

Usher Hall, Edinburgh
2022\23 Season

BBC
**Scottish
Symphony
Orchestra**



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Ryan Wigglesworth
Chief Conductor

RADIO **3**

WELCOME

It gives me immense pleasure to share with you our 2022/23 Edinburgh season, my first as Chief Conductor.

I'm particularly thrilled that my first visit to the Usher Hall features the music of Hans Abrahamsen – one of our greatest living composers and the orchestra's new Composer-in-Association. His latest orchestral piece, *Vers le silence*, is a work of mysterious power and astonishing beauty. We follow this with my own symphonic synthesis of Wagner's epic *Götterdämmerung*, for which we are joined by the outstanding dramatic soprano Katherine Broderick.

2022 marks the anniversary of one of music's recent, undisputed 'greats' – Olivier Messiaen, who died thirty years ago. So I'm delighted to be bringing to the Usher Hall a special performance of the 'Sermon to the Birds' tableau from his magnificent (but rarely-heard) opera *Saint François d'Assise*, also, happily, celebrating its fortieth birthday in 2023. This will be heard alongside Beethoven's ever-green, ever-glorious 'Pastoral' Symphony.

In February our Conductor Emeritus, Sir Donald Runnicles, brings his profound interpretative insights to Mahler's momentous Ninth Symphony. His passion for this music, as well as his deep knowledge and understanding, will surely make it an unmissable occasion. And we close our season with Mendelssohn's beautiful 'Scottish' Symphony, paired here with the brilliance and sparkle of Ravel's G-major Piano Concerto.

I look forward with eager anticipation to sharing these thrilling musical journeys with you all, wherever they may take us!



Ryan Wigglesworth
Chief Conductor



Sunday
20.11.2022
3.00pm

Hans Abrahamsen
Vers le silence (c.28 mins)

Wagner (arr. Wigglesworth)
Götterdämmerung -
A Symphonic Journey (c.46 mins)

Katherine Broderick soprano*
Ryan Wigglesworth conductor

MAJESTIC.CINEMATIC.POWERFUL

WAGNER **TWILIGHT OF THE GODS**

Get ready for a thrilling ride as we distil the final part of Wagner's *Ring* cycle into a single musical journey. The flickering light of dawn, the overwhelming passion of love, the ebb and flow of the majestic Rhine, a jaw-dropping funeral march, and the world consumed by fire and water: this is storytelling at its most dramatic. Chief Conductor Ryan Wigglesworth unleashes the full force of the orchestra in his own adaptation of this music and Katherine Broderick sings Brünnhilde's triumphant closing scene. Before then, a work which also takes us from the elemental worlds of fire, earth, wind and water, towards silence and a transfigured state. Hans Abrahamsen is one of the great musical imaginations of our time, so don't miss this chance to experience a major recent work from the BBC SSO's new Composer-in-Association.

Sunday
12.02.2023
3.00pm

Mahler
Symphony No.9 (c.85 mins)

Donald Runnicles conductor

EMOTIONAL.GRIPPING.UNIVERSAL

MAHLER **SYMPHONY NO.9**

Each performance of Mahler's Ninth is something of an occasion, and that goes double when our distinguished Conductor Emeritus Sir Donald Runnicles returns to the podium. Gustav Mahler was convinced he'd never get past his Ninth Symphony – and for some listeners, the very first notes seem to echo the word “farewell”. But this is a symphony of life, not death, and through distant fanfares, haunted waltzes and deep dark wells of terror and sorrow, it tells a tale of bittersweet memories, enduring love, and a creative spirit that acknowledges no limits. Unmissable.

Images:

Ryan Wigglesworth by Gordon Burniston, Kristiina Poska by Kaupo Kikkas, Denis Kozhukhin by Marco Borggreve, Katherine Broderick by Andy Staples, Sir Donald Runnicles by John Wood.

Sunday
16.04.2023
3.00pm

Messiaen

The Sermon to the Birds:
Act II, Tableau 6 from *Saint-François d'Assise* (c.44 mins)

Beethoven

Symphony No.6 'Pastoral'
(c.46 mins)

Soloists to be announced

Ryan Wigglesworth conductor

Sunday
14.05.2023
3.00pm

Kaija Saariaho

Laterna Magica (c.20 mins)

Ravel

Piano Concerto in G (c.23 mins)

Mendelssohn

Symphony No.3 'Scottish'
(c.40 mins)

Denis Kozhukhin piano

Kristiina Poska conductor

FRESH . CHIRPY . INVIGORATING

BEETHOVEN
'PASTORAL'
SYMPHONY

'I have always admired St Francis... he spoke to the birds, and I'm an ornithologist.' For his dazzling, colourful score to his gargantuan opera based on the life of the saint, bird-lover Olivier Messiaen interweaves layers of musical threads into a tapestry of sound as glorious as the dawn chorus. Here's a rare chance to hear an excerpt from this extraordinary work with the orchestra's Chief Conductor, Ryan Wigglesworth, at the helm. And is that a cuckoo we hear? Beethoven wasn't above introducing the sounds of nature into his music, most famously in his popular Sixth Symphony. This ode to the natural world has a bracing, invigorating energy that's bound to fill you with the joys of spring.

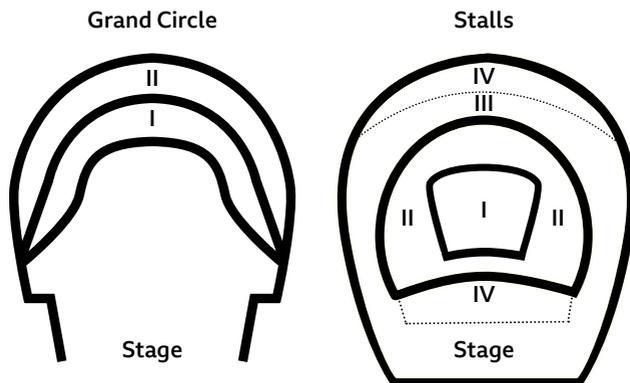
MELODIOUS . EVOCATIVE . TOE-TAPPING

MENDELSSOHN
'SCOTTISH'
SYMPHONY

Inspiration comes in many forms. After visiting the Palace of Holyrood in 1829, the young Felix Mendelssohn wrote, 'I believe I found today in the old chapel the beginning of my Scottish Symphony'. The Third might allude to the life of Mary Queen of Scots but it also pays tribute to toe-tapping folk tunes along the way. Kaija Saariaho found her inspiration in the mechanics and wonder of moving images (specifically those of filmmaker Ingmar Bergman) and her *Magic Lantern* glows with its own inner light. Ravel, meanwhile, romps through the worlds of jazz, Basque folk-song and French impressionism, and somehow manages to be utterly serious, teasingly playful and elegantly cool all at the same time. The brilliant Denis Kozhukhin and Kristiina Poska are our dream team.

Box Office: 0131 228 1155

www.usherhall.co.uk



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Box Office 0131 228 1155

Usher Hall Box Office
Lothian Road
Edinburgh
EH1 2EA

Please check usherhall.co.uk for current opening hours. When there is an event on a Sunday the Box Office is open from 1.00pm until 20 minutes after the start of the event.

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

All major credit cards accepted.
Please note there is a £1.50 transaction fee for bookings by telephone or online.

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.

BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra

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



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 telephone: 0141 552 0909



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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.

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