



City of London Sinfonia biography

Spring 2021

City of London Sinfonia (CLS) is rooted in the belief that music and creativity are for anyone and everyone. It puts responsive, in-the-moment music-making with individuals and groups and musician development at the forefront of all its activities, engaging audiences as co-creators in shared, meaningful music experiences.

CLS is leading the way in creative, collaborative practice in health and social care through its participation programme, which is the driver of everything the Orchestra does. In the 2020 Royal Philharmonic Society (RPS) Awards, City of London Sinfonia was awarded the Impact Award for its Sound Young Minds project, which provides opportunities to young people in psychiatric hospitals to work with each other and to express themselves. Other core projects include Room to Room Music with residents in care homes, Music for Children in London hospitals, and social prescribing with the new Tessa Jowell Health Centre. Its Comfortable Classical series of relaxed concerts, which was adapted for online during 2020, invites anyone and everyone to interact with CLS musicians and experience orchestral music.

The Orchestra's innovative artistic programmes – curated by Alexandra Wood (Leader and Creative Director) and guest artists – spark adventure, intrigue and enjoyment with concepts often relating to science, nature, history, or philosophy. Recent themes include Bach and the Cosmos (2018), exploring J.S. Bach and his love for mathematics; Absolute Bird (2019), featuring medieval to contemporary music influenced by birdsong; Storytelling (2019), a Faber & Faber collaboration of spoken word and music; and Worlds Colliding (2020), unblurring the lines between classical and popular culture. Its upcoming 50th Season will celebrate the natural environment with a new commission by Cheryl Frances-Hoad and a deep listening project with Roderick Williams OBE.

The last decade has seen CLS establish its 'seriously informal' performance style, reaching new and diverse audiences by presenting live music in modern, exciting, and thought-provoking ways in its concert series, often in open-spaced venues such as East London clubs, university halls and cathedrals. This approach led to the Orchestra being runner-up in the Ensemble category in the 2020 RPS Awards.

City of London Sinfonia gives over 75 performances each year, performing regularly at the Albany (Deptford), Canada Water Theatre, Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southwark Cathedral, and St Paul's Cathedral. It is also proud to be Resident Orchestra at Opera Holland Park, since 2004. Tours in recent years have included Japan, Ireland, and cathedrals around the UK. Recordings include *King of Ghosts* with sarodist Soumik Datta (Globe Music, 2017) and Stuart Hancock's *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* (Sony Classical, 2017).

Info

Website: cls.co.uk

Wellbeing: cls.co.uk/wellbeing

Email: info@cls.co.uk

Marketing email: marketing@cls.co.uk

Social media

Twitter: [@cityldnsinfonia](https://twitter.com/cityldnsinfonia)

Facebook: [@cityoflondonsinfonia](https://facebook.com/cityoflondonsinfonia)

Instagram: [@cityoflondonsinfonia](https://instagram.com/cityoflondonsinfonia)

YouTube: [/CityofLondonSinfonia](https://youtube.com/CityofLondonSinfonia)