

Classical Opera and The Mozartists launch their 'Pay it Forward' Appeal



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As their concerts have been cancelled for the rest of the year, Classical Opera and The Mozartists have launched an innovative appeal to generate funds for their freelance artists, who have been severely affected and are unlikely to receive any share of the government's pledged funding for the arts.

The 'Pay it Forward' appeal was conceived to raise **advance fees** for artists. The fees will be paid to artists **now** on the understanding that the performances and recordings will be arranged once it is possible to do so. This will provide help for the artists when they most need it, and will also enable the company to plan and finance future projects, especially important in this difficult economic climate.

Further information about the appeal is available [here](#)

Chief Executive Debbie Coates says: *"The Covid-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on the UK's performing arts organisations, many of which are predominantly made up of freelance artists who have suddenly lost all their work for the best part of a year. Our new 'Pay it Forward' appeal is an attempt to provide a much-needed stream of income for our musicians during these particularly difficult times. At a time when most organisations, venues and institutions are struggling for survival, it feels particularly important to reach out and support the world-class individuals whose skill, artistry and commitment are the lifeblood of our cultural infrastructure."*

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Notes to Editors

The Mozartists

The Mozartists were launched in 2017 as an extension of Ian Page's work with his internationally acclaimed period-instrument ensemble Classical Opera. Their début recording, 'Perfido!' – a programme of concert arias by Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven sung by British soprano Sophie Bevan – was shortlisted for the 2017 International Opera Awards, and was followed in 2018 by 'Mozart in London', which was selected as Recording of the Month in Gramophone and Limelight magazines.

Under the leadership of Ian Page, The Mozartists are among the world's leading exponents of the music of Mozart and his contemporaries, and are particularly renowned for their fresh and stylish performances, their ability to discover and nurture outstanding young artists, and their imaginative and illuminating programming. Formerly known as Classical Opera, they have performed most of Mozart's stage works, as well as operas by J. C. Bach, Gluck, Haydn, Arne, Telemann, Jommelli and Hasse, and in 2012 they embarked on a major new recording cycle of the complete Mozart operas. The company's discography also includes 'The A-Z of Mozart Opera' (Sony Classics, 2007, re-released on Signum Classics in 2014), 'Blessed Spirit – a Gluck retrospective' (Wigmore Hall Live, 2010), Thomas Arne's Artaxerxes (Linn Records, 2011), and 'Where'er You Walk', a programme of arias composed for the celebrated English tenor John Beard, featuring Allan Clayton (Signum Classics, 2016). They also recently embarked on a new series of 'Sturm und Drang' recordings, with Volume 1 released in May 2020.

The company has presented staged operas at Sadler's Wells, The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Southbank Centre, Buxton Opera House and the Schwetzingen Rokokotheater, and frequent concerts at Wigmore Hall, the Barbican, Cadogan Hall and Kings Place. It has also appeared in France, Italy, Germany and the Czech Republic, and in 2016 was invited to present the opening three concerts of the prestigious Haydn Festival in Eisenstadt.

In 2015 Ian Page launched MOZART 250, a ground-breaking 27-year project following the chronological trajectory of Mozart's life, works and influences. Each year MOZART 250 explores the music being composed and performed exactly 250 years previously, thereby placing Mozart's life and music in context, and this major initiative has already incorporated music by over thirty composers.