



## City of London Sinfonia biography | Performances

### 30 Years of Transforming Lives through Music

City of London Sinfonia (CLS) is the orchestral home to over 40 outstanding professional musicians who come together in the shared belief that music has the power to transform the lives of people across all areas of society.

The Orchestra places equal value on everything they do, whether performing in world-famous concert halls and opera houses or sharing musical experiences with residents in care homes and hospitals. CLS brings a distinctive, 'seriously informal' style that removes the barriers between musicians and audiences, along with a warmth of music-making from musicians sharing a wider range of experiences together beyond the concert platform.

CLS gives over 75 performances every year, anywhere from an East London club to international concert halls and cathedrals; in its residencies at Opera Holland Park and St Paul's Cathedral; and in communities that because of location or opportunity would not otherwise experience outstanding professional music.

With Creative Director and Leader Alexandra Wood, CLS conceives and delivers imaginative performances and projects with associate artists, including skilled workshop leaders, musicians in classical, jazz, folk and contemporary music, and artists in film, dance or visual art – all of whom come to CLS to achieve ambitions they could not realise elsewhere. City of London Sinfonia collaborates with artists including Tony Adigun, Jessica Cottis, Soumik Datta, Brett Dean, Sian Edwards, Sam Lee and Roderick Williams.

In recent years, CLS has toured to Mexico, Japan and Ireland with classical performances in international concert halls and with education workshops and family concerts that introduce children to live orchestral music at an early age. The Orchestra also recorded with sarodist Soumik Datta in his innovative, reimagined score to *King of Ghosts* (Globe Music, 2017).

CLS's own artistic programmes, which influence their wellbeing and education projects, explore intriguing concepts often relating to science, history or philosophy, giving an extra dimension to performance and new music, and shedding new light on the familiar. Audiences can experience interactive and immersive performances that bring together music and the visual; the adventurous and the thought-provoking, enjoyed by many in the Orchestra's 2017 *Folk Tunes Tall Tales* and *Modern Mystics* concerts.

So far this Season, the Orchestra has performed with Roderick Williams OBE and Professor James Sparks in its *Bach and the Cosmos* London series and University Tour, exploring JS Bach's love of maths and numbers. In the Spring, CLS brings *Absolute Bird* to Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall (featuring Hollis Taylor's title UK premiere and live birdsong) and Southwark Cathedral (*Baroque Birdsong* with Miranda Krestovnikoff).

In the 2018-19 Season, CLS celebrates 30 years of transforming lives through music in its reputable Participation programme, which now reaches over 10,000 people across 150 days of music-making activities every year. The Orchestra continues to build upon its strengths in mainstream education, visiting schools where social background often creates a barrier to creativity and ambition, and in wellbeing, at hospitals for young people with severe physical or psychiatric conditions and with older people dealing with loss of loved ones and memory.

CLS's enterprising work in wellbeing settings has inspired them to pioneer *Mindful Music*, an innovative combination of live music and mindful meditation in which CLS musicians lead an experience that aims to improve mental health and wellbeing in the workplace, in performances and elsewhere.

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