

**PRESS RELEASE: Embargoed until 6pm on 14 August 2020**

## **Nicola Benedetti's Elgar album on Decca Classics is No. 1 in the Official Classical Artist Chart**



GRAMMY award-winning **Nicola Benedetti's** Elgar album is today No. 1 in the Official Classical Artist Chart following its physical release on Decca Classics on Friday 7 August.

The album explores music by Britain's best loved composer, Edward Elgar. The centrepiece is his vast *Violin Concerto* in B minor, Op. 61 coupled with three short works for violin and piano: *Salut d'Amour*, *Sospiri* and *Chanson de Nuit*.

Nicola Benedetti said, 'I am so delighted to be No. 1 in the Official Classical Artist Chart with our Elgar album and am so thankful to each and every person for buying it and for sharing my love of this wonderful composer. The depth of admiration and fascination I have for this man and his music has made this entire process a dream. He was so out of the ordinary, from his non-traditional training to his understanding of people to his style of expression in music - there is only one Edward Elgar, and I am deeply grateful to have had the opportunity to record so much of his music.'

Elgar's *Violin Concerto* is considered to be one of the most technically demanding violin concertos and is a marathon for the soloist at just under an hour in length. Premiered in 1910 by Fritz Kreisler, this concerto has a profound effect on those that give it the time it deserves. Benedetti performs the *Violin Concerto* with the **London Philharmonic Orchestra** conducted by **Vladimir Jurowski**.

Pianist **Petr Limonov** joins Benedetti for three short works for violin and piano. The heartfelt adagio *Sospiri* was written in the lead up to WW1 and was originally intended as a companion piece to *Salut d'Amour* (Elgar's first published work in 1888) but what emerged was a more intense piece. Both works were originally written for string orchestra but are performed here in the composer's own arrangements for violin and piano alongside the charming *Chanson de Nuit*.

## **Nicola Benedetti: Elgar Violin Concerto**

**Worldwide digital release date: 15 May 2020**

**Elgar** *Violin Concerto* in B minor, Op. 61

1. Allegro (17.28)
2. Andante (11.36)
3. Allegro molto (18.42)

**Elgar** *Sospiri*, Op. 70 (04.10)

**Elgar** *Salut d'Amour*, Op. 12 (03.09)

**Elgar** *Chanson de Nuit*, Op. 15, No. 1 (03.41)

**Nicola Benedetti** violin

**Petr Limonov** piano

**London Philharmonic Orchestra**

**Vladimir Jurowski** conductor

Images of Nicola can be downloaded here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/qu4hjq5bojedpg/AACupz84jzKZGwkyDxkFJbb-a?dl=0>

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### **Notes to Editors**

#### **About Nicola Benedetti**

- Nicola Benedetti is one of the most sought-after violinists of her generation. Her ability to captivate audiences with her innate musicianship and dynamic presence, coupled with her wide appeal as a high-profile advocate for classical music, has made her one of the most influential classical artists of today.
- With concerto performances at the heart of her career, Nicola is in much demand with major orchestras and conductors across the globe and frequently makes appearances in the world's leading concert halls.
- Nicola records exclusively for Decca Classics (Universal Music). Her most recent recording features premiere recordings of two works written especially for her by jazz musician Wynton Marsalis: *Violin Concerto in D* and *Fiddle Dance Suite for Solo Violin*, for which she won a GRAMMY for 'Best Classical Instrumental Solo'. Nicola's live performance at the 2020 GRAMMY Awards marked the first classical solo violin appearance at the Premiere Ceremony in over ten years.
- Her past nine recordings on Universal/Deutsche Grammophon include a varied catalogue of works from Shostakovich & Glazunov Violin Concertos and Szymanowski Concerto (London Symphony Orchestra/Daniel Harding) to Homecoming; A Scottish Fantasy, which made Nicola the first solo British violinist since the 1990s to enter the Top 20 of the Official U.K. Albums Chart.
- Nicola Benedetti was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the 2019 New Year Honours List, for services to music and was the Winner of the Best Classical Award at The Global Awards 2019.

#### **About the London Philharmonic Orchestra**

One of the finest orchestras on the international stage, the London Philharmonic Orchestra balances a long and distinguished history with its reputation as one of the UK's most forward-looking ensembles. As well as its concert performances, the Orchestra also records film soundtracks, releases CDs and downloads on its own label, and reaches thousands of people every year through activities for families, schools and local communities. The London Philharmonic Orchestra was founded by Sir Thomas Beecham in 1932, and has since been headed by many great conductors including Sir Adrian Boult, Bernard Haitink, Sir Georg Solti, Klaus Tennstedt and Kurt Masur. In 2017 Vladimir Jurowski celebrated his tenth anniversary as the Orchestra's Principal Conductor. Edward Gardner is currently Principal Conductor Designate, and will take up the position when Jurowski's tenure concludes in September 2021. The London Philharmonic Orchestra has performed at

Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall since it opened in 1951, becoming Resident Orchestra in 1992. As well as its London home, it also has flourishing residencies in Brighton, Eastbourne and Saffron Walden, and each summer plays for Glyndebourne Festival Opera, where it has been Resident Symphony Orchestra for over 50 years. The Orchestra also tours internationally, performing to sell-out audiences worldwide.

#### **About Vladimir Jurowski**

One of today's most sought-after conductors, acclaimed worldwide for his incisive musicianship and adventurous artistic commitment, Vladimir Jurowski was born in Moscow in 1972, and completed the first part of his musical studies at the Music College of the Moscow Conservatory. In 1990 he relocated with his family to Germany, continuing his studies at the Musikhochschule of Dresden and Berlin, studying conducting with Rolf Reuter and vocal coaching with Semion Skigin. In 1995 he made his international debut at the Wexford Festival conducting Rimsky-Korsakov's *May Night*, and the same year saw his debut at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden with *Nabucco*. Vladimir Jurowski enjoys close relationships with the world's most distinguished artistic institutions, collaborating with many of the world's leading orchestras including the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Staatskapelle Dresden, the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, the Cleveland and Philadelphia Orchestras, New York Philharmonic, Chicago and Boston Symphonies, and has also conducted the Berlin and Vienna Philharmonic Orchestras. He is a regular guest at the BBC Proms, Musikfest Berlin, and the Dresden, Lucerne, Schleswig Holstein, Grafenegg and Rostropovich Festivals. Vladimir Jurowski is currently Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

#### **About Petr Limonov**

Pupil of Dmitri Alexeev and Maria Joao Pires, Russian-British pianist and conductor Petr Limonov frequently appears on UK and European scene having collaborated, among others, with Nicola Benedetti, Maria Joao Pires, Boris Berezovsky, Laura van der Heijden, Jennifer Pike, Leonard Elschenbroich and Van Kujik Quartet. He has recorded for Decca, Onyx Classics, Chandos and Champs Hill labels. Petr's notable appearances include La Roque d'Antheron festival, Belgais Center for Arts, Wigmore Hall, iTunes Festival, Cadogan Hall, Kings Place, St Martin-in-the-Fields, Southbank Centre, the Great Hall of Moscow Conservatory, a recital in The Duke's Hall for HRH Prince Charles, TV appearances for BBC Proms Extra and broadcasts for BBC Radio 3 and "Culture" TV channel (Russia). His repertoire stretches from Orlando Gibbons to Arvo Part.