

# Family-Friendly Storytelling Project Announces Digital Premiere of American Composer Jay Reise's 'The Warrior Violinist'

*Top British 'Soap' Star, Conductor Kenneth Woods and English Symphony Orchestra Perform Ancient Tale*

UNITED KINGDOM, December 15, 2020  
/EINPresswire.com/ -- World premiere of ancient tale - 'The Warrior Violinist' - with music by acclaimed American composer, [Jay Reise](#), available from 18 December 2020 at 1800 GMT and afterwards on ESO Digital.

Watch the trailer:

<https://www.eso.co.uk/warrior/>

The Art of Storytelling: Music from Wyastone - Studio Concert Series presents:

Jay Reise: The Warrior Violinist

English Symphony Orchestra  
Kenneth Woods, Artistic Director/Conductor  
Leader/Violin Soloist, Zoë Beyers  
Davood Ghadami, Narrator

<https://www.eso.co.uk/warrior/>



American Composer, Jay Reise (photo: Marina Garcia Burgos)

Following on from the success of Hugh Bonneville's narration of Kenneth Woods's '[The Ugly Duckling](#)' and Henry Goodman's hilarious rendition of '[Lubin, from Chelm](#)', Davood Ghadami, the charismatic star of BBC Television's 'EastEnders', joins the English Symphony Orchestra (ESO) for a virtual performance of Jay Reise's 'The Warrior Violinist'.

Inspired by an ancient Egyptian fairy tale and the legend engraved on a pink granite slab between the paws of the Sphinx, 'The Warrior Violinist' is a cautionary parable about yearning to be what one is not, and is suitable for family viewing. The story centres around a young lad who plays the violin with an all-consuming passion and then finds another love – the princess of the

kingdom.

With music and words by American composer Jay Reise, 'The Warrior Violinist' was commissioned by the Philadelphia-based storytelling troupe Auricolae in 2012, and the original version of the work for violin and cello was released on 'Auricolae: The Double Album' by Avie Records in 2014.

Reise says that the chance to revisit the work was one of the positives in a difficult year; "In the summer of 2020, when the concert halls had closed because of the Covid pandemic, Ken Woods asked me to prepare a version for this recording project. The challenging and disheartening circumstances made recomposing the piece an especially gratifying experience. In addition to fleshing out harmonies, adding contrapuntal lines, and creating fuller and richer orchestral sonorities, I was able to expand the presence of the solo violin (performed here by Zoë Beyers) so it could more actively fulfil its role as the protagonist of the story."



Kenneth Woods is the Conductor



A section of the English Symphony Orchestra

"It was important to us to make the ESO's storytelling project as diverse as possible," said the ESO's Artistic Director Kenneth Woods, who is also Artistic Director of the Colorado MahlerFest and conducts this performance. "Of course, we've included beloved classics from the Brothers Grimm and Hans Christian Andersen, but we've also ventured into the world of ancient cultures with 'Lubin, from Chelm', and now in 'The Warrior Violinist'."

Narrator, Davood Ghadami is most widely known for his appearance in BBC Television's popular soap opera, 'EastEnders', since 2014, for which he won 'Best Newcomer' at the TV Choice Awards and received nominations for 'Best Newcomer' and 'Best Actor' at the Inside Soap Awards.

Upcoming works in the Storytelling project include Gemma Whelan in 'The Bremen Town Musicians' by Kile Smith, and Henry Goodman in Tom Kraines' 'Hansel and Gretel', both of which will be released in 2021. The next concert in the ESO's 'Music from Wyastone' Series is a gala New

Years' Eve concert featuring the music of the Roaring 20s.

- Ends -

#### NOTES TO EDITORS

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