

*imagine*

BBC  
Scottish  
Symphony  
Orchestra



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

CITY HALLS GLASGOW  
SEASON 2024/25

**NOW HEAR IT LIVE**





**RYAN WIGGLESWORTH**  
Chief Conductor

**HANS ABRAHAMSEN**  
Composer-in-Association

**ILAN VOLKOV**  
Creative Partner

**SIR DONALD RUNNICES**  
Conductor Emeritus

**LUCY DREVER**  
Associate Artist

**LAURA SAMUEL**  
Leader



# WELCOME



“An orchestra of enormous range”

The Herald

“Ready-for-anything poise”

The New York Times

**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 THE MAGNIFICENT GLASGOW CITY HALLS.**

What awaits you? Bursts of glorious symphonic music to lift your mood – including the enchanting ballet scores of **Tchaikovsky's** 'Sleeping Beauty' and **Prokofiev's** 'Cinderella'. Inspiring performances by world-class soloists, like pianist **Gabriela Montero**, violinist **Rosanne Philippens** and tabla maestro **Zakir Hussain**. And a dazzling spread of new music from the most original voices of our time, among them **Helen Grime**, **Britta Byström** and **Sir James MacMillan**. 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.

This year, in addition to our Thursday concerts, we're excited to introduce Sundays to our Afternoon Performance series – three bonus weekends which spotlight exquisite BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artists (p27). And finally, please take this moment to read our Associate Artist **Lucy Drever's** insightful feature, which sheds light on the BBC SSO's activities in various community settings, including schools and HMP Low Moss (p24). It's a hopeful reflection on music's transformative power.

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

**DOMINIC PARKER**  
DIRECTOR

**IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE OUR 2024/25 SEASON.**

As always, we welcome a stellar line-up of soloists, including my longtime collaborator, **Mark Padmore**, to perform what is perhaps the greatest of **Britten's** orchestral song cycles, his *Nocturne*.

Our commitment to music of the 21st century continues with concertos by **Donghoon Shin** and our Composer-in-Association **Hans Abrahamsen**. Tribute is also paid to the late **Sir Harrison Birtwistle** (in what would have been his 90th birthday year) with a performance of the haunting *Night's Black Bird*.

We feature much-loved symphonies by **Beethoven**, **Schumann**, **Berlioz**, **Sibelius** and **Vaughan Williams**, as well as resuming our survey of **Elgar's** major works with his epic oratorio *The Dream of Gerontius*. So join us for a season that will once again showcase the incredible versatility of the BBC SSO.

**RYAN WIGGLESWORTH**  
CHIEF CONDUCTOR

# imagine

## **OPENING NIGHT: MAHLER 5** (p8)

*The most rapturous love-letter ever written without words.*

## **PIANIST**

### **GABRIELA MONTERO** (p11)

*Irrepressible imagination and flair from a Venezuelan virtuoso.*

## **MARK PADMORE**

### **SINGS BRITTEN** (p11)

*Dream-haunted tapestries of song with a sublime British tenor.*

## **TCHAIKOVSKY'S**

### **'SLEEPING BEAUTY'** (p13)

*Glorious tunes in an enchanting ballet score for a timeless fairy tale.*

## **BEETHOVEN'S 'EROICA'** (p13)

*It's 1805 and Beethoven drops a ground-breaking symphony dedicated to the hero of his time, Napoleon.*

## **VAUGHAN WILLIAMS 4** (p15)

*An explosive and unstoppable emotional force, emanating from over 70 awe-inspiring musicians.*

## **PERCUSSIONIST**

### **COLIN CURRIE** (p15)

*An irrational robot goes terrifyingly off the rails... and percussionist Colin Currie is the only man who can stop it.*

## **MACMILLAN'S 'CONCERTO FOR ORCHESTRA'** (p17)

*A dazzling, thought-provoking spread of orchestral music from a new generation of Scottish talent.*

## **ZAKIR HUSSAIN'S TRIPLE CONCERTO** (p17)

*An intoxicating combination of Eastern and Western traditions creates musical magic, conjured by Indian musical royalty.*

## **RACHMANINOV'S PIANO CONCERTO NO.4** (p21)

*Devastatingly beautiful melodies and breath-taking virtuosity that thrills you to the edge of your seat.*

## **JAVIER PERIANES PLAYS MOZART** (p21)

*In 240 years, what music will be performed the world over? A world-renowned pianist demonstrates the timeless beauty of Mozart.*

## **TCHAIKOVSKY 5** (p23)

*Struggles between love and despair inspire a pulse-raising masterpiece that stirs the soul.*

## **CLOSING NIGHT: SIBELIUS 5** (p23)

*Majestic swans take flight and Finland's greatest composer unleashes a spine-tingling melody that fills your heart with hope.*

**SAVE UP TO 30%** with a Season Ticket for our Thursday Night Glasgow Series (see P36).

**MORAG ROBERTSON**  
VIOLA, SUB-PRINCIPAL



# imagine

## OPENING NIGHT

**“A symphony must be like the world. It must embrace everything.”**

Gustav Mahler

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

THURSDAY  
**26.09.2024**  
7.30PM

**HELEN GRIME**  
FOLK

(World Premiere, BBC commission)  
(c.30 mins)

**MAHLER**  
SYMPHONY NO.5  
(c.70 mins)

**Claire Booth** soprano  
**Ryan Wigglesworth** conductor

## 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 *Adagio*. 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, who gives the world premiere today. 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.

# MAHLER

SYMPHONY

NO.5



**MARK O'KEEFFE**  
TRUMPET, SECTION PRINCIPAL

# imagine

**GABRIELA MONTERO**  
PIANO



THURSDAY  
**03.10.2024**  
7.30PM

**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

THURSDAY  
**07.11.2024**  
7.30PM

**MOZART**  
SYMPHONY NO.34  
(c.21 mins)

**BRITTEN**  
NOCTURNE (c.28 mins)

**LUTOSŁAWSKI**  
PAROLES TISSÉES  
(WOVEN WORDS) (c.17 mins)

**SCHUMANN**  
SYMPHONY NO.2 (c.40 mins)

**Mark Padmore** tenor  
**Ryan Wigglesworth** 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.

**...DREAM-HAUNTED TAPESTRIES OF SONG  
WITH ONE OF BRITAIN'S GREATEST TENORS.**

## MARK PADMORE SINGS BRITTEN

When night falls, so too does silence – and that’s when music can weave its darkest spells. In the middle of the 20th century, composers Benjamin Britten and Witold Lutosławski were kindred creative spirits, and each crafted ravishing, dream-haunted tapestries of song for a handful of instruments and the tenor voice of Peter Pears. One of Britain’s greatest tenors, Mark Padmore, assumes his mantle today, at the dark heart of this typically imaginative programme from Ryan Wigglesworth. Mozart opens the evening in a blaze of sunlight, and Schumann’s most personal symphony brings it to a close: strong emotions, spoken with love.



**STELLA MCCRACKEN**  
OBOE, SECTION PRINCIPAL

THURSDAY  
**14.11.2024**  
7.30PM

**SIBELIUS**  
SCÈNES HISTORIQUES,  
SUITE NO.2  
(c.19 mins)

**PROKOFIEV**  
PIANO CONCERTO NO.2  
(c.30 mins)

**TCHAIKOVSKY**  
THE SLEEPING BEAUTY  
(SUITE) (c.40 mins)

**Tom Borrow** piano  
**Sir Mark Elder** conductor

THURSDAY  
**28.11.2024**  
7.30PM

**BIRTWISTLE**  
NIGHT'S BLACK BIRD  
(c.12 mins)

**DONGHOON SHIN**  
CELLO CONCERTO  
'NACHTERGEBUG' (c.22 mins)

**BEETHOVEN**  
SYMPHONY NO.3 'EROICA'  
(c.52 mins)

**Jaemin Han** cello  
**Ryan Wigglesworth** conductor

**...GLORIOUS TUNES IN AN ENCHANTING  
BALLET SCORE FOR A TIMELESS FAIRY TALE.**

## ELDER CONDUCTS TCHAIKOVSKY'S **SLEEPING BEAUTY**

Sir Mark Elder is more than just one of the world's most respected conductors; he's an artist who lives every minute of the music. "*He coaxed a gorgeous sound from the musicians of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra*" wrote *The Times* in 2022. And it's true – Elder has a lifetime's understanding of what makes an orchestra glow. Under his direction, this sumptuous, gloriously tuneful selection from Tchaikovsky's greatest ballet score would be a treat in itself, but with Elder there's always a bigger picture and a colourful rarity by Sibelius is merely the upbeat to Prokofiev's ferocious Second Piano Concerto. Music from a time of revolution, played by a pianist as fearless as Elder himself.

**...IT'S 1805 AND BEETHOVEN DROPS A  
GROUND-BREAKING SYMPHONY DEDICATED  
TO THE HERO OF HIS TIME, NAPOLEON.**

## BEETHOVEN'S **'EROICA' SYMPHONY**

With two explosive chords, Beethoven's *Eroica* symphony launched a new era for music and created a world of limitless sonic potential. It's revolutionary in every sense, and for our Chief Conductor Ryan Wigglesworth – a composer himself – it's the natural culmination of a concert filled with sounds that stretch the bounds of possibility. The poetry of Georg Trakl finds a wordless voice in Donghoon Shin's wild and wonderful new cello concerto (and the young South Korean cellist Jaemin Han has been described as "a staggering talent"). The late Harrison Birtwistle, meanwhile, dives deep into nocturnal melancholy, and finds both terror and beauty: a potent tribute, in what would have been Birtwistle's 90th birthday year.

# imagine

**COLIN CURRIE**  
PERCUSSION



THURSDAY  
**23.01.2025**  
7.30PM

**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.

THURSDAY  
**06.02.2025**  
7.30PM

**SHOSTAKOVICH**  
FESTIVAL OVERTURE  
(c.7 mins)

**OLGA NEUWIRTH**  
TRURLIADE – ZONE ZERO  
FOR SOLO PERCUSSION  
AND ORCHESTRA  
(UK premiere) (c.30 mins)

**PROKOFIEV**  
SYMPHONY NO.6 (c.42 mins)

**Colin Currie** percussion  
**Ilan Volkov** conductor

**...AN IRRATIONAL ROBOT GOES TERRIFYINGLY  
OFF THE RAILS... & PERCUSSIONIST COLIN  
CURRIE IS THE ONLY MAN WHO CAN STOP IT.**

## 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. As you’d expect from Ilan Volkov, it’s the climax of a whole evening of music that asks as many questions as it answers, including Olga Neuwirth’s utterly original vision of a robot machine going terrifyingly off the rails. Armed with DJ turntables, a megaphone and clicking metal frogs, soloist Colin Currie – possibly the world’s greatest percussionist – is the only man who can stop it...

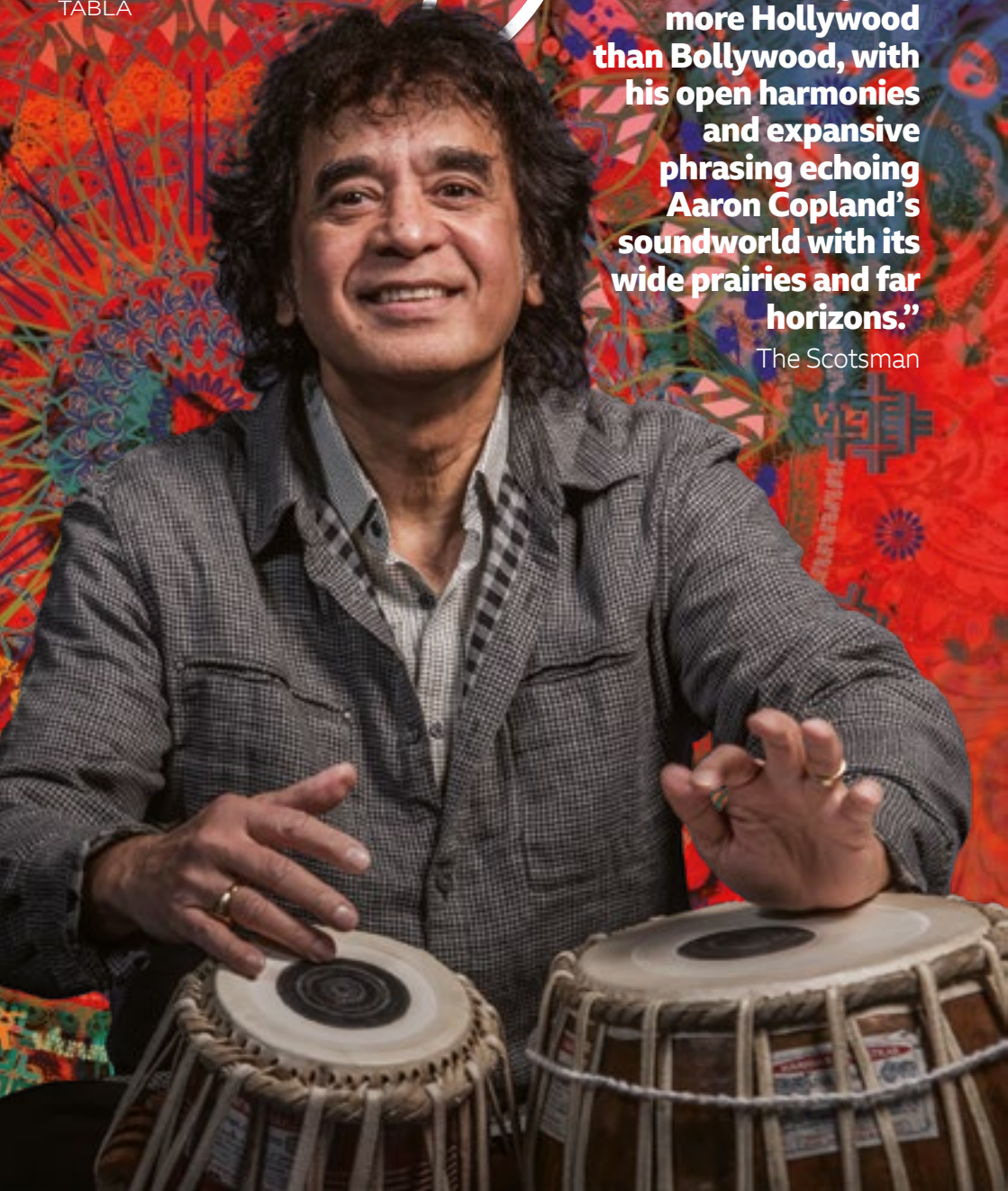


# imagine

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



THURSDAY  
20.02.2025  
7.30PM

Works by  
**MATTHEW GROUSE**  
**GILLIAN WALKER**  
**ELECTRA PERIVOLARIS**  
**SCOTT LYGATE**  
**JAY CAPPERAULD**  
**MICHAEL MURRAY** (c.55 mins)

Interval

**SIR JAMES MACMILLAN**  
CONCERTO FOR ORCHESTRA  
‘GHOSTS’ (Scottish premiere)  
(c.25 mins)

**Scott Lygate** contrabass clarinet  
**Sir James MacMillan** conductor

THURSDAY  
13.03.2025  
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

...A DAZZLING, THOUGHT-PROVOKING  
SPREAD OF ORCHESTRAL MUSIC FROM A  
NEW GENERATION OF SCOTTISH TALENT.

## MACMILLAN'S ‘CONCERTO FOR ORCHESTRA’

When Sir James MacMillan speaks, the world takes notice – and at his Ayrshire music festival The Cumnock Tryst, he’s helping a generation of composers to find their own individual voice. Tonight he conducts the first Scottish performance of *Ghosts*, his new concerto for orchestra. Judging from that title (and knowing MacMillan’s passionate belief in the communicative power of music), there’s every reason to expect a lot more than just a colourful workout for a full symphony orchestra. MacMillan introduces it himself, and also presents a dazzling, thought-provoking spread of new music from his younger colleagues at The Cumnock Tryst: a vibrant, typically generous celebration of the state of the art in Scottish classical music. Find out more at [bbc.co.uk/bbcso](http://bbc.co.uk/bbcso)

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

## ZAKIR HUSSAIN'S TRIPLE CONCERTO

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.



**Images:** Claire Booth by Sven Arnstein, Gabriela Montero by Anders Brogaard, Elim Chan by Simon Pauly, Mark Padmore by Marco Borggreve, Tom Borrow by Yoel Levy, Mark Elder by Benjamin Ealovega, Jaemin Han by Shin-joong Kim, Colin Currie by James Glossop, Ilan Volkov by Ian Peebles, Scott Lygate, James MacMillan by Philip Gatward.



**Images:** Zakir Hussain by Paul Joseph, Niladri Kumar by Kunal Kelkar, Rakesh Chaurasia, Alpeš Chauhan by Chris Christodoulou, Denjs Kozhukhin by Alex Lordache, Matthias Pintscher by Felix Broede, Javier Perianes by Igor Studio, Anja Bihlmaier by Nikolaj Lund, Rosanne Philippens by Marco Borggreve, Gemma New by Chris Christodoulou, Stefan Dohr by Simon Pauly.



**KANAKO ITO**  
VIOLIN, ASSOCIATE LEADER

THURSDAY  
**20.03.2025**  
7.30PM

**RICARDO FERRO**  
NEW WORK (World Premiere)  
(c.12 mins)

**MATTHIAS PINTSCHER**  
NEHAROT (c.25 mins)

**RACHMANINOV**  
PIANO CONCERTO NO.4  
(c.28 mins)

**SCHOENBERG**  
PELLEAS UND MELISANDE  
(c.42 mins)

**Denis Kozhukhin** piano  
**Matthias Pintscher** conductor

THURSDAY  
**24.04.2025**  
7.30PM

**MÉLANIE BONIS**  
TROIS FEMMES DE LÉGENDE  
(Three Legendary Women)  
*Salomé, Ophélie & The Dream  
of Cleopatra* (c.18 mins)

**MOZART**  
PIANO CONCERTO NO.17  
K453 (c.29 mins)

**STRAUSS**  
ELEKTRA SUITE ARR.  
HONECK/ILLE (c.35 mins)

**Javier Perianes** piano  
**Anja Bihlmaier** conductor

**...DEVASTATINGLY BEAUTIFUL MELODIES & BREATH-TAKING VIRTUOSITY THAT THRILLS YOU TO THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT.**

## RACHMANINOV'S PIANO CONCERTO NO.4

*"Crystalline clarity"; "bravura power"; "so mighty as to sweep away any concern"* – critics can sometimes be lost for words when pianist Denis Kozhukhin performs with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, and there's a good reason why he's one of our favourite regular guests. Imagine all that artistry (and all that chemistry) in Rachmaninov's sweeping Fourth Piano Concerto. That's the centrepiece of a concert that opens with Matthias Pintscher conducting his own music, plus something new and powerful from his student Ricardo Ferro, before plunging into the deliriously Romantic world of Schoenberg's *Pelleas und Melisande*. This lush orchestral saga of doomed love drove audiences wild in early 1900s Vienna, and you're about to hear why.

**...IN 240 YEARS, WHAT MUSIC WILL BE PERFORMED THE WORLD OVER? A WORLD-RENOWNED PIANIST DEMONSTRATES THE TIMELESS BEAUTY OF MOZART.**

## JAVIER PERIANES PLAYS MOZART

The princess Salomé knows her own powers, and strikes a terrible bargain. Cleopatra rules like a goddess, and dies like a queen. And in ancient Greece, Elektra nurtures a murderous obsession – until, to some of the most shatteringly violent music ever composed, she witnesses heaven and earth rain vengeance upon her tormentors. Tonight, under guest conductor Anja Bihlmaier, the BBC SSO encounters incredible women – and none more remarkable than the pioneering 19th century French composer Mélanie Bonis. It's a gripping contrast to Mozart at his most graceful, as Javier Perianes brings all his charisma and imagination to a concerto that Mozart once played himself. Music simply doesn't get any wittier – or more lovely.

# imagine

**GEMMA NEW**  
GUEST CONDUCTOR



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

The Guardian

THURSDAY  
**08.05.2025**  
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

**CLOSING NIGHT**  
THURSDAY  
**22.05.2025**  
7.30PM

**BEETHOVEN**  
SYMPHONY NO.1 (c.28 mins)

**HANS ABRAHAMSEN**  
CONCERTO FOR HORN  
AND ORCHESTRA (c.21 mins)

**BEETHOVEN**  
NAMENSFEIER OVERTURE,  
OP. 115 (c.7 mins)

**SIBELIUS**  
SYMPHONY NO.5 (c.33 mins)

**Stefan Dohr** horn  
**Ryan Wigglesworth** conductor

**...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.

**...MAJESTIC SWANS TAKE FLIGHT & FINLAND’S GREATEST COMPOSER UNLEASHES A SPINE-TINGLING MELODY THAT FILLS YOUR HEART WITH HOPE.**

## SIBELIUS’ FIFTH SYMPHONY

“God, what beauty!” Once upon a time in Finland, Sibelius saw a flight of swans and felt his imagination take wing. That’s the story behind the unforgettable horn theme that crowns his Fifth Symphony: music as astonishing, and as inevitable, as nature itself. Those vaulting horns are a spine-tingling way to end the season. So what could be more natural than Ryan Wigglesworth inviting Stefan Dohr, a legend among horn players, to perform another Scandinavian masterpiece: the playful, utterly original concerto that our Composer-in-Association (and master-storyteller) Hans Abrahamson wrote especially for him. Ludwig van Beethoven ties it all together, with wit, splendour and irrepresible life-force. You’d expect no less.



*imagine*

**“...music telling the most powerful stories, and bringing people together.”**

**LUCY DREVER**  
ASSOCIATE ARTIST,  
PRESENTER AND  
WORKSHOP LEADER

# CREATIVITY & CONNECTIONS WITH LUCY

**OUR LEARNING PROJECTS AT THE BBC SCOTTISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA START WITH WHAT WE DO – MUSIC. BUILDING AROUND THIS POWERFUL ARTFORM, OUR ACTIVITIES ARE ABOUT CONNECTION, CREATIVITY AND MAKING UNIQUE MEMORIES WITH THOSE AROUND YOU.**

And over the past couple of years, I've led musical workshops all over Scotland; from Shetland to Saltcoats, Glasgow to Campbeltown, and many more cities and towns! We focus on three areas – young children and their family unit, schools and criminal justice settings.

For our recent *Tunes for Tots* tour we explored 'Under The Sea' with little ones under the age of five. In these child-led sessions the music of Joseph Bologne was perfect for welcoming us to the ocean floor. We slept under a starfish with the relaxing sounds of Amy Beach, and we waltzed in the seaweed with the help of Tchaikovsky's mesmerising ballet music (of course!).

*Image:  
Tunes for Tots – our interactive sessions for toddlers.*



One of my favourite recent memories of working in schools is when we were doing a composition workshop with young people in an Additional Support Needs setting. Section Principal Trumpet Mark O'Keeffe was given the challenge of playing his instrument with only one hand, while walking around his group and waving a survival blanket... the young people were writing a piece about the cold! It was so joyful to watch.

After our projects, I frequently get told by teachers that they were surprised about a young person's input or concentration. But that's the magical thing about music. It allows different pathways into learning and it encourages individuals to explore essential skills like teamwork, collaboration and listening to others.

**“Respect is really important. When everybody has the opportunity to share an idea, it leads to magical moments.”** *Luke Russell, Flute*

We've delivered a series of music workshops in HMP Low Moss, where music and storytelling are used to create meaningful memories. Seeing dads, grandads and the family unit connect through music-making was a really wonderful thing. And hearing each family's 'star song' on the chime bars, as we ventured into outer space, will stay with me for a very long time.

I believe that this work is valuable for all the different communities we engage with, and that everyone should have access to music. But I also believe it's essential for our musicians, who regularly tell me that our learning projects enrich and compliment their work as orchestral players. This work is also important for their creativity, their connection, and their commitment to what they do, music.



**“It was amazing for my son to get to see the instruments up close. Rik the viola player asked what my son's favourite song was before the session started and he then played it on his viola which was amazing.”**

*Greenock*

Discover more



*Images:  
HMP Low Moss and Tunes for Tots – our interactive sessions for families and toddlers.*



# AFTERNOON PERFORMANCES

## THURSDAYS & SUNDAYS AT 2PM

**SOMETIMES YOU JUST DON'T FEEL LIKE LEAVING THE HOUSE IN THE EVENING!**

Plan a series of uplifting days out in Glasgow's Merchant City, centred around six concerts that feature big-hearted blockbusters, dazzling displays of virtuosity and opportunities to relax and recharge. From Prokofiev's shimmering ballet score *Cinderella* to Strauss's tender *Songs for soprano*, you'll find music to match every mood. And this year, we've introduced a Sunday series that celebrates three phenomenal **BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artists**.

**Tickets: £16.00** if bought in advance.

**£17.50** if bought on the day of performance.

**£6.00** for students, Under 26s and Registered Unemployed.

### TEA AND SYMPHONY

Arrive early at any of our Afternoon Performances for a light lunch of soup and sandwiches, followed by cakes, tea and coffee. Afternoon Tea is provided by the venue and a separate booking is required when purchasing your concert tickets via the box office.



**SUNDAY**  
**24.11.2024**  
2.00PM

**BERLIOZ**  
ROMAN CARNIVAL  
OVERTURE (c.9 mins)

**BEETHOVEN**  
PIANO CONCERTO NO.2  
(c.32 mins)

**BERLIOZ**  
SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE  
(c.56 mins)

**Giorgi Gigashvili** piano  
**Ryan Wigglesworth** conductor

## BERLIOZ'S SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE

A composer's imagination is a dangerous place at the best of times; still, nothing in music quite tops the fabulous, opium-fuelled phantasmagoria that is Hector Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*. Born from unrequited desire, and sweeping from glittering romance to the foot of the guillotine, it continues to startle and amaze. Ryan Wigglesworth brings a composer's insight, and teams up with BBC New Generation Artist (and musical all-rounder) Giorgi Gigashvili to give a new sparkle to the young Beethoven's happiest (and funniest) piano concerto. First though, we're off to warmer climes with another Berlioz showstopper – the riotous dance-rhythms and blazing energy of his irresistible *Roman Carnival* overture. Fun in the sun, whatever the weather outside!

**Images:** Giorgi Gigashvili by Kelly de Geer, Ryan Wigglesworth by Julie Broadfoot, Ning Feng by Lawrence Tsang, Antony Hermus by Marco Borggreve, Tami Pohjola by Ville Paul Paasimaa, Taavi Oramo by Tero Ahonen Hires.

**THURSDAY**  
**30.01.2025**  
2.00PM

**JOEY ROUKENS**  
NIGHT FLIGHT (c.8 mins)

**BRAHMS**  
VIOLIN CONCERTO  
(c.40 mins)

**PROKOFIEV**  
CINDERELLA SUITE  
(ARR. HERMUS) (c.40 mins)

**Ning Feng** violin  
**Antony Hermus** conductor

## BRAHMS'S VIOLIN CONCERTO

"The remarkable soloist Ning Feng, his tone so sweet and pure, believed in every note, and as a result so did we" wrote *The Times*, after a performance of Brahms's Violin Concerto by this phenomenal Chinese violinist – and after all, it takes a special kind of soloist to do justice to this noblest of the great Romantic violin concertos. This should be something special, and conductor Antony Hermus has devised a whole concert charged with wonder. Cinderella flees at midnight, and in Prokofiev's shimmering ballet score, you'll hear every chime, every magic spell, and every loving glance. Dutch composer Joey Roukens lights the touchpaper with a riotous nocturnal rollercoaster ride through a city of dreams.

**THURSDAY**  
**06.03.2025**  
2.00PM

**MENDELSSOHN**  
HEBRIDES OVERTURE  
(c.11 mins)

**MAGNUS LINDBERG**  
VIOLIN CONCERTO NO.1  
(c.25 mins)

**SIBELIUS**  
SYMPHONY NO.3 (c.30 mins)

**Tami Pohjola** violin  
**Taavi Oramo** conductor

## SIBELIUS' SYMPHONY NO.3

Everyone knows the tale of Felix Mendelssohn's trip to the Hebrides, and the sonic enchantment that emerged from that (slightly choppy) boat trip to Fingal's Cave. What more can we say? These isles sometimes have that effect on visitors. Jean Sibelius ran into fogbanks as his steamer took him to Britain, and you can hear them swirling around the expansive Finnish landscape of his sunlit Third Symphony. And Magnus Lindberg's radiant First Violin Concerto was hailed as an instant classic after its premiere in 2006. Two of the most dynamic young stars in Finnish music – violinist Tami Pohjola and conductor Taavi Oramo – bring a special freshness and energy to music filled with sea air and northern light.



**THURSDAY**  
**17.04.2025**  
 2.00PM

**ARVO PÄRT**  
 FRATRES (c.10 mins)

**EDUARD TUBIN**  
 CONCERTO FOR DOUBLE  
 BASS AND ORCHESTRA  
 (c.19 mins)

**DVOŘÁK**  
 SYMPHONY NO.7 (c.40 mins)

**Anu Tali** conductor  
**Gyunam Kim** double bass

## DVOŘÁK'S SYMPHONY NO.7

A train entering a station, or the quiet roar of a people awakening to freedom? For Antonin Dvořák, it was simply the beginning of his Seventh Symphony: what follows is forty minutes of irresistible dance tunes and gripping action. For many, it's even greater than the "New World" symphony: but then, this concert with the rising Estonian star Anu Tali is all about unexpected voices – whether the quiet revolution of Arvo Pärt's hugely popular *Fratres* or fellow-Estonian Eduard Tubin's lyrical post-war concerto for the most under-appreciated of instruments, the double bass. It's a giant with the soul of a poet – but hear for yourself, as the BBC SSO's superb Section Principal Double Bass Gyunam Kim steps into the spotlight.

**SUNDAY**  
**30.03.2025**  
 2.00PM

**GRAŻYNA BACEWICZ**  
 OVERTURE (c.6 mins)

**STRAUSS**  
 SONGS FOR SOPRANO  
 (Ich wollt ein Sträußlein  
 binden, Morgen, Säusle liebe  
 Myrthe, Wiegenlied, Als mir  
 dein Lied erklang) (c.19 mins)

**RACHMANINOV**  
 SYMPHONIC DANCES  
 (c.35 mins)

**Johanna Wallroth** soprano  
**Teresa Riveiro Böhm** conductor

## RACHMANINOV'S SYMPHONIC DANCES

Sergei Rachmaninov was born in imperial Russia, but he died in Beverly Hills, and his *Symphonic Dances* fuse the melancholy of exile with the rhythm, the glamour and the sheer verve of the jazz-age USA. Dream ballet? Showpiece for orchestra? Or simply the most personal symphony Rachmaninov never wrote? However you hear them, guest conductor Teresa Riveiro Böhm has made them the climax of a concert filled with powerful voices and dark poetry. Grażyna Bacewicz's *Overture* gets things off to an electrifying start. Then BBC New Generation Artist Johanna Wallroth turns the leaves of the Richard Strauss songbook: miniature worlds of tenderness, melody and romance, perfectly suited to what one critic called the "pure magic" of her voice.

**Images:** Johanna Wallroth by Amélie Chapalain, Teresa Riveiro Böhm by Theresa Pewal, Anu Tali by Kabir Cardena, Gyunam Kim by Martin Shields, Alim Beisembayev by Nabin Maharjan, Tito Munoz by Nicola Betts.

**SUNDAY**  
**18.05.2025**  
 2.00PM

**GABRIELLA SMITH**  
 TUMBLEBIRD CONTRAILS  
 (c.12 mins)

**TCHAIKOVSKY**  
 PIANO CONCERTO NO.1  
 (c.38 mins)

**MAHLER**  
 SYMPHONY NO.1 (c.56 mins)

**Alim Beisembayev** piano  
**Tito Muñoz** conductor

## TCHAIKOVSKY'S PIANO CONCERTO NO.1

The orchestra throws down a challenge, and the piano strides forward with one of the grandest tunes Tchaikovsky ever wrote. Seabirds wheel and soar, and jet-streams trace fabulous patterns across the blue Pacific sky. And in the silence of dawn, a young artist walks out on a lifelong voyage: a tale of struggle and joy, turmoil and triumph. Three very different composers, and three different openings – but each one is just the start of an adventure, told today by the BBC SSO and conductor Tito Muñoz, who created such a buzz at City Halls in 2022. Pianist Alim Beisembayev is the soloist; this 2021 Leeds International Piano Competition winner has been described as "positively luminous".



# SCOTTISH INFLUENCES

WITH UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH CHAMBER CHOIR & GLASGOW CHAMBER CHOIR

SATURDAY  
12.10.2024  
7.30PM



**ERROLLYN WALLEN**  
MIGHTY RIVER (c.15 mins)

**MAXWELL DAVIES**  
LULLABY FOR LUCY\*  
(c.6 mins)

**JAMES MACMILLAN**  
HODIE PUER NASCITUR  
(c.7 mins)

**CRESSWELL**  
PIANO CONCERTO NO.3  
(European Premiere) (c.20 mins)

Interval

**JAMES MACMILLAN**  
TU ES PETRUS (c.4 mins)

**CRESSWELL**  
PATER COLUMBA\*  
(c.7 mins)

**MAXWELL DAVIES**  
AN ORKNEY WEDDING,  
WITH SUNRISE (c.13 mins)

An all-night party, a northern sunrise – join us for a life-affirming celebration of music made in Scotland. Singers from across the Central Belt come together to perform modern sacred masterpieces by Sir James MacMillan, and Errollyn Wallen salutes her ancestors in a wordless song of survival and freedom. We raise a toast to the late Lyell Cresswell – the irrepressible, utterly individual New Zealand composer who made Edinburgh his home, and whose extraordinary Third Piano Concerto receives its European premiere from Danny Driver. And then we're off to Orkney, where Peter Maxwell Davies is keeping a welcome – no spoilers, but let's just say that it gets lively...

**University of Edinburgh Chamber Choir & Glasgow Chamber Choir**

**Danny Driver** piano

**Michael Bawtree** conductor\*

**Martyn Brabbins** conductor

**Tickets: £12.00**

**£6.00** tickets for Students and Under 26s.

Unreserved Seating. Booking fees apply.

# NORDIC MUSIC DAYS 2024

WITH UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW CHAPEL CHOIR

THURSDAY  
31.10.2024  
7.30PM



**ELI TAUSEN Á LAVA**  
LET ME CRY (c.11 mins)

**MAJA RATKJE**  
CONSIDERING ICARUS *for*  
*trombone and orchestra*  
(c.20 mins)

Interval

**HILDUR GUÐNADÓTTIR**  
THE FACT OF THE MATTER\*  
(c.16 mins)

**BRITTA BYSTRÖM**  
VOYAGES  
EXTRAORDINAIRES  
(c.32 mins)

**University of Glasgow Chapel Choir\***  
**Stephen Menotti** trombone  
**Emilia Hoving** conductor

## AN EXTRAORDINARY VOYAGE!

Britta Byström's *Voyages extraordinaires* was inspired by the enchanting (and impossible) journeys depicted in Jules Verne's famous novel series. Her own work is intended as a fantastical musical journey on which the listener encounters new worlds of sound through recurring orchestral transformations. So, bring a thirst for discovery to the 2024 Nordic Music Days festival – this year in Glasgow – which celebrates contemporary music and sounds from Scotland and the Nordic region.

Just as all great journeys have a story to tell, so too does Handel's 1711 aria *Let me cry*, in which the captured Almirena is on her own quest for freedom. Eli Tausen á Lava describes his reimagination of Handel's music as like "the sand dunes of the Sahara being gently sculpted by the desert winds". In her concerto for trombone and orchestra, Maja Ratkje reflects on the beauty of Icarus's overwhelming attempt to reach for the impossible. And we bask in the elemental sonorities of Icelandic composer Hildur Guðnadóttir – the extraordinary, Academy Award-winning musical imagination behind *Joker* and *Chernobyl*.

**Tickets: £12.00**

**£6.00** tickets for Students and Under 26s.

Unreserved Seating. Booking fees apply.

THURSDAY  
27.02.2025  
7.30PM

# PAISLEY ABBEY

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

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

## ELGAR'S THE DREAM OF GERONTIUS

Join us in the magnificent setting of Paisley Abbey for an epic choral masterpiece. 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.

**Tickets from £15.00** (booking fee may apply).  
**£6.00** tickets for Students and Under 26s.  
On sale from June 2024 via [bbc.co.uk/bbcso](http://bbc.co.uk/bbcso)



SUNDAY  
**22.12.2024**  
3.00PM

Singer Jamie MacDougall is your host for the BBC SSO's annual feast of movie music for all ages, featuring popular tunes from blockbusters, timeless film scores by the legendary John Williams, and the opulent harmonies of Hollywood's Golden Age. It's always a sell-out, so secure your tickets today to kickstart your festive celebrations with a symphonic burst of big screen magic. Prepare to be mesmerised by the power of a live symphony orchestra – perhaps the best special effect of all time!

*This concert is not available as part of the Glasgow Series subscription package.*

**Jamie MacDougall**  
singer and presenter

**Ben Palmer**  
conductor

**Tickets:**  
£33.00, £28.00,  
£23.00, £18.00

**Under 16s**  
Half price

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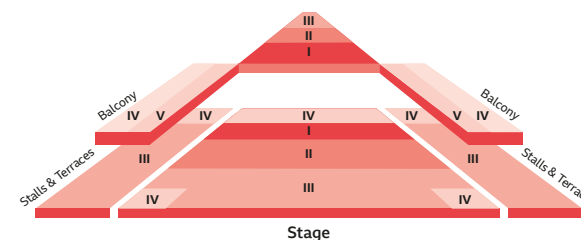
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Seating Area	% Saving		I	II	III	IV	V
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	15	Concession	£105.40	£88.40	£71.40	£54.40	£47.60
5 concerts	10	Standard	£139.50	£117.00	£94.50	£72.00	£63.00
	15	Concession	£131.75	£110.50	£89.25	£68.00	£59.50
6 concerts	15	Standard	£158.10	£132.60	£107.10	£81.60	£71.40
	20	Concession	£148.80	£124.80	£100.80	£76.80	£67.20
7 concerts	15	Standard	£184.45	£154.70	£124.95	£95.20	£83.30
	20	Concession	£173.60	£145.60	£117.60	£89.60	£78.40
8 concerts	20	Standard	£198.40	£166.40	£134.40	£102.40	£89.60
	25	Concession	£186.00	£156.00	£126.00	£96.00	£84.00
9 concerts	20	Standard	£223.20	£187.20	£151.20	£115.20	£100.80
	25	Concession	£209.25	£175.50	£141.75	£108.00	£94.50
10 concerts	25	Standard	£232.50	£195.00	£157.50	£120.00	£105.00
	30	Concession	£217.00	£182.00	£147.00	£112.00	£98.00
11 concerts	25	Standard	£255.75	£214.50	£173.25	£132.00	£115.50
	30	Concession	£238.70	£200.20	£161.70	£123.20	£107.80
12 concerts	30	Standard	£260.40	£218.40	£176.40	£134.40	£117.60
	35	Concession	£241.80	£202.80	£163.80	£124.80	£109.20
13 concerts	30	Standard	£282.10	£236.60	£191.10	£145.60	£127.40
	35	Concession	£261.95	£219.70	£177.45	£135.20	£118.30

\*Subscription packages are subject to a £3.00 Box Office charge.

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### **Box Office Opening Hours**

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Glasgow Royal Concert Hall Box Office  
2 Sauchiehall Street  
Glasgow G2 3NY

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