

SEPTURA SIDE-BY-SIDE: MUSICAL MIGRATION

FRIDAY 30 JANUARY 2026, 1PM
SUSIE SAINSBURY THEATRE



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The Royal Academy of Music moves music forward by inspiring successive generations of musicians to connect, collaborate and create. We are the meeting point between the traditions of the past and the talent of the future, seeking out and supporting the musicians today whose music will move the world tomorrow.

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Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953)
arr Simon Cox
 March from The Love for Three Oranges

Tomás Luis de Victoria
(1548-1611)
arr Simon Cox
 Congratulamini mihi
 Tu es Petrus
 O sacrum convivium

George Frideric Handel
(1685-1759)
arr Simon Cox
 from Suite from Rinaldo
 Overture
 Aria: Sibilare gli angeli d'Aletto
 Aria: Il vostro maggio de' bei verdi anni
 Sinfonia

Nicholas Gawley (b 2001)
 Fugue for brass septet

Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de
Saint-Georges (1745-1799)
arr Matthew Knight
 Overture from L'amant anonyme

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)
arr Simon Cox
 Organ Sonata in C minor, Op 65 No 2
 Grave – Adagio
 Allegro maestoso e vivace
 Allegro moderato

Trumpet
 James Fountain*
 Alan Thomas*
 Sigrid Bengtsson
 Iris Rushbrooke

Trombone
 Matthew Gee*
 Rhydian Tiddy
 Jack Myles

Bass Trombone
 Alistair Goodwin

Tuba
 Jude Smith
 Nona Lawrence

* Members of Septura

Septura

Septura was born out of a passion for the awe-inspiring sound of brass instruments. The brass is uniquely vibrant and versatile, and Septura aims to harness its intense emotional power to produce transformative musical experiences for audiences. In short, it is pioneering a simple message: music sounds better on brass.

To fulfil its mission, Septura brought together the very best brass players in the UK, who hold principal positions in the Royal Philharmonic, London Symphony, BBC Symphony and Philharmonia orchestras. With their unparalleled skill and virtuosity, the ensemble has forged a chamber group described as 'dazzlingly polished' (BBC Music Magazine), and now firmly established as one of the best in the world.

Artistic Director Matthew Knight and Founder Simon Cox are two of the most preeminent and prolific arrangers for brass, and together they have created a diverse counterfactual canon: reimagining great music of the past for brass, and addressing historical imbalances by putting a spotlight on under-represented composers. Looking to the future, Septura is commissioning leading composers such as Roxanna Panufnik to create a rich repertoire of original music for brass septet.

Weaving its ever-increasing repertoire into vivid and captivating live events, Septura continues to break down barriers with musical and cross-arts collaborations, recently working with artists ranging from Cathy Tyson and Derek Jacobi to John Rutter and The Sixteen. The ensemble takes its inimitable innovative programming around the world, touring in Europe, Japan, China, South America and the US, as well as performing at the UK's most prestigious festivals and venues, including regular appearances at London's Wigmore Hall.

Septura records regular releases for Naxos Records, and the first nine discs have received widespread critical acclaim, described variously as 'irresistible' (The Observer), 'exceptional' (The Arts Desk) and 'brass playing at its most exalted' (Fanfare). Its next recording will highlight the music of female composers, past and present.

Currently Ensemble in Residence at the Academy, in 2023 Septura launched its first residential Summer Brass Academy in collaboration with The Rodolfus Foundation to inspire future generations of brass players. The group's outreach work also includes close collaboration with the Amber Trust, through which they introduce the power of brass instruments to blind and partially sighted children.