

Whatever Next!?

Preparing for the future in the Age of Covid

EUYO Secretary General Marshall Marcus maps out the EUYO's 2021 programme

Who could even have *imagined* it?

But before we spend too long reflecting on the bizarre situation in which humanity currently finds itself, if this year has taught the EUYO anything, it is the value of **changing quickly and thinking ahead**.

This is why 2020 has brought the EUYO a new *EUYO Digital* platform allowing digital teaching, residencies, concerts, recordings and audition classes, a new European Music Gallery Festival of live concerts with more than 280 musicians in 19 countries, a chamber residency and autumn residency with live audiences, Covid tests galore, and a whole new meaning to the phrase 'advance planning'. So much for 2020. But of course, what many people, (not least our players) will be asking is, **what next?**

More change, certainly.

We have a new game in the office: working out how many of our players will be allowed on stage for next year's programmes, and how many members of the audience will be allowed there to see and hear them. Of course, I could give you today's answers, but by now, what we know is that when it comes to it, those answers will probably have had to change. So we plan, and we wait.

What we do know is that we have two major residencies and tours planned with residency partners Ferrara and Grafenegg, with artists including the immensely talented young Italian conductor **Valentina Peleggi**, the highly experienced **David Zinman** and chief conductor **Vasily Petrenko**.

Another major residency and also hopefully a world premiere – both postponed from 2020 - will now take place in 2021, and the Orchestra will be celebrating, the saxophone, of all instruments, as a solo instrument. If Covid rules allow it, we will be tackling Strauss's great Alpine Symphony, pairing it with Elgar's cello concerto. And we mark fifty years since the death of Stravinsky with performances of the *Rite of Spring*.

Other changes will be less noticeable to our audiences but no less important: a new emphasis on providing our players with the skills they need

to make successful careers in these turbulent times, including a focus on sustainability, a new digital offering and educational and social projects responding to the EU's new Creative Europe priorities.

And we surely have a responsibility to facilitate our players being able to look at the question of diversity, and issues arising from hugely important movements like BLM.

We know that 2021 is sure to bring surprises, and that the only certainty is change, but at the EUYO we also know that whatever '*whatever next*' brings, we will be ready. As we say in the office, it takes more than a pandemic to keep the EUYO down.



MARSHALL MARCUS

EUYO Secretary General