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GAME**

MUSIC HALL ABERDEEN
SEASON 2024/25

NOW HEAR IT LIVE

RADIO **3**

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ALISON LAWRENCE
CELLO, PRINCIPAL

“Ready-for-anything poise”
The New York Times



WELCOME

WELCOME TO THE BBC SSO'S 2024/25 SEASON. THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, OUR EXCEPTIONAL MUSICIANS BROADCAST A RICH AND ECLECTIC MIX OF ORCHESTRAL MUSIC ACROSS THE NATION – ON BBC RADIO 3, SOUNDS AND iPLAYER – AND EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO BE PART OF OUR LIVE AUDIENCE AT ABERDEEN'S MAGNIFICENT MUSIC HALL.

What awaits you? Bursts of glorious symphonic music to lift your mood – including Mahler's epic Fifth Symphony with Chief Conductor **Ryan Wigglesworth** to open our season, Stravinsky's spell-binding *Firebird*, and Tchaikovsky's rousing Fifth Symphony with guest conductor **Gemma New**. Inspiring performances by world-class soloists, like “the world's most daring percussionist” (The Spectator) **Colin Currie**, and violinist **Rosanne Philppens**, who captivated audiences at the Music Hall in 2022 with a beautiful performance of *The Lark Ascending*.

And we are particularly excited to welcome Indian musical royalty to Aberdeen – **Zakir Hussain** (tabla), **Niladri Kumar** (sitar) and **Rakesh Chaurasia** (bansuri) – for Hussain's mesmerising new Triple Concerto, with our great friend **Alpesh Chauhan** on the podium. In the spirit of this trailblazing orchestra, we present music by the most original voices of our time, including a folk-inspired BBC commission by **Helen Grime** and a show-stopping Percussion Concerto by **Andy Akiho**, conducted by **Ilan Volkov**.

So, join us in imagining where each of these concerts will take you. Enjoy some of the most thrilling and hopeful music that the orchestral world has to offer. See you there!

DOMINIC PARKER
DIRECTOR

£6 tickets
for **Under 26s**
& **Students**



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DAVID ROUTLEDGE
VIOLIN, SECTION PRINCIPAL

FRIDAY
27.09.2024
7.30PM

HELEN GRIME
FOLK
(BBC commission) (c.30 mins)

MAHLER
SYMPHONY NO.5
(c.70 mins)

Claire Booth soprano
Ryan Wigglesworth conductor

**...THE MOST RAPTUROUS LOVE-LETTER
EVER WRITTEN WITHOUT WORDS. FROM
TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH!**

MAHLER'S FIFTH SYMPHONY

With their very first sounds, a composer creates a world. Mahler opens his Fifth Symphony with an ominous fanfare: the first step on a journey through midnight storms, leaping horn-calls, and possibly the most tender love-letter ever written without words, the rapturous *Adagietto*. British composer Helen Grime, meanwhile, has dived deep into the pages of Zoe Gilbert's novel *Folk*, drawing on Scottish, Irish and Manx folklore – as well as the magic of a full symphony orchestra – to create an extraordinary new adventure for soprano Claire Booth. Fellow composer (and BBC SSO Chief Conductor) Ryan Wigglesworth brings both worlds to life: it's a truly fantastic way to launch a new season.

FRIDAY
20.12.2024
7.30PM

Jamie MacDougall
singer and presenter

Ben Palmer conductor

**...JOYFUL MELODIES THAT WARM YOUR
SOUL, AND MUSIC AS EXHILARATING AS A
MIDNIGHT SLEIGH-RIDE.**

CHRISTMAS CLASSICS

Join us on the Friday before Christmas and prepare to be enchanted by the orchestra's annual feast of festive music. Enjoy toe-tapping melodies, a midnight sleigh-ride and beloved seasonal classics. Immerse yourself in the timeless classics of Yuletide carols and festive songs, enveloped in the rich harmony of a live symphony orchestra – all guided by the delightful Jamie MacDougall. Secure your seats now for a concert brimming with Christmas cheer – the ideal start to your seasonal festivities.



Image: Jamie MacDougall c/o BBC.

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ZAKIR HUSSAIN
TABLA

“Hussain’s style is more Hollywood than Bollywood, with his open harmonies and expansive phrasing echoing Aaron Copland’s soundworld with its wide prairies and far horizons.”

The Scotsman

FRIDAY
07.02.2025
7.30PM

SHOSTAKOVICH
FESTIVAL OVERTURE
(c.7 mins)

ANDY AKIHO
PERCUSSION CONCERTO
(c.30 mins)

PROKOFIEV
SYMPHONY NO.6 (c.42 mins)

Colin Currie percussion
Ilan Volkov conductor

...A DAZZLING AND JOYFUL DISPLAY OF VIRTUOSITY WITH SCOTTISH PERCUSSION SENSATION COLIN CURRIE.

COLIN CURRIE & ILAN VOLKOV

All music tells a story, but the best music tells more than one. Shostakovich’s *Festival Overture* opens with jubilant trumpets – but this was the Soviet Union, so it would do, wouldn’t it? Prokofiev wrote his Sixth Symphony in the aftermath of World War Two, and though it’s certainly an epic, it’s far from clear that it ends in anything as simple as triumph. At the heart of this concert, Colin Currie performs a show-stopping Percussion Concerto by New York-based percussionist Andy Akiho. In Colin’s own words, he’s “completely blown away by the verve, joy, depth of emotion and vibrancy of colours” in this music, composed in 2019. Prepare for big-hearted marimba solos, chopsticks with amplified rice bowls (!) and a groovy ‘Grand Finale’.

FRIDAY
14.03.2025
7.30PM

ZAKIR HUSSAIN
TRIPLE CONCERTO
FOR TABLA, SITAR
AND BANSURI (c.28 mins)

RACHMANINOV
ISLE OF THE DEAD (c.20 mins)

STRAVINSKY
THE FIREBIRD (1919 SUITE)
(c.23 mins)

Zakir Hussain tabla
Niladri Kumar sitar
Rakesh Chaurasia bansuri
Alpesh Chauhan conductor

...AN INTOXICATING COMBINATION OF EASTERN AND WESTERN TRADITIONS CREATES MUSICAL MAGIC, CONJURED BY INDIAN MUSICAL ROYALTY.

STRAVINSKY’S THE FIREBIRD

When different musical cultures meet, a new kind of harmony is born. “Mesmerising” was how one critic described the new Triple Concerto by Zakir Hussain when Alpesh Chauhan conducted its first British performances in 2023, and today the composer himself is among the soloists in a piece which, he says, tells a tale of love, tradition and the transforming power of art. It’s perfect for Chauhan, a conductor with a real flair for finding the heart and soul of a piece of music, and he follows it with two dark fairytales from Romantic Russia – Rachmaninov’s surprisingly passionate journey into night, and Stravinsky’s exhilarating *Firebird*. Those glowing melodies, those dazzling cascades of colour... they’ll burn even more brightly tonight.

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GEMMA NEW
GUEST CONDUCTOR



“Gemma New’s emphatic, muscular sweeps drew hard-earned tone quality from the BBC SSO.”

The Guardian

FRIDAY
09.05.2025
7.30PM

LERA AUERBACH
ICARUS (c.12 mins)

SHOSTAKOVICH
VIOLIN CONCERTO NO.1
(c.38 mins)

TCHAIKOVSKY
SYMPHONY NO.5 (c.46 mins)

Rosanne Philippens violin
Gemma New conductor

Image: Gemma New by
Chris Christodoulou.

...A JOURNEY FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT. STRUGGLES BETWEEN LOVE & DESPAIR INSPIRE A PULSE-RAISING MASTERPIECE THAT STIRS THE SOUL.

TCHAIKOVSKY’S FIFTH SYMPHONY

Sometimes art imitates life so closely that you can almost feel its breath. “*With passion and desire*” wrote Tchaikovsky on the slow movement of his Fifth Symphony, and the whole piece is a struggle between love and despair, told in elegant waltzes, bittersweet songs and melody after sweeping melody. Gemma New is always a popular guest conductor here in Scotland, and she knows exactly how to get to the heart of a masterpiece – whether Lera Auerbach’s fiery retelling of the myth of Icarus, or the shadows, secrets and burning truths of Shostakovich’s powerful First Violin Concerto. Rosanne Philippens is the soloist today: a violinist who believes that every note should convey emotion, and forge a connection.

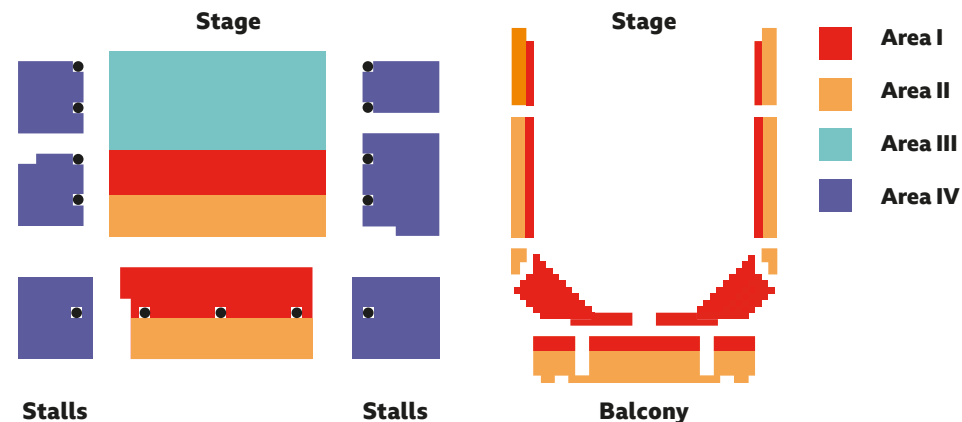




Images: Claire Booth by Sven Arnstein, Colin Currie by James Glossop, Ilan Volkov by Ian Peebles, Zakir Hussain by Jim Bennett, Niladri Kumar by Kunal Kelkar, Rakesh Chaurasia, Alpesh Chauhan by Chris Christodoulou, Rosanne Philippens by Marco Borggreve.

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All concerts in this series are promoted in association with Aberdeen Performing Arts.



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The information in this brochure was correct at the time of publishing. The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra reserves the right to amend artists and programmes for any of the listed concerts if necessary.

Cover Image: Alexandra Hilton

Oboe, Principal