



The Music Room
Conversations about Music
With Zoë Beyers

Episode Seven

(First broadcast 25 September 2020)

**Catherine Arlidge MBE - violinist, presenter and
Artistic and Educational Director of the National
Children's Orchestras of Great Britain**

Programme Notes



“Catherine Arlidge is not only one of our most inspiring, valued and unstinting musicians but also one of our strongest and most idealistic personalities.” – Sir Simon Rattle

Catherine’s unique portfolio of skills includes an super-sensitive ‘radar’: an almost uncanny ability to sense the best way to connect with audiences of all ages, cultures and walks of life. She is a multifaceted musician, juggling her position as one of the cornerstones of the CBSO string section with her prestigious role as the Artistic and Educational Director of the NCO. Catherine’s remarkable energy and communication skill makes her a vibrant and compelling concert presenter. These same qualities permeate her work as educator, workshop leader and mentor and underpin the Stringcredibles’ inspirational work with young people.

In January 2014 Catherine became the first violinist – and only the third ever recipient – of the Royal Philharmonic Society and The Association of British Orchestras’ Salomon Prize, a prestigious award celebrating the outstanding contribution of orchestral players to the UK’s musical life. ‘A true advocate of the modern orchestral musician’, she was awarded the prize for devising numerous projects which connect young people with classical music, for ‘her great skill for motivating and inspiring colleagues, and for engaging with her audience.’

In January 2016 Catherine was awarded an MBE in the Queen’s New Year’s honour list, for services to music education.

Visit [Catherine's website](#) for more information.

Further listening, reading and watching...

Catherine's wealth of experience as a board member of the Association of British Orchestras and Player Trustee on the board of the CBSO has led to a deep interest in both orchestral governance and in the role of orchestral musicians. She is widely published: Classical Music Magazine, Symphony Magazine (US), Music Teacher Magazine and Arts Professional have all featured her articles. As a speaker, she has presented at conferences worldwide. In 2018 she was invited to give a TEDx talk on the theme of change, choosing to explore the role of live performance in creating change: "A World of Contradiction: How great performances change us". In January 2019 she launched the ABO conference with the provocation: "Orchestras are Irrelevant". Click on the links below to read some of her thought-provoking articles and watch her compelling TEDx talk.

[Are our orchestral musicians 'violin operators' or 'evangelists for our art'?](#)

[Why does creativity matter?](#)

[Could the John Lewis model be applied to our orchestras?](#)



TEDx RNCM: "A World of Contradiction: How great performances change us".

THE **S**TRINGCREDIBLES

To find out more about the education powerhouse that is the Stringcredibles, click [here](#)

Watch the CBSO's Centenary Concert [here](#)



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