



Orchestra of the
Age of Enlightenment

Listings, for immediate release:

Lost French genius, ‘the French Beethoven’ revived



Conductor François-Xavier Roth

As part of their 2014/15 season at Southbank Centre, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment are to breathe life into the work of lost French composer, George Onslow.

Légion d'Honneur, Director of the Académie des Beaux-Arts, honorary member of the Philharmonic Society of London and prolific composer, Onslow was a towering musical figure in his day. He had both international reputation and the respect of his peers – including Beethoven, Schubert and Mendelssohn – and was even referred to as ‘the French Beethoven’. Yet within ten years of his death he was all but forgotten.

This concert gives audiences the rare chance to hear Onslow's Symphony No. 1 alongside works by his greatest contemporary, Beethoven, and Berlioz, his admirer who first afforded him his derivative nickname.

Listing info:

Berlioz Overture, *Béatrice and Bénédict*

Onslow Symphony No. 1 in A

Beethoven Symphony No. 3 in E flat, *Eroica*

Francois-Xavier Roth conductor

Event name Flying the Flag: The French Beethoven

Date 22 October 2014

Time 7pm

Price £9-£38

Venue Royal Festival Hall

Address Southbank Centre, Belvedere road SE1 8XX

Booking link <http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whatson/oe-flying-the-flag-the-fren-81410?dt=2014-10-22>

Notes to Editors:

Player-led and ceaselessly innovative, the **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment** is one of the world's most respected period ensembles. They are a resident at Southbank Centre, associate orchestra at Glyndebourne Festival Opera and tour both nationally and internationally.

George Onslow (1784-1853) was an Anglo-French composer, widely recognised in his day but now virtually forgotten. He wrote numerous string quartets and quintets as well as a handful of symphonies, operas and works for other ensembles.

Francois-Xavier Roth, born in Paris in November 1971, is one of the most charismatic and enterprising conductors of his generation. Since 2011 he has been Principal Conductor of the SWR Sinfonieorchester Baden-Baden und Freiburg. In 2015 he will take on the prestigious position of General Music Director of the City of Cologne.

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