

Double Act: Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment premiers double-instrument solo concerto performances with Nicola Benedetti and Jonathan Cohen on OAE Player.

On Thursday 19 November, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment (OAE) release the world-premiere film of Nicola Benedetti performing Bach and Vivaldi on the digital platform, OAE Player.

In the spirit of celebrating ‘doubles’ this film invites audiences to relive the fiery and thrilling repertoire from the OAE’s BBC Proms performance in September 2020, but this time presented in the intimacy of Snape Maltings Concert hall, famed for its acoustics.

After the success of their first OAE Player premiere, *Roderick Williams performs Bach and Handel* on 9 November, the OAE will be releasing their next premiere *Nicola Benedetti: Seeing Double* performance at 8pm GMT on the 19 November. Once again, the OAE present timeless baroque in ultra-high-definition, to accentuate the intimacy and artistry of the performance. As well as a guest appearance from Benedetti, the OAE is joined by renowned conductor Jonathan Cohen who leads OAE soloists Kati Debretzeni and Katharina Spreckelsen through Bach and Vivaldi’s double solo concertos. This concert was filmed in front of a socially distanced audience in Snape Maltings Concert hall.

Speaking of her experience recording the performance, Kati Debretzeni says:

“This recording was a special and moving occasion – the first time many of us had performed to a live audience since the lockdown in March. It was a privilege and a delight to play Vivaldi’s concerto for two violins RV514 with Nicola Benedetti, which had plenty to offer in terms of musical dialogue; the rapid-fire cascades of the outer movements passing to and fro between us, framing the touching and delicate second movement. It is a memory I will cherish for a long time to come.”

In addition to the double violin concertos, the premiere will include a double dose of wind instruments in Vivaldi’s lyrical concerto in A minor for two oboes, with OAE Principal oboe Katharina Spreckelsen and OAE oboe Sarah Humphrys. In between the performances of the famous concertos, the OAE will play a Concerto Grosso from the English composer Charles Avison.

After the premiere, this concert will be available on OAE Player for a limited period of thirty days, with thanks to Decca Records.

Note to Editors

Repertoire:

Vivaldi Concerto in D for Two Violins RV 513

Vivaldi Concerto in D minor for Two Violins RV 514

Vivaldi Concerto in A minor for Two Oboes RV 536

Avison Concerto Grosso no.5 in D minor

JS Bach Concerto in D minor for Two Violins BWV 1043

Purcell Rondeau from *Abdelazer*