

Friday 29 November 2024
7.30pm
Milton Court Concert Hall



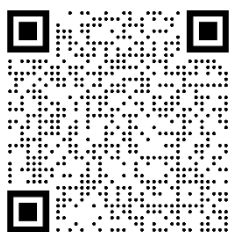
Guildhall Jazz Orchestra & Choir

featuring **Ola Onabulé**
directed by **Scott Stroman, Flora
Medlicott & Clare Wheeler**

Digital Programme

Scan the QR code to access our digital programme:

guildhall-programmes.co.uk/guildhall-jazz-orchestra-and-choir-nov-2024



Milton Court

Please make sure that digital devices and mobile phones are silenced during the performance.

Eating is not permitted in the auditorium.
Drinks are allowed inside the auditorium in polycarbonates.

Filming or recording of the performance is not permitted.

Latecomers will be able to enter the auditorium at a suitable break in the performance.

Programme

Please note that Sally Greene OBE's Guildhall School Fellowship Conferment will take place on stage at the start of tonight's concert.

All works by Ola Onabulé:

Throwaway Notion
Alive Tonight
Ballad of the Star Crossed
I Knew Your Father
Lagos Boy

Interval (20 minutes)

So They Say
Point Less
Patience Endures
Wonderful Feeling
The Old Story

Programme correct at time of publication.

Donate

We hope you have thoroughly enjoyed today's performance at Guildhall School. If you felt inspired by our students and would like to support world-class training for these talented performers and production artists, we would be grateful for a voluntary donation.

Join the Guildhall Circle to access priority booking, exclusive events and more while providing vital support to our students. Join us at gsmd.ac.uk/circle.

Alternatively, you can make your gift using our contactless GoodBox devices located at the Box Office and foyer bars. Thank you.

Guildhall Jazz Orchestra

Alto Saxophone

Benji O’Riordan (flute)

Max Barnard (flute, clarinet)

Tenor Saxophone

Nestor Vasilakis

Bror Havnes

Baritone Saxophone

Alex Wardill (bass clarinet)

Trumpet

Luke Lane

Sidney Moon

Matt Hill

Felix Bork

Trombone

Angus Grierson

Matt Cooper

Anna Bailey

Josh Brierley (bass trombone)

Guitar

Val Cheesbrough

Piano

Lucian McCauley

Edgar Ho

Bass

Freddie Rupp

Mo Cook

Drums

Chris Davis

Leo Bridger

Guildhall Jazz Choir

Jasmine Anderson

Evie Atkin

Ana Baginska

Chelsea Becker

Cass Begg

Ralph Bishop

Daria Blyzniuk

Lucy Bradburn

Erin Bradley

Alexandra Cojocariu

Alastair Eddie

Tilley Gartan

Louis Gascoyne

Angus Grierson

Evie Hill

Tiger-Lily Jonathan

Taha Kagzi

Emily Kent

Daisy Lihoreau

Emily Masser

Johanka Petrlikova

Martina Petrova

Lior Solomons-Wise

Charlotte Stocks

Benny Tayler

Amelia Taylor

Bridget Walsh

Henry Ward

Rosa Witts

Angel Wong

Olesa Zgurskaia

Ola Onabulé

British-Nigerian singer/songwriter Ola Onabulé has built an enviably solid music career through a relentless schedule both in the recording studio and as an international touring performer. He has always been interested in crossing cultural and musical boundaries. The emotion and virtuosity in his three-and-a-half octave baritone voice channels his poignant storytelling, which has given life to previous studio works exploring his Nigerian roots, his Western upbringing, family life and musical influences ranging from jazz to soul world, and pop.

An ever-present theme in all his creative output, Onabulé's views on social injustice become the focus of this latest release, with an intensity and boldness reminiscent of Marvin Gaye's *What's Going On*. The 14 original tracks on *Point Less* tell tales of violence, immigration, xenophobia, betrayal, and dignity, at once celebrating life and warning the social forces threatening it. In these songs, the artist ponders on our contemporary lack of historical memory which allows mistrust and fear to rule; asks philosophical questions about violence; reflects on what real power is: force or spirituality; tries to depict true love beyond all simple stereotypes and takes inspiration by Kipling's poem "We and They" to try and understand the notion of "the other".

Following Onabulé's critically acclaimed 2015 recording, *It's The Peace That Deafens*, with its strong musical and thematic connections to Nigeria, *Point Less* once again offers an insight into the songwriter's fiercely independent artistic and entrepreneurial world.

In an independent career spanning more than 20 years, Ola has performed at many of the most respected international jazz festivals including Montreal, Vancouver, San Sebastian, Istanbul, Washington and Umbria, as well as at concert halls and Jazz clubs worldwide, building and consolidating a reputation with audiences globally. He has presented music from his albums with his quartet/quintet as well as with much larger ensembles of big bands and symphonic orchestras, such as the WDR Big Band of Cologne, the SWR Big Band of Stuttgart, the Danish Radio Big Band in Copenhagen and the Big Band Jazz Y Mexico in Mexico City.

Onabulé's reach is global – connecting with audiences worldwide through his soulful voice and his elegant appearance. Whether live on stage or on record, he gives a thoughtful interpretation of his experiences and the world around him, with music crafted with meticulous attention to detail in his arrangements and production.