

2017-2018 In Brief

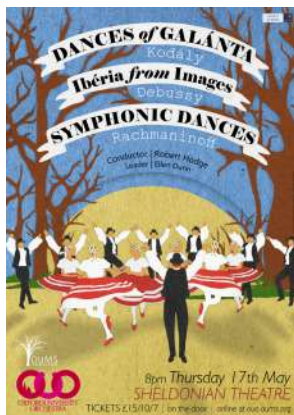


In **Michaelmas 2017** we welcomed the dynamic **Natalia Luis-Bassa** back to conduct a conduct a Russian programme of Borodin's Polovtsian Dances, Tchaikovsky's Romeo & Juliet Fantasy Overture and Prokofiev's magnificent Symphony No. 5. In **Hilary 2018** **Robin Browning** returned to conduct a programme of Ravel La Valse and Mahler's Symphony No. 5.

For our **Trinity Term 2018** concert we took the Dance theme further to play a programme of Kodaly Dances of Galanta, Iberia from Images by Debussy and Rachmaninoff Symphonic Dances with conductor **Robert Hodge**. Excerpts from the Rachmaninoff can be found on our website.

We are delighted to start the next academic year by welcoming back the wonderful **Natalia Luis-Bassa** to conduct a programme of Strauss and Sibelius. We hope that you can join us for the concert on **Thursday November 1st**. We follow this in Hilary term with the return of **Peter Stark** to conduct the monumental Shostakovitch Symphony No. 7. Tickets are available from our website.

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In addition we are planning to take 30 members of the orchestra to Japan over the Easter vacation to partner with the Japanese Orchestra MOTIF and to do outreach work with students in the Fukushima district with El Sistema Japan. Please see the following page for more details of the project and we would welcome your support for this exciting venture.

Please check our website www.ouo.oums.org and facebook page www.facebook.com/oxforduniversityorchestra for more information. We have launched a new alumni facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1467252406684348/> so we would encourage you all to join the group and/or our mailing list to find out more about our upcoming concerts and events. We do hope that you can join us for what promises to be another fantastic year of concerts.

Dates for your diary:

<p>Thursday 1st November 2018 <i>Conductor: Natalia Luis-Bassa</i></p> <p>Strauss – Also Sprach Zarathustra Sibelius – Symphony No. 2</p> <p>Sheldonian Theatre – 8 pm</p>	<p>Thursday 7th February 2019 <i>Conductor: Peter Stark</i></p> <p>Shostakovitch Symphony No. 7</p> <p>Sheldonian Theatre, 8pm</p>	<p>Saturday 25th May 2019 <i>Conductor: Cayenna Ponchione-Bailey</i></p> <p>Sheldonian Theatre, 8pm</p>
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Japan Tour

Music to inspire, regenerate and connect



Our Project

The Oxford University Orchestra is arranging a cultural exchange and outreach tour to Japan. We are planning to take ~30 members of OUO along with guest conductor Cayenna Ponchione-Bailey to partner with **Orchestra MOTIF**, a Japanese orchestra founded by OUO violinist Shun Hioki, and also to engage in outreach work with **El Sistema Japan** in Fukushima. The tour will take place in March 2019 around the time of the 8th anniversary of the Fukushima disaster.

The 8-day tour will comprise:

- Working with **Orchestra MOTIF** and performing a concert in Keio University, Tokyo.
- Working with **El Sistema Japan** to teach and share with local students in an outreach programme in Fukushima.
- Performing a joint concert with the students in Fukushima.
- Additionally we hope to be able to perform for the Oxford Alumni weekend in Tokyo.

Repertoire will showcase both English and Japanese works and we are hoping to commission a composition especially for the occasion.

The tour will:

- Provide a unique opportunity to perform in Japan and experience Japanese culture.
- Engage in music outreach alongside **El Sistema Japan**, teaching, sharing and performing with students in Fukushima as part of the regeneration project.
- Provide opportunities to share, learn and build lasting friendships with the members of **Orchestra MOTIF**, and potentially initiate an exchange programme between OUO and Orchestra MOTIF in the future.
- Demonstrate, the power of music, both as a regeneration tool, as seen in the work with El Sistema Japan in Fukushima, and to bring together people of different backgrounds.

Orchestra MOTIF was established in 2012 and is one of the largest student-led orchestras in Japan. It consists of over 200 players from different universities and engages in various outreach programmes, charity tours, family concerts etc throughout Asia. To hear Shun talking about founding Orchestra MOTIF see: <http://www.voicesfromoxford.org/video/orchestra-motif/850>



El Sistema Japan was founded in 2012 to support the children affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami in March 2011. It is committed to developing life skills in children “through music” to help them overcome the post-disaster challenges. It runs a school-based program for over 2000 students by providing instruments, organizing music classes and providing opportunities for students to participate in an orchestra or chorus. Singing and playing instruments together with peers brings great joy to the children. They perform at community gatherings, the annual Children’s Music Festival and other occasions. These experiences do not only encourage the children’s musical talent but also help them express themselves through music, gain self-esteem and build solidarity with others. For more information see: <http://www.elsistemajapan.org/english-top>



Help us succeed!

We have been working hard alongside our collaborators in Japan to raise the funds to make this tour happen. We still have some way to go and need your help.

- Please **donate** and help us achieve our target - look out for news of our crowdfunding campaign on our webpage www.ouo.oums.org or contact us at ouofriends@gmail.com for more details of how to donate.
- If you or your company would like to **sponsor** our project please contact us at ouofriends@gmail.com
- Please **share** this exciting and important project with friends and family and we would love you to keep up to date with the orchestra by ‘liking’ our page on Facebook!

Thank you for helping to give this project the best chance of success.