

# WORLD SERIES



**Press Conference - 14th May 2018 - 1pm**  
**Opus Theatre, 24 Cambridge Road, Hastings TN34 1DJ**

## INTRODUCING THE WORLD SERIES

I am extremely excited to officially announce the World Series at the Opus Theatre! As Artist in Residence at the theatre, I am truly thrilled and honoured to welcome six incredible, inspirational and internationally renowned acts this year, together with the theatre's fantastic director, composer and impresario Polo Piatti.

The message of the series is simple: To Unite The World Through Music.

I, along with Polo and together with the amazing artists, many of whom are arriving from all over the world to the Opus Theatre, all believe in one core principle: The power of music and its ability as a universal language to enlighten and bring change to our world.

Each of the artists performing all have amazing and inspirational stories to share, some serving as incredible backdrops to their phenomenal artistic endeavours.

The Opus Theatre, a beautiful, mid-size venue in the heart of the coastal town of Hastings, UK (just a short trip from London) with fantastic acoustics and 'the world's most technologically advanced piano' (the custom built Phoenix Pianos 'Opus'), is a neutral and warmly accessible creative space dedicated to freedom of artistic exploration and community service, whether on a small or large scale.

I am truly thankful to all of the amazing artists for being part of the first ever World Series at the Opus Theatre. It is going to be a great, unique and inspirational celebration of music, storytelling and the human spirit, and we cannot wait to warmly welcome our artists and audiences for unforgettable experiences.

Oliver Poole, Artist In Residence at Opus Theatre

## THE VENUE

The Opus Theatre is considered one of the finest concert halls in the South East, in a Grade II listed building created for the best natural acoustics.

A truly unique venue hosting the beautiful *Phoenix Opus*, a very special 9ft concert grand piano, one of the most technologically advanced instruments in the world. This superb instrument was custom built to the venue's exact specifications and finish and constructed using the latest Phoenix technology including their fantastic carbon-fibre soundboard, fitted to a 1925 Blüthner Style XI acoustic body (widely considered as one of the very best acoustic bodies in existence).

This makes the *Phoenix Opus* piano not only an extraordinarily amazing instrument, but the concert grand piano with the biggest carbon-fibre soundboard in the United Kingdom as well as and one of the best acoustic pianos in the planet.



Opus Theatre

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## THE ARTISTS



### CARLY PAOLI & OLIVER POOLE

*Two Giants Of The World's Concert Halls Unite!*

Saturday 9th June 2018 - 7:30pm

International phenomenon Carly Paoli's debut album *Singing My Dreams* went straight in at No. 2 in the Classical Music Charts. The British soprano has thrilled audiences around the world including at the O2 Arena, the London Palladium, Terme di Caracalla, Cadogan Hall, the Roman Forum and Carnegie Hall, among others. Having performed and recorded alongside iconic stars such as Andrea Bocelli, José Carreras, David Foster, Elaine Paige and Steven Tyler, Carly Paoli brings her trademark emotional, dramatic and intense singing to the Opus Theatre for a truly unmissable evening. She will be joined by British pianist and composer Oliver Poole.



### PEDRO GOMES

*The Piano Star From Portugal*

Saturday 16th June 2018 - 7:30pm

Pedro Gomes is one of the hottest and most exciting piano virtuosos coming out of Portugal. His charismatic and dynamic mastery of the piano is captivating audiences and critics alike internationally, showcasing an imaginative and astonishing prism of artistry, repertoire and virtuosity. Performing on our custom built 'Phoenix Opus', described as "The world's most technologically advanced piano", this is a concert not to be missed.





## BLATO ZLATO

*Fiery Balkan Music From The Swamps Of New Orleans*

Saturday 30th June 2018 - 7:30pm

New Orleans-based Balkan band Blato Zlato (translating as Swamp Gold in Bulgarian) are taking the world by storm with their sensational and truly unique musical spectacular, featuring dreamy three-part vocal harmonies and hard-hitting instrumentals inspired by the deeply mystical lands of the Balkans edged with the energising flare of

Louisiana. Blato Zlato are coming to the Opus Theatre in Hastings as part of their 2018 Europe Tour. Get ready for a one-of-a-kind, roof-raising extravaganza that will charge your senses to the core!

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## MARCELO BRATKE

*The Brazilian Star Pianist*

Saturday 8th September 2018 - 7:30pm

Not only one of today's most celebrated concert pianists whose critically acclaimed performances have graced the world's stages including The Wigmore Hall and Carnegie Hall, and whose albums include one voted by Gramophone Magazine as 'one of the greatest classical recordings of all time', Marcelo Bratke is a household name in his home country, Brazil, for championing music's ability to bring change to those most in need, most notably with his Camerata Brasil Orchestra, a fusion of classical and popular young musicians from the Shanty towns of Brazil who he extensively tours with, including performing for over one hundred thousand people live in Copacabana. Furthermore, his incredible life

story overcoming the odds serves as an inspiring backdrop to his diverse musical achievements, and as an ardent promoter of the iconic Brazilian composer Villa-Lobos, and recently being awarded the Order of Merit from the President of Brazil for his lifetime of service to music and society, Marcelo Bratke will be coming to the Opus Theatre for one very special evening to present and perform some of Brazil's most beautiful, loved and well known music.



## RAMTIN GHAZAVI & OLIVER POOLE

*The One And Only Iranian Tenor Joined  
By Britain's Piano Sensation*

Saturday 27th October 2018 - 7:30pm

Ramtin Ghazavi is the voice that is changing the world. Known as the 'Iranian Tenor', his extraordinary and inspiring journey from tumultuous times in Iran to

the iconic La Scala opera house in Milan has captivated the world's media and won the hearts of audiences across the globe like no other. His awe-inspiring performances and jaw-dropping operatic renditions are setting fire to the world concert circuit. Coming to the Opus Theatre to perform a stunning programme of some of the greatest operatic works alongside treasured Persian repertoire featured on his album *Les Rose d'Ispahan* (The Rose of Isfahan), he will be joined by British pianist and composer Oliver Poole for a night to remember.

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## NINA KOTOVA & OLIVER POOLE

*The Very Best In International Classical Music  
Performing Together*

[Performance date to be announced]

Internationally recognised as one of the greatest instrumentalists of her generation, Russian-American cellist and composer Nina Kotova's critically acclaimed performances and recordings are celebrated by audiences across the globe, as well as her notable collaborations with artists such as Sting, Bobby McFerrin, Sir James Galway, Michael Nyman, Sir Antonio Pappano, Lang Lang, John Malkovich, Sir Anthony Hopkins and Jeremy Irons to name just a few. With Deutsche Gramophone paying homage to her in their 'Masters of the Bow' compilation as one of the greatest string players of the last 50 years, and having recently released her highly anticipated 6<sup>th</sup> studio album, Nina Kotova will visit

the Opus Theatre for an exclusive concert, joined by British pianist and composer Oliver Poole.

## ABOUT OLIVER POOLE

### Artist In Residence, Opus Theatre

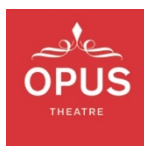


Oliver believes in making the world a better place through music.

Hailed by the press as "A True Master Of His Instrument" (BBC.com), "Outrageously Talented" (The Dubrovnik Times), "Oliver Poole Le Magnifique" (Le Orient Le Jour), he has thrilled and enchanted audiences around the world, from leading stages to millions on live TV concerts, with his uniquely phenomenal artistry, electrifying drive and sensational interactive improvisations.

He first appeared as a soloist with the British National Youth Orchestra aged eight, was broadcast live over Europe aged fifteen, toured Siberia and founded the charity Siberian Appeal (with opera star Angela Gheorghiu as patron) at seventeen. Oliver performed for the British Royal family and gave a historic centenary revival of Anton Rubinstein's 3rd piano concerto with the St. Petersburg Philharmonic aged nineteen, with performances around the world since including at the Royal Albert Hall, Al Bustan Festival, The Kremlin, Henley Festival, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatoire, St. Petersburg Great Philharmonic Hall, London 2012, Festival Del Soles, Royal Festival Hall, EU Culture Week, for charities including UNESCO, UN World Food Programme, World Aids Day, World Music Day, Teenage Cancer Trust, HemiHelp, Starlight & UNICEF.

Oliver frequently collaborates with today's biggest musical figures and has composed for pop stars, world-renowned visual artists, international charities & initiatives, enjoys giving masterclasses, pioneers world-firsts in music technology and has served as a juror on international piano competitions. He composed the music for 2015 Nobel Prize winner Svetlana Alexievich's play 'Enchanted By Death' and also exclusively performed for the global launch of Haig Club by David Beckham.



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[www.opustheatre.co.uk](http://www.opustheatre.co.uk)

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