

# EDINBURGH ESCAPE INTO

BBC  
Scottish  
Symphony  
Orchestra

DRAMA & EPIC  
EMOTIONS. SWEEPING  
MELODIES. OPTIMISM  
& ADVENTURE. JOY.  
FESTIVE FRIVOLITIES.  
DAZZLING VIRTUOSITY.  
MOVIE MAGIC. PULSE-  
RAISING PASSION.  
SERENITY. OPERATIC  
SONIC THEATRE.

# MUSIC

Usher Hall Edinburgh  
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 Usher Hall.** In our new Season we invite you to escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life and discover a myriad of musical experiences across four varied concerts.

Our first concert features a performance of Elgar's bold and beautiful First Symphony with Chief Conductor Ryan Wigglesworth, and BBC Young Musician (2014), Martin James Bartlett brings his exquisite touch to Mozart. And in the spirit of this trailblazing orchestra, we herald a new season with music by one of the most brilliant and original composers of this century, Jonathan Woolgar.

Following last year's Opening Concert of the Edinburgh International Festival, we are thrilled to join forces once more with the Edinburgh Festival Chorus and a stellar team of solo singers for Verdi's *Requiem* – a truly unmissable event in the classical calendar. Dvořák's *New World Symphony* makes for a rousing finale to our Season, as guest conductor Michael Sanderling is joined by another extraordinary BBC Young Musician finalist (2022), Ethan David Loch for Chopin's Second Piano Concerto.

And finally, this year we're excited to bring our festive feast of movie music for all ages to the Usher Hall, *Christmas at the Movies*, hosted by the wonderful singer and presenter 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!



**Dominic Parker**  
Director



Sunday  
**26.11.2023**  
3.00pm

**Jonathan Woolgar**  
Canzoni et Ricercari  
(New version for large ensemble)  
(c.6 mins)

**Mozart**  
Piano Concerto No.20 in  
D minor K.466 (c.31 mins)

**Elgar**  
Symphony No.1 (c.50 mins)

**Martin James Bartlett** piano  
**Ryan Wigglesworth** conductor

ESCAPE INTO **SWEEPING MELODIES**

## ELGAR SYMPHONY NO.1

British music isn't always what you expect. Edward Elgar was a shopkeeper's son from a country town, but his First Symphony spans worlds – a sweeping, multicoloured musical autobiography on a magnificent scale, burning with passion and beginning (as well as ending) with a melody you'll never forget. Jonathan Woolgar comes from West Yorkshire, but in his award-winning *Canzoni et Ricercari* he travels in time to the Renaissance, unlocking new sounds of bracing power and haunting beauty. Our Chief Conductor Ryan Wigglesworth brings a composer's creativity to these two astonishing scores – and joins BBC Young Musician 2014, Martin James Bartlett, to celebrate the brilliance, the wit and the unchained inspiration of Mozart.

Monday  
**18.12.2023**  
7.30pm

**Jamie MacDougall**  
singer and presenter

**Roderick Dunk** conductor

ESCAPE INTO **FESTIVE FRIVOLITIES**

## CHRISTMAS AT THE MOVIES

Can you imagine Christmas without a classic film (or two) to enjoy with a cheeky sherry (or three)? Well some sensible folks can't even imagine a Christmas without our festive feast of movie music. And if you're 8 or 80 there's something for you. Expect the sumptuous sounds of Hollywood's Golden Age, John Williams blockbusters, Disney favourites and the occasional surprise. Singer and presenter Jamie MacDougall is once again in the director's chair for this fabulous matinee performance. Lights! Camera! Music!

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

**Images:** Ryan Wigglesworth by Julie Broadfoot, Martin James Bartlett by Paul Marc Mitchell, Jamie MacDougall c/o BBC, Edinburgh Festival Chorus by Gaele-Beri, Ethan David Loch by Dan Prince, Michael Sanderling by Nikolaj Lund.

Sunday  
**24.03.2024**  
3.00pm

## Verdi

Requiem (c.85 mins)

**Miah Persson** soprano

**Alice Coote** mezzo-soprano

**Leonardo Capalbo** tenor

**William Thomas** bass

**Edinburgh Festival Chorus**

**Ryan Wigglesworth** conductor

ESCAPE INTO **DRAMA & EPIC EMOTIONS**

# VERDI REQUIEM

Judgement Day: drums roar, trumpets blast, and hundreds of voices cry to heaven. Arguably no composer had a deeper understanding of the human heart, or a more potent sense of drama, than Giuseppe Verdi. Blazing with emotion and conceived on the grandest possible scale, Verdi's *Requiem* has been described as the greatest opera he never wrote. It's raw sonic theatre, and 150 years after its first performance, our Chief Conductor Ryan Wigglesworth has assembled the Edinburgh Festival Chorus, the BBC SSO and a stellar team of solo singers – all ready to storm the ramparts of death itself.

Sunday  
**19.05.2024**  
3.00pm

## Copland

Fanfare for the Common Man  
(c.3 mins)

## Chopin

Piano Concerto No.2 (c.33 mins)

## Dvořák

Symphony No.9

'From the New World' (c.45 mins)

**Ethan David Loch** piano

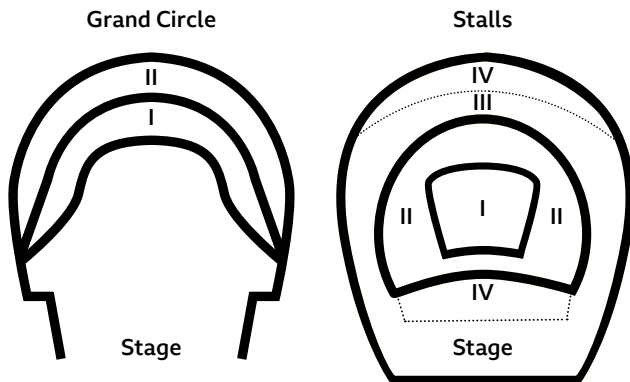
**Michael Sanderling** conductor

ESCAPE INTO **OPTIMISM & ADVENTURE**

# DVOŘÁK NEW WORLD SYMPHONY

Big sounds and tender feelings. Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man* is one of those pieces that you know without realising you know it – pure optimism from wartime America, wrought from great shining beams of brass and percussion. The young Chopin wasn't short of confidence either, and his gloriously dreamy Second Piano Concerto has to be one of the most exquisite love letters ever penned by a young genius to his sweetheart. BBC Young Musician 2022 finalist Ethan David Loch is the soloist this evening; his energy and imagination make him the perfect partner for guest conductor Michael Sanderling. Expect freshness, fire – and a few surprises too – when Sanderling conducts Dvořák's much-loved symphony "from the New World".

**Box Office: 0131 228 1155**  
[bbc.co.uk/bbcso](http://bbc.co.uk/bbcso)



## Book Three Concerts and Save 25%

Buy a ticket for three concerts (excluding *Christmas at the Movies*)\* and receive a 25% discount on your tickets. **Offer open until Sunday 26 November 2023.** Offer only applies to full price tickets.

### Area I: £72.00

for three concerts\* (saving £24.00)

### Area II: £58.50

for three concerts\* (saving £19.50)

### Area III: £45.00

for three concerts\* (saving £15.00)

### Area IV: £36.00

for three concerts\* (saving £12.00)

### Single Tickets

**Area I: £32.00**

**Area II: £26.00**

**Area III: £20.00**

**Area IV: £16.00**

### 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)

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### 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.

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.