

OLIVER WASS

Internationally acclaimed concert harpist.

Oliver Wass is available exclusively through DBA Speakers.

Internationally acclaimed concert harpist, Oliver Wass weaves enchanting and virtuoso live performances into stories of the workings of his instrument and the world of classical music.

Oliver uses his harp as an illustrative device for his storytelling, and in return his stories provide special insights into the technical challenges and pieces he performs.

“Oliver was a huge hit! He had a lovely blend of personal warmth, self-deprecation and phenomenal musical talent.”

“Far better than the usual ... we should have a musician every year. The table were buzzing!”

“It was fascinating to hear him explain how the harp works, as well as the technical challenges of playing the pieces. His technique is absolutely incredible and we were all spell-bound by his playing.”

Oliver performs all around the world, with regular appearances at top UK venues including the Wigmore Hall and the Barbican Hall. He won first prize at prestigious international competitions including in the UK, Italy, Slovenia and Hungary. He plays with world-famous orchestras, including the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra and London Symphony Orchestra.

Notably for a harpist his age, he has performed every major harp concerto. This includes *Lyra Angelica* with the Philharmonia Orchestra, the Mozart *Flute and Harp Concerto* with The Mozartists at the Wigmore Hall, the Debussy *Dances* with 12 Ensemble at the Wigmore Hall, and he has directed the Handel *Harp Concerto* in the Barbican Hall.

His recitals at the Purcell Room and Wigmore Hall were praised by the music press for his “tremendous dynamism” and “remarkable range of timbres and warmth of tone”.

Oliver Wass holds First Class degrees in both music and science: an Artist Masters from the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, and Chemistry BSc from the University of York. He is the only harpist ever to win the Guildhall Gold Medal – the Guildhall’s most prestigious prize. Previous winners of the competition include Jacqueline du Pré, Bryn Terfel and Tasmin Little. At York, through elective modules he became the only chemistry student to come top of the year in the music department’s annual performances.

At the Junior Department of the Guildhall Oliver became the only harpist to have been a prize-winner in the prestigious Lutine Competition. He was also Principal Harp in the National Youth Orchestra. He spent his teenage years making fireworks in his parents’ basement but remarkably has all of his fingers.

Talk themes

- Achieving virtuosity – what it takes to become world-class and the value of perseverance
- The harp - works and workings – how the mechanics of the harp have shaped the pieces written for it
- An evening with Oliver Wass

Video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKQFVmOVBfA>

USPs

- Virtuoso musician at the top of his game.
- Deliver real entertainment that goes beyond 'just' an interesting talk.
- With music involved, there's something for everyone.
- Ability to combine the topics of music and science.
- Ability to talk first-hand about life in an opaque industry.

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To check Oliver's availability, please contact Diana Boulter at DBA Speakers on 07554 440537 or email diana@dbaspeakers.com