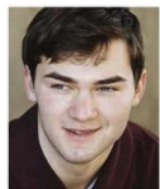


Rising Stars

Three to look out for...

Nathan Meltzer *Violinist*



Born: Washington, US
Career highlight: The surprise long-term loan of the Totenberg-Ames Stradivarius when I was 18. Playing it has really broadened my horizons and allowed me

to explore new musical ideas.

Musical hero: Violinist Itzhak Perlman has been my teacher since I was 13, and is kind, funny, warm and approachable. You can sit in his kitchen and discuss music, baseball and food, and really feel his zest for life.

Dream concert: I was supposed to play my dream concert this year, but it was sadly cancelled. It was John Rutter's *Visions* at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, with the RPO, the Bach Choir and Rutter himself.

Selina Ott *Trumpeter*



Born: Krems, Austria
Career highlight: Winning the ARD competition in the trumpet category in 2018, as both the first woman and first Austrian to do so. My musical life was

transformed overnight.

Musical hero: Trumpeter Håkan Hardenberger has been my hero since I was a child. I also heard pianist Kirill Gerstein and violinist Nicolaj Szeps-Znaider last year in Vienna and their playing was astonishing.

Dream concert: To play in the Vienna Musikverein with a Viennese orchestra would be a dream come true. I'd love to play something Romantic – or even a crazy contemporary piece.

Blaise Malaba *Bass*



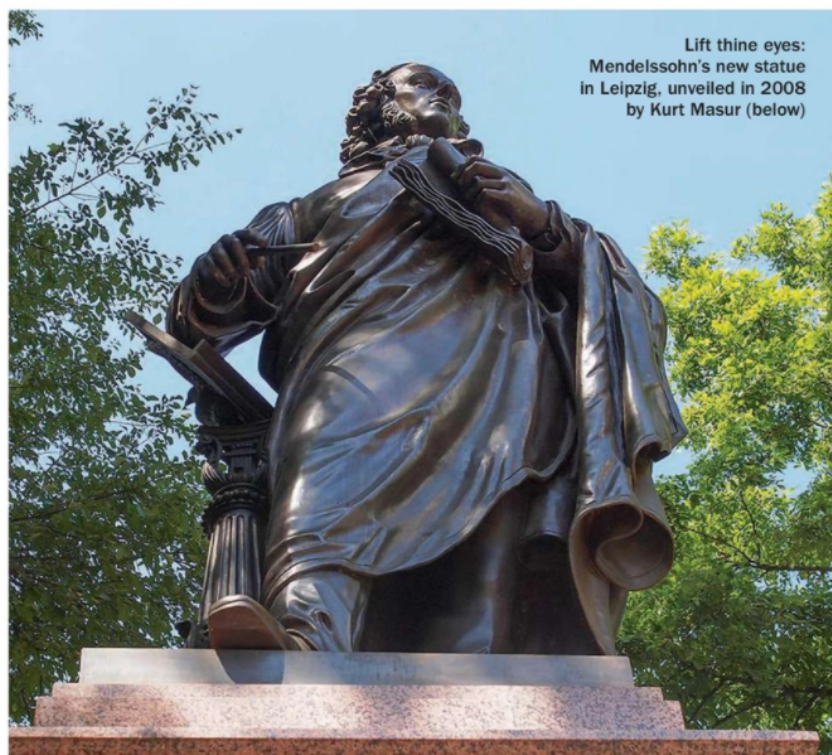
Born: Kisangani, Democratic Republic of the Congo
Career highlight: Reaching the final of BBC Cardiff Singer of the World in 2015, which led me to study at the Royal

Welsh College of Music and Drama. I also recently made my debut on the Royal Opera House stage in 'Live from Covent Garden'.

Musical hero: Samuel Ramey and Ezio Flagelo, for their ability to move flexibly around different styles smoothly, and Giorgio Tozzi, Boris Gmyria and Cesare Siepi for their musicality. They all share solid technique and are dramatically accomplished singers.

Dream concert: My dream roles are both in Verdi operas: Zaccaria in *Nabucco* and the eponymous *Attila*.

TIMEPIECE This month in history



Lift thine eyes: Mendelssohn's new statue in Leipzig, unveiled in 2008 by Kurt Masur (below)

OCTOBER 2008

Felix Mendelssohn stands tall in Leipzig once again

On 18 October, 2008, the conductor Kurt Masur stepped up to a microphone in the German city of Leipzig, where he had served as music director of the Gewandhaus orchestra for a quarter of a century. To one side stood the Thomaskirche, the church where JS Bach spent most of his career. To the other rose an imposing new statue of Felix Mendelssohn – another former music director of the Gewandhaus – which Masur had come to talk about.

Mendelssohn's 200th birthday was approaching, and the statue was a joyful harbinger of that. But to the casual onlooker it might have seemed a curiously dated piece of sculpture



– atop the granite plinth, Mendelssohn sported a toga from classical antiquity, while at his feet sat Euterpe, Greek muse of music, and a pair of winged cherubs, playing a violin and flute. Hardly a cutting-edge, 21st-century interpretation.

That was, however, because the 'new' Mendelssohn monument was an exact copy of one originally built by Werner Stein in 1892 to commemorate the composer's contribution to the city. The original had been ripped down unceremoniously in 1936, when the ugly anti-Semitism of Hitler's Germany was on the rise.

The main villain of the piece was Rudolph Haake, a senior Leipzig city

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