City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Principal Funders







HOW TO BOOK

There are three ways to book your tickets through the B:Music Box Office.

- Online at cbso.co.uk
- Over the phone at 0121 780 3333 from 10am-2pm, Monday-Saturday.
- In person during Box Office opening hours at Symphony Hall, Birmingham.

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The CBSO is Classic FM's Orchestra in the Midlands





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Introduction	4
Season Concerts	6
Centre Stage	53
Beyond the Concert Hall	54
Your Support	56
Tickets & Booking	58
Ways to Save	60
Your Visit	62
The Season at a Glance	64
Thank you	66

2023-24 AN EPIC NEW SEASON

I am thrilled to be able to share our 23-24 Season with you. A jam-packed programme of concerts which celebrate our wonderful musicians, choruses and youth ensembles, alongside a whole host of bright and brilliant soloists and conductors.

This Season is extra special to me, as I embark on my first full season as Chief Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the CBSO. With 12 concerts across the year ranging from Verdi's Requiem to Elgar's Enigma Variations, Madam Butterfly to my first ever Family Concert, I'm excited to share these amazing pieces with you!

We'll be celebrating 50 years of the sensational CBSO Chorus, as well as 40 years of Simon Halsey at the helm. To mark these milestone occasions, the Season is filled with epic choral masterpieces including Berlioz's The Damnation of Faust – the first piece ever performed by the Chorus – plus, Jonathan Dove's There Was a Child, Fauré's Requiem, and the UK premiere of Vespers of the Blessed Earth by John Luther Adams (commissioned by the CBSO).

You may also catch a glimpse of an American theme weaving its way through the year including music by **Gershwin**, **Caroline Shaw**, **Bernstein** and **John Williams**, as well as a celebration of **Rachmaninoff's** 150th anniversary.

For lovers of stage and screen, we're not short on film favourites – including Christmas at the Movies, the music of Hans Zimmer and a screening of Amadeus complete with live orchestra. We're also pleased to present another programme of music from the popular video game series FINAL FANTASY after its success in the 22-23 Season. While, our popular classics series includes the muchloved Classic FM Hall of Fame, a night with The Rat Pack and a tribute to the late, great Burt Bacharach.

We welcome back old friends including Sakari Oramo, Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Ray Chen, Benjamin Grosvenor, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, Cristian Macelaru, and Ilan Volkov, as well as debuts from Maxim Emelyanychev, Oksana Lyniv, Tabita Berglund, Maria Dueñas and a wonderful Samoan tenor Pene Pati who I am thrilled to be introducing to the CBSO after working with him in Monaco. And for the CBSO super-fans, our players will be stepping into the spotlight with solo performances by Eugene Tzikindelean, Eduardo Vassallo, Christopher Yates, Adam Römer, Marie-Christine Zupancic, Oliver Janes and Katherine Thomas.

As always with the CBSO, this Season will be full of surprises, incredible music, human connection, and big smiles – and I can't wait to see you all very soon!

Kazuki Yamada

Chief Conductor & Artistic Advisor

J 0 4 132



HELLO FROM OUR NEW CHIEF EXEC!

I owe my love of classical music to the musicians, artists and educators who brought the repertoire to me in new and accessible ways, and held my hand as I discovered each piece for the first time. Those magical experiences left me with the abiding passion that I might work to help others on the same life-enriching journey of musical discovery. What better place to do that, than in Birmingham.

I can't wait to get started and to celebrate our exciting new Season, and future, with you!

Emma Stenning Chief Executive



Thursday 14 September 2023, 7:30pm Symphony Hall, Birmingham

VERDI REQUIEM

"THE ORCHESTRA PLAY WITH **A UNITY AND A PRECISION UNDER [KAZUKI'S] BATON THAT** I HAVE SELDOM HEARD **WITH ANYONE ELSE"**

BACHTRACK

Trumpets blaze, the clouds tear apart, and heaven and earth are filled with the sound of a mighty chorus.

Some say that Verdi's Requiem is the most thrilling opera he never wrote, but one thing's for certain: it's a truly epic opening night for a Season that celebrates the 50th anniversary of our magnificent CBSO Chorus. And with Kazuki Yamada conducting our 90 incredible musicians, it'll raise the roof.

Kazuki Yamada. Conductor Evelina Dobračeva, Soprano Karen Cargill, Mezzo-soprano **Dmytro Popov, Tenor** Ashley Riches, Bass **CBSO Chorus**

Verdi, Requiem

83mins



KAZUKI YAMADA. IMAGE CREDIT: ANDREW FOX

KAZUKI & SHEKU KANNEH-MASON

and during the interval

Reception. Pre-concert

MEMBERS' EVENT From 6:15pm: Mem

9mins

28mins

43mins

SHEKLI KANNEH-MASON IMAGE CREDIT: ANDREW FOX

Gripping and explosive music from our new Chief Conductor and the brilliant Sheku!

You must have heard of Sheku Kanneh-Mason, the brilliant young British cellist who's transforming the way we listen to classical music. Here at the CBSO, we're always excited to welcome him back, and tonight he stars in Shostakovich's gripping First Cello Concerto the dark heart of a concert that begins with Beethoven and ends with Walton's explosive First Symphony.

Kazuki Yamada, Conductor Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Cello

Beethoven. Leonore Overture No.1 Shostakovich, Cello Concerto No.1 Walton, Symphony No.1

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

Wednesday 20 September 2023, 2:15pm Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ORGAN SYMPHONY



A showcase to celebrate 40 years of Birmingham's City Organist, Thomas Trotter.

The clue's in the name - and when the Symphony Hall organ makes its big entrance in Saint-Saëns's Organ symphony, you'll feel the air itself shake. This is music that you simply have to experience live, and along with Poulenc's barnstorming Organ Concerto it's a sensational showcase for Birmingham's City Organist Thomas Trotter: an afternoon of French music at its sweetest, and most spectacular.

Pierre Bleuse, Conductor Thomas Trotter, Organ

Ravel, Le Tombeau de Couperin 17mins Poulenc, Organ Concerto 19mins Holmès, Ludus pro patria: La Nuit et l'Amour 6mins Saint-Saëns, Symphony No.3 (Organ) 36mins

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

Thursday 28 September 2023, 7:30pm Symphony Hall, Birmingham

SHOSTAKOVICH 8



SEPTEMBER

Epic, uncompromising music forged from blood, fire and steel.

As the USSR faced the onslaught of Nazi Germany, Shostakovich poured his feelings into a symphony on a colossal scale. Shostakovich's Eighth is music forged from blood, fire and steel - massive, uncompromising, and so powerful that after the War, they banned it. But first, true romance: as the fabulous Boris Giltburg plays Rachmaninoff's glittering Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini.

Michael Seal, Conductor Boris Giltburg, Piano

Rachmaninoff, Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini Shostakovich, Symphony No.8

24mins 65mins

CLASSICS AT THE MOVIES



Film soundtracks or famous symphonies? Either way, they're even better live!

You know the moment at the cinema when you realise that you've heard that tune before, but you can't quite put your finger on it?
Well, tonight, we reveal all, in the sensational surround-sound of the full CBSO. You might think of the music of Elgar, Puccini, Mahler and Sibelius as the soundtracks to Dunkirk, Fatal Attraction, Tár and Die Hard 2 – but they sound even better when you hear them for real!

Stephen Bell, Conductor **Máire Flavin,** Soprano

Programme to include:

Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro: Overture, Elgar's Nimrod, Sibelius' Finlandia, Offenbach's Can Can, Puccini's One Fine Day and more!

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

KAZUKI CONDUCTS RACHMANINOFF



Pure sunshine from Kazuki Yamada and Turkish piano legend Fazil Say.

Prokofiev meant his Classical Symphony as a musical joke – but it turned out to be a classic. Rachmaninoff's Symphonic Dances began as a dream ballet, and they're filled with all the energy and emotion you'd expect from a true master of melody. And Saint-Saëns' Second Piano Concerto begins with a prayer and ends in a knees-up!

Kazuki Yamada, Conductor **Fazil Say**, Piano

Prokofiev, Symphony No.1 (Classical) Saint-Saëns, Piano Concerto No.2 Rachmaninoff, Symphonic Dances 15mins

23mins

35mins

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

MEMBERS' EVENT

From 1:30pm: Legacy Donors' Reception.
Pre-concert and during the interval
Members' Afternoon Tea: Post-concert.

FAMILY CONCERT: FAIRY TALES

Wondrous worlds with Kazuki Yamada and Casey Bailey.

Our new Chief Conductor Kazuki can't wait for his first Family Concert, and with Birmingham's own brilliant poet Casey Bailey as his right-hand man, this is going to be one magical afternoon! With music perfectly picked for families, join us as we venture into the world of classic fairy tales set to music by Ravel, Grieg and Holly Harrison.

All family concerts are BSL interpreted.

There will be an hour of FREE craft activities and a performance from our Children's Chorus before this concert.

This concert will last approximately one hour. There will be no interval.

Kazuki Yamada, Conductor Casey Bailey, Presenter

Programme to include: Harrison, Frumious (UK Premiere) Ravel, Mother Goose Suite (Highlights) Grieg, Peer Gynt (Highlights)



CASEY BAILEY. IMAGE CREDIT: MYAH JEFFERS

Tickets: £12

11

RACHMANINOFF PIANO CONCERTO NO.2

CLASSIC M

Rachmaninoff's most famous piano concerto let us show you why!

"Here, time becomes space..." Wagner's Parsifal is a musical journey into sheer beauty, a world of sound so beautiful that it sends shivers down the spine. It's an incredible way to follow the artistry of Jeneba Kanneh-Mason: the young British piano star who creates her own special kind of magic. Believe us, when she plays Rachmaninoff's best-loved concerto, it'll be much more than just a brief encounter...

Andrew Gourlay, Conductor Jeneba Kanneh-Mason, Piano

Coleridge-Taylor, Ballade for Orchestra 11mins Rachmaninoff, Piano Concerto No.2 Wagner (arr. Gourlay), Parsifal Suite

45mins

A MUSICAL JOURNEY INTO SHEER BEAUTY



15

THREE MIRACLES



An evening of miracles, wonders and alorious melodies.

"Free but Happy" was Brahms's motto, and he coded it into the very notes of his lovely Third Symphony. Back in the 18th century, meanwhile, Haydn's 96th Symphony was such a hit with the British public that they called it a "miracle". Conductor Nicholas Carter shows you why tonight, and joins violinist Carolin Widmann in the sonic wonderland of Ligeti's Violin Concerto. Expect sounds like you've never imagined.

Nicholas Carter, Conductor Carolin Widmann, Violin

Haydn, Symphony No.96 (Miracle) 21mins Ligeti, Violin Concerto 29mins 37mins Brahms, Symphony No.3

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

BURT BACHARACH: WHAT THE WORLD **NEEDS NOW**



Join us for a touching tribute to a true music leaend.

Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head, What The World Needs Now, Say a Little Prayer, Walk on By, Close to You... Burt Bacharach wrote the kind of tunes that you know without even realising it - the easiest of easy listening. Join the CBSO and an all-star cast as we pay tribute to a legend: the man who put the swing into the Swinging Sixties!

Presented in association with GRB Concerts.

Richard Balcombe, Conductor Graham Bickley, Abbie Osmon, Katie Birtill & Joanna Francis, Singers

Programme to include:

What the World Needs Now, Magic Moments, Anyone Who Had a Heart, Walk on By, Close to You, I Say a Little Prayer, I Just Don't Know What to Do with Myself, Alfie and more!

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

SCOTTISH **SYMPHONY**

A showcase as spectacular as the Northern Lights.

On a summer evening in Edinburgh the young Mendelssohn imagined the first notes of his Scottish symphony. It's the sound of Highland mists, warring clans, and melodies as smoky as a single malt - a stirring contrast to Mozart's comedy overture and the vast Nordic skies of Sibelius's sweeping Violin Concerto. Add in Scottish composer Aileen Sweeney's musical gleam of sunlight, alongside violin superstar Ray Chen, and you can expect fire as well as ice!

Cristian Macelaru. Conductor Ray Chen, Violin

Mozart, The Marriage of Figaro: Overture 4mins Sibelius, Violin Concerto 31mins 4mins Sweenev. Glisk Mendelssohn, Symphony No.3 (Scottish) 40mins

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59



RAY CHEN, IMAGE CREDIT: JOHN MAC

Book online at cbso.co.uk or call the B:Music Box Office on 0121 780 3333

BACH AND SCHUMANN



Pure musical bliss to warm up a winter's evening.

Richard Egarr is a livewire — a world-famous expert on baroque music whose passions embrace everything from Bach to K-Pop! For Egarr, every concert is a celebration, so expect majesty, drama and simple, unbuttoned fun as he takes the CBSO on a journey from the pageantry of Bach to the poetry of Schumann — and joins former BBC Young Musician Laura van der Heijden in Haydn's bubbly cello concerto.

Richard Egarr, Conductor & Harpsichord **Laura van der Heijden,** Cello

Bach, Orchestral Suite No.320minsHaydn, Cello Concerto in D major25minsBach, Fuga a tre soggetti8minsSchumann, Symphony No.238mins

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

16

Wednesday 22 November 2023, 7:30pm Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ETERNAL ROMANCE





From romance to tragedy, this is an evening of raw, untamed emotion.

In the 19th century, music was about fantasy as well as emotion. Mendelssohn sends a violin to fairyland; Clara Schumann composes musical love poems, and Brahms strides into the teeth of the storm in his tempestuous final symphony. And Richard Wagner pens a tender birthday greeting to the love of his life: a magical opening to an evening of wonder from husband and wife duo, conductor Daniele Rustioni and violinist Francesca Dego.

Daniele Rustioni, Conductor **Francesca Dego,** Violin

Wagner, Siegfried Idyll20minsMendelssohn, Violin Concerto26minsClara Schumann (arr. Rofe),8minsBrahms, Symphony No.438mins

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

Sunday 26 November 2023, 3pm Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO & THE ORCHESTRAL QAWWALI PROJECT

Spirituality and the orchestra combine for a goose-bump-inducing evening.

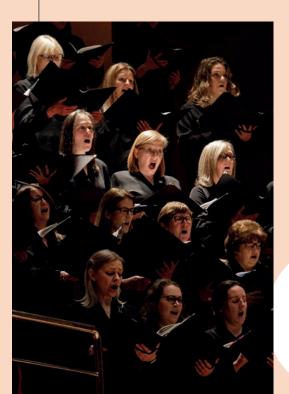
Widely regarded as the biggest step forward for the art-form in decades, the Orchestral Qawwali Project has captivated audiences through its unique combination of Sufi poetry, Indian Classical dance and orchestral arrangements. Written and directed by composer Rushil Ranjan, the Project features the soaring vocals of Abi Sampa in effortless combination with rich orchestral arrangements performed by the CBSO and the dynamic grace of Parkash Pal's tabla.

Ben Palmer, Conductor
Rushil Ranjan, Composer, Music Director,
Harmonium, Piano, Guitar
Abi Sampa, Lead Vocalist, Harmonium
Parkash Pal, Tabla
George Kakas, Harmonium
Lydia Alsonso, Cello
Vidya Patel, Dancer



THE ORCHESTRAL QAWWALI PROJECT. IMAGE CREDIT: GAELLE BERI

CELEBRATING THE CBSO CHORUS @ 50



CBSO CHORUS, IMAGE CREDIT: ANDREW FOX

We're thrilled to be celebrating fifty years of the marvellous CBSO Chorus this Season – with performances of some of the greatest choral show pieces of all time! You can see the Chorus in action in the following concerts:

Thursday 14 September: Kazuki conducts Verdi Requiem

Thursday 30 November: Simon Halsey: 40 Years Wednesday 19 & Thursday 20 December: Choral Christmas

Thursday 21 March: Fauré Reqiuem Saturday 13 April: The Damnation of Faust Wednesday 15 May: New World Symphony Thursday 6 June: Vespers of the Blessed Earth Saturday 29 June: Madam Butterfly

"THE CBSO CHORUS...
MUSTERED STRENGTH,
SHADE AND NUANCE."
THE GUARDIAN

"...SUPERBLY PREPARED AND [THEY] SANG WITH PASSION AND FAULTLESS PRECISION..."
THE TIMES

SIMON HALSEY: 40 YEARS

A toast to our Chorus Director with the music he loves best.

Alleluia! From the grandeur of Zadok the Priest to heartfelt modern masterpieces, there's nothing that the CBSO's family of choruses can't sing. And for 40 years, Simon Halsey CBE has shown them the way to sing it. Tonight, the CBSO Chorus, CBSO Youth Chorus and CBSO Children's Chorus come together to toast their Chorus Director with a concert of the music he loves best – and the audience gets to sing along too.

Simon Halsey, Conductor Jennifer France, Soprano Allan Clayton, Tenor CBSO Chorus CBSO Youth Chorus CBSO Children's Chorus

Handel, Zadok the Priest6minsWeir, Sing2minsBritten, Old Abram Brown10minsEšenvalds, Stars5minsHandel, Waft her, angels5minsParry, I was glad6minsDove, There Was a Child50mins



SIMON HALSEY. IMAGE CREDIT: TOM WHITE



Forests, folksongs and fabulous discoveries.

Tonight, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla takes us on a very personal tour of Eastern Europe, from Georgia to the Baltic. There will be gripping new discoveries from her personal favourite Mieczyslaw Weinberg and Čiurlionis, the "Lithuanian Elgar", takes us on a walk through the forests. We'll also see a whole host of CBSO musicians step into the spotlight, before Mirga's sister joins the orchestra on stage. The results will be simply gorgeous...

Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, Conductor Oliver Janes, Clarinet Marie-Christine Zupancic, Flute Adam Römer, Viola Onutė Gražinytė, Piano

Čiurlionis, In the Forest Weinberg, Clarinet Concerto Loboda. Requiem for Ukraine Weinberg, 12 Miniatures for Flute Kakhidze, Brotherhood

18mins 25mins 4mins 20mins 32mins

NOTELETS: CONCERTS FOR UNDER-6S



Music-making doesn't have an age limit!

Notelets are fun-filled interactive concerts that give children the freedom to dance, sing and learn about musical instruments for the first time. Each concert has a different theme and features a wonderful book set to music, to delight and engage your little ones. Plus, there is a chance to meet the musicians and have a go at some of the instruments after every concert!

All Notelets performances are BSL interpreted.

FREE craft activities up-to an hour before each concert!

Tickets: £10

Tickets must be purchased for adults and children over 9 months.

KAZUKI CONDUCTS **BEETHOVEN'S EROICA**

The power of the human spirit meets the full force of 90 musicians.

Not all heroes wear capes. With the explosive opening of his Eroica symphony, Beethoven blew classical music wide open, and for Kazuki Yamada, this performance will be another landmark in his relationship with the CBSO. Don Quixote, meanwhile, wore rusty armour and tilted at windmills - but Strauss's warmhearted portrait of the mad knight makes an irresistible showcase for two of the CBSO's home-grown stars.

Kazuki Yamada, Conductor Eduardo Vassallo, Cello Christopher Yates, Viola

Strauss, Don Quixote Beethoven, Symphony No.3 (Eroica) 40mins 47mins

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59



KAZUKI YAMADA. IMAGE CREDIT: BENJAMIN EALOVEGA

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

CEMBER

and during the interval MEMBERS' EVENT From 6:45pm. Members' Reception. Pre-concert

CHRISTMAS AT THE MOVIES

CHORAL CHRISTMAS WITHANNA LAPWOOD



ANNA LAPWOOD, IMAGE CREDIT: NICK RUTTER

The CBSO's annual Choral Christmas concerts are like the German Market and the Hippodrome panto: a real Birmingham tradition!

Join the CBSO plus our whole family of choirs and the incredible Anna Lapwood, for an evening of seasonal music old and new. We tell the Story of Christmas in the first half, before the orchestra let loose after the interval. And of course, there's your chance to join in and sing along too. There's no more tuneful way to start your celebrations - and everyone's welcome.

Simon Halsey, Conductor Anna Lapwood, Presenter & Organ CBSO Chorus **CBSO Youth Chorus CBSO Children's Chorus** SO Vocal

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

Is it even Christmas until you've curled up with a classic seasonal movie?

We've packed a stocking full of the greatest music from the best-loved seasonal films of all time - from timeless classics like White Christmas, Miracle on 34th Street and Home Alone to family favourites like Love Actually, The Snowman and Elf. No adverts, no repeats: just widescreen, surround-sound Christmas spirit!

Michael England, Conductor Gary Williams & Louise Dearman, Singers

Programme to include music from: Home Alone, Love Actually, The Holiday, Elf, Gremlins, Miracle on 34th Street, The Polar Express, The Snowman and more!

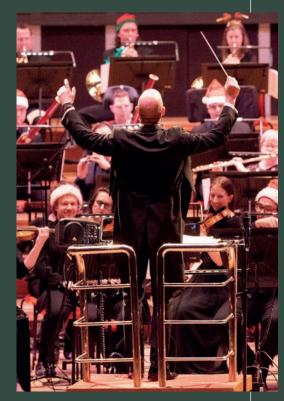


IMAGE CREDIT: HANNAH FATHERS

MEMBERS' EVENT From 6:45pm: Members' and during the interval.

Reception. Pre-concert



: HIEJINA. : RAYFIELD ALLIED

Vienna, city of dreams...

As sweet as apple strudel and as fizzy as champagne, it simply wouldn't be New Year without the music of Johann Strauss and friends! There'll be elegant waltzes, playful polkas, and good old-fashioned operetta romance. So let the CBSO and Austrian maestro Christoph Koncz whirl you back to a more glamorous age, as we raise a glass to the start of another great year of music. Prosit!

Christoph Koncz, Conductor Francesca Chiejina, Soprano

Programme to include:

Smetana, The Bartered Bride: Overture, Lehár, The Merry Widow: Vilja Lied, Strauss, Die Fledermaus: Overture, Lehár, Giuditta: Meine Lippen, sie küssen so heiß, Strauss, On the Beautiful Blue Danube and more!

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

GRIEG'S PIANO CONCERTO



Glowing lights and grand passions from Tchaikovsky, Sibelius and Grieg.

Pohjola's daughter sits on a rainbow, weaving visions and spells, but tonight it's the young Norwegian conductor Tabita Berglund who's bringing magic from the North. That means raw emotion, in the symphony that Tchaikovsky composed "with desire and passion", plus sounds that glow like Aurora Borealis as British pianist Paul Lewis plays in Grieg's enchanting Piano Concerto.

Tabita Berglund, Conductor **Paul Lewis,** Piano

Sibelius, Pohjola's Daughter12minsGrieg, Piano Concerto30minsTchaikovsky, Symphony No.547mins

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

MEMBERS' EVENT

Members' Afternoon Tea. Post-concert.

KAZUKI CONDUCTS SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE

An outrageous adventure for the orchestra – and the audience!

"Hopelessly in love, a young artist falls into a delirium, and sees the strangest of visions..."
The result: Berlioz's Symphonie Fantastique, an outrageous, no-holds-barred adventure for a giant orchestra – just the sort of music that Kazuki Yamada and the CBSO love to share! First, though, Dai Fujikura's ravishing vision of a newly-made world, and sheer dazzlement from our leader Eugene Tzikindelean in Walton's gleaming Violin Concerto.

Kazuki Yamada, Conductor Eugene Tzikindelean, Violin

Fujikura, Wavering World (CBSO Commission: UK Premiere) Walton, Violin Concerto Berlioz, Symphonie fantastique

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59



EUGENE TZIKINDELEAN. IMAGE CREDIT: ANDREW FOX

25

15mins 28mins

55mins

BEETHOVEN 5

CLASSIC M



MAXIM EMELYANYCHEV. IMAGE CREDIT: ANDREJ GRILC

An afternoon less ordinary with the most famous four notes in orchestral music.

It's triumph, It's tragedy, It's fate knocking at the door. It's the most famous four notes in classical music. It's Beethoven's Fifth. and if you already know how it goes (or if you've never heard it in your life), guest conductor Maxim Emelvanychev has got some thrilling surprises in store. Add Mendelssohn's Scottish seascape, Carlos Simon's piece inspired by Beethoven's Fifth, and Mozart's sparkling showpiece for two CBSO stars, and expect an afternoon less ordinary...

Maxim Emelyanychev, Conductor Marie-Christine Zupancic, Flute Katherine Thomas, Harp

Mendelssohn, Hebrides Overture Mozart. Concerto for Flute and Harp Simon, Fate Now Conquers Beethoven, Symphony No.5

10mins 29mins 5mins 31mins

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

Friday 26 January 2024, 7:30pm

Symphony Hall, Birmingham.

SYMPHONIC

RAT PACK

Let's swing: Sinatra and the boys are back in town!

For one night only, Symphony Hall transforms itself into the Sands Hotel, Las Vegas for this sensational tribute to the legendary crooners of the 1950s. Frank, Dean and Sammy will be with us in spirit as top West End singers perform Luck Be a Lady. The Lady is a Tramp. Mr Bojangles and all those Rat Pack favourites - silkier and more swinging than ever!

Presented in association with West End International.

Alfonso Casado Trigo, Conductor Stephen Triffit, Mark Adams and George Daniel, Singers

Programme to include:

Almost Like Being in Love, Ain't That A Kick in the Head, For Once in My Life, I Get a Kick Out of You, The Lady is a Tramp, Sway, Mack the Knife, Fly Me to the Moon, My Way and more!

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

PLAYS WILLIAMS & VILLA-LOBOS

Fantastic tales and classical sax in this fun-filled concert with Jess Gillam and Eduardo Strausser.

Wednesday 31 January 2024, 7:30pm

Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Saxophonist, presenter and all-round force of nature, Jess Gillam makes everything she touches light up. Tonight, she travels to Brazil with Villa-Lobos and to Hollywood with John Williams: the fun-filled heart of a concert packed with enchantment, whether the glittering fairytales of The Firebird or an unmistakably Italian take on the story of Cinderella, Well, it is Panto season, after all!

Eduardo Strausser, Conductor Jess Gillam, Saxophone

Rossini, La Cenerentola: Overture Villa-Lobos, Fantasia for Saxophone Rimsky-Korsakov. The Golden Cockerel Suite Williams, Escapades (from Catch me if you Can) Stravinsky, The Firebird Suite (1919)

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59



IESS GILLAM IMAGE CREDIT: ROBIN CLEWLEY

8mins

10mins

25mins

15mins

23mins

Friday 16 February 2024, 7:30pm Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Sunday 18 February 2024, 3pm Symphony Hall, Birmingham

EBRUAR

TCHAIKOVSKY & BEETHOVEN



Love is in the air for our Valentine's Day concert.

Tchaikovsky: music's ultimate Romantic, who poured all his longing into melodies you never forget. Beethoven: the tousle-haired revolutionary, whose music celebrates passion, daring and the irrepressible spirit of youth. It's the perfect pairing for Valentine's Night – including Romeo and Juliet, and featuring the glorious voice of Natalya Romaniw, the fabulous young Welsh diva who's been winning standing ovations all over the world.

Vassily Sinaisky, Conductor Natalya Romaniw, Soprano

Tchaikovsky, Romeo and Juliet:
Fantasy Overture 21mins
Tchaikovsky, Eugene Onegin:
Letter Scene 14mins
Beethoven, Ah, Perfido! 15mins
Beethoven, Symphony No.2 34mins

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

BEST OF BROADWAY



Broadway comes to Broad Street: tune after tune after tune...

It's Friday night on Broad Street – and we're off to Broadway, where stars are born and dreams really do come true. Singers straight from the West End take the stage at Symphony Hall tonight, as we present a show where every song deserves to have its name up in lights: hits from Cabaret, West Side Story, Beauty and the Beast, The Music Man, Guys and Dolls, Chicago and a whole lot more.

Presented in association with West End International.

Michael England, Conductor Sophie Evans, Alice Fearn, Rob Houchen and Scott Davies, Singers

Programme to include songs from:
Fiddler on the Roof, Guys and Dolls, Chicago,
La Cage aux Folles, Mack and Mabel, Gypsy,
West Side Story and more.

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

YOUTH ORCHESTRA: MAHLER 5

The brightest musical talents in the Midlands play epic Mahler.

A song of love, struggle and delirious joy... there's a lifetime of emotion in Mahler's tremendous Fifth Symphony. The superb young musicians of the CBSO Youth Orchestra never hold back, and today they'll go straight to its deeply romantic heart. First, though, a shot of neat inspiration as BBC Young Musician 2022 winner Jordan Ashman conjures sounds from beyond the imagination in Robert Honstein's extraordinary percussion concerto.

Jac van Steen, Conductor Jordan Ashman, Percussion

Honstein, Juvenalia **Mahler,** Symphony No.5 25mins 72mins

Tickets: £15



IMAGE CREDIT: HANNAH FATHERS

KAZUKI CONDUCTS ELGAR & BEETHOVEN: PART 1

KAZUKI CONDUCTS ELGAR & BEETHOVEN: PART 2





ALICE SARA OTT. IMAGE CREDIT: JONAS BECKER

Kazuki Yamada meets the Midlander of the Century.

Kazuki Yamada has fallen in love with British music, and it doesn't get much more British than Walton's stirring Spitfire prelude. As for Elgar's Enigma Variations; well, let's just say that the famous Nimrod is far from being their best-kept secret. This is music that never gets any less fresh – the perfect complement to the brilliant Alice Sara Ott, in Beethoven's stormiest piano concerto.

Kazuki Yamada, Conductor Alice Sara Ott, Piano

Walton, Spitfire Prelude and Fugue Beethoven, Piano Concerto No.3 Elgar, Enigma Variations

7mins

34mins

31mins

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

Musical portraits and pure, soaring beauty.

Dan the bulldog, Dorabella with her infectious giggle, and the noble, eloquent Nimrod – Elgar's Enigma Variations are an unforgettable musical portrait of the friends who made him the man he was, right here in the Midlands 125 years ago. But it's much more than that, and tonight Kazuki Yamada joins violinist Maria Dueñas to pair it with a masterpiece that Elgar loved throughout his life: Beethoven's radiant Violin Concerto.

Kazuki Yamada, Conductor Maria Dueñas, Violin

Beethoven, Violin Concerto **Elgar,** Enigma Variations

42mins 31mins



MARIA DUEÑAS. IMAGE CREDIT: TAM LAN TRUONG

FAMILY CONCERT: THE YOUNG PERSON'S GUIDE TO THE ORCHESTRA

SPECIAL EVENTStick around for

our brilliant youth ensemble, Project Remix



CATHERINE ARLIDGE, IMAGE CREDIT: ANDREW FOX

A fun-filled introduction to the orchestra for the whole family!

Ok, so what exactly IS an orchestra? Why is the piccolo so small? Why is the tuba so big? And what on earth does a xylophone sound like? In this entertaining concert for the whole family, the CBSO will show you how it all works - with a bit of help from Benjamin Britten's Young Person's Guide!

All Family Concerts are BSL Interpreted.

There will be an hour of FREE craft activities and a performance from our Children's Chorus before this concert.

This concert will last approximately one hour. There will be no interval.

Bertie Baigent, Conductor Catherine Arlidge, Presenter

Programme to include: Britten's The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra, music by Florence Price, Beethoven and much more!

Tickets: £12

Wednesday 28 February 2024, 7:30pm Symphony Hall, Birmingham

SAKARI CONDUCTS SIBELIUS & STRAUSS



Love songs and elemental forces, from an old friend of the CBSO.

Friends reunited: there's only one Sakari Oramo - the irrepressible Finnish maestro who became an adopted Brummie during his decade as the CBSO's music director - and no-one conducts Sibelius with more passion or power. He's joined by his wife, soprano Anu Komsi, in Strauss' Four Last Songs: music of heart-melting sweetness and beauty, performed by artists we've taken to our hearts.

Sakari Oramo, Conductor Anu Komsi, Soprano

Sibelius, The Tempest: Suite No.1 20mins Strauss, Four Last Songs 24mins Merikanto, Ekho 8mins Sibelius, Symphony No.7 22mins

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

Thursday 29 February 2024, 7:30pm Symphony Hall, Birmingham

CBSO BENEVOLENT FUND CONCERT



Mozart's sparkling gem of a concerto.

This evening, violinist Daishin Kashimoto and conductor Sakari Oramo join the CBSO for a concert which includes Mozart's best-loved violin concerto.

The CBSO Benevolent Fund is a registered friendly society no. 735F and all proceeds from this concert will go towards supporting former and current CBSO players and staff.

Sakari Oramo. Conductor Daishin Kashimoto, Violin

Elgar, Cockaigne (In London Town) Mozart, Violin Concerto No.5 Sibelius, Symphony No.5

13mins 31mins 30mins

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

MEMBERS' EVENT

From 6:45pm. Members' Reception. Pre-concert and during the interval.

Friday 22 March 2024, 7:30pm Saturday 23 March 2024, 11am, 1:30pm & 3:30pm Symphony Hall, Birmingham

FAURÉ REQUIEM



Eternal light: the CBSO Chorus sings Fauré's haunting Requiem.

In paradise, angels sing, Gabriel Fauré was a quiet soul, and there's not much rage or fury in his Requiem – just some of the most beautiful choral music ever written. In the first half, two fizzing French showpieces, played with panache by the flawless Rosanne Philippens.

Alexandre Bloch. Conductor Rosanne Philippens, Violin Benjamin Appl, Baritone CBSO Chorus, CBSO Youth Chorus, CBSO Children's Chorus

Fauré. Pavane Saint-Saëns, Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso Ravel, Tzigane Fauré, Requiem

8mins

10mins 11mins 38mins

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

MEMBERS' EVENT

From 6:45pm: Legacy Donors' Reception. Pre-concert and during the interval.

NOTELETS: CONCERTS FOR UNDER-6S

Friday 22 March 2024, 11am & 1:30pm

CBSO Centre



It's play time!

Join us for our fun-filled interactive concerts that give children the freedom to dance, sing and learn about musical instruments for the first time. Each concert has a different theme and features a wonderful book set to music, to delight and engage your little ones. Plus, there is a chance to meet the musicians and have a go at some of the instruments after every concert!

All Notelets performances are BSL interpreted.

FREE craft activities up-to an hour before each concert!

Tickets: £10

Tickets must be purchased for adults and children over 9 months.

BAROQUE TO BROADWAY

Celebrate the evolution of music, from Handel to Hammerstein.

Join our two incredible soloists, soprano Danielle de Niese and trumpeter Niall O'Sullivan, on a journey through time. From the Opera Houses of Europe to the dance floors of South America, and everything in between, hear iconic compositions by Handel, Jerome Kern and Astor Piazzolla, alongside movie themes and Broadway classics, in one spectacular evening of music.

Michael Seal, Conductor Danielle de Niese, Soprano Niall O'Sullivan, Trumpet

Programme to include:

Handel's Let the Bright Seraphim, Vivaldi's Agitata Due Venti, Bizet's Habanera, Piazzolla's Libertango, Gershwin's Porgy and Bess, Piaf's La Vie en Rose and more!



DANIELLE DE NIESE IMAGE CREDIT: CHRIS DUNI OP

Wednesday 10 April 2024, 2:15pm

MEMBERS' EVENT From 6:45pm: Members' F and during the interval.

Reception. Pre-concert

RHAPSODY IN BLUE



Get ready to swing, on this wild ride through America.

A solitary clarinet starts to wail, and the skyscrapers of Manhattan light up the evening sky. In leafy New England, marching bands collide head-first - and make a glorious noise. And at the intersection of jazz, classical and pop counterculture, the music of Frank Zappa and George Lewis creates fabulous new worlds. Anything's possible in American music: but Ilan Volkov and Stewart Goodyear do the impossible every day.

Ilan Volkov, Conductor Stewart Goodyear, Piano

Ives, Three Places in New England 18mins 22mins Zappa, Bob in Dacron and Sad Jane Lewis, Memex 17mins Gershwin, Rhapsody in Blue 16mins

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

KAZUKI & BENJAMIN GROSVENOR



An afternoon of gentle poems, wild dreams and even wilder piano plaving.

Crazy in love: when Berlioz fell, he fell hard, pouring all his passions and fantasies into an epic, opium-fuelled orchestral showstopper. He didn't call it "Symphonie Fantastique" for nothing! But that's not the only good story we'll be hearing today, as Kazuki Yamada evokes French poetry, and our good friend Benjamin Grosvenor takes the spotlight in Prokofiev's firecracker of a Third Piano Concerto.

Kazuki Yamada, Conductor Benjamin Grosvenor, Piano

Fauré, Masques et Bergamasques Prokofiev, Piano Concerto No.3 Berlioz, Symphonie fantastique

14mins

28mins

55mins

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

DAMNATION OF FAUST

Saturday 13 April 2024, 7pm

Symphony Hall, Birmingham

The road to hell is paved with incredible tunes...

What would you trade for your wildest dreams? Young Faust makes a wicked bargain, but he has one hell of a time finding out the price. Berlioz's The Damnation of Faust caused a scandal in 1846, and it's still just as outrageous and as entertaining. Kazuki Yamada celebrates 50 years of the CBSO Chorus with the work they sang in their very first concert - and tonight the Devil really does have all the best tunes!

Kazuki Yamada, Conductor Pene Pati, Tenor Grace Durham, Mezzo-soprano Nahuel di Pierro, Baritone Jonathan Lemalu, Bass **CBSO Chorus CBSO Youth Chorus** CBSO Children's Chorus Men from The Hallé Choir

Berlioz, The Damnation of Faust

125mins

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

Meet our Featured Artist Pene Pati in a special event - see page 53.



PENE PATI. IMAGE CREDIT: SIMON FOWLER AND PARLOPHONE RECORDS LTD.

Friday 19 April 2024, 7:30pm Symphony Hall, Birmingham Thursday 25 April 2024, 7:30pm Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BRITTEN AND TCHAIKOVSKY



From the tranquil to the fantastical, each dream is as vivid as the next.

The frosty magic of the Russian winter inspired Tchaikovsky's First Symphony: music so tuneful, and so fresh, that you can almost see your breath in the air! Anna Thorvaldsdottir dreams of the vast stillness of Icelandic nature. And the great Ian Bostridge – possibly Britain's finest living tenor – leads a wild parade through Britten's shimmering, magical musical dreamscape. This promises to be a truly gripping evening...

Gergely Madaras, Conductor **Ian Bostridge,** Tenor

Thorvaldsdottir, Dreaming Britten, Les Illuminations Tchaikovsky, Symphony No.1 (Winter Daydreams) 17mins 21mins

45mins

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

CLASSIC FM HALL OF FAME



The definitive countdown of Britain's favourite classical music!

You love them, so we play them! The Classic FM Hall of Fame is the definitive countdown of Britain's favourite classical music. Finlandia, Nimrod, The Lark Ascending... admit it, you're humming them already! Classic FM's John Suchet hosts, as conductor Michael Seal and the full CBSO present a whole evening of great melodies.

Michael Seal, Conductor John Suchet, Presenter Tessa Lark, Violin

Programme to include:

Elgar's Nimrod, Vaughan Williams' Lark Ascending, Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake, Debbie Wiseman's The Music of Kings and Queens, Debussy's Claire de Lune, Vivaldi's Four Seasons, and music from Jurassic Park, The Mission and more!

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

BRUCKNER 7

Dark, dreamy and deeply poetic.

Imagine the melody of your dreams. That's how Anton Bruckner came up with the opening of his Seventh Symphony – and when you hear it, you'll understand why: this is music that scales sublime heights and heartrending depths. For guest conductor Markus Stenz, it's a spiritual journey; so he begins by teaming up with the incomparable James Ehnes in Schumann's dark, but deeply poetic Violin Concerto.

Markus Stenz, Conductor James Ehnes, Violin

Schumann, Violin Concerto Bruckner, Symphony No.7

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59



IAMES EHNES, IMAGE CREDIT: BENJAMIN FALOVEGA

39

30mins

68mins

AFRICAN FUSION FEAT. ABEL SELAOCOE

An afternoon of African-fusion with genre-defying cellist Abel Selaocoe.

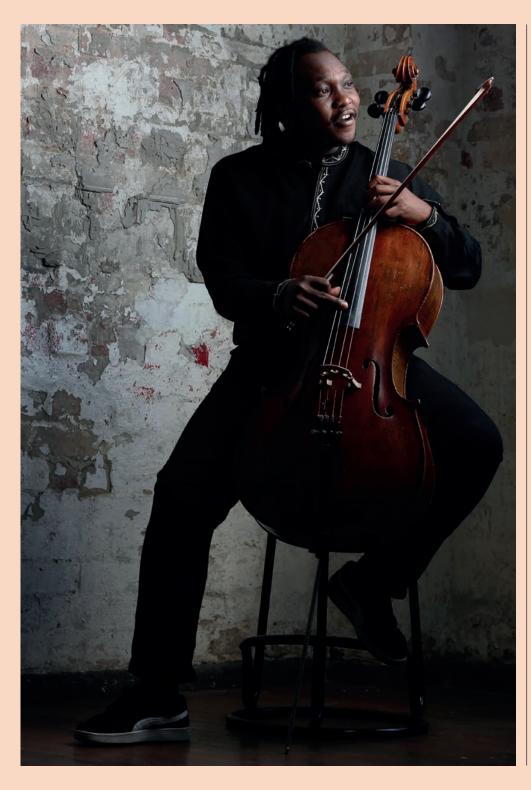
South African cellist Abel Selaocoe is redefining the parameters of the cello – moving seamlessly across a huge range of styles and incorporating improvisation, singing and body percussion into his genre-defying performances. In this performance Abel joins forces with the musicians of the CBSO to highlight the links between Western and non-Western music, including a performance of his new concerto Four Spirits.

Please note, this concert will last for approximately 75 mins with no interval.

Fiona Monbet, Conductor Abel Selaocoe, Cello

Tickets: £25

REDEFINING THE PARAMETERS OF THE CELLO



MAY

PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION

MAY THE FOURTH: A STAR WARS CELEBRATION



JEREMY DENK. IMAGE CREDIT: JOSH GOLEMAN

Dancing chickens, glowing skulls, a Paris jazz-bar and a lost princess.

Tonight, every note tells a story, as Kazuki Yamada opens his musical paintbox for a dazzlingly different version of Mussorgsky's famous Pictures at an Exhibition orchestrated by Henry Wood. First, though, we're making history. Jeremy Denk gives the UK premiere of a brand new Piano Concerto by one of Britain's most imaginative living composers: the remarkable Anna Clyne.

Kazuki Yamada, Conductor Jeremy Denk, Piano

Gershwin, An American in Paris
Clyne, Piano Concerto
(CBSO Commission: UK Premiere)
Ravel, Pavane pour une infante défunte
Mussorgsky, Pictures at an Exhibition
(orch. Wood)

17mins
25mins
6mins
6mins
34mins

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away... well, you know what day it is!

John Williams's scores for Star Wars are some of the most thrilling music ever written for the cinema, but they sound even better in Symphony Hall. Tonight, conductor Stephen Bell, alongside special presenter Anthony Daniels (AKA the original C-3PO) and the full CBSO, make the Kessel Run in less than 12 parsecs. From The Phantom Menace to The Rise of Skywalker, from the sands of Tatooine to the cliffs of Ahch-To, the Force is strong with this one...

Stephen Bell, Conductor **Anthony Daniels,** Presenter



IMAGE CREDIT: ANDREW SANTELLAN

FRENCH FANTASIES



Starry nights, exotic voyages and all the colours of the symphony orchestra.

It's all about colour: and from the subtle impressionist tints of Debussy to Stravinsky's gleaming, streamlined symphony from wartime LA, guest conductor Jérémie Rhorer knows just how to make this music glow. The CBSO Youth Chorus adds its own magic, and we're thrilled to welcome British soprano Elizabeth Llewellyn in Ravel's luscious Shéhérazade. "A voice of pure operatic joy" say the critics – but come and hear for yourself.

Jérémie Rhorer, Conductor Elizabeth Llewellyn, Soprano CBSO Youth Chorus

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

Debussy, Nocturnes23minsRavel, Shéhérazade17minsDebussy, Prélude à l'après-midi10minsd'un faune10minsStravinsky, Symphony in23mins

FAMILY CONCERT: CARTOON CLASSICS



One hour of loony tunes and marvellous melodies!

With music from your favourite cartoons, including Looney Tunes, The Pink Panther, The Simpsons, Bluey and SpongeBob SquarePants, join the CBSO's highly animated musicians and host Tom Redmond for a fun-filled afternoon for the whole family.

All family concerts are BSL interpreted.

There will be an hour of FREE craft activities and a performance from our Children's Chorus before this concert.

This concert will last for an hour. There is no interval.

Olivia Clarke, Conductor Tom Redmond, Host

Programme to include music from: Bluey, Looney Tunes, The Simpsons, The Incredibles and SpongeBob SquarePants.

Tickets: £12

Wednesday 15 May 2024, 7:30pm Symphony Hall, Birmingham

NEW WORLD SYMPHONY

A longing for home meets the wonder of a New World.

Some pieces are classics for a reason, and the nostalgic melodies and sweeping emotions of Dvořák's symphony "from the New World" tell their own story. But first, a celebration of our superb Chorus as they shout for joy in Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, and share a new masterpiece by one of the New World's most innovative composers, Caroline Shaw.

Joshua Weilerstein, Conductor CBSO Chorus

Haas, Study for Strings 7mins
Bernstein, Chichester Psalms 20mins
Shaw, Music in Common Time
(UK Premiere) 12mins
Dvořák, Symphony No.9 (New World) 42mins

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59



JOSHUA WEILERSTEIN. IMAGE CREDIT: YURI PIRES TAVARES

44

45

MEMBERS' EVENT
From 1:30pm: Members' Reception.
Pre-concert and during the interval.
Members' Afternoon Tea. Post-concert.

AMADEUS: ORCHESTRA



The classic movie, live in concert.

"That was not Mozart laughing - it was God!" Amadeus is more than just a historical drama with the best soundtrack of all time - it's a comedy, a mystery, and a tense psychological thriller. With an Oscar-winning performance by F Murray Abraham, it's also one of the most entertaining films ever made about classical music: 40 years on, imagine how terrific it'll sound with Mozart's incredible music performed live by the CBSO.

There will be an interval in this performance.

Amadeus LIVE is a production of Avex Classics International.

Benjamin Pope, Conductor **University of Birmingham Voices**

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

BERNSTEIN & ELFMAN

Thursday 23 May 2024, 7:30pm

Symphony Hall, Birmingham



Driving rhythms and wide-screen sounds the music that made America!

You've already heard of Danny Elfman: the film composer behind The Simpsons, Batman and Edward Scissorhands. But tonight, discover another side of his genius, as Colin Currie (as one critic put it, "the world's finest and most daring percussionist") plays Elfman's Percussion Concerto. Electrifying stuff: and conductor Fabien Gabel will raise the voltage even higher with symphonic showstoppers from Bernstein's Candide and West Side Story.

Fabien Gabel, Conductor Colin Currie, Percussion

Bernstein, Candide: Overture	5mins
Elfman, Percussion Concerto	31mins
Weill, Lady in the Dark:	
Symphonic Nocturne	17mins
Bernstein, West Side Story:	
Symphonic Dances	24mins

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

OLD WORLD SYMPHONY

Dark passions from the soul of Eastern Europe.

Dvořák saw a train roaring into a station and heard the melody that would grow into his Seventh Symphony. Tchaikovsky poured his heart into a Violin Concerto that dances as well as sings (and soloist Andrii Murza can do both). As for Bohdana Frolyak: well, her Adagio just speaks straight to the heart. Her fellow-Ukrainian Oksana Lyniv brings the same commitment to every note she conducts.

Oksana Lyniv, Conductor Andrii Murza, Violin

Frolyak, Adagio 15mins Tchaikovsky, Violin Concerto 33mins Dvořák, Symphony No.7 35mins



OKSANA LYNIV IMAGE CREDIT: WILERIED HÖSL

and during the interval. MEMBERS' EVENT From 6:45pm. Members'

Reception.

Pre-concert

BEST OF BALLET



Captivating, breath-taking storytelling through music and dance.

From Tchaikovsky to Massenet, tonight we explore some of ballet's most entrancing scores. In an evening presented by Zenaida Yanowsky, former Principal Dancer of the Royal Ballet, we invite you to fall in love with Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet, to be enchanted by Stravinsky's The Firebird, and to discover some of the most beautiful music ever written.

Martin Yates, Conductor Zenaida Yanowsky, Presenter

Programme to include music from: Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker, Sleeping Beauty and Swan Lake, Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet and Cinderella, Stravinsky's The Firebird and Massenet's Manon.

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

FINAL SYMPHONY II: MUSIC FROM FINAL FANTASY

Sunday 2 June 2024, 3pm

Symphony Hall, Birmingham



Epic soundtracks from FINAL FANTASY.

In an adventure that spans aeons and worlds - an unending, magical struggle between the forces of good and evil - the power of music stands undefeated. Tense, atmospheric and charged with emotion, the soundtracks are as compelling as the gameplay and in this concert, the full 80-piece CBSO plays music from FINAL FANTASY V, VIII, IX & XIII. Epic doesn't cover it...

Licensed by Square Enix. FINAL FANTASY is a registered trademark or trademark of Square Enix Group Co., Ltd.

Eckehard Stier, Conductor Mischa Cheung, Piano

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

Valtonen, In a Roundabout Way: Fanfare Hamauzu, FINAL FANTASY XIII: Utopia in the Sky **Uematsu, FINAL FANTASY IX:** For the People of Gaia Uematsu, FINAL FANTASY VIII: Mono no aware Uematsu, FINAL FANTASY V: Library of Ancients

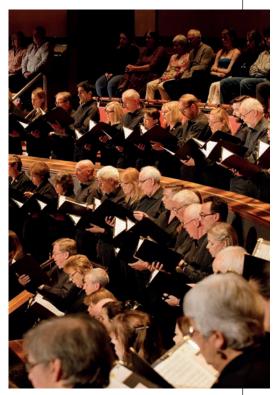
VESPERS OF THE BLESSED **EARTH**

Music born from nature, speaking straight to the heart.

"Earth, nothing more, Earth, nothing less, And let that be enough for you..." For some composers, nature isn't just an inspiration for music. Nature is music. Sibelius imagined his Second Symphony as a great river of melody. And John Luther Adams's new choral epic Vespers of the Blessed Earth turns images of clouds, canyons and endangered birds into sounds of soul-shaking beauty. Join us, and witness the birth of a masterpiece.

Ludovic Morlot, Conductor **CBSO Chorus**

Adams, Vespers of the Blessed Earth (CBSO Commission: UK premiere) Sibelius, Symphony No.2



CBSO CHORUS IMAGE CREDIT: ANDREW FOX

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

49mins 43mins Friday 14 June 2024, 11am & 1:30pm CBSO Centre

Saturday 15 June 2024, 11am, 1:30pm & 3:30pm

BARBER AND RACHMANINOFF



Soaring melodies, jangling cymbals, and cello playing to die for.

A starburst of energy and colour, Anything's possible when guest conductor Kevin John Edusei works his magic: whether it's Dvořák's Czech carnival or Rachmaninoff's soaring Third Symphony - a song of longing for a lost world, with tunes to die for and a big-band swing. Or. most gripping of all, cello phenomenon Alisa Weilerstein throwing everything she has - and then some - at Barber's punchy Cello Concerto.

Kevin John Edusei, Conductor Alisa Weilerstein, Cello

Dvořák. Carnival Overture Barber, Cello Concerto Rachmaninoff, Symphony No.3

9mins 26mins 39mins

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

NOTELETS: CONCERTS FOR UNDER-6S



Music-making shouldn't have an age limit ioin us at our concerts for children under 6!

Notelets are fun-filled interactive concerts that give children the freedom to dance, sing and learn about musical instruments for the first time. Each concert has a different theme and features a wonderful book set to music, to delight and engage your little ones. Plus, there is a chance to meet the musicians and have a go at some of the instruments after every concert!

All Notelets performances are BSL interpreted.

FREE craft activities up-to an hour before each concert!

Tickets: £10

Tickets must be purchased for adults and children over 9 months.

Wednesday 19 June 2024, 2:15pm Symphony Hall, Birmingham

MENDELSSOHN'S ITALIAN SYMPHONY

CLASSIC /M



Summer sunshine, plus the magic of Mozart.

Felix Mendelssohn loved Birmingham - but his travels didn't stop here, and when he visited Italy for the first time his heart leaped for joy. His sun-kissed Italian symphony is the exuberant climax to a whole afternoon of genius off the leash: whether Mozart's majestic piano concerto, or the windswept energy of the composer they called the "female Beethoven": Louise Farrenc.

This concert is generously supported by the Rachel Baker Memorial Charity.

Olari Elts, Conductor Ariel Lanyi, Piano

Farrenc, Overture No.2 7mins Mozart, Piano Concerto No. 25 30mins Schubert, Overture in the Italian Style in D major 7mins Mendelssohn, Symphony No.4 (Italian) 27mins

Tickets: £26, £37, £48, £59

Friday 21 June 2024, 7:30pm Symphony Hall, Birmingham

ART OF THE SCORE: THE MUSIC OF **HANS ZIMMER**



Experience the greatest pieces of film music of the modern era.

From Victorian London to the edge of the galaxy - the music of Hans Zimmer makes the heart pound and the imagination soar. Tonight, the CBSO salutes a giant among film composers, with music from Interstellar. Pirates of the Caribbean, Batman, Gladiator and more. Hosted by the presenters of the Art of the Score podcast, this unique concert is not to be missed.

Nicholas Buc, Conductor Andrew Pogson & Dan Golding, Presenters

Programme to include music from:

Sherlock Holmes, Pirates of the Caribbean, Inception, Driving Miss Daisy, Kung Fu Panda, Interstellar, Batman and more!

MADAM BUTTERFLY



MAKI MORI. IMAGE CREDIT: YUJI HORI

Puccini's tragic romance is heartbreakingly beautiful in every sense.

One fine day in Japan, 1904. Cio-Cio San is young, beautiful and about to marry the man of her dreams. But her American bridegroom sees things very differently, and as reality begins to dawn, Puccini's Madam Butterfly unfolds one of opera's most heart-rending tragedies of love betrayed. Japanese soprano Maki Mori stars in this sumptuous concert performance of one of the world's favourite operas: a score (and a story) close to Kazuki Yamada's heart.

There will be an interval in this performance.

Kazuki Yamada, Conductor Cast includes: Maki Mori, Cio-Cio San Pene Pati, Pinkerton Christopher Purves, Sharpless CBSO Chorus

Puccini, Madam Butterfly

145mins

Tickets: £26, £40, £52, £65

CENTRE STAGE

Discover one of Birmingham's best kept musical secrets: our series of informal afternoon concerts programmed and introduced by our musicians at the CBSO Centre.

Tickets £10

Please see below for concert dates and times, repertoire and musicians will be confirmed at a later date, please visit **cbso.co.uk** for more details.

5 October, 2pm: Fauré Piano Quintet
9 November, 2pm: Clarinet and Strings
15 November, 2pm: Golijov Quintet
23 November, 2pm: Cello Ensemble
1 December, 2pm: Percussion Ensemble
15 December, 8pm: Symphonic Six
23 February, 12pm: Elgar Piano Quintet
1 March, 2pm: Baroque Ensemble
14 March, 2pm: CBSO Youth Orchestra
28 March, 2pm: Strings, Piano and Wind
18 April, 2pm: Woodwind Ensemble
26 April, 2pm: Mendelssohn String Octet
10 May, 2pm: Double Reed Baroque Ensemble
30 May, 2pm: Kegelstatt Trio
7 June, 2pm: Career Accelerator Ensemble

SPECIAL EVENT

28 June, 3pm: An afternoon with Pene Pati Get up close with Featured Artist, tenor Pene Pati as he performs and chats with Kazuki here at the CBSO Centre.

Our chamber music series is supported by John Osborn CBE.

OVER 100 YEARS OF CREATING MUSICAL EXPERIENCES

We exist to create exciting musical experiences to be enjoyed by all – building a life-long love of orchestral music for audiences, communities and musicians across Birmingham, the West Midlands and beyond.

We're proud of our region's diversity and want to connect and build communities. Our presence within communities includes work with schools, free performances in and around the city, concerts specifically created for those living with dementia, and more.

RELAXED CONCERTS

Concerts specially designed for SEND pupils and Special Schools – FREE for Birmingham-based Special Schools thanks to our partnership with Services for Education, or £3 each for non-Birmingham Schools.

CUPPA CONCERTS

Join the CBSO musicians for our relaxed concerts, suitable for those living with dementia, as well as their carers, family and friends.

SCHOOLS' CONCERTS

Our Schools' Concerts are designed to inspire children to explore the world of live music. Each concert is created to complement the musical offer from teachers and music services, as well as being tailored to suit each different stage of education.

DID YOU KNOW?

All schools' and family concerts are BSL interpreted and the CBSO Centre is a fully accessible venue. Our relaxed concerts are also streamed online so students can enjoy them from school!

OUT & ABOUT

As Birmingham's Orchestra, we love to head out into the city (and beyond) to present pop-up performances in places you wouldn't expect.

You might experience the sound of a full orchestra in New Street Station, enjoy a night of street food and live music at Hockley Social Club, or see the CBSO in a library, a community centre or even a pub!



THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PERFORMING ON THE CONCOURSE IN BIRMINGHAM NEW STREET STATION. IMAGE CREDIT: ANDREW FOX

SUPPORT THE SOUND OF THE FUTURE

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra makes musical experiences to enrich the lives of audiences and communities across Birmingham, the West Midlands and beyond.

As a registered charity, only 30% of our income comes from ticket sales – and so we rely on your kind support to continue our work on and off the concert hall stage.

By making a donation, joining as a member or leaving a gift in your will, your generosity will contribute to our Sound of the Future campaign and help us to continue to...

- Bring incredible live orchestral experiences, conductors and soloists to audiences in Birmingham and beyond.
- Deliver our incredible work in schools and communities across the West Midlands.
- Give budding and brilliant musicians unrivalled opportunities to realise their potential.
- Welcome the next generation of concert goers and ensure the future of orchestral music.

Find out more about how you can support our work at **cbso.co.uk/support-us**

WHAT YOUR SUPPORT ACHIEVES

In the last 12 months...

- We presented over 150 concerts at home and on tour, reaching more than 170,000 people.
- Over 270 young people took part in our youth programmes and ensembles.
- We engaged with 129 schools from across the West Midlands.
- Our four choirs welcomed over 400 singers.
- We had over 80,000 engagements with our community and education projects.
- 75% of audiences came from Birmingham and the wider West Midlands.
- Over 11,000 children watched our live Schools' Concerts, and 8000 young people were able to watch our live-streamed Relaxed Concerts.
- One in four attendees at a CBSO Concert in Birmingham was under 30.





IMAGES CREDIT: RIVER REA

TICKETS & BOOKING

TAKE YOUR SEATS

There's no such thing as a bad seat in Symphony Hall – you'll get a wonderful view and listening experience wherever you choose!

For the 23-24 Season, we have made the decision to continue to hold the Grand Tier off sale for the majority of our performances, barring exceptional audience demand.



TICKETS

From £26 our tickets are available to purchase online, in person, and over the phone.

PRICE BAND	TICKET COST (INC. COMMISSION)
A	£59
В	£48
C	£37
D	£26

Our Youth Orchestra, Family, Notelets and Centre Stage concerts, as well as African Fusion Feat. Abel Selaocoe on 28 April 2024, have a single ticket price. Please see the individual events for details. Tickets for Madam Butterfly on 29 June 2024 are also priced differently.

HOW TO BOOK

There are three ways to book your tickets through the B:Music Box Office.

- Online at cbso.co.uk
- Over the phone at 0121 780 3333 from 10am-2pm, Monday-Saturday.
- In person during Box Office opening hours at Symphony Hall, Birmingham.

You can purchase e-tickets for all CBSO performances or choose to have your tickets printed for an additional postage cost of £2.

Tickets are non-refundable and cannot be exchanged, unless a performance is cancelled.

For full Terms and Conditions, please visit cbso.co.uk/terms-conditions

BIG SOUND, SMALL PRICES

There are lots of great ways to save with our ticket offers and discounts.

MULTI-BUY DISCOUNT

Maximise your savings across the Season with our multi-buy ticket offer!

CONCERTS Booked	YOUR SAVING Per ticket
2-4	£1
5-6	£2.50
7-8	£5
9-11	£7.50
12+	£10

By booking just two or more concerts this Season, you'll qualify for great savings – **PLUS** future savings on any additional bookings!

Please visit **cbso.co.uk/terms-conditions** for full details about our multi-buy discount.

EXTRA BENEFITS FROM 7+ CONCERTS:

When you book seven or more concerts as part of a multi-buy discount, you'll qualify for extra benefits!

- Exemption from the £3.50 per ticket commission charge for all eligible performances booked as part of your initial transaction.
- Free ticket exchange if your plans change.
- Discounted parking at Q-Park Brindley Place and The Mailbox (online booking only, subject to availability).
- 10% off at Presto Music throughout the Season.

TICKET OFFERS

- Student tickets from £5
- 18-30s tickets from £10
- Under-18s tickets from £5
- Benefit Recipient tickets from £5

Concessionary tickets can only be booked for collection at the box office, where you will be required to demonstrate proof of eligibility. Concessionary tickets cannot be combined with any other discount, and concessions may vary for some performances.

GROUP OFFERS

Share your passion for great performances with others, and benefit from our group booking discounts!

- Groups of 10+ receive a 20% discount on tickets.
- Groups of 20+ receive a 25% discount on tickets and get every 11th ticket for FREE.
- Tickets for children aged 17 or under will be priced at £5 for all group bookings and no further discount applies (excluding Family and Notelets concerts).
- All group bookings of 10+ are subject to a reduced per-ticket commission of £1.
- For schools and youth music groups, both young people and teachers/chaperones are able to book £5 tickets for all main Season concerts (including Family and Notelets concerts). To benefit from this offer, you must be booking as a group of 10+ and using an official email address.

To book tickets as a group, call the box office at **0121 780 3333**.

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YOUR VISIT

We want you to have a completely brilliant experience at every CBSO concert. To make your visit as enjoyable and stress-free as possible, we've pulled together some of the information we think you'll need – for more information, visit cbso.co.uk/your-visit.

GETTING HERE

All of our performance venues in Birmingham are accessible by rail, road, tram and bus. It is easy to get to and from New Street and Snow Hill stations either by tram or on foot. If you're travelling from a bit further out, you can park at one of the free Park and Ride stations on the West Midlands Metro network to the north of the city. There are also several car parks nearby, including ones at Brindley Place and The Mailbox.



Official Travel Partner of the CBSO

The majority of CBSO performances take place in central Birmingham, and catching the tram is an easy way to get to Symphony Hall, Town Hall and the CBSO Centre. You can plan your journey in advance, purchase your tickets and find out the latest travel information on the My Metro App and West Midlands Metro website.

ABOUT THE VENUES



SYMPHONY HALLBROAD ST, BIRMINGHAM, B1 2EA

We are proud to be the resident orchestra at Birmingham's iconic Symphony Hall – one of the finest concert halls in the world. We are delighted to continue our partnership with B:Music, the music charity responsible for Symphony Hall and Town Hall, to bring wonderful concerts to the heart of the Midlands.



CBSO CENTREBERKLEY ST, BIRMINGHAM, B1 2LF

The CBSO Centre is our brilliant rehearsal base and home to all our staff, as well as being a performance space for all smaller ensemble concerts.

ACCESS

Everyone is welcome at CBSO concerts! Symphony Hall, Town Hall, and CBSO Centre are all accessible venues.

SYMPHONY HALL & TOWN HALL

If you are attending CBSO concerts at Symphony Hall or Town Hall and have additional access requirements, we would suggest joining the B:Music Access Scheme. To find out more visit bmusic.co.uk or contact the Box Office on 0121 780 3333.

All of our Family, Notelets and Schools concerts are **BSL-interpreted**. When booking, keep an eye out for any seats marked as providing the best view of the interpreter.

Wheelchair positions for patrons who need to stay in their wheelchair during the performance are on the Stalls/Upper Circle levels of Symphony Hall and Stalls/Circle levels of Town Hall.

THE SEASON AT A GLANCE

Thursday 14 September, 7:30pm Kazuki conducts Verdi Requiem

Saturday 16 September, 7pm Kazuki & Sheku Kanneh-Mason

Wednesday 20 September, 2:15pm **Organ Symphony**

Thursday 28 September, 7:30pm **Shostakovich 8**

Friday 29 September, 7:30pm Classics at the Movies

Wednesday 4 October, 2:15pm

Kazuki conducts Rachmaninoff

Sunday 8 October, 3pm Family Concert: Fairy Tales

Thursday 12 October, 2:15pm

Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No.2

Wednesday 1 November, 7:30pm Three Miracles

Friday 3 November, 7:30pm **Burt Bacharach:**

What the World Needs Now

Wednesday 8 November, 2:15pm **Scottish Symphony**

Tuesday 14 November, 7:30pm Bach & Schumann

Wednesday 22 November, 7:30pm **Eternal Romance**

Sunday 26 November, 3pm
CBSO & The Orchestral Qawwali Project

Thursday 30 November, 7:30pm Simon Halsey: 40 Years

Wednesday 6 December, 7:30pm From Mirga with Love

Friday 8 December, 11am & 1:30pm Saturday 9 December, 11am, 1:30pm & 3:30pm Notelets: Concerts for under-6s

Wednesday 13 December, 7:30pm Kazuki conducts Beethoven's Eroica

Tuesday 19 & Wednesday 20 December, 7:30pm Choral Christmas with Anna Lapwood

Thursday 21 December, 7:30pm Christmas at the Movies

Sunday 7 January, 3pm Viennese New Year

Thursday 11 January, 2:15pm Grieg's Piano Concerto

Wednesday 17 January, 7:30pm Kazuki conductors Symphonie Fantastique Wednesday 24 January, 7:30pm Thursday 25 January, 2:15pm Beethoven 5

Friday 26 January, 7:30pm **Symphonic Rat Pack**

Wednesday 31 January, 7:30pm

Jess Gillam plays Williams & Villa-Lobos

Wednesday 14 February, 7:30pm Tchaikovsky & Beethoven

Friday 16 February, 7:30pm **Best of Broadway**

Sunday 18 February, 3pm Youth Orchestra: Mahler 5

Wednesday 21 February, 2:15pm Kazuki conducts Elgar & Beethoven: Part 1

Thursday 22 February, 7:30pm **Kazuki conducts Elgar & Beethoven: Part 2**

Sunday 25 February, 3pm
Family Concert: The Young Person's
Guide to the Orchestra

Wednesday 28 February, 7:30pm Sakari conducts Sibelius & Strauss

Thursday 29 February, 7:30pm CBSO Benevolent Fund Concert

Thursday 21 March, 7:30pm Fauré Requiem

Friday 22 March, 7:30pm Baroque to Broadway

Friday 22 March, 11am & 1:30pm Saturday 23 March, 11am, 1:30pm & 3:30pm Notelets: Concerts for under-6s

Wednesday 27 March, 7:30pm Rhapsody in Blue

Wednesday 10 April, 2:15pm Kazuki & Benjamin Grosvenor

Saturday 13 April, 7pm **The Damnation of Faust**

Wednesday 17 April, 7:30pm Britten & Tchaikovsky Friday 19 April, 7:30pm Classic FM Hall of Fame

Thursday 25 April, 7:30pm **Bruckner 7**

Sunday 28 April, 3pm

African Fusion Feat. Abel Selaocoe

Wednesday 1 May, 7:30pm Pictures at an Exhibition

Saturday 4 May, 7:30pm

May the Fourth: A Star Wars Celebration

Thursday 9 May, 7:30pm French Fantasies

Sunday 12 May, 3pm
Family Concert: Cartoon Classics

Wednesday 15 May, 7:30pm New World Symphony

Friday 17 May, 7pm

Amadeus: film with live orchestra

Thursday 23 May, 7:30pm Bernstein & Elfman

Wednesday 29 May, 2:15pm Old World Symphony

Friday 31 May, 7:30pm Best of Ballet

Sunday 2 June, 3pm
Final Symphony II:
Music from FINAL FANTASY

Thursday 6 June, 7:30pm Vespers of the Blessed Earth

Thursday 13 June, 7:30pm Barber & Rachmaninoff

Friday 14 June, 11am & 1:30pm Saturday 15 June, 11am, 1:30pm & 3:30pm Notelets: Concerts for under-6s

Wednesday 19 June, 2:15pm Mendelssohn's Italian Symphony

Friday 21 June, 7:30pm

Art of the Score: The Music of Hans Zimmer

Saturday 29 June, 7pm Madam Butterfly

THANK YOU

The support we receive from thousands of individual donors, public funders, businesses and private foundations allows us to present extraordinary performances and to create exciting activities in schools and communities. Your support makes a huge difference and is much appreciated.

PUBLIC FUNDERS





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STRATEGIC & IN-KIND

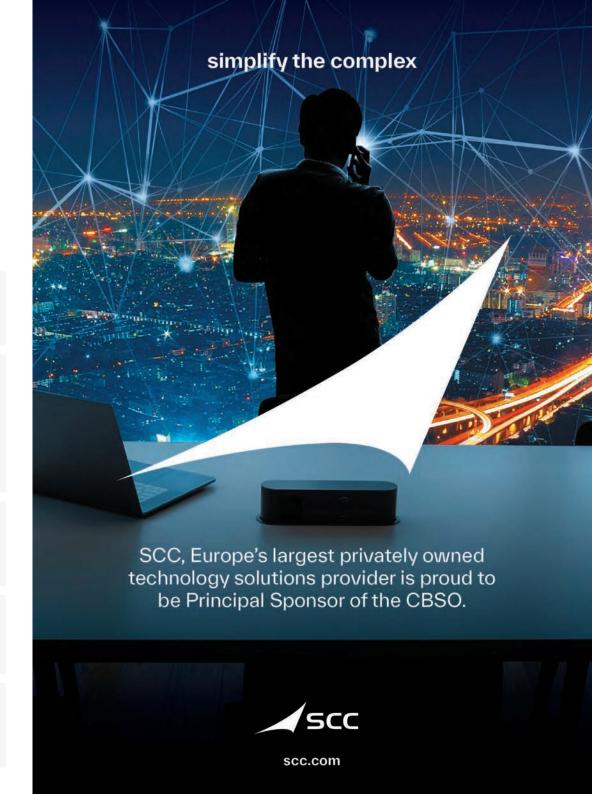






EXCEPTIONAL SUPPORTERS

Thank you also to our Major Donors, Benefactors, Circles Members, Patrons, Friends and Trusts & Foundations for their generous support.



Proud to be Birmingham's Orchestra



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CBSO Centre

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