

# ABERDEEN ESCAPE INTO

BBC  
Scottish  
Symphony  
Orchestra

JOY. SERENITY.  
DREAMS & PASSIONS.  
FESTIVE FRIVOLITIES.  
DAZZLING VIRTUOSITY.  
MEDITATIVE MELODIES.  
LOVE & SPELLBINDING  
BEAUTY. ADVENTURE.  
PIANO HEAVEN. PULSE-  
RAISING PASSION.  
EPIC JOURNEYS.

# MUSIC

Music Hall Aberdeen  
Season 2023/24

Ryan Wigglesworth  
Chief Conductor

RADIO **3**

# WELCOME

**It's been heartening for our players and audiences alike to experience a sense of vitality and musical discovery once more at the Music Hall.**

This Season we invite you to escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life and discover a myriad of musical experiences across five varied concerts.

Together we'll explore remarkable music spanning three centuries and, as ever, will be joined on the concert platform by some of the world's great soloists. In a concert featuring the heart-achingly beautiful melodies of Brahms's Third Symphony, Japanese virtuoso Dai Miyata draws out the profound expression in Elgar's popular Cello Concerto. Rachmaninov's fiendishly difficult *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* takes flight in the hands of distinguished pianist Sir Stephen Hough, accompanied by Tchaikovsky's enchanting excerpts from his ballet *Sleeping Beauty*. And our Season concludes with Bruckner's Seventh and Sibelius's soulful Violin Concerto with Bomsori Kim, one of the most dynamic and exciting soloists on the international circuit.

We double down on our commitment to championing the most brilliant and original living composers as our Principal Guest Conductor Ian Volkov and cellist Charles Curtis rediscover music by Cassandra Miller, selected by *The Guardian* as one of the best classical music works of the 21st century. We also relish the opportunity to explore the subtle sound world of Lisa Illean in a BBC Commission with Chief Conductor Ryan Wigglesworth. And finally, we invite you to be part of the audience for our annual BBC Radio Scotland broadcast celebrating Christmas with good cheer and festive tunes, hosted by Jamie MacDougall.

Whether it's in the concert hall, via BBC Radio, Sounds and iPlayer, or perhaps through our projects with communities across Scotland led by Associate Artist Lucy Drever, we hope that you'll find an opportunity to enjoy our live music.

Welcome to you all!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dominic Parker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dominic" and the last name "Parker" clearly legible.

**Dominic Parker**

Director

Friday  
**29.09.2023**  
7.30pm

**Cassandra Miller**  
Duet for Cello and  
Orchestra (c.30 mins)

**Berlioz**  
Symphonie fantastique  
(c.56 mins)

**Charles Curtis** cello  
**Ilan Volkov** conductor

Friday  
**22.12.2023**  
7.30pm

**Jamie MacDougall**  
singer and presenter

**Roderick Dunk** conductor



ESCAPE INTO **DREAMS & PASSIONS**

## BERLIOZ SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE

“Frustrated in love, a young musician of deep sensitivity and ardent imagination takes opium...” Berlioz’s big-hearted blockbuster, *Symphonie fantastique* began as a nineteenth century tale of drugs and lust. It became... well, the name says it all, really. This is a sonic extravaganza of gothic horror, hopeless devotion and glorious excess, played by one of the biggest orchestras the world had then seen. Cassandra Miller’s Duet makes its points more quietly but no less powerfully, with one critic describing it as “odd, beautiful, challenging in some ways but ultimately deeply engrossing”. In his 20th year working with the orchestra, Principal Guest Conductor Ilan Volkov is joined by cellist Charles Curtis to rediscover what *The Guardian* selected as one of the best classical music works of the 21st century.

ESCAPE INTO **FESTIVE FRIVOLITIES**

## CHRISTMAS CLASSICS

From music as bracing and exhilarating as a midnight sleigh-ride, to the comforts of familiar seasonal favourites, the BBC SSO invites you to an evening of Christmas orchestral magic. Enjoy instantly recognisable melodies of Yuletide carols and festive songs, all wrapped up in the luxurious sound of a live orchestra and hosted by the wonderful Jamie MacDougall. Book now, for a concert that’s brimming with festive good cheer and the perfect kick-start to your seasonal celebrations.

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



Friday  
**02.02.2024**  
7.30pm

### **Lisa Illean**

New Work (BBC Commission,  
World Premiere) (c.20 mins)

### **Elgar**

Cello Concerto (c.32 mins)

### **Brahms**

Symphony No.3 (c.39 mins)

**Dai Miyata** cello

**Ryan Wigglesworth** conductor

ESCAPE INTO **MEDITATIVE MELODIES**

## ELGAR CELLO CONCERTO

“Free but happy” is the motto that Brahms gave to his Third Symphony, and it opens with all the freshness of a summer storm. What comes next is a musical landscape of rolling clouds, tender lullabies, and radiant sunsets: a haunting finish to a concert that’s all about light, shade, and deep feelings. If you thought Elgar’s popular Cello Concerto was merely the sound of green fields and rolling hills, think again, as cellist Dai Miyata – praised by critics for his “sublime beauty of tone” – joins Ryan Wigglesworth to uncover its troubled soul. And explore a new world of sound from the imagination of Lisa Illean, who creates music (it’s been said) from “exquisitely quiet shadows”.

Friday  
**19.04.2024**  
7.30pm

### **Tchaikovsky**

Excerpts from  
*Sleeping Beauty* (c.20 mins)

### **Rachmaninov**

Rhapsody on a Theme of  
Paganini (c.26 mins)

### **Stravinsky**

*The Fairy’s Kiss* (c.44 mins)

**Sir Stephen Hough** piano

**Ryan Wigglesworth** conductor

ESCAPE INTO **DAZZLING VIRTUOSITY**

## HOUGH PLAYS RACHMANINOV

“My heartfelt homage to Tchaikovsky’s wonderful talent”. Audiences in the 1920s were astonished when the modernist firebrand Stravinsky started adapting Tchaikovsky. In fact, Stravinsky adored Tchaikovsky’s music, and his ballet *The Fairy’s Kiss* puts Tchaikovsky’s music under a very modern – but utterly captivating – spell. But then, under the baton of our Chief Conductor Ryan Wigglesworth, there’s wonder in every note of this ravishing concert. You’d expect no less, when the phenomenal pianist Stephen Hough works his very personal alchemy on Rachmaninov’s hugely-popular *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*. And to begin, there’s pure enchantment in a selection of magical excerpts from Tchaikovsky’s iconic ballet *Sleeping Beauty*.

Friday  
**24.05.2024**  
7.30pm

**Sibelius**

Violin Concerto (c.31 mins)

**Bruckner**

Symphony No.7 (c.68 mins)

**Bomsori Kim** violin

**Ryan Wigglesworth** conductor

ESCAPE INTO **SPELLBINDING BEAUTY**

# SIBELIUS VIOLIN CONCERTO

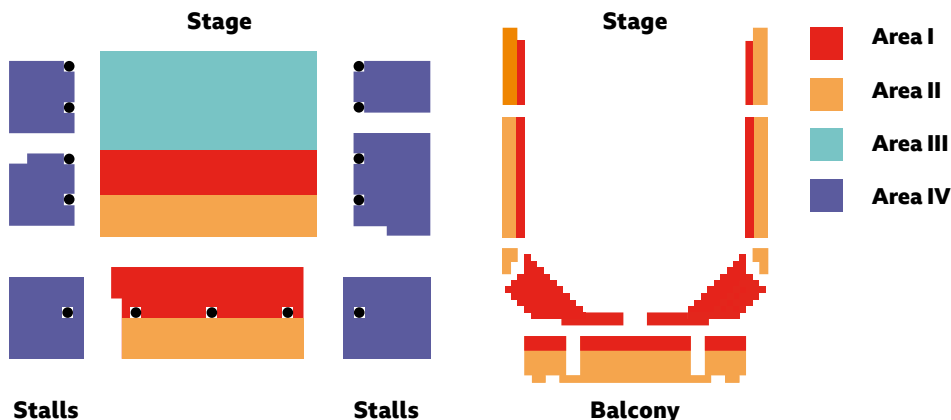
The air shimmers, and out of the depths, the orchestra unfurls a melody – a tune that sighs, sings and reaches upwards towards heaven itself. Anton Bruckner said that the opening of his Seventh Symphony came to him in a dream, and you can believe it. But it's just the start of a truly epic journey, and tonight our Chief Conductor Ryan Wigglesworth takes the orchestra through peaks of joy and depths of sorrow before climbing the final, shining summit. This is music – and imagination – on the grandest possible scale. So what better way to start than in another vast, beautiful landscape, as our 2023/24 Featured Artist, the phenomenal Bomsori Kim, explores the elemental grandeur of Sibelius's Violin Concerto?



**Image:** Ryan Wigglesworth by Julie Broadfoot.

# Box Office: 01224 641122

[bbc.co.uk/bbcsso](http://bbc.co.uk/bbcsso)



## Book 5 Concerts for the Price of 4 Book 4 Concerts and Save 20%

**Offer open until Friday 29 September 2023.**

Offer only applies to full price tickets.

### **5 Concert Season Ticket** Saving 20%

**Area I: £108.00** (saving £27.00)

**Area II: £92.00** (saving £23.00)

**Area III: £76.00** (saving £19.00)

**Area IV: £60.00** (saving £15.00)

### **4 Concert Season Ticket** Saving 20%

Excludes Christmas concert

**Area I: £86.40** (saving £21.60)

**Area II: £73.60** (saving £18.40)

**Area III: £60.80** (saving £15.20)

**Area IV: £48.00** (saving £12.00)

### **Single Tickets**

**Area I: £27.00**    **Area II: £23.00**

**Area III: £19.00**    **Area IV: £15.00**

### **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 III-IV (subject to availability). Proof of status is required. Tickets must be collected in person.

#### **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

01224 641122

aberdeenperformingarts.com

Music Hall

Union Street

Aberdeen AB10 1QS

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






### Box Office opening hours

Tuesday–Saturday, 10.00am–6.00pm  
(and until 30 minutes after the performance starts on concert nights)

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)

### Disabled Access

-  Full access for wheelchair users.
-  Guide dogs are welcome.
-  An infra-red sound enhancement system is fitted for people with hearing difficulties.

Please notify the Box Office when booking if you have any specific access requirements which require assistance.

### Booking opens

**Thursday 13 April 2023**

**B B C** **B B C**  
**SCOTLAND SOUNDS**

### BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra

BBC Scotland  
City Halls, Candleriggs  
Glasgow G1 1NQ  
[bbc.co.uk/bbcso](http://bbc.co.uk/bbcso)

### Stay connected



@bbcso



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.

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.