

Nicola Benedetti

Violinist, Founder and Artistic Director of The Benedetti Foundation and Director Designate of Edinburgh International Festival

Speaker Bio: Winner of the GRAMMY Award for Best Classical Instrumental Solo in 2020, as well as Best Female Artist at both 2012 and 2013 Classical BRIT Awards, Nicola records exclusively for Decca (Universal Music). Her latest recordings of Vivaldi Concerti and Elgar's Violin Concerto entered at number one in the UK's Official Classical Album Chart. Nicola was appointed a CBE in 2019, awarded the Queen's Medal for Music (2017), and an MBE in 2013. In addition, Nicola holds the positions of Vice President (National Children's Orchestras), Big Sister (Sistema Scotland), Patron (National Youth Orchestras of Scotland's Junior Orchestra, Music in Secondary Schools Trust and Junior Conservatoire at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland). In 2019, Nicola formalised her commitment to music in education when she established The Benedetti Foundation. Since its launch, the Foundation has worked with over 29,000 participants, age 2-92, from 103 countries through its transformative in-person workshops and online sessions for young people, students, teachers and adults. In March 2022, Nicola became the Director Designate of the Edinburgh International Festival, becoming Festival Director on 1 October 2022. In taking the role she will be both the first Scottish and the first female Festival Director since the Festival began in 1947.

