

CLASSICS AT THE MOVIES

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GBSO

City of
Birmingham
Symphony
Orchestra

Classics at the Movies
Symphony Hall
Friday 29 September, 2023
7:30pm

Concert programme £2

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Friday 29 September, 7:30pm
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Strauss, Also sprach Zarathustra (Opening), 2mins
Mozart, The Marriage of Figaro: Overture, 4mins
Puccini, Gianni Schicchi: O mio babbino caro*, 3mins
Mahler, Symphony No. 5: Adagietto, 7mins
Handel, Music for the Royal Fireworks: La Réjouissance, 3mins
Gounod, Faust Jewel Song*, 5mins
Elgar, Enigma Variations: Nimrod, 3mins
Sibelius, Finlandia, 8mins
Interval
Verdi, La forza del destino: Overture, 8mins
Verdi, La traviata: Ah, fors' è lui... Sempre libera*, 4mins
Beethoven, Symphony No. 7: 2nd Movement, 7mins
Mascagni, Cavalleria rusticana: Intermezzo, 4mins
Puccini, Madama Butterfly: Un bel di vedremo*, 5mins
Tchaikovsky, Swan Lake: Hungarian Dance, 2mins
Offenbach, Orpheus in the Underworld: Can Can, 2mins
Saint-Saëns, Symphony No. 3: Finale, 8mins

Stephen Bell, Conductor & Presenter

Máire Flavin, Soprano

* Pieces in which Máire features

We are very happy for you to take photographs at CBSO concerts, but please do be discreet to avoid disturbing other audience members. We would suggest dimming the brightness on your phone, taking pictures during applause breaks, and not using your flash. Please note that filming is not allowed.

We also regularly take photographs for promotional use, so you may see a professional photographer at our concerts. Please ask a member of the front of house team if you have any questions about this.

To ensure that everyone is able to enjoy the performance, please make sure your mobile phone is set to silent.

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Stephen Bell
Conductor & Presenter

INTRODUCTION

Film music falls into three main categories; the main source of orchestral scores is obviously commissioned music from a movie composer. Going back in time, all the major studios had music departments with the finest orchestral players, and a whole back-up team of writers and orchestrators – just think of some of those early MGM classics and the talent they had working on them!

That tradition, championed by the likes of Korngold and Rosza, has carried on to the present day – undoubtedly helped by the likes of arguably the finest of them all, John Williams – right through to more recent exponents such as Hans Zimmer and Michael Giacchino.

The relationship between Director and Composer is of particular interest, and again Williams has to get a special mention for the extraordinary partnership with Steven Spielberg going back many decades, and demonstrating perfectly the level of trust and understanding between the two skill sets and, indeed, the huge scope of subject matter they have to turn their hands to.

Writing for film (I can only imagine) is more difficult than just sitting with a blank sheet of manuscript paper and waiting for inspiration. There is the obvious pressure of time, as the music is one of the last parts of the production process, but also the constraints of having to fit the music to the visuals, which have already been shot. This often ends up making the music inseparable from the actual film, and clearly part of the skill of the composer is to be able to make the music a success in a concert situation, away from the visuals.

Occasionally, and maybe less so nowadays, there are library charts used. This is where a composer books a studio and an orchestra to record original music on licence that they hope might fit the bill for a director looking for a certain style or mood. Often these composers find their work making their way onto a soundtrack and maybe even offering an opening into commissioning a movie score.



MIKLÓS RÓZSA AT THE 18TH ACADEMY AWARDS (1946).
EBAYARCHIVE, PUBLIC DOMAIN, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS.



JOHN WILLIAMS PERFORMS MOVIE MUSIC WITH THE BOSTON POPS, 28 MAY 2011. CHRIS DEVERS, CC BY-SA 2.0, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

classical pieces with his groundbreaking “Fantasia” way back in 1940. More recent examples include “Dunkirk”, Christopher Nolan’s powerful war drama, that makes very effective use of Elgar’s Nimrod (at a very slow pace) alongside Zimmer’s Oscar-nominated original score.

We’re delighted to be joined by Irish soprano Máire Flavin who will also explore some celebrated opera extracts by composers including Puccini and Gounod that have made their way into famous movie soundtracks.

We look forward to welcoming you to Symphony Hall!

Stephetti Zell

The third type is when a movie director pulls an established piece of music “off the shelf” and inserts it into a soundtrack. This is often a pop song – many successful artists are more than happy to have their latest hit associated with a blockbuster movie!

Our concert on September 29th looks at where orchestral pieces have been used to great effect, often alongside newly commissioned underscore. Perhaps historically the most obvious early example of this was David Lean’s 1945 film “Brief Encounter” which famously used Rachmaninov’s 2nd piano concerto to great effect. Disney, too, was struck with the idea of introducing a whole new audience to

“Going back in time, all the major studios had music departments with the finest orchestral players, and a whole back-up team of writers and orchestrators.”

STEPHEN BELL



© ERIC RICHMOND

Described by *International Record Review* as 'one of the most gifted younger British conductors', Stephen Bell studied at the Royal College of Music under the renowned conductor Norman Del Mar. February 2022 saw his appointment as Principal Guest Conductor of the RTÉ Concert Orchestra. Prior to this, he was appointed Artistic Director of the City of Oxford Orchestra in 2009 and he was delighted to take up the post of Associate Conductor of the Hallé in 2013, a position he still holds. In addition to his new role with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra and the on-going commitment to the Hallé, recent highlights have included engagements with orchestras including the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Brighton Philharmonic, Orchestre national de Lyon, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Royal Northern Sinfonia, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, Ulster Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra.

MÁIRE FLAVIN

Dublin-born soprano Máire Flavin graduated with joint honours in Psychology and Music from Queen's University, Belfast, before continuing her vocal studies at Royal Irish Academy of Music, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama Opera Course, and the National Opera Studio, London. Her operatic engagements have included Contessa *Le nozze di Figaro* (Salzburger Landestheater, Irish National Opera, Opera North); Bianca in the World Premiere of *La Cucina* (Wexford Festival Opera); Mathilde *Guillaume Tell*, Donna Anna *Don Giovanni*, Chrysothemis *Elektra* and Mimi *La bohème* (Irish National Opera); Violetta *La Traviata*, Anna Sørensen *Silent Night*, Fiordiligi *Così fan tutte*, title role *Alcina* and Hanna Glawari *The Merry Widow* (Opera North); Lyric Opera Ireland; Welsh National Opera; Scottish Opera; Northern Ireland Opera, Théâtre des Champs Élysées; Atelier Lyrique de Tourcoing; and Buxton International Festival. She has also featured with the National Symphony Orchestra, Ireland; Royal Philharmonic Orchestra; RTÉ Concert Orchestra; the Orchestra of Welsh National Opera; Deutsche Philharmonie with conductors such as Nathalie Stutzmann, Lothar Koenig, Jac van Steen, Alan Buribayev, John Wilson, Rumon Gamba, Jonathan Cohen, Mark Wigglesworth and Christoph Poppen.



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We are Birmingham's orchestra – loud and proud. An internationally celebrated symphony orchestra that makes music that matters to the people of Birmingham, the West Midlands and beyond.

A family of 90 incredible musicians, we exist to create exciting musical experiences for all. From brightening up the morning commute, to inspiring audiences and musicians of the future – we make epic, powerful, meaningful music that fills concert halls, communities, streets, schools and lives with passion, excitement, inspiration, hope and joy.

We've come from all over the world, but we're at home right here in Birmingham. See us at Symphony Hall playing some of the greatest symphonic music of all time, at pop-up performances around the city, at the CBSO Centre performing intimate smallscale gigs or in schools, community centres, libraries and even the occasional pub!

We're musicians, but we're also parents, teachers, runners, gardeners, writers, sports fans, foodies and so much more. We're part of your city, and we couldn't be happier to be here to play, share, write, sing, live and breathe music with you!

PERFORMERS

VIOLIN I

Jonathan Martindale
Andrew Harvey
Jack Greed
Jane Wright[#]
Bethan Allmand
Nathan Bomans*
Colette Overdijk*
Julia Aberg*
Robert Bilson
Wendy Quirk
Imogen Cox
Amanda Woods
Adam Hill
Emily Chaplais

VIOLIN II

Sophie Mather
Moritz Pfister*
Amy Jones*
Gabriel Dyker*
Heather Bradshaw[#]
Timothy Birchall*
Georgia Hannant*
Yu-Mien Sun
Richard Thomas
Amy Littlewood
Henry Salmon
Jody Smith

VIOLA

David BaMaung*
Michael Jenkinson*
Catherine Bower**
Angela Swanson[#]
Jessica Tickle*
Sarah Malcolm
Amy Thomas
Mabon Rhyd
Daichi Yoshimura
Helen Roberts

CELLO

Martin Smith
Arthur Boutillier*
David Powell[#]
Kate Setterfield**
Miguel Fernandes*
Nina Kiva
Helen Edgar**
Catherine
Ardagh-Walter**

DOUBLE BASS

Anthony Alcock*
Julian Atkinson**
Julian Walters**
Mark Goodchild**
Sally Morgan**
Aisling Reilly

FLUTE

Marie-Christine
Zupancic**
Robert Looman

PICCOLO

Helen Benson*

OBOE

Emmet Byrne*
Eugene Feild

COR ANGLAIS

Matthew Jones

CLARINETS

Oliver Janes*
Joanna Patton**

BASS CLARINET

Steve Morris

BASSOON

Nikolaj Henriques*
Tony Liu

CONTRABASSOON

Margaret Cookhorn*

HORN

Elspeth Dutch*
David Sztankov
Mark Phillips**
Jeremy Bushell*
Martin Wright[#]

TRUMPET

Jack Wilson
Jonathan Holland
Stephen Murphy
Jonathan Quirk**

TROMBONE

Anthony Howe**
Richard Ward

BASS TROMBONE

David Vines**

TUBA/CIMBASSO

Grady Hassan

TIMPANI

Matthew Hardy*

PERCUSSION

Andrew Herbert
Toby Kearney*
William Renwick

HARP

Katherine Thomas*
Emily Harris

ORGAN

Julian Wilkins

PIANO

James Keefe
Zeynep Oszuca

[#] Recipient of the CBSO Long Service Award

* Supported player

WHERE HAVE I HEARD IT BEFORE?

ELGAR, NIMROD

Elgar's Nimrod has become a soundtrack to British history. After an understated start, it swells into an epic tune that's been heard in films like Dunkirk and Elizabeth.

STRAUSS, ALSO SPRACH ZARATHUSTRA

2001: A Space Odyssey, or Barbie. There's competition for the most epic use of Strauss's huge Also sprach Zarathustra.

MOZART, THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO: OVERTURE

Who said opera was serious? Charlie and the Chocolate Factory uses the overture to accompany the magical moment as Gene Wilder opens the doors to the factory.

PUCCINI, GIANNI SCHICCHI: O MIO BABBINO CARO

A Room with a View has potentially the most award-winning cast ever, featuring Helena Bonham Carter, Daniel Day-Lewis, Maggie Smith, Judi Dench and more. It's also got an achingly beautiful soundtrack featuring the beautiful tune O mio babbino caro. This tune also featured on Mr Bean's Holiday!

SIBELIUS, FINLANDIA

Finlandia is one of those pieces you'll have heard without even realising. It's been featured in The Walking Dead, Grace of Monaco, The Village People, The Simpsons, and most famously of all - Die Hard (although we're also a big fan of Smurfily Ever After).

VERDI, LA TRAVIATA: AH, FORS' È LUI... SEMPRE LIBERA

Perhaps the most famous aria from Verdi's La Traviata is Sempre Libera. It featured as the soundtrack to the iconic lip-sync in Priscilla Queen of the Desert, it's also been used to advertise the Nissan Qashqai.

BEETHOVEN, SYMPHONY NO. 7 - 2ND MOVEMENT

Ever seen Westworld, X-Men: Apocalypse, Mr. Robot, or The King's Speech? Then you've heard the second movement of Beethoven's Symphony No. 7.

MASCAGNI, CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA: INTERMEZZO

Featured in an advert for Ferrero Rocher, The Godfather - Part III, Raging Bull, and even an episode of Ally McBeal. Mascagni's Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana is one of the most famous pieces of orchestral music around. Anime fans may also know it from Samurai X.



LISTEN ALONG!

Scan the code through the Spotify app to listen to our specially curated playlist.

MOVIE MUSIC QUIZ

1 "Take My Breath Away" won the Oscar in 1986 for which movie?

2 What is the best-selling movie soundtrack of all time?

3 What is the most used song in film and television?

4 Randy Newman composed the music to which series of Disney movies?

5 James Newton Howard is famous for his partnership with which director?

6 This score, composed by Elliot Goldenthal in two weeks, was nominated for an Oscar in 1994.

7 Who wrote the score for "Gone with the Wind" and "Casablanca"?

8 Which father and son were both famous film composers?

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Sun 26 Nov, 3pm



Christmas at the Movies

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

Thu 21 Dec, 7:30pm



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An outrageous adventure for the orchestra – and the audience!

Wed 17 Jan, 7:30pm



Kazuki conducts Elgar & Beethoven: Part 2

Musical portraits and pure, soaring beauty.

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The definitive countdown of Britain's favourite classical music!

Fri 19 Apr, 7:30pm

WE'RE ALL EARS

Interested in winning a £50 voucher to spend at a restaurant of your choice? We'd love to hear from you!

We're working to better understand our audiences and by completing a survey following a CBSO concert, you can opt in to be entered into the prize draw.

All responses to this survey will remain anonymous.



CBSO MEMBERSHIP

From a closer insight into the music and rehearsals, to hearing about life as a musician, CBSO members can get more from their concert-going experience by getting to know the people behind the instruments.

In addition, through their annual donation, they help to provide vital support towards our Sound of the Future Campaign, a fundraising campaign launched to help the Orchestra recover from the pandemic and reinvigorate its future, giving musical experiences to even more people.

JOIN THE FAMILY

Simply visit cbsoco.uk/membership to sign up online, or call Rachel Cooper on 0121 616 6510.

We look forward to welcoming you to the family!



THANK YOU

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