

Welcome to the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra at His Majesty's Theatre

Welcome to the orchestra's 2016/17 concert season at His Majesty's Theatre. One of Scotland's great performing spaces, this beautiful theatre will be our temporary Aberdeen home during the refurbishment of the Music Hall. And while we're unable to perform here quite as much as we'd like this season, I hope you will find music to thrill, entertain and surprise you.

The rising young conductor Ben Gernon kicks off the season with a concert featuring music by Tchaikovsky and Sibelius before passing the baton to a face very recognisable to our Aberdeen audience, Donald Runnicles. This is Donald's first season as Conductor Emeritus and he will bring all his trademark sheen and polish to two of the composers closest to his heart: glorious vocal music by Mozart, and Mahler's extraordinary Fourth Symphony, both with the wonderful Carolyn Sampson. And the final concert of the season features a great Scottish musical figure, Sir James MacMillan, whose recent *Viola Concerto* is contrasted with Butterworth's poignant *Shropshire Lad* rhapsody and one of the greatest of British works, Elgar's Second Symphony.

On behalf of everyone at the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra I hope you have a wonderful time with us.

Gavin Reid

Director, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra

BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra

BBC Scotland
City Halls, Candleriggs
Glasgow G1 1NQ
bbcso@bbc.co.uk

facebook.com/bbcso
twitter: @bbcso
youtube.com/bbcso
instagram.com/bbcso



BBC
RADIO



Thomas Dausgaard
Chief Conductor

Ilan Volkov
Principal Guest
Conductor

Matthias Pintscher
Artist-in-Association

John Wilson
Associate Guest
Conductor

Donald Runnicles
Conductor Emeritus*

Laura Samuel
Leader

*from September 2016

The concert on 18 September is scheduled to be recorded for future transmission on BBC Radio 3.



Sibelius Violin Concerto

Sunday 18 September 2016, 3.00pm

Glinka *Ruslan and Ludmilla: Overture* (c.6 mins)

Sibelius *Violin Concerto* (c.33 mins)

Tchaikovsky *Symphony No.4* (c.43 mins)

Alexandra Soumm violin
Ben Gernon conductor

Blink and you miss it: few overtures hurtle upwards and explode quite as brilliantly as Glinka's *Ruslan and Ludmilla*. But then, in the long winter nights of Northern Europe musicians have always known how to light up the sky. Sibelius's *Violin Concerto* sounds like it's lit by the midnight sun, and according to the critics, the rising French star Alexandra Soumm makes it glow with a special intensity. And Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony begins in an inferno of personal tragedy before cracking out the vodka and dancing till daybreak. Conductor Ben Gernon has a special flair for Tchaikovsky: on an autumn afternoon in Aberdeen, this should generate some serious heat.

Image: Alexandra Soumm by Benjamin Ealovega



Runnicles Conducts Mahler 4

Friday 4 November, 7.30pm

Mozart *Exsultate jubilate** (c.17 mins)

Mozart *Symphony in D major* (c.9 mins)

Mozart *Voi avete un cor fedele** (c.7 mins)

Mahler *Symphony No.4** (c.57 mins)

Carolyn Sampson soprano*
Donald Runnicles conductor

A jangling of sleighbells, a little flurry of birdsong from the flutes – and is that a melody by Mozart? Not quite. Mahler's Fourth Symphony might be his most classical in proportion, his most playful in style – outwardly, at any rate. But from deceptively innocent beginning to the "child's vision of heaven" with which it ends, the Fourth has depths as poignant and profound as anything Mahler ever wrote. BBC SSO Conductor Emeritus Donald Runnicles is just the person to draw out its inner drama, and he's joined by soprano Carolyn Sampson – who begins with two gloriously fresh vocal showpieces by the composer Mahler loved above all others: Mozart himself.

Image: Donald Runnicles by John Wood



Elgar's Second Symphony

Sunday 12 March 2017, 3.00pm

Butterworth *A Shropshire Lad: Rhapsody for orchestra* (c.12 mins)

Sir James MacMillan *Viola Concerto* (c.31 mins)

Elgar *Symphony No.2* (c.56 mins)

Lawrence Power viola
Richard Farnes conductor

Elgar's Second Symphony begins in a great, glowing surge of confidence and pride. Then something happens – the layers peel away, the shadows darken, and we hear a great artist laying bare his damaged soul with an intensity and truth unprecedented in British music. It's unforgettable: an emotional autobiography on a par with Mahler, and a fitting counterpart to the terrible beauty of Butterworth's *A Shropshire Lad*, performed to mark the 100th anniversary of its composer's death on the Somme. Sir James MacMillan's new *Viola Concerto*, meanwhile, weds the dusky sound of the viola to orchestral writing of fiery brilliance and dark passion. Richard Farnes conducts its dedicatee, Lawrence Power.

Image: Lawrence Power by Giorgia Bertazzi



Aberdeen Box Office

His Majesty's Theatre
Rosemount Viaduct
Aberdeen AB25 1GL

Box Office: 01224-641122

aberdeenperformingarts.com

or via bbc.co.uk/bbcso

Box Office opening hours:

Monday–Saturday 9.30am–6.00pm
(and one hour before concerts)

Single tickets can be booked online:

www.aberdeenperformingarts.com

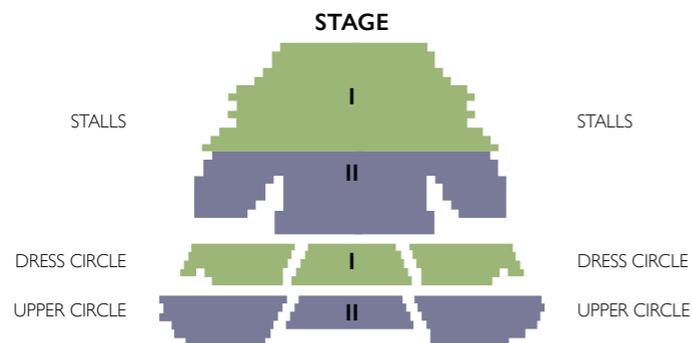
All the concerts in this series are promoted in association with Aberdeen Performing Arts.

HMT
HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE

BBC Scotland

How To Book
Box Office: 01224-641122
bbc.co.uk/bbcso

Book all 3 Concerts and Save 20%!



Buy tickets for all three concerts and save 20% on the total price. Offer only applies to full price tickets.

Area

I	£45.60 for all three concerts	(saving £11.40)
II	£34.80 for all three concerts	(saving £8.70)

Single Tickets

I	£19.00
II	£14.50

FSC icon here!

A large print, text-only version of this brochure is available. For a copy please telephone: 0141-552 0909

BBC
MUSIC

BBC
SCOTTISH SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

His Majesty's Theatre,
Aberdeen 2016/17



Barbara Downie violin
Ben Norris violin
Janis Walton violin

BBC
RADIO



Single Ticket Discounts

£6 Standby for Students and Unemployed

Full-time students and registered unemployed can book any unsold seats for £6, available from the Monday of the week of the concert. Proof of status required.

£6 for Under 16s and School Pupils

Children under the ages of 16 and all school pupils are entitled to any seat for £6.

Registered Disabled

Both you and a companion will receive 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 (Monday – Friday).

Customers' personal details are held in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Data Protection Act 1998. If consent is given at the time of ticket purchase, this information will be passed to the BBC SSO and may be used to contact you with information about forthcoming concerts or BBC events. These details will not be passed on to any third party. If you wish to have your name removed from the orchestra's mailing-list please E-mail: bbcso@bbc.co.uk or telephone: 0141-422 6728. 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.