



National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain ‘burns bright’ this spring for concert tour with Kristjan Järvi

nyo.org.uk

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Friday, 8 April – Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre, London

Saturday, 9 April – Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool

Sunday, 10 April – The Bridgewater Hall, Manchester

Monday, 11 April – BBC Radio 3 broadcast

(Concerts in association with the Menuhin Competition)

The National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, the world’s greatest orchestra of teenagers, brings its fiery energy and spirit to an adrenaline-fueled programme this spring with conductor Kristjan Järvi.

Centred around the theme of fire – fitting for 163 teenagers bursting with energy and passion – the concerts feature Stravinsky’s *Fireworks* and the complete *Firebird* ballet, as well as Michael Daugherty’s concerto for violin and orchestra, *Fire and Blood*, with soloist Chad Hoopes, a former Menuhin Competition Junior winner (Cardiff 2008).

Daugherty’s concerto is highly charged, describing the fiery furnaces of car assembly lines in 1930’s America, with colourful orchestration and pulsing rhythms, and received its world premiere under the baton of Kristjan’s father Neeme Järvi in 2003. In contrast, Stravinsky’s masterpiece *The Firebird* is a romantic fairy-tale ballet based on the Russian legend, weaving human and supernatural worlds, and showcasing every instrument in the vast orchestra.

NYO’s Spring tour is in association with the Menuhin Competition London 2016, and the opening concert at Southbank Centre’s Royal Festival Hall is part of the Menuhin Competition London 2016’s 11-day programme of events celebrating the centenary of its founder Yehudi Menuhin, who was widely acclaimed and celebrated for his work with young musicians. He was greatly inspired by Ruth Railton, NYO founder, after visiting many early NYO rehearsals in 1948, and shared her vision that young musicians can reach highest levels of virtuosity. NYO and the Menuhin Competition continue to share these joint values, making this a fitting partnership to celebrate Menuhin’s centenary – and for NYO to be part of the Menuhin Competition London 2016.

Ahead of the three-city concert tour, the 13-19 year-old musicians – 164 of the UK’s most talented and committed teenagers drawn from every corner of the UK and a wide range of social backgrounds – meet in Nottingham for a week-long period of intensive rehearsals and workshops with leading professionals.

Activities here also include a *Play the City*, which sees the entire orchestra divide into small ensembles and take to the streets to bring music to the people of Nottingham, as well as an *NYO Inspire Day*, where principal players from NYO lead workshops with over 80 young musicians from across Nottinghamshire, allowing NYO teenagers to share their expertise with prospering young musicians. These activities are part of *NYO Inspire*, which aims to harness the power of peer inspiration and give to many more teenage musicians and audiences of all backgrounds breakthrough experiences of orchestral music-making.

The residency marks one year since the official launch of *NYO Inspire* and in its first year, enabled an extra 500 teenage musicians to work with NYO musicians in workshops, and gave a further 3,850 audience members a taste of orchestral music in their own schools. About 75% of these audience members were young people, many of whom had never heard orchestral music live before.

On average, each NYO musician will be involved in *NYO Inspire* projects as peer leaders for 5- 10 days a year; meaning that NYO musicians share their skills and enthusiasm with other young musicians for a combined total of 1078 days a year, more than any other UK orchestra.

Concluding the spring tour are two *Play the School* concerts in secondary schools in the North East where the orchestra performs and delivers creative workshops for fellow secondary school-age students.

As part of NYO and Classic FM's new partnership, and their combined commitment to inspire a new generation of audiences, NYO offer £5 tickets to people aged under 25, in association with Classic FM.

For more information and tickets, please visit: <https://www.nyo.org.uk/2016>

'There's nothing more galvanising than youth on the march'
The Times

'In the hands of these brilliant young players, how thrilling to be knocked sideways by their demonstrable passion and technical assurance'
The Observer

'Not only one of the youngest youth orchestras in the world...the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain is also one of the most ambitious'
The Daily Telegraph

For further press information, tickets, pictures etc. please contact:

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Listings information for main concerts:

Tickets are £5 for the under 25s at all three concerts

Friday 8 April 7.30pm

Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre, London

020 7960 4200

<http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whatson/national-youth-orchestra-of-gr-91823?dt=2016-04-08>

Saturday 9 April 7.30pm

Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool

0151 709 3789

<http://www.liverpoolphil.com/18710/events-classical-music/national-youth-orchestra-of-great-britain.html>

Sunday 10 April 3.30pm

The Bridgewater Hall, Manchester

0161 907 9000

<https://tickets.bridgewater-hall.co.uk/single/eventDetail.aspx?p=31726>

Stravinsky *Fireworks*

Daugherty *Fire and Blood Concerto for Violin and Orchestra*

Stravinsky *The Firebird*

National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain

NYO is the world's greatest orchestra of teenagers. Founded in 1948 to provide orchestral performance opportunities for the brightest and most committed musicians between the ages of 13 and 19 and with an average age of just 16, no other orchestra in the world has consistently achieved such brilliance in performance with such young musicians. Many of the UK's greatest musicians, past and present, are NYO alumni, including Sir Simon Rattle, Sir Mark Elder, Judith Weir, Thomas Adès and Alison Balsom. The Orchestra's huge, ongoing contribution to British musical life was acknowledged when it received The Queen's Medal for Music 2012. To date NYO is the only organisation ever to be awarded this honour.

Drawing its 164 musicians from every background and every part of the UK, the Orchestra comes together three times a year for residential rehearsals: musicians engage in an innovative, immersive process of preparation which integrates singing, dancing, leadership training, and peer-to-peer learning sessions together. Working alongside leading international conductors, tutors and soloists, each residency culminates in a high-profile concert tour, including regular BBC Radio 3 broadcasts and an annual televised BBC Prom at the Royal Albert Hall.

NYO exists to give breakthrough experiences of orchestral music to teenage musicians and audiences of all backgrounds. NYO has recently launched two new strands of activity that increase the reach and relevance of its activity. NYO Inspire aims to harness the power of peer inspiration through a programme of workshops and events in which NYO Musicians share skills and inspiration with committed young musicians who lack opportunities to advance their playing, and bring workshops and performances direct to teenage audiences in schools. NYO Open seeks to share NYO expertise and resources as widely as possible through partnerships and the NYO website - nyo.org.uk. Recently NYO became Classic FM's Orchestra of Teenagers. NYO and Classic FM will work together to inspire a new generation of young concert goers and a major focus of the partnership is a £5 ticket scheme for under 25s to all NYO concerts.

MENUHIN COMPETITION

The Menuhin Competition London 2016 is a charitable trust and this year its 11-day Festival (Thursday 7 April - Sunday 17 April 2016) will fill the host city of London with world class music including: major concerts from internationally renowned soloists (many of whom are Competition jury members) performing with some of London's finest orchestras. Plus world premieres, exhibitions, family concerts, masterclasses and outreach programmes – with the Menuhin Competition London 2016 at its heart.

Since 1983 the Menuhin Competition has consistently attracted some of the greatest violin talents from all over the world and brought them together in an exceptional atmosphere of learning and exchange. Dubbed 'the Violin Olympics' it is the world's leading competition for young musicians under the age of 22. Many of its

prize winners including Julia Fischer, Ray Chen, Tasmin Little, Nikolaj Znaider, Ilya Gringolts and Alina Ibragimova have gone on to successful international careers. www.menuhincompetition.org

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MENUHIN CENTENARY

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