

*imagine* **BBC** Scottish  
Symphony  
Orchestra

**80  
WORLD-  
CLASS  
MUSICIANS  
AT THE TOP  
OF THEIR  
GAME**

**USHER HALL EDINBURGH**  
SEASON 2024/25

**NOW HEAR IT LIVE**

RADIO **3**

# imagine

**BRONTË HUDNOTT**  
FLUTE, PRINCIPAL

**“An orchestra of enormous range”**

The Herald



# 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 EDINBURGH'S MAGNIFICENT USHER HALL.**

What awaits you? Bursts of symphonic music to energise your weekends – including Tchaikovsky's roof-raising Fifth Symphony with conductor **Gemma New**, Brahms's brooding Fourth Symphony with conductor **Elim Chan**, and the folk-inspired soundworld of Vaughan Williams. Inspiring performances by world-class soloists, like pianist **Gabriela Montero**, described by The Scotsman as “*a force to be reckoned*” following her outstanding performance at the 2018 Edinburgh International Festival. And violinist **Rosanne Philippens** performs Shostakovich's powerful First Violin Concerto. A personal highlight of mine – an opportunity to enjoy sublime Mozart in the hands of our Chief Conductor **Ryan Wigglesworth**, who takes to the keyboard as soloist.

We are particularly excited to continue our survey of Elgar's major works with his epic oratorio *The Dream of Gerontius*, alongside the celebrated singers of **Huddersfield Choral Society** and a first-rate team of soloists. It will no doubt be a moving experience in this fitting venue.

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

**DOMINIC PARKER**  
DIRECTOR

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

# imagine

**GABRIELA MONTERO**  
PIANO



**SUNDAY**  
**06.10.2024**  
3.00PM

**CAROLINE SHAW**  
ENTR'ACTE FOR STRINGS  
(c.12 mins)

**GABRIELA MONTERO**  
PIANO CONCERTO NO.1  
'LATIN' (c.37 mins)

**BRAHMS**  
SYMPHONY NO.4 (c.41 mins)

**Gabriela Montero** piano  
**Elim Chan** conductor

**SATURDAY**  
**21.12.2024**  
7.30PM

**Jamie MacDougall**  
singer and presenter

**Ben Palmer** conductor



**...IRREPRESSIBLE IMAGINATION & FLAIR  
FROM A VENEZUELAN VIRTUOSO.**

## **GABRIELA MONTERO'S 'LATIN' CONCERTO**

Gabriela Montero is the virtuoso who broke the mould – the Venezuelan pianist whose irrepressible imagination and flair for improvisation has put creativity back into the heart of the classical piano repertoire. “For me, music is a purposeful art”, she says, and today she stars in her own, exuberant Latin Concerto: not, she says, “a naïve vision of a carnival continent” but “a profoundly personal expression of the continent in which I was born”. Guest conductor Elim Chan frames it with classics old and new – Caroline Shaw’s 21st century tribute to the music of the classical era, and Brahms’s mighty final symphony: an old master singing, dancing and raging against the dying of the light.

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

## **CHRISTMAS AT THE MOVIES**

The BBC SSO’s festive feast of movie music is back by popular demand, returning to the Usher Hall for its second year! Singer Jamie MacDougall is your host for this family-friendly celebration, featuring popular tunes from blockbusters, film scores by the legendary John Williams, and the opulent harmonies of Hollywood’s Golden Age. Secure your tickets today to kickstart your festive celebrations with a symphonic burst of big screen magic. And prepare to be mesmerised by the power of a live symphony orchestra – perhaps the best special effect of all time!

**Image:** Jamie MacDougall c/o BBC.

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**RYAN WIGGLESWORTH**  
CHIEF CONDUCTOR

SUNDAY  
**26.01.2025**  
3.00PM

**MOZART**  
PIANO CONCERTO NO.24  
K491 (c.31 mins)

**BRITTEN**  
SUITE ON ENGLISH  
FOLK TUNES – ‘A TIME  
THERE WAS...’  
(c.14 mins)

**VAUGHAN WILLIAMS**  
SYMPHONY NO.4 (c.33 mins)

**Ryan Wigglesworth**  
piano/conductor

**...AN EXPLOSIVE & UNSTOPPABLE  
EMOTIONAL FORCE, EMANATING FROM  
OVER 70 AWE-INSPIRING MUSICIANS.**

## VAUGHAN WILLIAMS’ SYMPHONY NO.4

Vaughan Williams didn’t like to talk about the inspiration for his Fourth Symphony, and he didn’t need to, because the music speaks louder than any words. Raw, explosive and driven by unstoppable emotional force, this is music on the edge, written as Europe fell under the shadow of war. Not what you expected from Vaughan Williams? Well, Chief Conductor Ryan Wigglesworth loves to find unexpected connections and tell compelling musical stories. In a concert that begins with Mozart’s darkest and most dramatic piano concerto (with Wigglesworth directing from the keyboard, just as Mozart would have done) and includes the haunted beauty of Britten’s folksong suite, he’ll do just that.

SUNDAY  
**02.03.2025**  
3.00PM

**ELGAR**  
THE DREAM OF GERONTIUS  
(c.95 mins)

**Beth Taylor** mezzo soprano  
**Brenden Gunnell** tenor  
**Neal Davies** bass  
**Huddersfield Choral Society**  
**Ryan Wigglesworth** conductor

**...POWERFUL VOCALS AND HEARTFELT  
MELODIES COMBINE FOR AN EPIC DRAMA  
THAT STIRS THE SOUL.**

## ELGAR’S THE DREAM OF GERONTIUS

Here is your opportunity to experience Elgar’s epic choral masterpiece in the magnificent setting of the Usher Hall. Gerontius is a very ordinary sort of human being – and as he lies dying, he’s anguished and afraid. But his cry of longing opens a portal to wonders beyond the imagination. *“This is the best of me”* wrote Elgar on the score of *The Dream of Gerontius*, and this epic drama of a lonely soul’s voyage towards eternity can move listeners to tears. Ryan Wigglesworth has form with Elgar: in a previous performance, The Observer noted that he *“plumbed the work’s rich meanings, sacred and secular”* – and that Brenden Gunnell sang the title role *“with feeling but never excess”*. Beth Taylor, Neal Davies and the Huddersfield Choral Society complete an all-star line-up for this landmark of British music.

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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

**SUNDAY**  
**11.05.2025**  
3.00PM

**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.**

## TCHAIKOVSKY'S FIFTH SYMPHONY

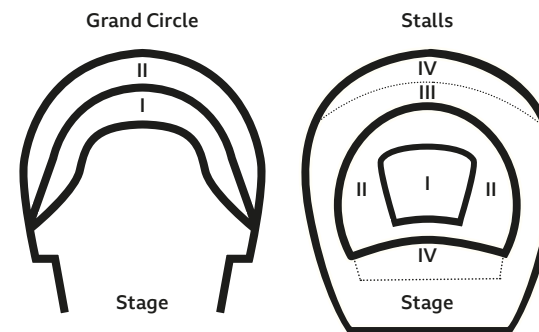
Sometimes art imitates life so closely that you can almost feel its breath. “*With passion and desire*” wrote Tchaikovsky on the slow movement of his Fifth Symphony, and the whole piece is a struggle between love and despair, told in elegant waltzes, bittersweet songs and melody after sweeping melody. 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:** Gabriela Montero by Anders Brogaard, Elim Chan by Simon Pauly, Ryan Wigglesworth by Julie Broadfoot, Beth Taylor by Olivia Da Costa, Brenden Gunnell by Kirsten Nijhof, Neal Davies by Gerard Collett, Rosanne Philippens by Marco Borggreve.

**BOX OFFICE: 0131 228 1155**  
**BBC.CO.UK/BBCSSO**



**Single Tickets**  
**Area I: £32.00**  
**Area II: £26.00**  
**Area III: £20.00**  
**Area IV: £16.00**

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Buy a ticket for three or four concerts (excluding *Christmas at the Movies*)\* and receive up to 30% discount on your tickets. **Offer open until Sunday 26 January 2025.** Offer only applies to full price tickets.

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£58.50 for three concerts\* (saving £19.50)  
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**Area IV**

£36.00 for three concerts\* (saving £12.00)  
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**Christmas at the Movies prices**

**Tickets:** £33.00, £28.00, £23.00, £18.00  
**Under 16s and Registered Disabled**  
 Half price

**Single Ticket Discounts**

**£6 tickets for Under 26s, Students and Unemployed:** Under 26s, Students (those in full-time education), and Registered Unemployed are entitled to a £6 ticket for themselves in areas II-IV (subject to availability). Proof of status is required. Tickets must be collected in person. Excludes *Christmas at the Movies*.

**50% Discount for Registered Disabled:**

Disabled patrons, and a carer where required, will receive a 50% discount on any single full price ticket.

**Special Group Rates:** Group rates are available for bookings of 10 or more. For details please telephone the Box Office.

**Book Online**



**Box Office**  
**0131 228 1155**  
Usher Hall Box Office  
Lothian Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 2EA

All the concerts in this series are promoted in association with the Usher Hall.



### **Box Office Opening Hours**

Monday–Friday, 10am–5.30pm  
(may vary, check website for details)  
When there is an event on a Sunday the box office is open from 1pm until 15 minutes after the start of the event.

Cheques should be made payable to:  
City of Edinburgh Council.

### **Disabled Access**

Wheelchair accommodation is available.  
Parking spaces for blue badge holders are located across from the Royal Lyceum Theatre in Grindlay Street and also in Cambridge Street across from the Traverse Theatre.

### **Getting to the Usher Hall**

The Usher Hall is located between the Royal Lyceum Theatre and Traverse Theatre. It is close to both Haymarket and Waverley train stations (approx. 15 minutes walk from either). A taxi rank is situated opposite the hall. There is limited on-street parking, however a 24-hour car park is located behind the hall on Castle Terrace.

A large print, text-only version of this brochure is available. For a copy, please email: [bbcso@bbc.co.uk](mailto:bbcso@bbc.co.uk)



### **BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra**

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The majority of listed concerts will be recorded for future broadcast by BBC Radio 3. After broadcast, concerts will be available for 30 days via BBC Sounds, where you can also discover a world of amazing music, radio and podcasts from the BBC by downloading the free app.

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: Simon Johnson**  
Trombone, Section Principal