

LSO St Luke's

CHAMBER MUSIC

BBC
RADIO 3

**NEW GENERATION ARTISTS
SOLO PIANO RECITAL**

Friday 18 October 2024 1–2.05pm
Jerwood Hall, LSO St Luke's

John Corigliano Fantasia on an Ostinato
Ludwig van Beethoven Eroica Variations
Alexander Gadjiev Improvisations
Franz Liszt Funérailles
Frédéric Chopin 'Heroic' Polonaise in A-flat major

Alexander Gadjiev piano

Recorded for future broadcast on **BBC Radio 3**

LSO

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THE CRYPT BAR

The Crypt Bar is open from one hour before concerts and during the interval (where applicable). Please note, card payments only. Only cold drinks are permitted inside the Jerwood Hall.

PROGRAMME NOTE WRITER

Kate Hopkins is English-language editor (concerts) for Salzburg Festival. She has written articles for organisations including the London Symphony Orchestra, the Philharmonia, the Salzburg Festival and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and book reviews for *NB Magazine* and *The Wagner Journal*.

Fantasia on an Ostinato

John Corigliano



1985



15 minutes

Fantasia on an Ostinato is based on the famous repeated pattern (ostinato) that opens the second movement of Ludwig van Beethoven's Seventh Symphony. This short figure continues unvaried – albeit with changing dynamics and increasingly elaborate accompaniment – for around four minutes. In writing a fantasia – a free-form composition – on this theme, John Corigliano hoped 'to combine the attractive aspects of minimalism with convincing structure and emotional expression'.

The work is divided into two parts. The first explores and develops the harmonies of the first half of the ostinato, and its rhythmic elements. The more elaborate second part develops and extends the second half of the ostinato, with ever more adventurous harmonies and ornate rhythmic patterns. The work ends in a grand statement of Beethoven's original theme. *Fantasia on an Ostinato* was commissioned in 1985 as a competition piece for the 1986 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

Coming Up at the Barbican

Thursday 28 November 7pm

Helmut Lachenmann My Melodies
(Music for Eight Horns and Orchestra)

Interval

Ludwig van Beethoven Symphony No 7

Ilan Volkov conductor

LSO Horns

London Symphony Orchestra

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Eroica Variations

Ludwig van Beethoven



1802



25 minutes

Ludwig van Beethoven's 'Eroica' Variations for piano are so called because the work's cheerful theme is the same that opens the finale of his Eroica Symphony (1803–4). In fact, the piano variations were written first, in 1802, and the theme dates from even earlier, from the finale of the composer's 1801 ballet *The Creatures of Prometheus*. Beethoven was especially proud of the originality of the 'Eroica' Variations, and their companion piece, Six Variations on an Original Theme in F major Op 34, writing to his publisher that they were 'arranged in a truly quite new fashion'.

The work opens with a massive, attention-grabbing E-flat major chord. As in the Eroica Symphony, Beethoven initially introduces only the bass part of the theme. Three increasingly ornate variations on it ensue, before he finally gives the theme in full. The 15 main variations that follow are full of rhythmic and melodic invention. Although there are occasional lyrical episodes, they are predominantly

high spirited, with many opportunities for virtuoso display – especially in the flamboyant twelfth and thirteenth variations. The minor-key Variation 14 strikes a briefly pensive note, before Beethoven concludes in a truly heroic manner, with an elaborate fugue (where a repeated melody is accompanied by increasingly elaborate countermelodies) and a majestic restatement of his theme.

Coming Up at the Barbican

Thursday 31 October 7pm

Ludwig van Beethoven Symphony No 1
Ondřej Adámek Follow Me (Concerto for Violin and Orchestra)

Interval

Ludwig van Beethoven Symphony No 4

Thomas Adès conductor
Isabelle Faust violin
London Symphony Orchestra

lso.co.uk/whatson

Funérailles

Franz Liszt



1849



10 minutes

Funérailles is the seventh and most famous piece in Franz Liszt's collection *Harmonies poétiques et religieuses*, published in 1853. It was composed in 1849. Some scholars have tried to connect it to the death of Frédéric Chopin on 17 October that year, suggesting that it includes a quote from Chopin's 'Heroic' Polonaise in A-flat major. Liszt, however, always insisted that its inspiration was the failed Hungarian Uprising against the Habsburgs in 1848–9.

The piece is in four sections. The gloomy opening one is labelled 'Introduzione' and evokes the sound of tolling bells. Figuration recalling trumpet calls heralds the second section: a sombre funeral march which evolves into a heartfelt elegy marked 'l'agrimoso' (tearfully). The third section is also a march, but a heroic one, with cascading octaves in the left hand and military fanfares in the right. The fourth and final section revisits both the elegy and the heroic march, before coming to a surprisingly abrupt, hushed conclusion.

'Heroic' Polonaise in A-flat major

Frédéric Chopin



1842



7 minutes

Poland's national dances inspired Frédéric (Fryderyk) Chopin to some of his greatest piano works. Along with the mazurka, he was especially drawn to the polonaise: a stately triple-time dance popular among the Polish aristocracy. He wrote the Polonaise in A-flat major Op 53 in 1842 at the home of his lover George Sand (Amantine Lucile Aurore Dupin) in Nohant, in central France. The work gained its 'Heroic' nickname several years later, when Sand declared that its force and strength should make it a 'heroic symbol' of the 1848 European revolutions.

The Polish writer Mieczysław Tomaszewski has described the piece as a 'dance poem' that nevertheless maintains the 'pulse and vigour' of a traditional polonaise. It opens with commanding chords; these are followed by a grand statement of the work's main theme, marked forte and maestoso (strong and majestic). In the central section, dramatic fanfares give way to an episode of delicate lyricism. The Polonaise ends with a grand return of the main theme and a victorious coda.

Alexander Gadjiev

piano



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Alexander Gadjiev, winner of numerous prizes such as International Chopin competition Warsaw (2nd prize) and Sydney (1st prize) both in 2021, as well as BBC New Generation Artist from 2019 to 2021, owes his musical experience and Central European culture to his family and his hometown, the Italian-Slovenian border town of Gorizia, a natural crossroads of peoples, cultures and languages.

He is the cultural ambassador of his hometown 'Gorizia – Nova Gorica, European Capital of Culture 2025. In February 2023, he received the Prešeren Prize from the President of Slovenia, the highest award for artists in Slovenia.

Alexander Gadjiev regularly accepts invitations from Europe, Asia and the US, including: Verbier Festival, MiTo Festival in

Turin, 'Chopin' Festival in Duszniki, Piano Festival Rafael Orozco in Cordoba, Ljubljana Festival, Bologna Festival, Settimane Musicali at Teatro Olimpico in Vicenza, Festival Animato de Paris, Salzburg Festival, Festival International de Piano de La Roque d'Anthéron, Teatro La Fenice, Kioi Hall and Bunka Kaikan in Tokyo, Kitara Concert Hall in Sapporo, Hyogo Performing Arts Center in Osaka, Salle Cortot in Paris, Moscow Conservatory, Aldeburgh Festival, concert halls in Salt Lake City, Istanbul, Barcelona, Rome, Milan.

Residencies over several seasons have taken Alexander Gadjiev to the Unione Musicale in Turin and Wigmore Hall London. His debuts at the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino with Zubin Mehta and an immediate re-invitation followed in June 2024, as well as at the Vienna Musikverein with the Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra.

His latest critically acclaimed album on CAvi-music of May 2022 features compositions by Alexander & Nikolai Tcherepnin & Prokofiev. His next solo album for Outhere Music, *Fuga Libera*, will be released in 2025.

FUTURE CONCERTS

Thursday 24 October 1pm
LSO St Luke's

BEETHOVEN DEDICATIONS

Ludwig van Beethoven

Sextet in E-flat major Op 71
Octet in E-flat major Op 103
Rondino in E-flat major

LSO Wind Ensemble

Thursday 7 November 1pm
LSO St Luke's

BEETHOVEN DEDICATIONS

Ludwig van Beethoven String Quartet No 8
in E minor, 'Razmovsky'

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart String Quartet
No 3 in G major

Modigliani Quartet

Thursday 21 November 1pm
LSO St Luke's

ORNAMENTS OF THE BAROQUE

A selection of pieces by **Johann Sebastian Bach, Georg Philipp Telemann, Francesco Barsanti**, and more.

Lucie Horsch recorder

Rachel Podger violin

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