



Red Priest A Baroque Extravaganza

Wednesday 19th May 2021 at 4 pm and 7.30 pm
Cavendish Hall, Edensor

Preludio <i>from</i> Partita in E major for solo violin, BWV 1006	J.S. BACH (1685-1750)
Sonata	G.P. CIMA (c.1570-1630)
Chaconne 'Two in One upon a Ground' <i>from</i> Dioclesian	H. PURCELL (1659-1695)
Ciaconna	M. CAZZATI (1620-1677)
Two Ricercadas	D. ORTIZ (c.1510-c.1576)
Sonata in A minor 'Gypsy' <i>Largo – Vivace – Affetuoso – Allegro</i>	G.P. TELEMANN (1681-1767)
Prelude in B \flat for Harpsichord <i>Largo from Concerto Grosso, Op. 3 No.2</i>	G.F. HANDEL (1685-1767)
Air & Variations 'The Harmonious Blacksmith', Suite in E major HWV 430	
Flute Concerto No. 2 in G minor 'La Notte', RV 439 <i>Largo – Fantasmia (presto/largo/presto) – Il Sonno – Allegro</i>	A. VIVALDI (1678-1741)
Andante, BWV 1034	J.S. BACH (1685-1750)
Toccatà and Fugue in D minor, BWV 565	

Red Priest is the only early music group in the world to have been compared in the press to the Rolling Stones, Jackson Pollock, the Marx Brothers, Spike Jones and the Cirque du Soleil. This extraordinary acoustic foursome has been described by music critics as 'visionary and heretical', 'outrageous yet compulsive', 'wholly irreverent and highly enlightened', 'completely wild and deeply imaginative', with a 'red-hot wicked sense of humour' and a 'break-all-rules, rock-chamber concert approach to early music'.

Founded in 1997, and named after the red-headed priest, Antonio Vivaldi, Red Priest has given over 1000 sell-out concerts in many of the world's most prestigious festivals. The group has been the subject of hour-long TV profiles for NHK (Japan) and ITV (UK) - the latter for the prestigious South Bank Show. In 2008 Red Priest launched its own record label, which is now the home for all of the ensemble's recordings. Gramophone said of the group's *Handel in the Wind* CD 'Quite brilliant...some of the most extraordinary instrumental playing you're likely to hear', whilst their iconic recording of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* was hailed in the same publication as one of the four all-time best recordings of the work. Other releases have included a swashbuckling collection entitled *Pirates of the Baroque*, the group's all-Bach blockbuster, *Johann, I'm Only Dancing*, and *The Baroque Bohemians*, which surprised the major labels by reaching No.1 in the UK Specialist Classical Chart in 2017.

Piers Adams (*recorders*) has been heralded in the Washington Post as 'the reigning recorder virtuoso in the world today'. Piers has made several solo CDs reflecting an eclectic taste, ranging from his award-winning Vivaldi debut disc to David Bedford's Recorder Concerto - one of many major works written for and premiered by him.

Julia Bishop (*violin*) discovered her love of early music when she first heard the Baroque orchestra directed by Catherine Mackintosh and knew from then that she would make the Baroque violin her speciality. Thirty-five years later Julia is recognised as one of the most colourful exponents of the instrument.

Angela East (*cello*) is widely respected as one of the most brilliant and dynamic performers in the period instrument world, praised in *The Times* (London), for the 'elemental power' of her cello playing. She has given numerous concerto performances in London's Queen Elizabeth and Wigmore Halls.

David Wright (*harpsichord*) was an almost entirely self-taught musician before gaining a scholarship to the Royal College of Music. Since then, he has been a soloist with many groups of international renown and directed numerous concerts from the harpsichord, including the first modern performance of Arne's *The Blind Beggar of Bethnal Green*.

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