



# *Classical Music Daily*

## *Climate Justice for Classical Music — Issue 168, 1 April 2023*

In a very significant development for the future of the planet, Wednesday's resolution at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, put forward by the vulnerable Pacific island nation of Vanuatu, co-sponsored by over 130 other countries and hailed as a victory for climate justice, means that the UN General Assembly will in future seek the opinion of the International Court of Justice - the world's highest court - on countries' obligations to tackle climate change. While not legally binding on countries, the court's rulings carry much weight and moral authority, which should help significantly to speed up the reduction of emissions and shape future discourse around climate action and accountability.

[READ MORE AT THE UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME WEBSITE](#)

What is the significance of this for the international classical music community? Unfortunately, recent research at Vanuatu's Port Vila University proves that classical music and opera together are responsible, indirectly, for more carbon emissions than any other genre of music. This is thought to be caused by listeners' extra brain activity due to classical music's high intellectual and emotional content when compared to other genres.

The recommendation, sad as it might seem, is that the classical music community should aim to reduce the frequency of classical music and opera performances, recordings and broadcasts by 5% per annum for the next twenty years.

Whilst this is, of course, a huge shock to most of us, some forward thinking western governments have been planning this for years. In the United Kingdom, for example, following the closing of the Milton Keynes City Orchestra, the BBC is reducing funding for its orchestras in England by 20%, the Glasgow-based Nevis Ensemble has ceased operations and the UK Government has introduced new legislation to discourage foreign music groups from touring in the archipelago's 'sunlit uplands'.

Ten years ago, the Dutch disbanded the Netherlands Radio Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra, and the USA has closed down many orchestras, including Cleveland's chamber orchestra Red, the Denver Symphony Orchestra, the Fort Lauderdale Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Nova San Diego and the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra.

These recommendations have not gone un-noticed, and a new international committee, Climate Orchestral World Plan Action Training, has been created to put forward the classical music community's views. One rather dramatic result has been the commissioning, by the Romanian Government's Andrew Tate fund, of a new opera, *Greta's AK-47*, from a series of high profile composers and librettists across several countries, featuring **the Lost Pipers of Iasi**, to the amusement of British conductor and Classical Music Daily fan **Henry Collard-Barker**.

[READ MORE](#)

*Classical Music Daily* has its usual mix of **concert and opera reviews**, **CD reviews**, **Interviews**, **profiles and tributes**, **classical music news** and **obituaries**, plus several new episodes of Robert McCarney's weekly series **Echoes of Oblivion**. **Explore our latest features here.**

### PLEASE CONSIDER SPONSORING A FEATURE OR MAKING A DONATION

*Classical Music Daily* has been completely free to read, with a new item every day, since we rebranded and re-launched in January 2019. Please consider helping us in a practical way by sponsoring a feature. [FIND OUT MORE](#)

You could also help us by making a donation, of any amount. [FIND OUT HOW TO MAKE A DONATION](#)

### MONTHLY AND DAILY UPDATES BY EMAIL

**Send us an email** and ask to be put on the mailing list. We'll send you an email each month so that you can read each newsletter immediately. You can also ask to receive an email from us every day, if you'd like to know as soon as each daily feature is published. The monthly and daily emails can be stopped easily by clicking on a link at the bottom of each message.

This newsletter is an occasional PDF taster for our high quality and colourful online classical music magazine, published every day since January 1999. Founded by the late Basil Ramsey and current editor Keith Bramich.

All rights to the material in this newsletter are reserved, and nothing contained here should be re-published elsewhere without the consent of the copyright holder — usually the author — and of *Classical Music Daily*.

Read us every day at [www.classicalmusicdaily.com](http://www.classicalmusicdaily.com)

[Contact us](#)

[Your privacy](#)

[Newsletter archive](#)