

PRESS RELEASE

6 January 2015

City of London Sinfonia **Émigré Series**: exploring emigration through the music of émigré artists

- More than a third of Londoners - nearly three million people - were born outside the UK*
- London has the largest number of community languages spoken in Europe*
- Effects of migration are currently being debated in Parliament and the media.
- CLS present a series of concerts featuring the work of musical émigrés, composed as a direct result of migration.

City of London Sinfonia (CLS) announces further details of its **Émigré Series** of concerts, one of the highlights of its 2014–15 season.

Emigration has been a constant theme for musicians throughout history. Composers and performers have frequently embarked on journeys between countries and continents to seek fame and fortune, explore new artistic ventures or escape political and religious repression. The **Émigré Series** will see CLS explore these journeys— whether undertaken to reach a global metropolis in the 18th century, or those made to escape persecution in the early 20th century - which resulted in émigrés' sharing their nation's culture with the world and enriching the communities where they settled. The series will culminate with a tale of immigration to one of the most diverse cities on earth and home of CLS – London.

There is no other global city which embodies the spirit of the **Émigré Series** better than London. It is a nexus where people from all over the world meet, chose to make their home or launch their business. In the current socio-political climate, migration is often thought of in terms of political policy, mass immigration and xenophobia, often resulting in a negative portrayal in the media. However, there are also positives to be discovered, including integration, inclusivity and fostering a sense of belonging in this digitally connected, yet disconnected time.

The **Émigré** theme permeates CLS's work on stage and off – which includes working with more than 400 Key Stage One (aged 5-7) children in Tower Hamlets, which has one of the highest ethnic minority populations in the capital. In partnership with L'Chaim and Jewish Care in North London, CLS also work with those suffering from dementia and Alzheimer's who have personal narratives as exiles from central Europe before and during the Second World War.

CLS's **Émigré Series** will allow audiences to reflect on how the relocation of these musical émigrés has helped to enrich cultural life and strengthen communities in their adopted homes. The **Émigré** theme is not just about the music experience – it's about the building of strong communities, bringing people together, celebrating differences and encouraging civic participation.

CLoSer: To and From Buenos Aires, 25 February, Village Underground

CLoSer - the informal concert series from CLS and Spitalfields Music at Shoreditch's Village Underground - opens the **Émigré series** on **25 February** with **To and From Buenos Aires**, an exploration of composer's Piazzolla and Osvaldo Golijov's interpretation on tango's melancholic rhythms and dance, directed by CLS leader Alexandra Wood. Argentinian émigré Piazzolla left Buenos Aires in the 1950s, taking tango music to New York, Paris and later the rest of the world. The concert will feature his works *Romance del Diablo*, *Tango del Diablo* and *Four Seasons of Buenos*

Aires. Three decades earlier, Romanian Osvaldo Golijov's family escaped anti-Semitic persecution in their homeland to find a new life in Buenos Aires. His work *Last Round* forms part of this performance. Bartók's *Romanian Folk Dances* completes the programme. A 'Tango taster' lesson before the concert is included in the ticket price, and there will be the opportunity for the audience to put their new Tango moves into practice at a post-concert drink and dance.

CLoSer: Ljova, 29 April, Village Underground

On **29 April** Russian émigré composer and violist **Ljova** performs his own music alongside CLS for **CLoSer's Ljova** concert. A modern day tale of immigration from Russia to the USA, Ljova's musician parents moved from Moscow to New York in 1990 as communism fell in the Soviet Union. The result of that journey is Ljova's unique musical signature, haunting and vibrant, combining classical music with his own blend of Russian folk music, jazz, Balkan Gypsy and Klezmer. **Ljova** also joins CLS for the **Émigré Season's Crash Bang Wallop!** family concert on **9 May**.

From Hollywood to New York, 2 May, Cadogan Hall

Cadogan Hall hosts the **From Hollywood to New York** concert on **2 May**. In the 1920s and 30s, an exodus to the USA of composers escaping Hitler's religious and political persecutions resulted in the creation of 'the sound of Hollywood'. Some of classical music's biggest names, including Stravinsky, headed to Los Angeles in their wake. Inspired by this exodus, CLS and conductor **Michael Collins** will perform Stravinsky's *Symphony in Three Movements*. Half a century earlier, Czech émigré Dvorák left Prague to head for a new life in New York, and whilst there poured his longing for his homeland into his *Cello Concerto*, which will be performed by Bulgarian cellist **Michael Petrov** - a recent recipient of the Guildhall School's prestigious Gold Medal. Austrian émigré Eisler was exiled from Austria to the US in the 1930's after his music was banned by the Nazi Party, and his *Kleine Sinfonie* is performed here. The programme will open with Herrmann's *Overture to North by Northwest*, from the Hitchcock film of the same name. Herrmann's father, a Russian Jew, was part of the first wave of mass Jewish immigration to the US in the late nineteenth century. Korngold's *Adventures of Robin Hood Suite* closes the programme. In 1938, Austro-Hungarian Korngold composed the piece during a residency in Hollywood and was then forced to settle there permanently, as the Anschluss - the annexation of Austria into Nazi Germany - had occurred during his absence.

Crash Bang Wallop!: Bon Voyage, 9 May, Cadogan Hall

Crash Bang Wallop! - CLS's regular series of interactive family concerts at Cadogan Hall - present **Bon Voyage!** on **9 May**. Animateur Claire Henry and composer and musician Ljova will take families on an adventure around the world, collecting musical momentos along the way. Claire, Ljova and the audience will be joined by the CLS musicians on this exciting musical journey around the globe. The concert is particularly suitable for children aged between 3 and 6 years of age. Before the concert there will be activities from 11am including Meet The Musicians, Percussion Zoo, Minute Maestro conducting and musical arts and crafts.

Georgian London: Global Metropolis, 16 June, Shoreditch Church (St Leonard's)

The **Émigré series** will conclude on **16 June** with **Georgian London: Global Metropolis**, performed at the historic Georgian Shoreditch Church. CLS and conductor **Stephen Layton** perform a programme which explores 18th century London through the music of composers who were drawn to London during the Georgian period to seek fame and fortune. Parallels can be drawn with contemporary London, which continues to attract musical talent which in turn contributes to wider cultural globalisation. Renowned choir **Polyphony** join CLS for this programme which features Haydn's *Symphony No.101 'The Clock'*, JC Bach's *Sinfonia Concertante for flute, 2 clarinets, 2 horns and bassoon in E flat major C41*, Mozart's *Symphony No.4* and Handel's *Dettingen Te Deum*. **Georgian London: Global Metropolis** is the closing concert of Spitalfields Music's Summer Festival 2015.

The Émigré Series is a pertinent and topical body of work in the current social climate, strengthening the core value at the heart of CLS – to bring surprising and moving musical experiences to people of all ages and backgrounds, building a harmonious future together.

www.cls.co.uk/emigre

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*Source: londoncouncils.gov.uk

Listings

CLoSer: Émigré – To And From Buenos Aires

25 February 2015, 7.30pm, Village Underground, 54 Holywell Lane, London, EC2A 3PQ

Oswaldo Golijov	<i>Last Round</i>
Bartók	<i>Romanian Folk Dances</i>
Piazzolla	<i>Romance del Diablo</i> <i>Tango del Diablo</i> <i>Four Seasons of Buenos Aires</i>

Alexandra Wood violin
City of London Sinfonia

Tickets: £15 (includes a free drink, Tango taster at 6.45pm and post-concert dance)

Book at www.spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk or Box Office 020 7377 1362

CLoSer is a partnership between City of London Sinfonia and Spitalfields Music in association with Village Underground

Supported by Arts Council England, M&G Investments, The London Community Foundation, Cockayne - Grants for the Arts and The Radcliffe Trust

CLoSer: Émigré - Ljova

29 April 2015, 7.30pm, Village Underground, 54 Holywell Lane, London, EC2A 3PQ

Ljova violin / viola
City of London Sinfonia

Tickets: £15 (includes a free drink)

Book at www.spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk or Box Office 020 7377 1362

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Émigré – From Hollywood to New York

2 May 2015, 7.30pm, Cadogan Hall, 5 Sloane Terrace, London, SW1X 9DQ

Herrmann	Overture to North by Northwest
Eisler	<i>Kleine Sinfonie</i>
Stravinsky	<i>Symphony in Three Movements</i>
Dvorák	<i>Cello Concerto in B Minor</i>
Korngold	<i>Adventures of Robin Hood Suite</i>

Michael Collins conductor
Michael Petrov cello
City of London Sinfonia

Tickets: £12 - £32

Book at www.cadoganhall.com or Box Office 020 7730 4500

Émigré – Crash Bang Wallop! Bon Voyage!

9 May 2015, 12.00pm, Cadogan Hall, 5 Sloane Terrace, London, SW1X 9DQ
Pre-concert activities from 11.00am

Claire Henry animateur
Ljova violin / viola
City of London Sinfonia

Tickets: Family £30 (4 tickets) Children £8, Adults £10 (includes pre-concert activities)
Book at www.cadoganhall.com or Box Office 020 7730 4500

Émigré – Georgian London: Global Metropolis

16 June 2015, 7.30pm, Shoreditch Church (St Leonard's Church), Shoreditch High St, London, E1 6JN

Haydn	<i>Symphony no. 101 'The Clock'</i>
JC Bach	<i>Sinfonia Concertante</i>
Mozart	<i>Symphony No. 4</i>
Handel	<i>Dettingen Te Deum</i>

Stephen Layton conductor
Polyphony
Ashley Riches baritone
City of London Sinfonia

Tickets: £5 - £25

Book at www.spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk or Box Office 020 7377 1362

Booking open from February 2015

Part of Spitalfields Music Summer Festival 2015

Notes to Editors

City of London Sinfonia believes that music unites people across all ages and backgrounds. CLS's mission is to bring surprising and moving musical experiences to people of all ages and backgrounds, building a harmonious future together. The Orchestra is led by Stephen Layton (Artistic Director & Principal Conductor) and Michael Collins (Principal Conductor.)

CLS makes regular appearances at all the major London concert halls and venues, as well as St Paul's Cathedral and other venues in the City of London and on its fringes. It has been resident orchestra at the capital's popular Opera Holland Park since 2004, and is a regular guest at major UK festivals. The Orchestra has an extensive discography, including a series of award winning operas by Benjamin Britten on the CHANDOS label. The Orchestra's latest release is a recording of Weber's Clarinet and Horn Concertos on the CHANDOS label.

The [Meet the Music](#) education and outreach programme, founded in 1988, was one of the first established by a UK orchestra. Musicians spend approximately 100 days a year performing and reaching over 10,000 people throughout London. The programme includes a long standing residency at the world famous Great Ormond Street Hospital, and ongoing work with more than 400 Key Stage One (aged 5-7) children in Tower Hamlets, which has one of the highest ethnic minority populations in the capital. In partnership with L'Chaim and Jewish Care in North London, CLS also work with those suffering from dementia and Alzheimer's who have personal narratives as exiles from central Europe before and during the Second World War.

CLoSer

CLoSer is the hugely popular informal concert series from CLS and **Spitalfields Music**, which is now entering its fourth season. **CLoSer** concerts are shorter in length and more relaxed in style than a traditional concert setting. Moving away from large concert halls and churches, this series takes place in Shoreditch warehouse venue, Village Underground. The experience is designed to appeal to those who like live music experiences to be intimate and informal, and allows the audience to get much closer to the music and the musicians than a traditional set-up. **CLoSer** is a partnership between City of London Sinfonia and Spitalfields Music in association with Village Underground.

Crash Bang Wallop! is CLS's family concert series which take place at London's Cadogan Hall. These concerts are designed to appeal to children (big and small) and are seen as an informal, easy and enjoyable introduction to the Orchestra and classical music with plenty of partition and interaction. Prior to each concert, there are musical and craft activities related to the theme of the concert. The concerts are for all the family are especially suited to children aged 3 to 6 years old. Information and for Crash Bang Wallop! audiences can be found at: <http://www.cityoflondonsinfonia.co.uk/CBW---FAQs>

The CLS 2014-15 London season is supported by Arts Council England, with additional support for CLoSer from M&G Investments, The London Community Foundation, Cockayne - Grants for the Arts and The Radcliffe Trust.