

For immediate release, 13/10/15:

**John Butt OBE appointed Principal Artist to the Orchestra of the  
Age of Enlightenment**



The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment has appointed leading conductor, organist, harpsichordist and scholar John Butt OBE as a Principal Artist.

Butt has a distinguished history of conducting the OAE, and amongst his many talents, brings to the Orchestra his extraordinary, in-depth historical insight and interpretation of the work of composer JS Bach. He holds the Gardiner Chair of Music at the University of Glasgow and is music director of the Dunedin Consort.

Chief Executive Crispin Woodhead comments:

“We are delighted to welcome John Butt as one of our Principal Artists. He joins us at an exciting time in the OAE’s history, as it celebrates its 30th birthday and ‘thirty years of breaking the rules’. The new season sees the launch of a five year focus on JS Bach, led by John’s unique knowledge of the latest research and performance practice. He co-curated and will direct an all-

Bach programme on 10th March 2016 at St John Smith Square, as part of the OAE's Southbank season, which promises to shed extraordinary new light on this well-loved composer."

John Butt OBE says:

"It is a huge honour to join the OAE as Principal Artist, given the very distinguished names who hold or have held this position over the years, and it's a great responsibility to uphold the artistic integrity of the group. The OAE is a leading voice for historical performance and it has always been on the vanguard: in the range of music it performs, from Monteverdi to Mahler; in modes of presentation such as its rules free event 'The Night Shift'; and in its aim to produce information and enlightenment. This is a wonderful opportunity to work with the OAE's fantastically experienced, enquiring musicians who together form a band that is universally respected for its initiative and flexibility."

Chairman of the OAE Sir Martin Smith comments:

"We welcome John Butt to the impressive array of Principal Artists at the OAE which includes Sir Simon Rattle, Vladimir Jurowski and Sir Mark Elder. John will be an enormous asset to the Orchestra, with his outstanding scholarly approach to period performance, and his appointment represents the OAE's on-going commitment to bringing the latest academic study into performance practice."

## Contact:

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## 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.