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SCOTTISH SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

Usher Hall, Edinburgh 2016/17

Thomas Dausgaard Chief Conductor

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RADIO



Welcome

It is an honour and a joy to welcome you to our 2016/17 Edinburgh Season, my first as Chief Conductor of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. "Honour" because I feel very honoured to have been asked to take on that role with this wonderful orchestra, and "joy" because I am so excited about what we are going to do together.

Being at a concert can mean so many different things to us: attentive listening to great music, a spiritual experience, the perfect date, revitalising our soul and senses, a chance to relax and switch off the phone, sharing an experience with others, introducing classical music to a friend or a child for the first time... or maybe becoming inspired by the way the music and musicians appeal to us? This season is about expanding that experience for you and stimulating your curiosity.

To open our concert series in Edinburgh I'll be conducting the astonishing finished version of Bruckner's Symphony No.9. I'll also be conducting Mahler's Seventh Symphony and you can experience the composer's Fourth Symphony this season as well as two of the most popular pieces in the Russian repertoire: Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto and Rimsky Korsakov's *Scheherazade*. We've a new work from the young English composer Edmund Finnis and the ever-refreshing sounds of Haydn and Mozart.

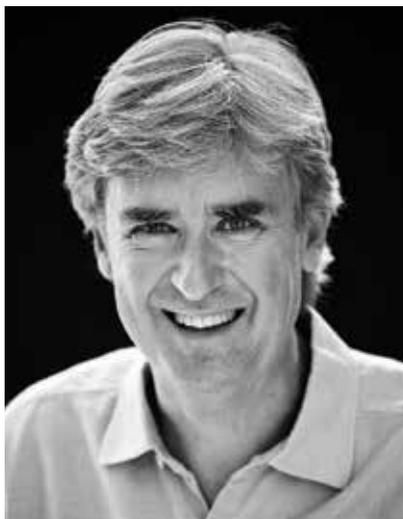
Together with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and a line-up of formidable guest artists I look forward to filling, tickling and challenging your ears with music that I hope you too will be passionate about.

A warm welcome to you!

Thomas Dausgaard
Chief Conductor

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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

Image: Thomas Dausgaard
by Thomas Grøndahl



Bruckner Symphony No.9

Sunday 25 September 2016, 3.00pm

Mozart Piano Concerto No.27 (c.32 mins)

Bruckner Symphony No.9 (c.81 mins)

(1894 ed. Nowak 1951) + Finale (unfinished)

performing version by Samale-Phillips-Cohrs-Mazzuca
(1983–2012)

Imogen Cooper piano
Thomas Dausgaard conductor

Anton Bruckner dedicated his Ninth Symphony to "my beloved God". At the end of a lifetime's spiritual striving, he poured both his unquenchable faith and his agonising doubts into one mighty final testament – and then died before he could complete it. In his first Edinburgh concert as Chief Conductor, Thomas Dausgaard offers one possible answer to Bruckner's eternal question. This moving new completion of the unfinished symphony has been championed by Sir Simon Rattle, and after Dausgaard's inspirational Bruckner performances in recent years, it should be a powerful way to launch a new chapter in the history of the BBC SSO – especially when paired with another valedictory work, Mozart's final piano concerto in the masterful hands of Imogen Cooper.

Prelude: 2.00pm (free to ticket holders)
Thomas Dausgaard discusses Bruckner's Ninth Symphony.

Image: Imogen Cooper by Sussie Ahlburg

Tom Rathbone cello





Stephanie Jones horn



Runnicles Conducts Mahler 4

Sunday 6 November, 3.00pm

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.

Prelude: 2.00pm (free to ticket holders)
Peter Nelson from the University of Edinburgh
introduces the concert.

Image: Donald Runnicles by John Wood



Rachmaninov’s Piano Concerto No.2

Sunday 26 February 2017, 3.00pm

Edmund Finnis The Air, Turning (c.10 mins)
(BBC Commission)

Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No.2 (c.34 mins)

Rimsky-Korsakov Scheherazade (c.43 mins)

Yevgeny Sudbin piano
Ilan Volkov conductor

In music, there’s more than one way to tell a story. Quiet piano chords launch Rachmaninov’s Second Piano Concerto, the perfect symbol for a composer summoning the creative confidence to write the most popular piano concerto of the 20th century. Russian pianist Yevgeny Sudbin has the virtuosity and insight to bring it into the 21st. Rimsky-Korsakov is more forthright: instruments actually become characters in his hugely popular Arabian Nights fantasy – though if anyone can uncover the secrets behind the glitter, it’s Ilan Volkov. And Edmund Finnis? We can’t say yet: we simply know that it’s worth hearing any story that this “compelling” (*The Daily Telegraph*) young British composer has to tell.

Prelude: 2.00pm (free to ticket holders)
Peter Nelson from the University of Edinburgh
discusses the featured works.

Image: Ilan Volkov by Alex Woodward

Jeremy Ward double bass





Dausgaard Conducts Mahler 7

Sunday 21 May, 3.00pm

Haydn Symphony No.88 (c.23 mins)

Mahler Symphony No.7 (c.80 mins)

Thomas Dausgaard conductor

Gustav Mahler once said that the symphony should be like the world – “it should embrace everything”. And in his huge Seventh Symphony, that’s exactly what it sounds like he’s trying to do. Every Mahler symphony is a great emotional journey; but this one sweeps from an overcast Alpine lake through lovesongs, nightmares and nocturnal marches to an ear-splitting finish hung with jangling cowbells and laced with pitch-black humour. In short: Mahler doesn’t get much more Mahlerian than this – just as Haydn’s quietly subversive 88th Symphony sums up all its composer’s warmth and wit in a colourfully-painted nutshell. Thomas Dausgaard ends this Edinburgh series in a blaze of laughter and light.

Prelude: 2.00pm (free to ticket holders)

Thomas Dausgaard introduces the concert and discusses composers and the roots of their music.

Image: Thomas Dausgaard by Thomas Grøndahl

How To Book
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www.usherhall.co.uk

Buy for all 4 Concerts and only pay for 3!

Buy a ticket for all four concerts in the series and receive a 25% discount on your tickets, which effectively gives you a **FREE** concert! **Offer only open until Friday 23 September 2016.** Offer only applies to full price tickets.

Area

I	£87.00	for all four concerts	(saving £29.00)
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Single Tickets

I	£29.00
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Single Ticket Concessions

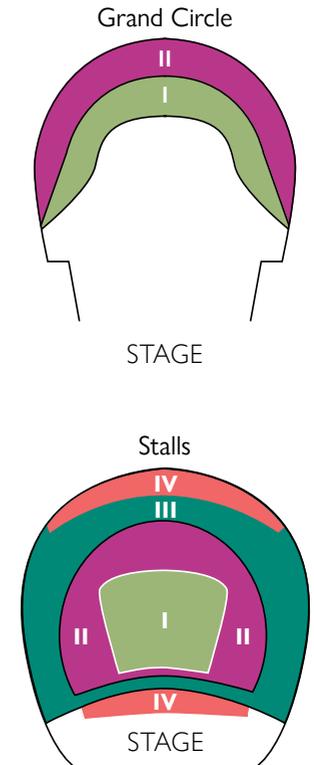
Under 16s and school pupils: £6.00

Students: £6.00. Those in full-time education can buy tickets in areas II-IV for £6.00 per ticket (proof of status may be requested).

Registered Unemployed: £6.00 (proof of status may be requested).

Registered Disabled: Both you and a companion will receive 50% discount on any single full price ticket.

Groups: get a group of 10 together and have 1 extra ticket free (that’s 2 free tickets for a group of 20, etc. – only one concession applies).



Plan Your Visit

Box Office

Usher Hall Box Office
Lothian Road
Edinburgh EH1 2EA

Box Office opening hours:

Monday–Saturday 10am to 5.30pm.
When there is an event on a Sunday the box office is open from 1pm until 30 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 transaction fee for bookings by telephone, online or by post.

FSC icon here!



Box Office: 0131-228 1155

www.usherhall.co.uk

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.



All the concerts in this series are promoted in association with the Usher Hall and are scheduled to be recorded for future transmission on BBC Radio 3.

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

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