



Press release
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ESTA UK announces Nicola Benedetti as its next President

ESTA UK - the British branch of the European String Teachers Association - is delighted to announce that violinist Nicola Benedetti is to be its next President.

Nicola will officially succeed the present incumbent, David Le Page, on June 21st, and her first engagement will be at an ESTA event in Leeds on July 4th this year. Website for the event is <https://estastrings.org.uk/product/nicola-benedetti-july-4-leeds/>

ESTA UK's Chairman, John Shayler, said "We are very excited to welcome Nicola as our new President. She led a very successful two day event for us last year at Saffron Hall in which she demonstrated her passion for string teaching, and her enthusiasm for communicating with teachers and pupils alike. We are certain that she will do a great deal to support our ongoing campaign for music education in the face of some very difficult circumstances for our members."

"The Leeds event on July 4th will be a very good platform for the transfer of the Presidency." said Philip Aird, CEO of ESTA UK, "Many teachers and pupils will be present, and David Le Page will be there to officially hand over the role. The Leeds branch of ESTA has for many years been one of our most active and successful regional branches, so we are delighted that they will be the people to host this important next step in the development of our very active and forward looking organisation."

The previous President, David Le Page, was a very active supporter of the organisation, and led many masterclasses, presentations and concerts. "He changed the face of the Presidency by being especially active and supportive," said Mr Shayler, "and we know Nicola is committed to continue in the same vein."

Nicola Benedetti commented, 'I am delighted to become the next ESTA UK President and to continue the excellent work that David has undertaken during his tenure. Exceptional teaching from dedicated music teachers takes place all over the UK and I believe it is our responsibility to support them. ESTA is brilliant at bringing teachers together to discuss best practices and to share ideas. I very much look forward to meeting more of them from across the UK as ESTA's UK President.'

Traditionally, presidential terms in ESTA UK are for three or four years.

www.estastrings.org.uk

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Notes to Editors

About ESTA

ESTA (UK) is a membership organisation dedicated to the needs of string teachers across the UK, helping them to develop their potential and thus enable the students they teach, at all levels from toddler to post conservatoire. ESTA provides support and professional development through its website and magazines, Arco and Jesta, and by organising events across the country throughout the year. Alongside this ESTA (UK) offers generous financial benefits to members, including insurance and legal cover, funding to put on local events and discounts to ESTA-organised seminars. Through two bursary funds ESTA also assists both teachers and their students to attend a variety of courses. ESTA believes in the possibility for music to change lives; that every child has the right to learn music; and that as teachers we are responsible for future generations of musicians and music lovers.

About Nicola Benedetti

Fiercely committed to music education and to developing young talent, Nicola has formed associations with schools, music colleges and local authorities. She is credited with broadening the appeal of classical music to young and new audiences through her extensive education work and appearances at events such as the Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony and iTunes Festival. Nicola was awarded the Queen's Medal for Music in 2017, the youngest ever recipient, and was appointed as a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2013 New Year Honours, in recognition of her international music career and work with musical charities throughout the UK. Nicola Benedetti is one of the most sought after violinists of her generation. Her ability to captivate audiences with her innate musicianship and dynamic presence, coupled with her wide appeal as a high profile advocate for classical music, has made her one of the most influential classical artists of today. She is in much demand with major orchestras and conductors across the globe and this continues across the 2017-2018 season with concerts throughout the UK, Europe and America.