

For immediate release, 07/08/15:

Gay nightclub gives Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment honorary Residency



OAE violinist Matthew Truscott leads crowd in a drinking song by Purcell © Joe Plommer

Renowned period instrument ensemble, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, have been given honorary 'Resident Orchestra' status at south London's legendary gay night, Duckie, as the OAE celebrate their 30th Birthday and '30 years of breaking the rules'. The long-running club, based at the Royal Vauxhall Tavern, is infamous for its outrageous live cabaret acts and transvestite DJs.

OAE musicians – including its three lead violinists Matthew Truscott, Maggie Faultless and Kati Debretzeni – will perform music by Henry Purcell at Duckie on Saturday 5 September sharing the bill with cross-dressing DJs, the Readers Wives, and unsimulated onstage drinking and fighting courtesy of avant-guard theatre company, PanicLab.

Duckie producer, Simon Casson, says:

We're thrilled to be able to welcome the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment as our honorary Resident Orchestra as they celebrate their 30th Birthday. People don't often associate high art like classical music with revelry and so-called 'low art'. But there's no reason why they can't all be celebrated in one great night out. As a collective, Duckie performers believe in putting highbrow performance in backstreet pubs and lowbrow performance in posh theatres, so having the OAE play here is right up our street.

The OAE's performance at Duckie forms part of its 'alternative' concert initiative, The Night Shift, which aims to bring classical music to a wider audience by throwing out the rules. The series helped pioneer a casual 'drinks in' concert format that has recently been taken up by other UK orchestras.

OAE Creative Programming Director, William Norris, says:

Playing Duckie furthers our aim of taking classical music to audiences in places other than grand concert halls. We believe that this music can connect with a wider public, but sometimes perceptions of concerts and the rites around them puts people off coming or stops them fully engaging with the performance. Far from creating an inattentive audience, our experience shows us that adopting a more casual format can often lead to a deeper connection between orchestra and audience. At Duckie we reach a really diverse crowd, some of whom may never have been to a concert before, and give them a taste of live classical music somewhere where they're relaxed and having a great night out. We're really happy to take up this Residency as the OAE celebrates 30 years of breaking the rules.

The OAE made their debut performance at Duckie to a rapturous reception in November 2014, when they shared a bill with nude performance artist, Katie Baird. Their appearance in September cements their commitment to returning to the club in their new capacity as honorary residents and their ongoing dedication to bringing classical music directly to new audiences.

– Ends

Details

Date Saturday 5 September 2015

Venue Royal Vauxhall Tavern, 372 Kennington Ln, London SE11 5HY

Doors 11pm

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 Orchestra at Southbank Centre, Associate Orchestra at Glyndebourne Festival Opera and tour both nationally and internationally.

Images:

Attached, credit Joe Plommer.

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