



London Schools Symphony Orchestra celebrates 70th anniversary with Eleanor Alberga and Pacho Flores

Mon 20 Sep 2021, 19:30 – Barbican Hall

The **London Schools Symphony Orchestra** (LSSO) will celebrate its 70th anniversary with a spectacular programme featuring one of the world's greatest trumpeters, **Pacho Flores** under the baton of its Artistic Director **Peter Ash**.

Flores makes a rare London appearance for the world premiere of **Eleanor Alberga's** dazzling new trumpet concerto, based on Caribbean and Latin American folk legends.

The LSSO and its Artistic Director Peter Ash have built a close relationship with Alberga, recently celebrating her 70th birthday with a staged performance of her orchestral showpiece *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*.

Entitled *Invocation*, Alberga's new concerto was commissioned by the LSSO following a recent collaboration with Pacho Flores and with generous support from **Cockayne Grants for the Arts**.

Invocation was initially conceived with dance choreography by Colombian dancer Fernando Montaña, one of the stars of the Royal Ballet. Sadly the orchestra's summer tour of Colombia had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. So for this performance, the LSSO frames *Invocation* with two stunning ballet scores – Debussy's *Prelude à l'après-midi d'un faune* and Stravinsky's *Petrushka*.

LSSO Artistic Director Peter Ash comments: "*Eleanor is one of the most exhilarating orchestral composers working today. She has a unique sound palette and a glorious imagination, which has been inspired by the myths and legends of her native Caribbean, including one about the creation of the world and the first sunrise. Pacho is a brilliant soloist, who can produce a staggering range of colours from his trumpets. I feel certain the two will produce a thrilling evening's entertainment.*"

More information & tickets: <https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2021/event/lssso-languor-invocation-and-magic>



Programme

Debussy *Prelude à l'après-midi d'un faune*
Eleanor Alberga *Trumpet Concerto, Invocation*
Igor Stravinsky *Petrushka*

Performers

London Schools Symphony Orchestra
Peter Ash, conductor
Pacho Flores, trumpet

About the LSSO

Hailed by Sir Simon Rattle as "an incomparable ambassador for the dynamism and excellence of British youth", the London Schools Symphony Orchestra has for almost seventy years been regarded as a potent symbol of the talents and achievements of London's finest young musicians. It was founded in 1951 by Dr Leslie Russell, to give young musicians from schools in London the opportunity to perform with professional conductors and soloists. The current artistic director is conductor/composer, Peter Ash.

The orchestra gives three concerts a year at the Barbican Hall. The repertoire is wide and varied, ranging from Baroque concertos to contemporary works commissioned especially for the LSSO. Recent premieres have included major pieces by Jonathan Dove, John Tavener, and Vladimir Tarnopolski's comic cantata based on Roald Dahl's *Cinderella*.

LSSO concerts over the last five years have given the orchestra's young players the opportunity to play the great masterpieces, including symphonies by Beethoven, Brahms, Sibelius, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov, as well as Richard Strauss's mighty *Alpine Symphony*. They have also presented four one-act operas in semi staged productions: Ravel's *The Child and The Magic Spells*, Weber's *Oberon*, Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* and Bartók's *Duke Bluebeard's Castle*.

The orchestra is generously sponsored by the City of London Corporation and managed by the Centre for Young Musicians, a division of the Guildhall School, as part of the Guildhall Young Artists programme.