

**THE
POLYPHONIC
CONCERT
CLUB**

RECITAL #04

PROGRAMME

RED PRIEST

FIRST BROADCAST 01 APRIL 2021

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RED PRIEST

from **The National Centre for Early Music**

Piers Adams *recorder*
Julia Bishop *violin*
Angela East *cello*
David Wright *harpsichord*

The original bar-rockstars and “in an exhilarating class of their own”, Red Priest is the only early music group in the world to have been compared by the press to the Rolling Stones, Jackson Pollock, the Marx Brothers, Spike Jones and Cirque du Soleil.

Presenting a carnival of baroque blockbusters in York’s National Center for Early Music, the group reunites with founder member violinist Julia Bishop, in a special one-off programme of baroque blockbusters from the group’s heyday. Hold on to your sofas.

Johann Sebastian Bach	<i>Preludio</i> <i>(from Partita in E major for solo violin, BWV 1006)</i>
Gian Paolo Cima	<i>Sonata</i>
Henry Purcell	<i>Chaconne 'Two in One upon a Ground'</i> <i>(From Dioclesian)</i>
Maurizio Cazzati	<i>Ciaconna</i>
Diego Ortiz	<i>Two Ricercadas</i>
Georg Phillip Telemann	<i>'Gypsy' Sonata in A minor</i>
Georg Frederick Handel	<i>Aria</i> <i>(from Sonata in B minor op.2 no.1)</i>
Georg Frederick Handel	<i>Air and Variations 'The Harmonious Blacksmith'</i> <i>(from Suite in E major HWV 430)</i>
Antonio Vivaldi	<i>Concerto in G minor 'La Notte' (RV 439)</i>
Antonio Vivaldi	<i>Largo from Concerto in F minor 'Winter' (RV 297)</i>
Johann Sebastian Bach	<i>Toccatà and Fugue in D minor (BWV 565)</i>

BIOGRAPHY

Red Priest

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 flame-haired priest, Antonio Vivaldi, Red Priest has given several hundred sell-out concerts in many of the world's most prestigious festivals, including the Hong Kong Arts Festival, Moscow December Nights Festival, Schwetzingen Festival, Prague Spring Festival, Ravinia Festival, Bermuda Festival, and in most European countries, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and throughout North and Central America, to which they have toured over 40 times. 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 2005, which documented the launch of the Red Hot Baroque Show, an electrifying marriage of old music with the latest light and video technology.

Red Priest comprises recorder player Piers Adams, violinist Adam Summerhayes, cellist Angela East and harpsichordist David Wright. These musicians have redefined the art of period performance, creating a virtual orchestra through their creative arrangements, performing from memory with swashbuckling virtuosity, heart-on-sleeve emotion and compelling stagecraft. Their repertoire ranges from obscure 17th century sonatas to the most famous works of Bach and Vivaldi, all presented in imaginative programmes with filmic titles: *'Priest on the Run'*, *'Nightmare in Venice'*, *'Pirates of the Baroque'*, *'Johann, I'm Only Dancing'*.

In 2008 Red Priest launched its own record label, Red Priest Recordings, which is now the home for all of the recordings of the ensemble and its members, and has attracted much attention in the music press worldwide. The label is distributed worldwide by Nimbus. The group's most recent release, *The Baroque Bohemians*, reached No.1 in the UK Classical Charts in 2017.

Thank you for your support at this critical time for music and the arts.

If you are able, please spread the word.

The Polyphonic Concert Club is a Polyphonic Films Limited production produced in partnership with St George's Bristol, The Stoller Hall in Manchester and The National Centre for Early Music in York.

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