

London Mozart Players 1949–2019 Celebrating 70 years of making music



(London Mozart Players with Conductor Laureate Howard Shelley in the driving seat © Kevin Day)

- **A revitalized LMP comes back from the brink to celebrate its 70th birthday season**
- **Former Artistic Director Jane Glover reunited with LMP for ‘Mozart’s Women’ concert at St John Smith Square**
 - **Celebratory concerts with soloists Michael Collins and Howard Shelley**
 - **Gala Concert for the reopening of Croydon’s Fairfield Halls**
 - **LMP is the only player-directed and player-run orchestra in the UK**

‘Here is an orchestra that, when times got tough, refused to lie down and instead took matters into their own hands. They are now the longest established chamber orchestra in the UK, and in my opinion rank with the best in the world.’ – John Suchet

The London Mozart Players, the UK’s longest established chamber orchestra, celebrates its 70th birthday on 11th February 2019, and will mark the anniversary with a series of high-profile concerts in venues across the capital and beyond during the 2018/19 season. This outstanding ensemble has plenty to celebrate: in 2014 the LMP was on the brink of collapse when vital funding was withdrawn, yet over the last four years the orchestra has completely reinvented itself and now, as the only player-directed and player-run orchestra in the UK, it is proving itself to be one of the country’s most versatile and dynamic group of musicians.

The LMP’s birthday concerts will see the orchestra reunite with musical colleagues from its illustrious past while connecting with the classical stars of today. Since its earliest days the LMP has worked with artists of the highest calibre: Igor Stravinsky and Yehudi Menuhin conducted the orchestra, and guest artistes include Daniel Barenboim, James Galway and Felicity Lott. Continuing this tradition, the 70th birthday season will include concerts with Michael Collins, Jane Glover and Howard Shelley amongst others, with the concert on Sunday 27 January featuring virtuoso clarinettist **Michael Collins (on his, and Mozart’s,**

birthdays) at St John's Smith Square. Collins will perform **Mozart's Clarinet Concerto K.622 on the basset horn**, the original instrument for which this beloved concerto was written.

The LMP has always been a leader in musical outreach, education and diversity, with the pioneering appointments of the first female Executive Director in 1983 (Louise Honeyman) and **the first female Artistic Director of any orchestra** in 1984 (**Jane Glover**). The orchestra is delighted that **Glover (who also turns 70 in 2019) will be taking the baton** at a special celebratory concert entitled **'Mozart's Women' at St John's Smith Square** on 11 April 2019. The varied programme will reflect the influence that various women had on the life of the great composer. Featuring soprano Jennifer France and **BBC Young Musician of the Year Lauren Zhang**, this concert will delight all Mozart cognoscenti.

Another long-time LMP collaborator, **Conductor Laureate Howard Shelley**, will conduct the orchestra in two afternoon concerts at the Southbank Centre's **Queen Elizabeth Hall – in March and June 2019**. Packed full of classical music treasures including works by Mozart, Beethoven and Hummel, this will showcase the LMP's talent and versatility, echoing founder Harry Blech's aim to showcase authentic performances of the core classical works.

Howard Shelley will also be centre-stage for the LMP's innovative series of lunchtime concerts at St John's Smith Square: **'Piano Explored'**. The series will launch the orchestra's birthday season in October 2018 – with a twist on the usual format: in a whistle-stop hour, Howard will lead the orchestra in his engaging repertoire deconstructions with, for the birthday year, LMP musicians performing double and triple concerti alongside him at the piano to highlight the talent within the LMP. And for the LMP's birthday concert on 13th February 2019, Howard will perform Mozart's Piano Concerto No .17 in G, K.453, which was played at the LMP's very first concert in 1949.

2019 also marks LMP's thirtieth year as resident orchestra for the London Borough of Croydon at **Fairfield Halls**, which is currently undergoing a £30 million refurbishment. 2019 will see the orchestra centre stage for a glamorous reopening **Gala Concert in the presence of its Patron, HRH Prince Edward**, restoring the orchestra's place at the heart of the borough's music making (concert date tbc).

The LMP's 70th anniversary season sees no reduction in their busy **education and community** commitments including concerts at their home, **St John the Evangelist church in Upper Norwood**. These sponsored concerts ensure that neither price nor distance prevent anyone in the local community from attending. In addition, the LMP's award-winning **#LMPontheMove series**, which takes classical music into unusual venues across Croydon including shopping malls, carparks and bars, will launch a third series in summer 2019.

The LMP connects with its global audience through its extensive **discography** and 2019 sees new releases across the musical spectrum, including Howard Shelley (Piano) performing Cramer's Piano Concertos No.4, 5 & 6 (Hyperion), works by Clive Osgood (Convivium) and Parry's *Judith* (label tbc).

The orchestra has always been committed to music education: LMP players regularly take music into schools in the UK and abroad (most recently in Dubai and Hong Kong), inspiring youngsters through workshops and concerts with their side-by-side initiative. The 2018/19

season already includes **education projects** with long-standing partners Royal Holloway College, Portsmouth Grammar School and Ealing Youth Orchestra as well as visits to primary schools in their home community of Croydon.

The orchestra has launched an [appeal](#) to raise £100,000 to support its birthday concert series, fund LMP's work in local education and community outreach, and to lay a firm foundation for the next 70 years. At 4th October 2018, funds raised stood at £40,000.

The 70th birthday season will be exceptionally busy for the LMP, underlining its successful reinvention and cementing the orchestra's position at the forefront of the UK's classical music scene. The LMP has transformed itself into a resourceful and energetic twenty-first century orchestra, still continuing founder Harry Blech's vision of authentic performances of classical gems, yet demonstrating an agile versatility within a changing musical landscape.

70th Birthday message from LMP Patron HRH The Earl of Wessex

'The London Mozart Players has much to celebrate in its seventieth year. The artistic and cultural circumstances in which the orchestra thrives today is, in some ways, just as challenging as the era in which Harry Blech founded the LMP. Post the Second World War there was a desperate need for promoting the performing arts and chamber music in particular. Today, the power and value of live music is just as important, that collective experience, that connection, that emotion.

The LMP has changed and evolved over those years, but has remained true to its founder's values. It retains a pioneering approach to programming classical music; it continues to perform with flair, integrity and focus. Most importantly, its touring schedule takes the LMP and its music to places and people who would otherwise not have that experience. It's been a privilege to have got to know the members of the orchestra over the past 30 eras as their patron and to witness their passion for performing as well as working in the community through their outreach programmes. It's also been an honour to have known all but one of the orchestra's five musical directors (I sadly never met Harry Blech), their difference characters, approaches and influences. As the LMP embarks on this anniversary year we all wish them well with their varied and exciting plans and endeavours.'

HRH The Earl of Wessex, KG GCVO ADC
Patron

70th Birthday messages from John Suchet, Jane Glover, Howard Shelley, Roxanna Panufnik and Nicola Benedetti can be found [here](#).

[Photographs](#): London Mozart Players at 70 © Kevin Day

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[LMP Concert Diary 2018/19 70th birthday season](http://londonmozartplayers.com/70th-birthday/)
<http://londonmozartplayers.com/70th-birthday/>

CELEBRATING MOZART'S BIRTHDAY

LMP 70th Birthday Season
St John Smith Square
LONDON MOZART PLAYERS
Michael Collins
Sunday 27th January
4pm

Mozart: Symphony No. 34 in C K.338
Mozart: Clarinet Concerto in A K.622
Mozart: Symphony No. 41 in C K.551

LMP & HOWARD SHELLEY AT QEH

LMP 70th Birthday Season
Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre, London
LONDON MOZART PLAYERS
Conductor/Piano: Howard Shelley
Sunday 31st March
3.00pm

Mozart: Piano Quartet
Haydn: Symphony No.95
Mozart: Piano Concerto No.25 in C K.503
Haydn: Piano Concerto No.11 in D
Mozart: Symphony No.35 in D K.385 'Haffner'

MOZART'S WOMEN

St John Smith Square
LONDON MOZART PLAYERS
LMP 70th Birthday Season
Conductor Jane Glover
Piano Lauren Zhang
Soprano Jennifer France
Thursday 11th April
7.30pm

Mozart: Overture *Così fan tutte* K.588
Mozart: *Vorrei spiegarvi, oh dio* K.418
Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 9 in Eb K.271
Mozart: 'Et incarnates est' from Mass in C minor K.427

Mozart: Ch'io mi scordi di te? K.505

Mozart: Symphony No. 31 in D K.297

LMP & HOWARD SHELLEY AT QEH

LMP 70th Birthday Season

Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre, London

LONDON MOZART PLAYERS

Conductor/Piano: Howard Shelley

Sunday 9th June

3.00pm

Mozart: Symphony No.34 in C K.338

Hummel: Piano Concerto in F

Beethoven: Symphony No.4 in Bb Op.60

FAIRFIELD HALLS GALA CONCERT

LMP 70th Birthday Season

Festival Halls, Croydon

LONDON MOZART PLAYERS

Piano: Howard Shelley

Date TBC

TBCpm

Programme TBC to include Mozart Piano Concerto No.21 in C K.467

Piano Explored 2018/19 season

St John Smith Square, lunchtime concerts with Howard Shelley.

Wednesday 17th October 2018, 1.05pm-2.00pm

Beethoven Concerto for Violin, Cello, and Piano in C Op. 56

Wednesday 14th November 2018, 1.05pm-2.00pm

Haydn Piano Concerto in D major, Hob XVIII:11

Shostakovich Concerto No. 1 in C minor for Piano, Trumpet and Strings Op. 35

Wednesday 12th December 2018, 1.05pm-2.00pm

Finzi Eclogue Op. 10

Mozart Sinfonia Concertante for Violin and Viola K.364

Wednesday 13th February 2019, 1.05-2.00pm

Mozart Piano Concerto No. 17 in G K453

Wednesday 13th March 2019, 1.05-2.00pm

Haydn Sinfonia Concertante in Bb Op.84 Hob.I/105

Hummel Concertino for Piano and Orchestra in G Op. 73