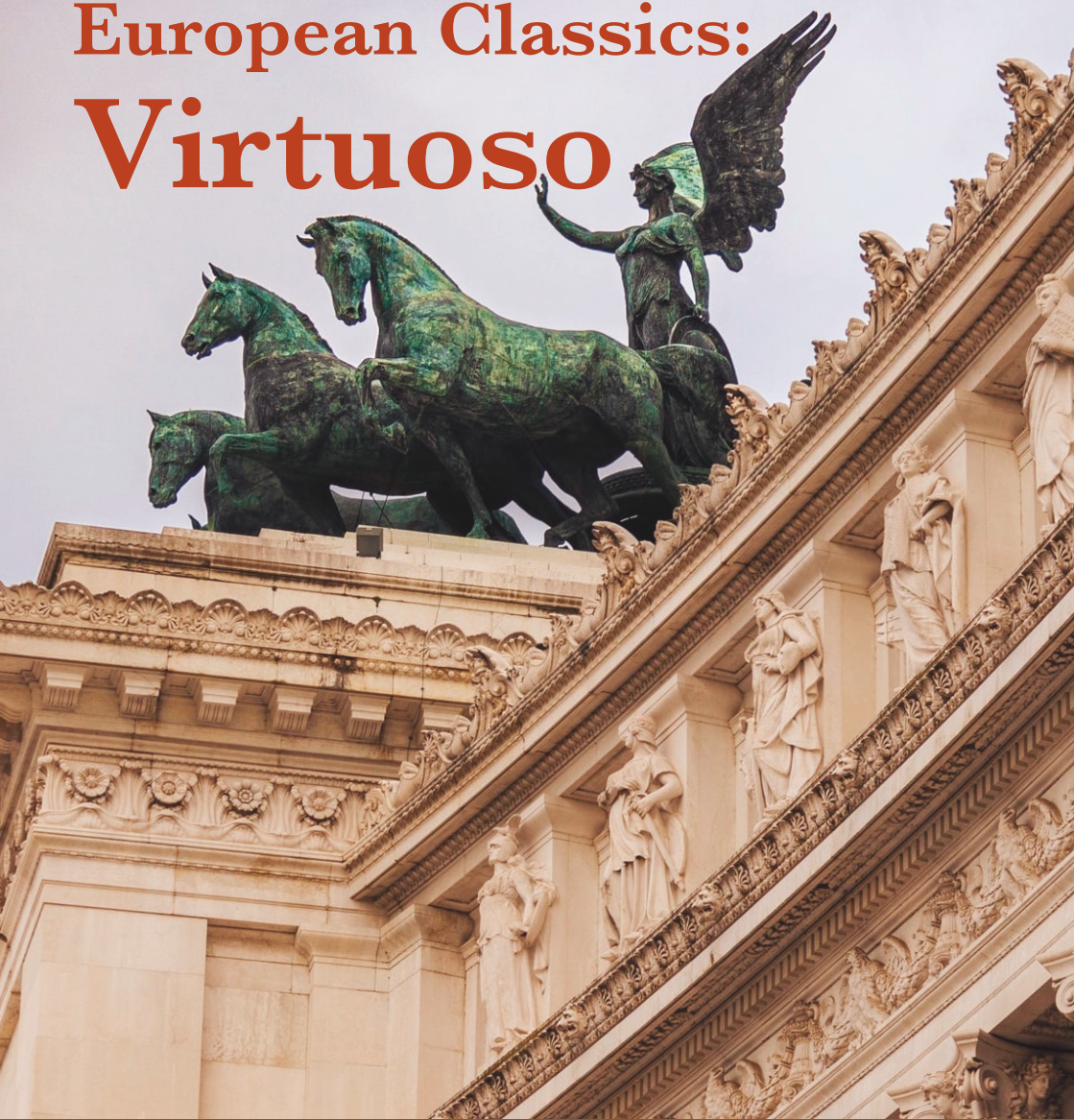


European Classics: Virtuoso



PROGRAMME

Tuesday 13 June 2023

St George's Hanover Square

London
Firebird
Orchestra

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Welcome

Welcome to the last concert of the London Firebird Orchestra's 10th Anniversary Season - Firebird's popular Summer Concert!

Tonight we are performing Mendelssohn, Brahms and a new work by Yury Revich Olario in a dazzling programme conducted by one of our two Principal Guest Conductors, Michael Thrift.

We are delighted to welcome back the multi-award winning, internationally-renowned violin star Yury Revich Olario, performing with us for the fourth time.

Tonight's performance would not have been possible without the unstinting support of our Friends & Benefactors Society. I would like to thank each and every one of our donors who have provided support to the charity.

If you are not yet a member, do please consider joining us as your support would be extremely valuable to the orchestra. Just join online by visiting our website at www.LondonFirebird.com.

Some of our forthcoming 2023/24 season is viewable on our website and the rest will be live over the summer. Do book tickets online!

We hope you enjoy this evening's performance and look forward to seeing you again very soon.

Kindest regards,

Marc Corbett-Weaver

Artistic Director & Chief Executive

Programme design and digital support by Revolution Arts



Felix Mendelssohn (1809 - 1847)

Violin Concerto in E Minor, Op. 64

i Allegro molto appassionato

ii Andante

iii Allegretto non troppo – Allegro molto vivace

Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor was the first truly great concerto for violin since Beethoven's of 1806, and was the last until the concertos of Bruch in 1868, and Tchaikovsky and Brahms, both written in 1878. It is scored for pairs of woodwinds, horns, and trumpets, with timpani and strings.

The work was written late in the composer's life, dating from the end of 1844 (he died in 1847, when he was 38), although much of the piece was sketched over the course of the previous decade.

He dedicated it to his childhood friend, the virtuoso violinist Ferdinand David, who helped as technical advisor during the concerto's composition. It premiered on the 13th of March 1845 in Leipzig, Germany, with David as soloist.

The concerto was ground-breaking and departed from established concerto conventions in several ways.

Opening immediately with the soloist and completely foregoing the customary orchestral exposition, it begins with the soloist playing the main theme, a charming melody that has become the signature of the work as a whole.

Traditionally cast in sonata form, the movement shows Mendelssohn's skill in paring down the orchestral fabric, allowing smaller groups of instruments to accompany the soloist.



The first movement is fused to the second by a single sustained note played by the bassoon, leading to a lyrical andante theme.

In this middle movement, the violin sings passages of lyrical beauty, accompanied by technically difficult multiple stops (different strings beyond played at once).

The finale is sparkling, lively and elegant, showcasing the virtuoso whilst never sacrificing technical display for musical beauty and integrity

Yury Revich Olario (1991 -)

Symphony No.1

‘Kaleidoscope’ (*World Premiere*)

This symphonic fusion comprises of four movements, each representing a unique facet of the human experience.

Inspired by the diversity of music traditions throughout times and continents, this symphony is a journey through the kaleidoscope of life.

It reflects the fast rhythm of the modern world we live in, where tradition merges with innovation, and cultures blend to create a unique fusion of past and future, east and west.

Labyrinthine

In the first movement, the listener is taken on a labyrinthine journey through a world of soundscapes and patterns, where juxtaposed melodic fragments create one another. As if through a kaleidoscope, the listener is immersed in a world of constantly changing colours and shapes.

Rooz-e aftabi *Sunny day* (Persian)

The second movement is a celebration of life, where the beat of middle eastern flair and jazz come together to evoke the warmth and radiance of a sunny day. The listener is transported to a place where the sun of hope shines throughout despite all the challenges, and the music reflects the vibrancy of life and hope.

The Magic Forest

In the third movement, the listener is invited to a moment of mindfulness, a moment of peaceful walk through the magic forest. The wooden strings instruments mimic the trees, each with its



own story, yet they all harmonise, creating a symphony of sounds that transport the listener to a place of tranquility and wonder.

Peymat ha-zman *The Beat of Time* (Hebrew)

The finale is a reflection of the unpredictable nature of the modern world we live in. It is a film where the scenario changes with each passing moment, where the beat of time drives the listener through a kaleidoscope of memories and experiences.

Yury Revich Olario

Johannes Brahms (1833 - 1897)

Symphony No.1 in C minor, Op. 68

i Un poco sostenuto — Allegro — Meno allegro

ii Andante sostenuto

iii Un poco allegretto e grazioso

iv Adagio — Più andante — Allegro non troppo, ma con brio — Più allegro

Johannes Brahms' first symphony, in the darkly dramatic key of C minor, took over twenty years to complete, from 1855 to 1876. Brahms was a perfectionist, and intensely self-critical (many of his compositions he destroyed before ever being performed), and in the genre of symphony was painfully self-conscious of the shadow of the herculean Beethoven looming over him.

He tinkered with the work for years until he was totally satisfied with it. When it was first performed on the 4th of November 1876, Brahms was a relatively mature 43 years old (by way of contrast, by the same age Beethoven had already written eight of his total nine symphonies, and Mozart died at 35). The prolonged gestation resulted in triumph. Soon after its premier, the leading conductor Hans von Bülow praised the work as 'Beethoven's Tenth' (high praise indeed, though, as noted below, Brahms had mixed feelings about constant comparisons with Beethoven).

The first movement begins with a broad introduction, in which three key elements are heard together: low drumming, a rising theme in the string section, and a falling theme in the winds. This opening is notable for being subtle and without fanfare. It leads to the allegro section of the movement, which is a large orchestral sonata (themes are stated, developed

in different keys, then restated in conclusion, but with different relationships between them).

The second and third movements are gentler and less intense than the first and fourth. The second, a slow movement, is tender and song-like. There is a long violin solo section.

The third movement, which is like a scherzo, is somewhat carefree in mood. It has a pastoral character. But beneath the light-footed surface are complex rhythms and textures.

The fourth and final movement begins with a slow introduction. There follows on horns and timpani a merry tune from a song that Brahms once overheard an Alpine shepherd singing, with the words, "High on the hill, deep in the dale, I send you a thousand greetings!". The other main theme of the movement is a chorale-like melody reminiscent of the 'Ode to Joy' theme in the final movement of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony – Brahms found it irksome when this was pointed out as a 'discovery', which suggested some hidden plagiarism, rather than, as was intended (and achieved), an open and original stylistic homage. A resplendent brass-rich march, culminating in a tense rhythm, launches the work's thrilling conclusion.



PROGRAMME

European Classics: Virtuoso

Tuesday 13 June 2023
St George's Hanover Square

Felix Mendelssohn (1809 - 1847)

Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64

i Allegro molto appassionato

ii Andante

iii Allegretto non troppo - Allegro molto vivace

Yury Revich Olario (b. 1991)

Symphony No.1 'Kaleidoscope' (*World Premiere*)

i Labyrinthine

ii Rooz-e aftabi (Sunny day - Persian)

iii. The Magic Forest

iv Peymat ha-zman (The Beat of Time - Hebrew)

INTERVAL

Johannes Brahms (1833 - 1897)

Symphony no. 1, Op. 68

i Un poco sostenuto - Allegro - Meno allegro

ii Andante Sostenuto

iii Un poco allegretto e grazioso

iv. Adagio - Più andante - Allegro non troppo, ma con brio - Più allegro

Michael Thrift conductor

Yury Revich Olario violin

Calyssa Davidson violin

London Firebird Orchestra

Programme notes by Michael Manning Clark

Members of the audience are respectfully requested to refrain from filming or recording any part of this evening's performance on phones or other electronic devices. Recording is strictly prohibited.

Michael Thrift

In 2023 Australian-British conductor Michael Thrift continues his long-standing relationship with the London Firebird Orchestra, having conducted the orchestra during the past several seasons.

In addition to his symphony work, Michael is a fervent conductor of opera. In 2014 he joined the team at Fulham Opera for Verdi's *Falstaff*, returning to lead Puccini's *Il Tabarro* in 2015.

Since then, he has conducted the revival of *Falstaff*, as well as new productions of Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra* and *Don Carlo*, and Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*.

For Ormond Opera, he has conducted Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* and Bizet's *Carmen*. In 2017, Michael conducted several works at the Blue Danube Opera Conducting Competition at the Rouse State Theatre, Bulgaria, leading the company's forces in Mozart's *Abduction from the Seraglio* and Saint-Saens *Samson et Delilah*. Elsewhere, Michael has led productions of Wagner's *Parsifal*, as well as performances of Britten's *Peter Grimes*, Billy Budd, and Beethoven's *Fidelio*.

In 2021 he led an acclaimed performance in the London Opera Company's debut production of *Tristan & Isolde*. 2022 performances include Verdi's *Aida*, and Janacek's *Katya Kabanova*.

Educated in Sydney, Michael undertook studies in composition at Sydney University, alongside conducting. Notable achievements include winning the Young Composer of the Year Award in 2001 (ASME) and performances by the Adelaide Symphony and the Sydney University Symphony Orchestra.



A passionate advocate for new music, he is an active part of the London new music scene. In 2013, he helped to inaugurate the Composer's Academy at the Cheltenham Festival and has worked with the Dr. K Sextet in both Cheltenham and London. He has led premiers of new music with the London Firebird Orchestra, and has worked closely with composition students from the University of Middlesex during LFO's collaborations in 2018, 2019, and 2020.

In his free time, Michael enjoys sharing the joys of South-Australian red wines as well as decrying the state of New Zealand whites. An unabashed love of sci-fi literature provides escapism. Michael regularly lives a vicarious, alternative existence through the Australia cricket team, though his duties to music inevitably snap him back into reality. He lives with wife and son in Manchester.

Yury Revich Olario

Austrian violinist and composer Yury Revich won the ECHO Klassik Award, the International Classical Music Award, and his recording of Saint-Georges double concertos was listed on the US TOP 100 Billboard classical charts in 2021.

At 18, he had his Carnegie Hall debut alongside Daniil Trifonov and later debuted with Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto at Teatro Alla Scala in Milan. Since then he has been performing at venues such as Berlin Philharmonie, Vienna Musikverein, London Cadogan Hall, Vienna Konzerthaus, Alte Oper Frankfurt, Prinzregententheater Munich, Tonhalle Zurich, Leipzig Gewandhaus, BOZAR Brussels and many others.

As a soloist he performed with the La Verdi Milano, Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz, Zagreb Soloists, Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie, Kammerphilharmonie Potsdam, Collegium Musicum Basel, Tonkünstler-Orchester Niederösterreich, he toured with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and worked with conductors such as Mikhail Pletnev, Liana Isakadze, Lionel Cottet, Duncan Ward, Johannes Schlaefli, Yuri Bashmet, etc. As a prize-winning recording artist, he recorded 9 CDs for various labels, including SONY and NAXOS. Among this repertoire are works for violin and orchestra by composers such as Romberg, Doderer, Piazzolla, Saint-Georges, and Vivaldi.

Besides performing many works dedicated to him by composers like Johanna Doderer



and Benjamin Rota, Yury is a keen composer. For example, recent premieres were at the World Space Week 2021 and the World Expo in Dubai in 2021.

In 2023 his album of music by Chevalier St. Georges was included in the official soundtrack of Netflix series "Bridgerton". In October 2023 he will be composing and curating music and art performances for Art Basel in Paris.

As a traditionally trained classical musician, it has always been important for Yury to collaborate with artists across the board, within and beyond classical music.

His interest in interdisciplinary and cross-genre collaborations reaches over to contemporary art, dance, literature, and various musical genres. He collaborated with Ute Lemper, Sunnyi Melles, Cornelius Obonya, Christiane Hörbiger, Ramon Vargas, Constantin Luser, Pixie Lott, Arotin and Sergey, Gabriel Prokofiev and Gérard Depardieu. In a more classical setting he performed alongside Paul Badura-Skoda, Sumi Jo, Alexey Igudesman, Ferhan and Ferzan Önder, Angelika Kirchschrager and various others.

Several of the artists mentioned above were guests in his concert series "Friday Nights with Yury Revich," which he established in 2015.

Born into a musical family of violinists since the 19th Century, Yury started playing the violin at age 5.

For over a decade, advocating for various charitable and philanthropic causes has been vital for him. Among his projects is the Austrian Gala Charity "All for Autism," which he started in 2015 and advanced to one of Europe's most significant Autism Awareness events. He created and hosted the Dreamland Gala for UNICEF for years.

Since 2021, Yury has been an Honorary Representative of UNICEF Austria. Under the invitation of the Austrian president, Yury performed his original music at, curated, and directed the concert dedicated to the Day of Austria at the 2021/2021 World Expo in Dubai.

He has been featured by Vogue, Forbes Magazine, The Times, ORF, ZDF, Sat1, Puls4, Die Zeit Magazin, etc.

From 2016 till 2022, Yury played on a 1709 Stradivarius; currently, he plays on Guarneri on loan from Mr. Lukas Hufnagl.



Calyssa Davidson

Award-winning American violinist Calyssa Davidson is a versatile artist whose wide range of interests has led her to perform throughout the world with major orchestras, bands, in musicals, and record solo violin for several feature and independent films as well as television including the BBC.

Along with performing in venues such as the Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall, Cadogan Hall, and Wigmore Hall, Davidson has led recording sessions at Abbey Road, Air Edel, and Angel Studios and has recorded the solo violin score for the BBC2 documentary series *The Story of China* and wrote and recorded the solo violin scores for the BBC2 documentary *Normandy '44: The Battle Beyond D-Day* and BBC4 documentary *Shakespeare's Mother: The Secret Life of a Tudor Woman*. She can also be heard on the *Harry & Meghan: A Royal Romance* soundtrack from the *Lifetime* original movie with the same title.

Davidson has been featured on soundtracks for various video games, trailers, and adverts and has performed alongside Grammy-award winner Rick Springfield, Alfie Boe, and Rick Wakeman. She can also be seen in Springfield's music video, *Christmas With You*.

Most recently, she was solo violinist for Tim Firth's (*Calendar Girls*, *Kinky Boots*) new musical *Now Is Good* at the Storyhouse Theatre, which earned a 4-star review in *The Guardian*. Within the last year, Davidson has also been the solo violinist for the West End premiere of the musical *Broken Wings* and co-led the 29-piece orchestra at the London Coliseum for the world premiere of *Rumi: The Musical*.

Originally from California, Davidson moved



to London in 2010 to attend the Royal College of Music where she earned her Master's Degree in Violin Performance and Composition for Screen and Bachelor of Music Degree in Violin Performance where she was supported by an Alice Templeton Scholarship and a Robert McFadzean Whyte Award Scholarship. Whilst at the RCM, Davidson studied with former Associate Leader of the Philharmonia Orchestra and former Co Leader of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, Adrian Levine, and film and television composers Maurizio Malagnini (*Call the Midwife*, *The Paradise*) and Howard Davidson (*Death Games*, *The Battle for Malta*). Amongst others, Davidson has also studied with world-renowned violinists Ivry Gitlis, Gilles Apap, LA Phil Concertmaster Martin Chalifour and former BBC Concert Orchestra Leader Cynthia Fleming.

Davidson frequently returns to California for work in Los Angeles and is set to perform as soloist debuting a new violin concerto with the Santa Barbara Symphony in their next season.

London Firebird Orchestra

Conductor

Michael Thrift

Violin

Yury Revich Olario

Leader

Calyssa Davidson

Violin I

Eliza Nagle (*Sponsored by Michael & Helen Brown*)

Esther Zaglia (*Sponsored by Michael Manning Clark*)

Sherry Shen (*Sponsored by Jenny Jones*)

Theo Elwes

Waiying Law

Lucy Holmes

Ugne Zuklyte

Violin II

Cristina Morell (*Sponsored by Anatoly Savin*)

Adriana Cristea

Imogen Brewer

Julia Blachuta

Amy-Jo Gilbert

Viola

Elizabeth Tobald

James Cullen

Anastasia Sofina

Becca Marr

Cello

Rebeca Strong Garcia (*Sponsored by Philip & Suzy Rowley*)

Elliott Bailey (*Sponsored in Memory of Herc & Oeschka Hefer*)

Annie Hodgson

Josie Campbell

Bass

Tom Amigoni (*Sponsored by David & Eillis Baty*)

Charis Hadjisophocleous

Harp

Dian Yi

Flute

Doroti Vincler (*Sponsored by Ann Scott*)

Ruth Harrison

Oboe

Polly Bartlett (*Sponsored by Trevor & Elizabeth Gore*)

Dorothea Delbrück

Clarinet

Thomas Gant (*Sponsored by Ken Watters & Robin Wilkinson*)

Jasper Perry

Bassoon

Sarah Sesu

Eva Serksnaite

Contrabassoon

Hugh Woolley

Horn

Caoime Glavin

Emma Edwards

Bertille Cascio

Beatriz Vila

Trumpet

Samantha Barnhart (*Sponsored by Professor Thomas Hale & Dr Sam Webster*)

John Kerr

Trombone

Felix Fardell

Joe Smales

David Anton Sanz

Timpani & Bongos

Lewis Blee

Drum Kit

Jack Davis

Marimba

Charlie Hodge

Stage Manager

Gabi Coomber



London Firebird Orchestra's 10th Anniversary Season

Now celebrating its 10th Anniversary Season, the London Firebird Orchestra was founded in 2012 with Dame Judi Dench as Patron and Marc Corbett-Weaver as Artistic Director. The orchestra supports extraordinary talented musicians of the younger generation who have either recently graduated or are still studying at one of the major London conservatoires, by enabling to perform in orchestral concerts and outreach projects.

The orchestra performs regularly at its main home venue St George's Hanover Square. Every two years it performs at Kings Place and SJE Arts Oxford and it also has a residency at Middlesex University. Firebird for Schools – the orchestra's tailor-made concert for school children – takes place annually. Firebird has also performed on several occasions at the Royal Festival Hall, the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Cadogan Hall, St Paul's Covent Garden and the Bath Pump Room. Performances have been received fantastic reviews in *The Times*, *Evening Standard*, *Classical Music Magazine*, *Musical Opinion*

Magazine, *Seen & Heard International* and BBC Radio London.

The orchestra has collaborated with many internationally-renowned soloists including Jamal Aliyev, Thomas Gould, George Harlono, Aleksei Kiseliov, Jennifer Pike, Yury Revich, Leonard Schreiber and Raphael Wallfisch. Each Season, Firebird showcases a small number of prize-winning conductors of the younger generation. The orchestra also organises an annual composition competition for young composers, with a cash prize and live performance for the composer of the winning work. Angela Slater is among the recent prize-winners.

Over the years, Firebird players have moved on by securing places in leading orchestras across the UK and beyond, including the London Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, the Philharmonia, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and the Orchestra of Opera North among many others.

A complete list of Friends & Benefactors can be found on page 2 of this programme.

Concert programme 2023/4

Join us for more European Classic concerts in London



European Classics: Emperor

The talented pianist George Harliono will perform with London Firebird Orchestra at this fabulous concert on **19 September** at **St Georges** which will feature Beethoven's vast and heroic fifth piano concerto. The programme includes:

Beethoven Piano Concerto no. 5 in E flat, Op. 72 *The Emperor*

Vaughan Williams Symphony no. 5 in D



European Classics: Garden of Fire

The lyrical orchestral writing of British composer Ruth Gipps opens a concert at **Kings Place** on **28 January** featuring:

Ruth Gipps *Cringlemere Garden*: Impression for string orchestra, Op. 39

Mozart Piano Concerto No.9 in E flat, K. 271 *Jeunehomme*

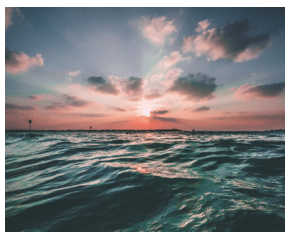
Mozart A Berenice K. 70

Haydn Symphony No. 59 in A, Hob. I:59 *Fire*

Book tickets for live concerts and see filmed concerts online at www.londonfirebird.com



From the New World



Eroica!



From the Germanic Lands



London Firebird Orchestra's 10th Anniversary Season

SUPPORT US, BECOME A FRIEND

At the heart of our Orchestra is the Firebird Friends & Benefactors Society. Launched at the Orchestra's inception in 2012 and now with around 100 members, the Friends & Benefactors Society is a growing association of supporters forming the core of our audience.

Members commit an annual donation to the charity, providing a vital bedrock of funding for the orchestra. Without this vital income stream, the Orchestra's concerts would not be possible. Why not join to today to become part of our family and help us continue to grow?

**Sign up today at www.londonfirebird.com
or speak to one of our team.**