



NEW YORK PERSPECTIVES

GENEVA LEWIS DEBUT ALBUM

BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra conducted by Gemma New

Delos DE3638 (Outhere Music) Release date: 2 October 2026

"I wanted to create something that would allow me to remember how I felt at this time, the music that I loved, and the new experiences I was having. I wanted to create something that felt alive."

Geneva Lewis

A new home in New York City, new experiences, new relationships, new puppy, and a new album: for New Zealand/American violinist Geneva Lewis, her recording debut signals another new and important chapter in her life, for which she has chosen a personal repertoire of beloved works by American composers Barber, Glass and Zorn.

Her love of Barber's neo-Romantic *Violin Concerto*, with its rhapsodic first two movements and highly virtuosic, helter-skelter finale is shared by many the world over. Geneva describes it as "*an old and dear friend in which you feel you can fly*". Barber wrote it in 1939 but the definitive, final version was not premiered until a decade later. Conversely, Philip Glass completed his *Violin Concerto No.1* in 1987 after just four months. This was his first full-blown symphonic work and was composed in memory of his late father who had always loved the well-known violin concertos. Geneva has been haunted by this dramatic, almost operatic work with its dancing finale for several years, which prompted her to include it in this repertoire.

Partita for the Firebird (2023) was written for solo violin by maverick composer, conductor, producer, arranger and saxophonist, John Zorn, who was inspired by both the 1718 'Firebird' Stradivarius violin and Stravinsky's music for the ballet *The Firebird*. Geneva, for whom "*every note burns and demands your entire self*", is thrilled to be the first to record this work.

With a nod to Geneva's antipodean roots, New Zealand compatriot Gemma New conducts the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra for this recording, which is supported by Geneva's 2022 Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award. BBT has also supported Geneva's commissioning of a new violin concerto composed by

New Zealander Salina Fisher which will be premiered in July 2027 by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales conducted by Samuel Lee.

Geneva will give a live performance of Barber's Violin Concerto at her debut with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchestra Berlin on 14 October 2026 at the Philharmonie in Berlin.

Further press information: Debra Boraston T. +44 7989 434388
E. debra@henrymoorestudio.co.uk <https://www.bbtrust.com>

NOTES TO EDITORS

Barber Glass Zorn

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Recorded at the BBC Studios in Glasgow 12 & 13 May 2025 with recording and producing engineer Philip Hobbs

Geneva Lewis *violin*

BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra

Gemma New *conductor*

Samuel Barber (1910-1981) *Violin Concerto Op.14*

John Zorn (1953-) *Partita for the Firebird*

Philip Glass (1937-) *Violin Concerto No.1*

Geneva Lewis BBT Award 2022

<https://www.genevalewisviolinist.com>

Born in New Zealand where she lived until the age of seven when her family moved to the US.

Studied at Colburn School of Performing Arts with Aimée Kreston, New England Conservatory with Miriam Fried, then Professional Studies Program at Kronberg Academy with Professor Mihaela Martin.

Awards include BBT Award 2022, BBC New Generation Artist 2022-24, Avery Fisher Career Grant 2021, Winner of Kronberg Academy's Prince of Hesse Prize 2021, and Grand Prizewinner of the Concert Artists Guild Competition 2020, among others.

Orchestras with whom she has played as soloist include the BBC Symphony and BBC Scottish Symphony orchestras, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Auckland Philharmonia, the San Francisco, Atlanta, Baltimore, Indianapolis and Vancouver Symphony orchestras, Kremerata Baltica, Orquesta Ciudad de Granada and Orchestre National Bordeaux Aquitaine, among others.

Chamber music collaborations with musicians such as Jonathan Biss, Miriam Fried, Kim Kashkashian, Gidon Kremer, Andrés Schiff, and Mitsuko Uchida.

Festivals and venues include London's Wigmore Hall, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Marlboro Music Festival, Kronberg Festival, Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, Ravinia and Chamberfest Cleveland.

Instrument Geneva currently performs on a composite violin by Giovanni Battista Guadagnini, c.1776, generously on loan from a Charitable Trust.