society also organizes social and cultural events.

Do join us!



The friendliest way to visit Bulgaria

ARTISTS

Georgi Andreev - gudoulka (Bulgarian folk fiddle)

Georgi Andreev was born 1969 in Haskovo, Bulgaria, where he began studying music at a young age. In 1988, Georgi graduated from the School of Folklore Music “Shiroka Laka” where he majored in the gadulka, which is a traditional Bulgarian bowstring instrument. In 1997, he went on to complete the class of composing at the Academy of Music “Pancho Vladigerov,” graduating with honors. A winner of multiple national awards, Georgi has directed numerous national orchestras and ensembles, composing for the Bulgarian national radio and authoring more than 400 songs and plays. Georgi Andreev brilliantly merges classical choral-orchestral music with traditional rhythms and folk styles that are rarely encountered today. Georgi Andreev is also a chief conductor of the famous Bulgarian National Folklore Ensemble Philip Koutev.

Vania Vatralova-Stankov - soprano

Vania’s performances on the opera and concert stage have been celebrated by both the critics and the audiences. ‘Opera Magazine’ praised her performance of Ana Bolena’s role stating that she ‘sang with the kind of determination that defies categorization’. She has participated at major international festivals in Europe and also has performed with orchestras such as Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, and Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra. Vania has taken Master Classes with Renata Scotto, Montserrat Caballé, and Mirella Freni. The Bulgarian soprano is a finalist of several international competitions and a recipient of numerous awards and scholarships. Vania has also recorded for the major Bulgarian and Spanish Television and Radio Channels - BNR, RTVE, Antena 3, Canal 9, and TV3. As well as her numerous recordings for TV and Radio Vania recorded on CD the music to ‘Misterio de Elche’ (Mystery of Elche) – a spectacle declared by UNESCO as Patrimony of the Humanity Treasure. Her debut CD album ‘Operatic Favourites’ was also critically acclaimed by ‘Music and Vision’ - "...she seems to have a lyric voice, but one which has a richness and depth to it... Here (in Turandot) Vatralova-Stankov sounds a little like Caballé in the role…”.

ARTISTS

Rossen Milanov

Respected and admired by audiences and musicians alike, Rossen Milanov is currently the Music Director of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra and recently completed his second season with the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra to enthusiastic acclaim. He is also the Music Director of the Princeton Symphony and the Orquesta Sinfónica del Principado de Asturias (OSPA) in Spain.

The 2016/17 Columbus season builds upon many of the innovative ideas that were introduced in his first season—thematic festivals, enrichment programs, integrated experiences, and collaborations with other local cultural institutions. In Princeton, he is continuing the tradition of adventurous programming and collaborating with violinist Leila Josefowicz, clarinetist David Krakauer, and composers Saad Haddad and Zhou Tian. In Spain, he will conduct the Spanish premiere of Tchaikovsky's Mazeppa with the Oviedo Opera and the gala concert of the "Princess of Asturias" awards with OSPA.

Upcoming performances include Tchaikovsky's critically acclaimed Alexei Ratmansky revival of Swan Lake in Paris with La Scala Ballet and in Zurich with the Zurich Opera. Maestro Milanov will be collaborating with the American Composer's Orchestra in New York; the Slovenian Radio and TV Orchestra in Ljubljana; Nigel Kennedy at Barbican Centre in London; the American Composers Orchestra in New York City; the Malaysian Philharmonic; Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and the Civic Orchestra in Chicago.

His recent season highlights include appearances with the Colorado, Detroit, Milwaukee, Vancouver, Fort Worth, Aalborg, and Latvian National Symphony Orchestras; National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Zurich Opera, Hyogo Performing Arts Center Orchestra, and his Link Up education projects with Carnegie Hall with the Orchestra of St. Luke's. He also appeared with Opera Oviedo in Spain, Hungarian National Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg, New York City Ballet, Pacific Symphony, and the Curtis Symphony Orchestra in Verizon Hall in Philadelphia.

Mr. Milanov has collaborated with some of the world's preeminent artists, including Yo-Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman, Joshua Bell, Midori, Christian Tetzlaff, and André Watts. During his eleven-year tenure with The Philadelphia Orchestra, Milanov conducted more than 200 performances, as Associate Conductor and as Artistic Director of the Orchestra's summer home at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts. In 2015, he completed a 15-year tenure as Music Director of the nationally recognized training orchestra Symphony in C in New Jersey. His passion for new music has resulted in numerous world premieres of works by composers such as Richard Danielpour, Nicolas Maw, and Gabriel Prokofiev, among others.

Rossen Milanov studied conducting at the Curtis Institute of Music and the Juilliard School, where he received the Bruno Walter Memorial Scholarship.

A passionate chef, he often dedicates his culinary talents to various charities.

ARTISTS

The London Bulgarian Choir

In November 2000, Dessislava Stefanova gathered a handful of friends and Bulgarian music enthusiasts in the Islington Arts Factory. On that night, the London Bulgarian Choir was born – but never renamed. Now, fifty-strong and thoroughly international, they have brought the traditional folk music of Bulgaria not only to concert halls and churches, but also to nightclubs, festivals, dark forests, rock concerts and even a barge on the Thames.

The Choir's notable achievements include winning the title of BBC Radio 3 Open Choir of the Year in 2006, featuring as one of Joan Armatrading's Favourite Choirs on BBC Radio 4 in 2008 and performing at Westminster Abbey in 2010. They have collaborated with numerous rock, jazz and classical musicians, most prominently with rock band Doves at the BBC Electric Proms, broadcast live on BBC 2 in October 2009, with the English Chamber Orchestra in 2011, with pop singer Sophie Ellis-Bextor in 2013 and with renowned Welsh singer Cerys Matthews in 2015. Members of the choir sang on the award-winning soundtrack of the BBC's Elizabeth, the Virgin Queen, on the movie Troy and are the voice of a long-extinct civilisation on the Microsoft X-Box game HALO 4.

The choir has released two albums, Alyana Galyana (2007) and Goro Le Goro (2012). Tours of Bulgaria in 2005, 2010 and 2015 took the choir's London-flavoured Bulgarian songs back to their spiritual homeland.

Dessislava Stefanova

Aged 5, Dessi was quite certain that singing suited her perfectly and set upon convincing the rest of the world. After a childhood spent performing with the Zagorche children's folk ensemble, she went on to become a professional singer and assistant conductor with the renowned Philip Koutev Bulgarian National Folk Ensemble.

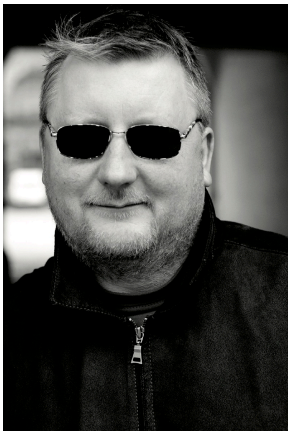
She moved to the UK in 2000, and quickly established a reputation as a teacher and conductor of Bulgarian singing, leading workshops around the world and directing mass choral events Whispering Woods, Singing Streets and Town To Earth. She is also a soloist. Her voice can be heard lending drama to key moments in Troy, The Brothers Grimm, Elizabeth the Virgin Queen, Ghost Ship, Atlantis, Borat, Ben Hur and games HALO 4 and 5. She has toured with Balkan Beat Box, A Spell in Time and the Ricciotti Ensemble. In 2011 the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs awarded Dessi a silver medal for her and the choir's contribution to Bulgarian culture.

Kiril Todorov

Tonight's orchestral arrangements of Bulgarian songs are by acclaimed Bulgarian composer Kiril Todorov. Although he started his professional life as concertmaster for the Stara Zagora Opera, his passion for traditional music led him to start writing choral arrangements of the Thracian songs he had learnt from his mother in childhood. During his 50-year career as a composer, he has written over 2,000 works and directed pioneering vocal ensembles Trayana and Folk Scat, blending folk and jazz into a sublime a cappella genre. In March 2010, he was made Emeritus Professor by the Bulgarian Academy of Science in recognition of his contribution to music. He has travelled especially from Bulgaria to be here tonight!

ARTISTS

Adam Czerwinski – drums / percussion



Leading drummer on Polish Jazz scene. Composer, arranger and producer. Began his professional career in Janusz Muniak band, then played with 'D-Box', 'Joung Power', 'New Presentation', Jan Ptaszyn Wróblewski and Zbigniew Namysłowski. Since 1993 he has been playing with Jarosław Smietana. Together with Smietana they played hundreds of concerts in clubs and festivals all over the world. During his musical career Adam has been playing and recording as a sideman with many great American musicians: John Scofield, Art Farmer, Lee Konitz, John Abercrombie, Garry Bartz, Eddie Henderson, Larry Koonze, Harvie Swartz, Cameron Brown, Jean Poul Bourelli, Bennie Wallace, Hamiet Bluiette and James Newton. Last years brought him an extraordinary experience of working with the great artist and superb violinist - Nigel Kennedy. As a composer and an arranger has led his own bands. He has released seven records as a leader and play on more than eighty as a sideman.

Tomasz Kupiec – bass / double bass

A prized sideman and a session musician. The graduate of the Jazz Department of the Music Academy in Katowice, Poland, Mr Kupiec has collaborated with some eminent representatives of both Polish and European jazz; Jarek Smietana, Zbigniew Namyslowski, Janusz Muniak, Urszula Dudziak, Scott Hammilton, Harry Sokal or Karen Edwards. His artist achievement are almost 50 recorded CDs and performances in best concert halls on every continents.

Rolf Bussalb – guitar

A guitar-obsessive, German-born Rolf Bussalb began learning guitar when he was aged 11, inspired by The Beatles, The Who, Jeff Beck and many other prominent musicians of the golden age of guitar playing. He progressed to jazz and improvised music in general and moved to Los Angeles to study at GIT/LA Musicians Institute. There he was taught by musicians as diverse as Robben Ford, Scott Henderson, Joe Pass just to name a few. On his return to Germany, Rolf began touring and recording with a whole host of artists.

Julian Buschberger – guitar

Julian Buschberger grew up in a small village near Linz. His parents had a piano at home he started playing some popular music on the piano at the age of 6. He changed to the saxophone, which he played only for one year because he discovered his love to Hard Rock Music and he was fond of popular bands such as AC/DC, Black Sabbath, Led Zeppelin and Iron Maiden. From this point on he learnt the electric guitar and has played in different bands since the age of 14. He had became a musician in great demand and has performed in many different genres in Austria. In summer 2014, he played in Straubing (Germany), where Nigel Kennedy was among the audience. A few months later he was asked by Nigel if he wanted to get involved in his new Hendrix project - and of course, he agreed with pleasure. In September, 2014 Julian moved to Vienna in order to study music and to get in touch with the music scene of Vienna, too. Julian has been working and tour with Nigel now for the past year.

Pawel Tomaszewski - piano

Pianist, composer, arranger, and producer. Lecturer at Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice, the same Academy where he received his degree in Piano Performance in 2007, and degree in Composition and Arrangements in 2006. In 2013, Pawel obtained his Ph.D. with specialization in Piano Playing. In his career, Pawel has played with various Polish and international jazz stars on stages around the world. He has extended experience in performing solo concerts as well as concerts with symphony orchestras. His work appears on over 20 CDs, including his own albums ‘Actual Proof’, Myrczek & Tomaszewski ‘Love Revisited’ in addition to TV and radio recordings on which he performed as a pianist, keyboardist, Hammond player, arranger and music producer. He is a big band and symphony orchestra composer for Polish Jazz Symphony and Symphony of the Galaxies for jazz quintet and string orchestra. In 2009, Pawel’s album ‘Dedication’ with Grzegorz Nagórski Quartet won the prestigious Fryderyk Award in the category ‘Jazz Debut of the Year’. Pawel has also served as a teacher on several international jazz workshops in Puławay, Chodziez, Szczecin, Nysa, St. Petersburg and Archangielsk among others.

ARTISTS

Philharmonia Orchestra

The Philharmonia Orchestra is one of the world's great orchestras. Widely acknowledged for its pioneering approach to the role of an orchestra in the 21st century, the Philharmonia leads the field for the quality of its playing and its innovative work with residencies, music education, audience development and the use of new technology to reach a global audience. Together with its relationships with the world's most sought-after artists, most importantly its Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor Esa-Pekka Salonen, the Philharmonia is at the heart of British musical life.

The Philharmonia performs more than 160 concerts a year, as well as recording music for films, video games and commercial audio releases. The Orchestra's home is Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall in the heart of London, where the Philharmonia has been resident since 1995 and performs 40 concerts a year. Under Esa-Pekka Salonen a series of flagship, visionary projects at Royal Festival Hall – distinctive for both their artistic scope and supporting live and digital content – have been critically acclaimed. Projects including City of Light: Paris 1900-1950 (2015), City of Dreams: Vienna 1900 -1935 (2009), Bill Viola's Tristan und Isolde (2010) and Infernal Dance: Inside the World of Béla Bartók (2011) were followed in 2016 by the major, five-concert series Stravinsky: Myths & Rituals.

The Orchestra is committed to presenting the same world-class, live music-making in venues throughout the country as it does in London, especially at its UK residencies, where up to seven concerts each season are complemented by a wide-ranging education and audience development programme. The Orchestra's UK residencies are at Bedford's Corn Exchange (since 1995), De Montfort Hall in Leicester (since 1997), the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury, Three Choirs Festival and The Anvil in Basingstoke, where it has been Orchestra in Partnership since 2001.

A busy international touring schedule takes the Orchestra all over the world. Projects in 2016/17 include a major West Coast US tour (October 2016) and a tour to Japan and Taiwan (spring 2017), both with Esa-Pekka Salonen. Recent highlights include the 2016 Festival International d'Art Lyrique d'Aix-en-Provence, where the Orchestra and Esa-Pekka Salonen were in residence, performing two Stravinsky programmes and Debussy's Pelléas et Mélisande, directed by Katie Mitchell.

Central to the Philharmonia and Esa-Pekka Salonen's work in London, the UK and internationally are their digital projects, all of which are designed to communicate the thrill of the experience of a live orchestra to audiences outside the concert hall. In September 2016, in partnership with Southbank Centre, the Orchestra presents The Virtual Orchestra, a free two-week series in the public spaces of Royal Festival Hall, culminating with a specially programmed concert at the venue. The project features 360 Experience, the first major Virtual Reality presentation from a UK symphony orchestra, and giant audio-visual installation, Universe of Sound:

The Planets, first premièred at the Science Museum in spring 2012.

Both Universe of Sound and its predecessor RE-RITE (2010, based on Stravinsky's The Rite of Spring) toured internationally and were at the heart of a major two-year audience development and education initiative, iOrchestra (2014-15), which took place in South-West England and engaged over 120,000 people. The project also featured a pop-up interactive digital music installation, MusicLab, which used the latest technologies to create a series of hands-on musical games and interactions. The Orchestra has won four Royal Philharmonic Society awards for its digital project and audience engagement work.

The Philharmonia Orchestra was formed in 1945 by Walter Legge. It has been a self-governing orchestra since 1964 and is owned by its 80 members. During its first seven decades, the Orchestra collaborated with most of the great classical artists of the 20th century. Conductors associated with the Orchestra include Furtwängler, Richard Strauss, Toscanini, Cantelli, Karajan and Giulini. Otto Klemperer was the first of many outstanding Principal Conductors, and other great names have included Lorin Maazel (Associate Principal Conductor), Sir Charles Mackerras (Principal Guest Conductor), Riccardo Muti (Principal Conductor and Music Director), Kurt Sanderling (Conductor Emeritus) and Giuseppe Sinopoli (Music Director).

As well as Esa-Pekka Salonen, Principal Conductor since 2008, current titled conductors are Christoph von Dohnányi (formerly Principal Conductor, now Honorary Conductor for Life) and Vladimir Ashkenazy (Conductor Laureate). Also a central figure in today's Orchestra is composer and Artistic Director of the long-running Music of Today series in London, Unsuk Chin. A second strand of free, early-evening programming was added to the London season in 2015 with a chamber music recital series, programmed and performed by members of the Orchestra, many of whom perform widely as solo and chamber musicians.

Millions of people since 1945 have enjoyed their first experience of classical music through a Philharmonia recording, and today audiences engage with the Orchestra through video games, film scores and its award-winning portfolio of videos and documentary films. An app, The Orchestra for iPad, released in December 2012, has sold tens of thousands of copies.

Recording and broadcasting both continue to play a significant part in the Orchestra's activities, notably through its partnership with Signum Records, releasing new live recordings of Philharmonia performances with its key conductors. Since 2003 the Philharmonia has enjoyed a major partnership with Classic FM, as the Classic FM Orchestra on Tour, as well as continuing to broadcast extensively on BBC Radio 3.

The Philharmonia's Education work sits at the centre of the life and wider work of the Orchestra. The department's work falls into four distinct strands – Schools and Young People, Communities and Family, Insights, and the Emerging Artists programme, reaching tens of thousands of people every year. Recent projects include instrumental projects with Music Hub partners; Key Stage 2 concerts Orchestra Unwrapped; intergenerational creative music-making community project Hear and Now in Bedford; a large-scale community commission to celebrate the discovery of King Richard III's remains in Leicester called The Last Plantagenet; a pioneering urban-classical project called Symphonize in Leicester; and The Firebird, an award-winning collaborative schools project working across Hounslow and Richmond boroughs.

The Philharmonia's Emerging Artists programme includes the Composers Academy, linked to Music of Today, and the Martin Musical Scholarship Fund, which has for many years supported talented musicians at the start of their careers. In 2016/17, the Orchestra relaunches the scheme as the Philharmonia MMSF Instrumental Fellowship Programme – an enhanced offer for young musicians, supporting instrumentalists seeking an orchestral career and connecting them to the wider life of the Philharmonia and the expertise within its membership.

The Philharmonia's Principal International Partner is Wuliangye.
www.philharmonia.co.uk

JOIN THE BALKAN ADVENTURE

25 October - 30 November, 2016

www.lfbc.eu - PROGRAMME

TUESDAY, 25 OCT 2016, 7.30PM

Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2Y 8DS
BALKAN BLAZE, with Nigel Kennedy - violin, Georgi Andreev gudoulka, Vania Vatralova-Stankov – soprano, Rossen Milanov – conductor, The London Bulgarian Choir led by Dessislava Stefanova, Philharmonia Orchestra.
Tickets: £55, £45, £35, £25, £15, book on www.lfbc.eu

THURSDAY, 3 NOV 2016, 6PM

Lubomirov/Angus-Hughes Gallery,
26 Lower Clapton Road, London E5 0PD
EXHIBITION - Lifestyles and Still Life, private view
Exhibition opened from November 3 until November 27
Tickets: Free admission

FRIDAY, 4 NOV 2016, 8PM

Vue Cinema West End, 3 Cranbourn Street, Leicester Square, London WC2H 7AL
Gala Evening for the presentation of the TV series"UNDERCOVER", organised by the Bulgarian Cultural Institute in London
Tickets: £20.96, book on www.lfbc.eu

SUNDAY, 6 NOV 2016, 6.30PM

Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL
A musical journey along the Danube: through Bulgaria and beyond...
Chamber music Concert 1: Evgeniy Chevkenov – violin, Devorina Gamalova – viola, Sasho Somov – violoncello, Julita Fasseva – double bass, Simon Callaghan – piano
Tickets: £10, Free entry for under-26s

SUNDAY, 13 NOV 2016, 6.30PM

Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL
A musical journey along the Danube: through Bulgaria and beyond…
Chamber music Concert 2: Pavel Minev – violin, Ivo Stankov – violin, Alexander Zemtsov – viola, Guy Johnston – violoncello, Ashley Wass – piano
Tickets: £10, Free entry for under-26s, book on www.lfbc.eu

SUNDAY, 20 NOV 2016, 6.30PM

Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL
A musical journey along the Danube: through Bulgaria and beyond...
Chamber music Concert 3: Dimitar Burov – violin, Yana Burova – violin, Michael Gieler – viola, Gerard Le Feuvre – violoncello, Ludmil Angelov – piano
Tickets: £10, Free entry for under-26s, book on www.lfbc.eu

FRIDAY, 25 NOV 2016, 7PM

Lubomirov/Angus-Hughes Gallery, 26 Lower Clapton Road, London E5 0PD
FILM SCREENING, By the Grace of God / 37'00'', UK, 2009 Ralitza Petrova
Tickets: Free admission

SUNDAY, 27 NOV 2016, 6.30PM

St. Mark's Church, St. Mark's Place, London SW19 7ND
Charity concert by Devorina Gamalova
Devorina Gamalova – violin / viola, Natasha Sarcevic – piano, and students
Donations on the door, book tickets on fbb@abv.bg

WEDNESDAY, 30 NOV 2016, 7.30PM

C**adogan Hall**, Sloane Terrace, London SW1X 9DQ
From Bach to the Bulgarian deep Bass
Svetlin Roussev – violin, Ivo Stankov – violin, Scott Lygate – bass clarinet, Vania Vatralova-Stankov – soprano, Charlotte Stephenson – mezzo soprano, Martin Georgiev – conductor, St. Paul's Girls & Francis Holland Schools, London Mozart Players
Tickets: £35, £25, £15, £10, book on www.lfbc.eu

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25 October - 30 November, 2016

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The LFBC Idea

London Festival of Bulgarian Culture is an idea about sharing the hidden gems of Bulgarian culture and art with the world - it is a personal vision of its creators, Vania, Ivo and Lachezar Stankov, which over the years grew to becoming a collective project involving now over 200 performers and artists in every festival edition.

The idea started with a performance of a Bulgarian piece of music at one of the most iconic stages, the Wigmore Hall, in 2006 and now, 10 years on, you will see on the festival's bill one of the most successful artists of all times, Nigel Kennedy, opening this year's 4th edition performing Bulgarian music in partnership with the virtuoso gudoulka (Bulgarian folk fiddle) player Georgi Andreev.

Why does LFBC need support

We are asking our friends and sponsors for financial support in order to continue to offer the highest possible artistic quality at a very reasonable price to our audiences. The ticket sales from all festival events could not cover all the costs such as hire of the venues, artists' fees, advertisement and marketing, transportation, accommodation for artists, and other many operational and production costs.

In addition, this year's festival does not benefit from a general sponsor, while it is presenting its most ambitious programme ever. For these reasons we need your support now. Your donation will go a long way. With your support, as little or large it may be, we would ensure that the festival, which is run as a charity on a strictly volunteering basis will continue to grow and present proudly and positively the largely unknown Bulgarian culture to the wider audiences in London and the UK.

The present 4th edition of LFBC

Please have a look at the programme of the current festival on the previous page in this brochure.
We are presenting our most ambitious programmme with Nigel Kennedy headlining, and many other amazing artists - please come and support us attending any of the concerts and events!

Collaborators and partners

As our festival is growing and moving forward in new and exciting ways we would like to recognise some of our colleagues, friends and supporters who have become an integral part of the organisation of this year's festival already:

Dimitar Burov - Head of Strings at Harrow School
Simon Callaghan - pianist and Artistic Director of Conway Hall Series

Konstantin Dimitrov - Ambassador in London of the Republic of Bulgaria
Svetla Dionissieva - Director of the Bulgarian Cultural Institute
Devorina Gamalova - violin and viola Professor at Junior Trinity School of Music
Martin Georgiev - composer and conductor
Prince Kyril – Saxe – Patron of LFBC
Iavor Lubomirov - artist and exhibition curator
Sonia Rouve – Uvalieva - Patron of LFBC
Dessi Stefanova - Artistic Director of London Bulgarian Choir
Evgeni Vassilev - Graphic and web designer

There are also many other friends and supporters who are helping the LFBC in wonderful ways to run as smoothly as possible - we would not be able to achieve any of it without them!

A brief history of LFBC

London Festival of Bulgarian Culture has already celebrated 3 successful editions in 2010, 2012, and 2014. More than 40 events – music, cinema, theatre, and exhibitions have been presented in the month of November every two years since 2010.

Over three hundred Bulgarian, British, and international artists and formations such as the English Chamber Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, London Bulgarian Choir, Le Mystere Des Voix Bulgares, The Big Band of Bulgarian National Radio, etc., have participated in concert venues in London, attracting a combined audience of more than 20 000.

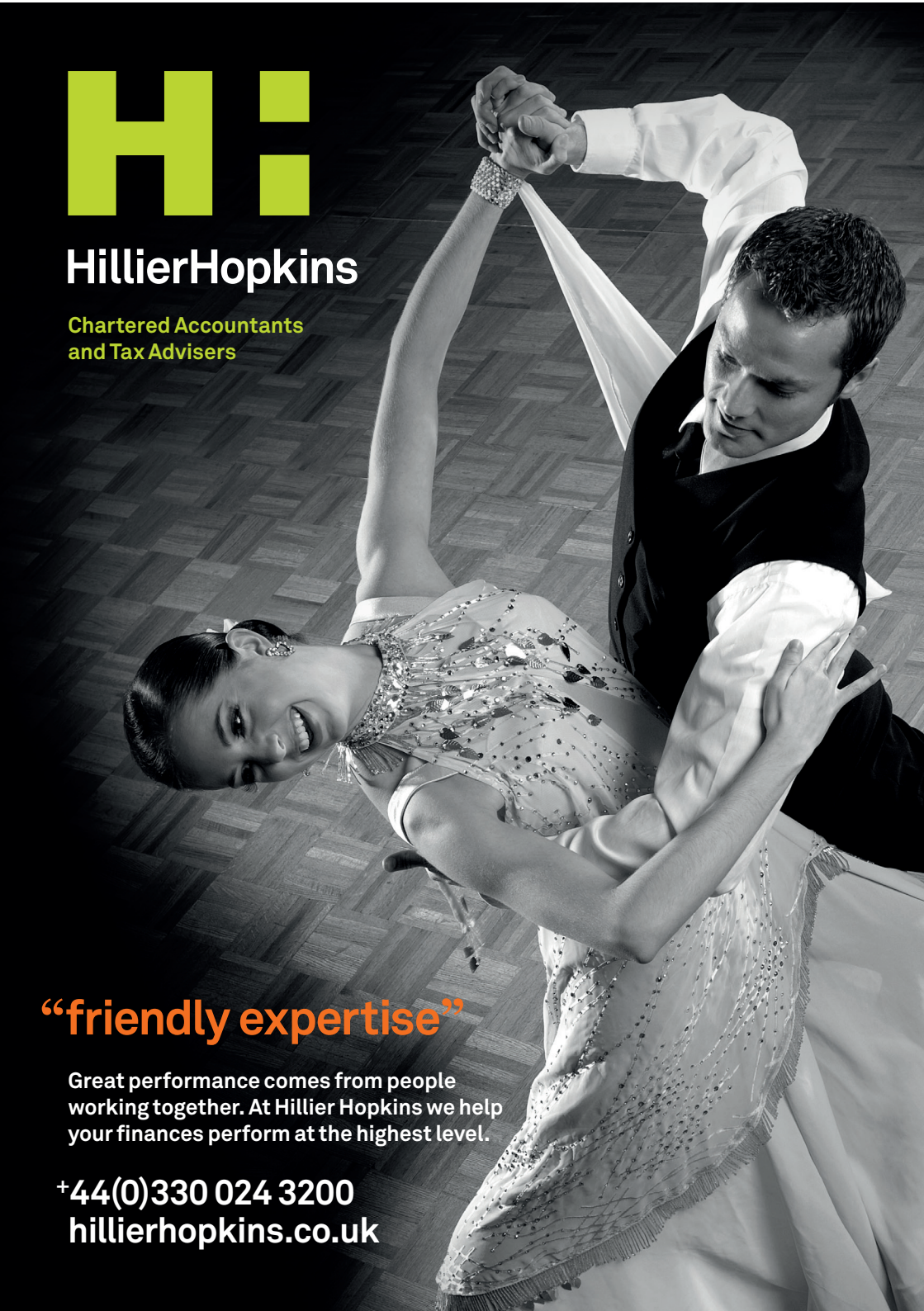
The presentation of lesser known music composed by historic Bulgarian composers, and new music created by both British and Bulgarian composers has been one of the principal aims of the festival which has already seen its objective largely fulfilled through the presentation of over 30 World, UK, and London premières.

Many theatre, cinema, exhibitions and cultural events have also been presented and organized by the Bulgarian Cultural Institute as part of the Festival, showcasing Bulgaria's rich cultural heritage. In addition, a number of educational projects (which are also part of the Festival's principal aims) have seen the participation of some of London's top schools: Whitgift School, James Allen's Girls' School, and St. Paul's Girls' School.

The London Festival of Bulgarian Culture is a partner organisation with the Bulgarian Cultural Institute in London, and is supported by the Bulgarian Embassy in London. Patrons of LFBC are the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture, Prince Kyril Saxe-Coburg, and Sonia Rouve – Uvalieva.

DONATE TONIGHT!

We hope that you truly have a wonderful time tonight and enjoy the concert! On your way out you will see our collaborators holding brightly wrapped donation boxes - **please support our cause to make a difference by donating as little or as much as you can!**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The City of London Corporation is the founder and principal funder of the Barbican Centre

Please make sure that digital watch alarms and mobile phones are switched off during the performance.

Please try not to cough until the normal breaks in the performance.

In accordance with the requirements of the licensing authority, it is not permitted to stand or sit in any gangway.

No smoking, eating or drinking is allowed in the auditorium.

No cameras or any other recording equipment may be taken into the hall.

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