

“A decidedly unstuffy bunch of superb musicians ... Look out for them whenever your spirits need a lift.”
The Daily Telegraph

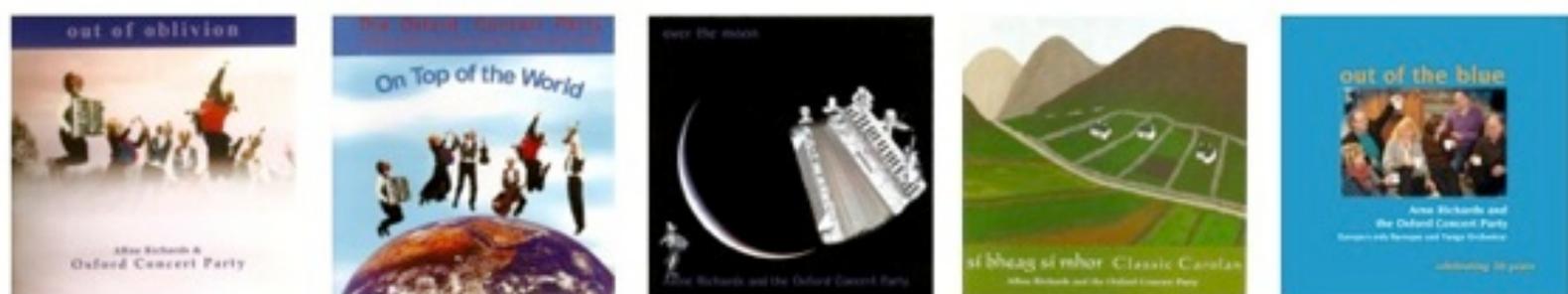


Oxford
C**o**ncert
P**a**rty
Arne Richards &

Europe's only Baroque and Tango Orchestra!

“The band are refreshingly different and brought something very special to the overall festival programme.”
Beccles Festival

INFORMATION PACK



THE OXFORD CONCERT PARTY



ARNE RICHARDS
ACCORDION &
HARPSICHORD

ISABEL KNOWLAND
VIOLIN

GREGORY WARREN WILSON
VIOLIN

LISANNE MELCHIOR
VIOLA

TREVOR BURLEY
CELLO

LUCY HARE
BASS

Take three hundred years of music from around the world, turn it upside down, infuse it with humour, energy, passion and pathos - and you have the recipe with which the Oxford Concert Party, described as "one of the most entertaining, mould-breaking groups around" (Oxford Times) charms and delights their audience wherever they go. Be it Vivaldi or Piazzolla, French café music or Argentinean tango, Irish laments or Finnish polkas, this "bunch of superb musicians" (Daily Telegraph) create a rich, colourful and expressive sound, and their vibrant virtuosity, zany and offbeat humour make theirs an unforgettable performance. In 2012, the group is celebrating its' 20 anniversary.

Tours: Ireland, Scotland, the Shetland Islands, Holland, Italy. UK Rural Touring Schemes
Festivals: Newbury, Henley, Rye, Church Stretton, Swaffham, Bolton, Lanercost, Galway – Ireland, Spoleto - Italy (by personal invitation of the late Gian Carlo Menotti), Edinburgh – voted 'Pick of the Fringe'
Radio: Radio 3 'In Tune', Radio 4 'Kaleidoscope' & 'Loose Ends', Radio 2 'Friday Night is Music Night', Radio Scotland 'Fine Tunes', Radio Telefís Éireann 'Gay Byrne Show'
Television: Border Television, Italian Television

Community Outreach Work:

Prisons: Regular five-day projects at HMP Whitemoor, HMP Grendon, HMP Dartmoor, HMP Lancaster Castle, HMP Cornhill. Concerts in prisons throughout UK and Ireland, concerts and projects in detention centres
Homes: Concerts at Day Centres, Homes for the Elderly and people with special needs throughout the country. Inter-generational projects.
Children: Concerts and workshops projects in schools throughout the UK.

Discography:

OUT OF OBLIVION	Latin American, Scottish and Irish music
ON TOP OF THE WORLD	300 years of music from around the world – turned upside-down!
OVER THE MOON	Jewish Klezmer, J Scott Skinner, tangos and more!
SI BHEAG, SI MHOR	Classic Carolan - the best of Irish music
OUT OF THE BLUE	Live concert, recorded in Oxford Oct 2011; launched April 2012

Visit our website at: www.oxfordconcertparty.org and listen to our music!

THE OXFORD CONCERT PARTY IS:



Arne Richards (Artistic Director - harpsichord/accordion) made his highly acclaimed debut at the **Wigmore Hall** in London, and has since developed a colourful and varied performing profile in many parts of the world. Well known for his exciting and stylish playing, he has recorded regularly for **BBC Radio and Television, Channel 4 Television**, and has appeared on Italian, German, Mexican, Australian and US networks. An authority on music for healing, his work as a consultant music therapist has taken him to Scandinavia, the Far East and Australia. He is also a qualified hypnoanalyst. ARne's unique compositions and arrangements for the Oxford Concert Party reflect his great love of world music, particularly Celtic music and the tango.



Isabel Knowland (violin) studied at the **Royal Academy of Music** with Frederick Grinke. During her varied professional career she has played in West End shows, recorded with groups such as **Procul Harem**, played in many major London orchestras and recorded several trio recitals for the **BBC**. From OCP's formation in 1992 to 2008 she managed the group, and has played a major role in developing projects in prisons, schools and residential homes. Brought up in Ireland, her playing reflects her love of its passionate music and energetic dance.



Gregory Warren Wilson (violin) is a jack of all trades, known nowadays as a post-modernist renaissance man. He trained at the **Royal Ballet School** and danced at **Covent Garden** before studying at the **Royal College of Music**. He was a member of the **Razumovsky Quartet** for three years and the **London Mozart Players** for ten. He now enjoys a wide variety of work, performing and recording classical, contemporary and pop music. Passionate about tango, he teaches at **The Tango Club** in London. He has also published four books of poetry, most recently 'The Mercury Fountain' (Enitharmon Press, 2008).



Lisanne Melchior (viola) won violin and viola scholarships to the **Royal Northern College of Music** and later to study in Chicago. Lisanne enjoys different forms of music playing in symphony orchestras, opera orchestras including **Glyndebourne** and **Welsh National**, and jazz ensembles. She has a particular love of chamber music and has performed concertos in both England and Germany. Lisanne lives on a smallholding with animals both feathered & woolly and also keeps free-range children.



Trevor Burley (cello) hails from Halesowen in the west midlands. At the age of eleven, having failed miserably with the trumpet, he fell in love with the cello and later studied at the **Welsh College of Music** in Cardiff and the **Guildhall School of Music & Drama** in London. Since then his busy freelance career has included playing in thirteen West End shows, performing chamber music at the **Purcell Room** and working with the rock group "**Suede**". He now lives in Oxfordshire with his partner Shelley, with whom he plays 1920's Palm Court music. He also cooks with gusto, flirts with church organs and is a practising Craniosacral Therapist.



Lucy Hare (double bass) is in great demand as a freelance player in London and abroad. She has worked with many of London's major orchestras, chamber ensembles and recording companies. A traveller, gastronome and dancer at heart, Lucy's unique percussive playing brings together her wild energy and love of world rhythms and music. Obsessed by the tango she has formed her own tango quintet, **Tango Volcano**. She has recently acquired a new passion, gardening, and she and Isabel are known to spend many hours over their veg boxes, wine glass in hand, discussing slugs and compost.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAID

"A decidedly unstuffy bunch of superb musicians Look out for them whenever your spirits need a lift." **The Daily Telegraph**

"Concerts of Baroque music, tango, and Scottish and Irish tunes are not two a penny at Festival or any other time the concert never loses its sense of fun there is no sense of a self-conscious blowing of boundaries as the Oxford Concert Party just play and give entertainment" **** **The Scotsman**

"It's totally different, crazy and triumphant with a peculiar vitality." **BBC Radio**

"One of the most entertaining, mould- breaking groups around." **Oxford Times**

"One of the major qualities that sets this Orchestra apart from any other ensemble is not only virtuosity but also their wit and rare entertainment value, which immediately puts everyone at ease and produces instant audience participation." **The London Arts and Fringe Directory**

*"**The Oxford Concert Party** flawlessly mixed classical precision with charming and humorous introductions to a wide range of material from Vivaldi to O'Calloran. The music was well suited to the atmosphere of the Holywell and special mentions must go to the drunken cello player – a stunning piece of playing and play-acting."* **Bright Young Folk**

*"Over at the Holywell Room an exquisite performance was given by the **Oxford Concert Party** who made the most of the acoustics in the room producing a sound with dazzling clarity and beauty. This incredible string band lead by an eccentric looking keyboardist treated the audience to a virtuoso series of tunes featuring parlour pieces from itinerant composers of the eighteenth century to a bawdy bass and accordion reel by way of a hilarious a drunken cellist skit."* **eFestivals.co.uk**

WHAT THE PEOPLE SAID

"I've never heard classical musicians playing folk music so superbly" **Oxford Folk Festival 2010**

"You were all quite magnificent. The power that you communicate via the music was superb, inspiring and spiritual." **Codsall Village Hall (Staffordshire)**

"the depth and quality of the playing were remarkable, without in any way compromising or being compromised by your ability to make it all enormous fun. There are plenty of ensembles who give people the aesthetic pleasure that one expects from good music; I don't know another group of players who make their audience so happy." **Aston Cantlow Village Hall(Warwickshire)**

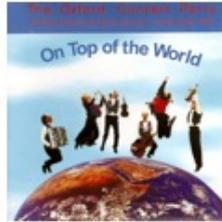
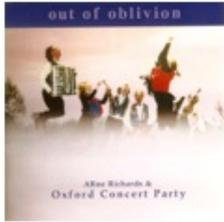
"Thank you for coming to Wisbech and giving us such a treat. I have been treasurer of the Wisbech Music Society for 18 years and have attended all the concerts which must run into several hundred. I can honestly say that I have never heard such a varied and exciting programme on one evening." **Wisbech Music Society (Cambridgeshire)**

"The evening was a great success. The band are refreshingly different and brought something very special to the overall festival programme." **Beccles Festival**

"Thank you ! I have just finished dancing around the ironing board. What a treat to hear you on Radio 3, and I am so pleased to have found you." **Feedback from BBC Radio 3 In Tune appearance May 2012**

*" * * * * ing great!"* **Inmates, Whitemoor Prison (Cambridgeshire)**

DISCOGRAPHY



Out of Oblivion

Silueta Porteño (Cucaro); El Peruano (Peiro); Oblivion (Piazzolla); Apanhei-Te (Nazareth); De Vuelta Y; Media (Varela); Verano Porteno (Piazzolla); La Partida (Trad); Vuelvo Al Sur (Solanas); Fon-Fon (Nazareth); Palomita Blanca (Varela); Moroccan Tango (Piero); Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5 – Aria (Villa Lobos); Chapel Keithack (Marshall); Miss Wharton Duff (Marshall); Speed The Plough (Trad); Altamont And Gigue (Lovelady); Carolan's Draught (O'Carolan); Planxty O'Carolan (O'Carolan); Planxty Madam Maxwell (O'Carolan); Sicilienne (Paradis)

On Top of the World

La Cumparsita (G Rodriguez); Sheer Misery (A Richards); Milonga (Trad); Soir de Cafard (J Privat / L Hotellier); An Armenian in Krakow (A Richards); Sowjetski (I Panizki); Finnish Waltz & Polka (Trad); Resurreccion del Angel (Piazzolla); Hillhead of Corse (A Richards); The Ballater Polka (Joe Murray); Sí Bheag, Sí Mhor (T O'Carolan); Princess Royal (T O'Carolan); Lady Wrixton (T O'Carolan); Elegy for Edwin Muir (A Richards); The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba (Handel); Air on a G Reed (J S Bach); Badinerie (J S Bach); Madam Vanoni (J Scott Skinner)

Over The Moon

Tanz, Tanz (A Richards); An Armenian in Krakow (A Richards); Garufa (Collazo); Chiquilin de Bachin (Piazzolla); Tango Fuego (Zucco); Twin Sisters (Trad); Suite (James Scott Skinner) The Flower of the Quern (Tutti)/The Battle of Falkirk (Violins)/The Minstrel to his Soul (Viola)/The Cairngorms (Harpsichord)/Clarence Tough and the Young King (Cello and Double Bass)/ Banks (attr Parazotti) (Tutti); A Waltz for Catherine (A Richards / Jay Unger); Prelude (G Garcia); Tönder (Phil. Cunningham); San Fernando (Codeville); Suvivalssi (Trad)

Sí Bheag Sí Mhor

Fanny Power (T O'Carolan); Princess Royal/Sí Bheag, Sí Mhor/Lady Wrixton (T O'Carolan); The Coyles of Muick (T O'Carolan); King of the Fairies/The Silver Spire (Trad); O'Rourke's Lament/O'Rourke's Feast (T O'Carolan); Planxty Irwin (T O'Carolan); The Mullingar Races/The Pigeon on the Gate/Fairy Dance (Trad); The Clergy's Lamentation/Give Me Your Hand (T O'Carolan); Carolan's Maggot/Carolan's Farewell to Music/Ode to Whiskey (T O'Carolan); Little Celia Connella/Spatter the Dew/Lady Wrixton (Reprise) (T O'Carolan / Trad); Eammon a Chnuic (Trad); Bridget Cruise/Loftus Jones/Lament for Owen Roe O'Neill/Carolan's Concerto (T O'Carolan)

Out of the Blue

La Natchave (Privet/Richards); The Cloths of Heaven (Richards); Trevor's Ground (Richards); Libertango (Piazzolla); For Isabel (Richards); Come Back Gregory (Trad); Shalom Aleikem/Tsadik Katamar (Trad); Translucence (Richards); Milonga de mis Amores (Laurenz); Sakura (Richards); Barbara's Bicycle (Richards); Lisanne (Richards); Moroccan Tango (Peiro)

BOOKING AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Venue

The Oxford Concert Party play best in small venues with audiences of up to 300.

Booking:

The fees for the group is £1,500 including expenses for one evening concert. We can also play an additional concert especially for children in the same morning, for an additional fee of £600.

Technical:

The technical requirements are very simple as we are an acoustic group, except for a keyboard. We require:

- one power point and three chairs
- access to the venue for set up, sound check and rehearsal for 3 hours prior to the opening of the auditorium
- access to a green room for before the performance and for the interval

Programme:

The concert usually runs 2 halves of 45 minutes each plus a 20 minute interval. If you require a different length of concert, we will be happy to discuss your requirements.

We have a large repertoire of music from around the world, alongside original compositions from Arne Richards and we decide on the programme close to the date. Music will be chosen from: Vivaldi and other familiar baroque pieces as you have never heard them before; Turlough O'Carolan; J. Scott Skinner; William Marshall; William Loveday; traditional Irish and Scottish music; Astor Piazzolla and other traditional tangos; French café music; Jewish Klezmer; tunes from Russia, Eastern Europe, Finland and America; and original compositions by Arne Richards.

We can also play a concert aimed at children which is one hour long. We can play a children's concert in the morning and the full concert in the evening. The repertoire is different for both.

Children's Concert Information

Travel around the world with The Oxford Concert Party on our musical magic carpet!

Using our music and your imagination, we will go around the globe, flying to exciting and colourful countries – and you get to choose where we go! You will learn lots of great new songs and hear music from the other side of the world. Our fabulous musicians will tell you all about their instruments. But you don't have to just sit and listen – in our lively, interactive concert, there will plenty of opportunities for you to sing, clap and join in. There will be musical surprises and lots of fun!

The Oxford Concert Party has undertaken many concerts and education workshops all over the country for children of primary school age. The concerts focus on audience participation in an informal and relaxed way to make the experience as engaging and enjoyable as possible for the listeners.

Contact Details

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