



PRESS RELEASE

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Jess Gillam Virtual Scratch Orchestra performs again on 6 June

Following the uplifting debut of the **Jess Gillam Virtual Scratch Orchestra**, Classic BRIT award-winning saxophonist **Jess Gillam** invites singers and instrumentalists of any standard once again to come together and play music virtually with her. The second track will be *Let it Be* by **The Beatles**: the album of the same name has just marked 50 years since its release (8 May in the UK and 18 May in the USA).

The deadline for video submissions is **Wednesday 27 May at 5pm BST** and the video will be premiered on **Saturday 6 June at 5pm BST**. All audios will be used in the final video.

The Orchestra first performed David Bowie's *Where Are We Now?* and it was made up of 934 musicians playing a variety of different instruments, from 26 countries with an age range of 6 to 81. You can watch it [here](#).

Jess Gillam says: *"I am very excited to launch the second project for the Virtual Scratch Orchestra! I'd like to say a huge thank you once again to all of those who participated in the Where are We Now project, I was extremely moved to see so many entries and I was overwhelmed by the performances and messages of unity."*

Our second track will be Let it Be by the Beatles - a song universally known and loved. To me, the message the song holds is very pertinent for the time we find ourselves in; it's one of togetherness, positivity and love. Paul McCartney had a dream that his mother (Mary), who had sadly passed away, came to him to reassure him that everything was going to be ok and to 'let it be'. His mum had been a nurse, so I hope that this project can express a deep gratitude to the NHS and all of those working tirelessly to keep us safe.

The Virtual Scratch Orchestra is open to anybody of any ability, any instrument. We have parts specifically designed for beginners and also parts for singers. I really hope you may be able to join us!"

Taking part is easy:

- Take a look at the parts available and download the music from her [website](#). The instruments are not prescriptive, find a part that works for you and participate

- Video yourself playing your part playing along to the [click track](#). Submissions can be recorded on a smartphone or video recorder but please use headphones so only you can be heard
- Please label your video with your name and the part you played and upload your video [here](#) before **5pm BST on Wednesday 27 May**
- Sign up to the [mailing list](#) to make sure you see the final results

All the parts will then be stitched together, with Gillam performing the solo, and the final video will be premiered on her [YouTube channel](#) on **5pm BST on Saturday 6 June**.

Parts available to download:

- Singers
- Flute
- Oboe
- Clarinet
- Soprano saxophone
- Alto saxophone
- Tenor saxophone
- Baritone saxophone
- Bassoon
- Horn
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Bass trombone
- Tuba
- Percussion
- Harmony chart
- Guitar capo
- Guitar
- Bass guitar
- Harp
- Keyboard/piano beginner
- Keyboard/piano intermediate
- Piano
- Violin
- Viola
- Cello
- Double bass
- Beginner flute
- Beginner oboe
- Beginner clarinet/soprano saxophone
- Beginner trumpet
- Beginner violin
- Beginner viola
- Beginner cello
- Beginner bass

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About Jess Gillam

“Gillam...spreads joy” *The Times*

“Gillam is the real thing, deserving serious attention” *Artsdesk*

Hailing from Ulverston in Cumbria, Jess Gillam is animating the music world with her outstanding talent and infectious personality.

After performing at the prestigious Last Night of the Proms in 2018 and having her performance described as “the indisputable highlight” by *BBC News*, Gillam continues to grow her international career. This season, she will perform at the Last Night of the BBC Proms Japan, with the Minnesota Orchestra, at the Lucerne Festival, with Deutsches Symphony Orchester Berlin, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France and Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. She also continues to perform throughout the UK in recital as well as with the Hallé, Manchester Camerata and the European Union Chamber Orchestra.

Gillam is the first ever saxophonist to be signed to Decca Classics and recently released her debut album “Rise”, which shot to No.1 in the Official UK Classical Charts. Featuring a selection of her favourite pieces ranging from Marcello and Shostakovich to David Bowie and Kate Bush, it was highly celebrated and received rave reviews.

She is also a presenter on TV and Radio. She became the youngest ever presenter for BBC Radio 3 and hosts her own weekly show and podcast called “This Classical Life” where she chats to musical guests to swap tracks and share the music they love. The show has been very well received by audiences and critics alike, with *The Guardian* stating “there are many more established presenters who lack Gillam’s warmth and impressive ability”. She also presented five BBC Proms live on television alongside Katie Derham and Tom Service.

She has been the recipient of a Classic BRIT Award (in the Sound of Classical Poll), was the first ever saxophonist to reach the final of BBC Young Musician of the Year, and in 2019, performed live at the BAFTAs (British Academy of Film and Television Awards) to millions of viewers at home.

A free spirit in style and character, Gillam is a passionate advocate for the power of music in society, often combining her concert engagements with educational and social projects. She is a patron for Awards for Young Musicians and a trustee for the newly formed HarrisonParrott Foundation, working towards full inclusivity of all ethnicities, genders, disabilities and social backgrounds with equal access to the arts.

She studies with acclaimed saxophonist and composer John Harle. She is a Vandoren UK Artist and became the youngest ever endorsee for Yanagisawa Saxophones aged just 13. She is a lover of live music and continues to promote her own concert series, bringing international talent to her hometown of Ulverston.