

**GBSO**

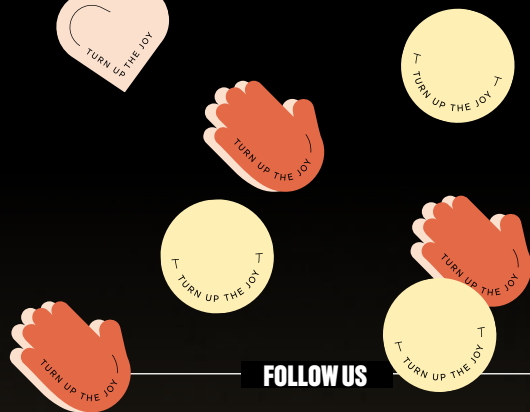
City of  
Birmingham  
Symphony  
Orchestra

# 2024-25: A SEASON OF JOY



GBSO.CO.UK

# SHARE THE JOY



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Keep up to date with everything your orchestra is doing by following us on social media.

We also love to see your concert experiences, so share your photos and videos with us by tagging @TheCBSO!



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## HOW TO BOOK

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

- Online at [cbso.co.uk](https://www.cbso.co.uk)
- Over the phone on **0121 780 3333** from 10am-2pm, Monday-Saturday.
- In person during Box Office opening hours at Symphony Hall, Birmingham.

### MULTI-BUY DISCOUNTS

A great way to save on your tickets, with discounts starting from just two concerts. See more on p64.

### BIG SOUNDS, SMALL PRICES

Find out more about our affordable ticket offers for students, under 30s and benefit recipients on p65.

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**Emma Stenning**  
Chief Executive

## 2024-25 A SEASON OF JOY

A few months ago, in the midst of a high-octane discussion day about the future of the CBSO, one of our players asked, quite simply, 'how do we spread the joy?'

It was a brilliantly provocative question, inspired, I am sure, by the irrepressible and infectiously positive energy of our then newly in post Chief Conductor (now Music Director!), Kazuki Yamada, which was palpably starting to ripple through the orchestra, concert after concert.

It's a question that I have come back to many times during my first year with the CBSO. I've had the great privilege of seeing our joy-giving in action on so many occasions, be that at Symphony Hall, across Birmingham and the West Midlands, or further afield on national and international tours.

The answer must include us working harder to extend a terrifically warm welcome to Symphony Hall so that everyone can feel at home there. It needs to involve us taking concert performances to unexpected places so that people who might not know it's for them just chance upon symphonic repertoire and discover its magic, and it will rest on continued creative explorations that unlock the opportunity of music for everyone.

All of this is here in our Season of Joy, and we can't wait to share it with you. It's a programme of concerts filled with landmark orchestral works, choral masterpieces, celebrations of CBSO musicians, popular classics, films with live orchestra, family favourites and some truly unique collaborations.



In a star-studded line-up, we welcome back many friends including Sir Mark Elder, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, Dame Sarah Connolly, Sir Stephen Hough, Soweto Kinch, Miloš Karadaglić, Isabelle Faust, Thomas Søndergård, Alpesh Chauhan, Steven Osborne, Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Karen Cargill, Benjamin Grosvenor, Alisa Weilerstein, Ilan Volkov, and Alina Ibragimova. They sit alongside exciting debuts from Jamie Barton, Kian Soltani, Kirill Karabits, Jonathon Heyward, Kerem Hasan, Anna Rakitina, Sofi Jeannin, Sekou Keita, Robert Ames, Xhosa Cole, and Dinis Sousa.

As you explore the season, you'll also notice moments when we're trying something different. Our 'CBSO Explores' series invites audiences to come with us as we discover new ways of presenting orchestral performance, ranging from our first partnership with the brilliant Ikon Gallery, to a deeper dive into the inspiration for Dvořák's Symphony No.9, to an exciting weekend where we will be pushing the immersive possibilities of performing at the CBSO Centre.

We hope that you can find your own moments of joy within this new season. For us, the thrill entirely lies in sharing it with you.

PS: Before the season officially arrives, we hope to see you at our exciting summer programme – which includes a Pre-Proms performance at Symphony Hall and a full week of free pop-up performances in and around Birmingham in August (see pages 6-9).

**Kazuki Yamada**  
Music Director

I am truly honoured and delighted to be the Music Director of the CBSO starting with the new season. I would like to be more involved in CBSO activities than ever before.

A highlight of the new season will be a look at the last symphonies of Mahler, Bruckner and Beethoven, the Ninth Symphonies.

"Normally", this repertoire is selected by conductors who have built a good relationship with the orchestra over many years due to their depth of content and technical difficulty, but this season's selection was made at my strong request. Because my relationship with the CBSO is completely unique and "normal" doesn't apply to us. I thought that by taking up these big pieces now, we might be able to further enrich our unique relationship.

In addition to the Ninth Symphonies, there are many other great attractive programmes lined up. I will also actively participate in CBSO's educational projects, such as the Schools' Concerts.

I would be very happy if you could experience with your eyes, ears, and skin our relationship that goes beyond the "normal".

We are always waiting for you at the performance venue, and we would like to not only wait but also go out to see you.

Music belongs to all mankind. Let's all have fun!

Wednesday 17 July 2024, 7:30pm  
Town Hall, Birmingham

# SCHUBERT 9



EDWARD GARDNER © BENJAMIN EALOVEGA

Beautiful songs - and a noble farewell.

Schubert was an absolute master of melody and his 'lieder' (songs) still pack a punch 200 years after he wrote them. In tonight's performance, these songs range from the romantic to the terrifying, and Mary Bevan and Edward Gardner bring out every nuance in the vibrant orchestrations. Schubert's Symphony No.9 (the last he wrote) is a suitably grand final word.

**Edward Gardner**, Conductor  
**Mary Bevan**, Soprano

<b>Schubert</b> , Rosamunde Romanze	
<b>Schubert (arr. Britten)</b> , Die Forelle	
<b>Schubert (arr. Berlioz)</b> , Der Erlkönig	
<b>Schubert (arr. Reger)</b> , Abendrot	
<b>Schubert (arr. Brahms)</b> , Geheimes D.719	20mins
<b>Schubert</b> , Symphony No.9	57mins

Tickets: £26, £38

Sunday 28 July 2024, 7pm  
Town Hall, Birmingham

# YOUTH ORCHESTRA ACADEMY



NIKOLAJ HENRIQUES © HANNAH FATHERS

Ticking clocks, marching drums and boisterous Beethoven.

Haydn's Symphony 101 'ticks' all the way through its second movement, while the bassoon shares the stage with a pounding timpani in Weber's Concerto. The CBSO's Nikolaj Henriques does the honours in the Weber, before we hear Michael Seal lead the CBSO Youth Orchestra in Beethoven's most cheerful, dancing symphony.

**Michael Seal**, Conductor  
**Nikolaj Henriques**, Bassoon

<b>Haydn</b> , Symphony No.101 (The Clock)	29mins
<b>Weber</b> , Bassoon Concerto	19mins
<b>Beethoven</b> , Symphony No.7	32mins

Tickets: £26, £38

Wednesday 21 August 2024, 7pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# KAZUKI CONDUCTS MOZART & MUSSORGSKY

Beauty and the beast and a hut on hen's legs – a magical, musical world.

All human – and animal – life is here! Ravel creates a magical world of fairy tales, while the weird and wonderful images in Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition are brought to vivid life by Kazuki and the CBSO before we head to the BBC Proms. In amongst it all is a lush, romantic interlude by Augusta Holmès, while Paul Lewis is at his elegant best in Mozart's last Piano Concerto.

**Kazuki Yamada**, Conductor  
**Paul Lewis**, Piano

<b>Ravel</b> , Mother Goose Suite	29mins
<b>Mozart</b> , Piano Concerto No.27	32mins
<b>Holmès</b> , La Nuit et L'Amour	6mins
<b>Mussorgsky (arr. Wood)</b> , Pictures at an Exhibition	34mins

Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62



PAUL LEWIS © KAUPU KIKKAS

# CBSO IN THE CITY

For a whole week in August 2024, the CBSO and Music Director Kazuki Yamada will be out and about in Birmingham with a huge range of exciting shows – all completely free! We're aiming to fill the city with great music, as we pop-up in unexpected locations including the Bullring, New Street Station, libraries, museums, parks, pubs and even The Hawthorns!

Keep an eye on our website, emails and social media as we add more locations, which will include:

- Shows for early years and families at a huge range of spaces, including libraries, museums, community centres and parks.
- Performances for those living with dementia alongside their carers, family, and friends.

And lots more!

## Bullring & Grand Central

As part of Birmingham Weekender, catch the full CBSO in Birmingham's iconic Bullring, performing music you'll know and love.

## The Hawthorns Stadium

We're heading to the home of West Bromwich Albion FC for a pre-match performance, complete with football chants!

## New Street Station

There's nothing better than a full symphony orchestra to keep you entertained when you're waiting for a train – we'll see you under the departure boards.

Thursday 19 September 2024, 7:30pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# KAZUKI CONDUCTS BEETHOVEN 9



KAZUKI YAMADA © ANDREW FOX

A spotlight on instruments and a joyful finale for voices.

Stravinsky celebrates the beautiful variety of wind and brass in his small but perfectly formed Symphonies, while it's simply strings for Strauss in the gorgeous Metamorphosen - which quotes Beethoven throughout. Beethoven himself is on magnificent form in his famous Choral Symphony, featuring a quartet of equally magnificent soloists in its awe-inspiring "Ode to Joy" in the final movement.

**Kazuki Yamada**, Conductor  
**Lucy Crowe**, Soprano  
**Jennifer Johnston**, Mezzo Soprano  
**Nicky Spence**, Tenor  
**Jonathan Lemalu**, Baritone  
CBSO Chorus

Stravinsky, Symphonies of Wind Instruments	9mins
Strauss, Metamorphosen	26mins
Beethoven, Symphony No.9 (Choral)	65mins

Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62

**MEMBERS' EVENT**

Pre-concert and interval reception

This concert is supported by DLA Piper



Wednesday 25 September 2024, 2:15pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# MOZART & SHOSTAKOVICH



FABIEN GABEL © HANNAH FATHERS

Mozart dances, Simpson dazzles, and Shostakovich has a blast.

Idomeneo, a story of kings, queens and Gods, is given a suitably noble treatment by Mozart, while his Concerto for Bassoon featuring CBSO's Nikolaj Henriques, is as light and delicious as a soufflé. Simpson's fabulous Trumpet Concertino, by turns sassy and slinky, gives the spotlight to CBSO's Jason Lewis, while Shostakovich's pithy Symphony No.9 goes from sprightly to feverish to downright raucous.

**Fabien Gabel**, Conductor  
**Nikolaj Henriques**, Bassoon  
**Jason Lewis**, Trumpet

Mozart, Ballet Music from Idomeneo	28mins
Mozart, Bassoon Concerto in Bb Major	18mins
Mark Simpson, Concertino for Trumpet and Orchestra (UK Premiere)	16mins
Shostakovich, Symphony No.9	27mins

Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62

**MEMBERS' EVENT**

Post-concert afternoon tea with soloists Nikolaj Henriques and Jason Lewis.

Friday 4 October 2024, 7:30pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# LIFE ON OUR PLANET IN CONCERT

A NETFLIX ORIGINAL DOCUMENTARY



© SILVERBACK FILMS/NETFLIX

The story of life's epic battle to conquer and survive on planet Earth – live in concert!

Join the CBSO for a new natural history immersive concert experience - complete with big screen and live orchestra. Audiences will see the story of life unfold through its most pivotal moments - from the first single-celled life form to the first animals to move out from the sea and onto land, to the first creatures to take flight.

Presented by esk film, in association with Netflix and Silverback Films.

**Anthony Gabriele**, Conductor

**Lorne Balfe**, Highlights from 'Life on Our Planet'

Tickets: £22.50, £33.50, £41.50, £49.50

This concert is not part of the CBSO multi-buy discount.

Book online at [cbsoc.co.uk](http://cbsoc.co.uk) or call the B!Music Box Office on 0121 780 3333

Thursday 10 October 2024, 7:30pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## BRAHMS 2



THOMAS SØNDERGÅRD © ANDY BUCHANAN

**Musical journeys and flamboyant characters in this colourful concert.**

Strauss creates an exhilarating portrait of Don Juan's wild life and dramatic death. Adès' Violin Concerto traces musical rings, paths and rounds through its three movements. Leila Josefowicz and Thomas Søndergård dance and whirl with the music. Brahms wrote to his publisher that for his Symphony No.2 he had 'never written anything so sad'. His tongue, however, was firmly in his cheek as this is one of his most outrageously cheerful pieces.

**Thomas Søndergård**, Conductor  
**Leila Josefowicz**, Violin

<b>Strauss</b> , Don Juan	17mins
<b>Thomas Adès</b> , Violin Concerto (Concentric Paths)	20mins
<b>Brahms</b> , Symphony No.2	42mins

**Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62**

**RUSH HOUR CONCERT, WED 9 OCT 2024, 6PM**

Brahms, Symphony No.2 See page 56

Sunday 13 October 2024, 4pm  
Town Hall, Birmingham

## EX CATHEDRA: BRUCKNER, PALESTRINA & ALLEGRI



EX CATHEDRA © SIMON KING

**Celebrating 200 years of Bruckner.**

Bruckner's majestic motets and monumental Mass in E Minor form the centrepiece of this concert to mark his 200th birthday. Bruckner's sacred symphony draws inspiration from Renaissance Rome, and the timeless elegance of Palestrina. Allegri's ever popular Miserere – once shrouded in secrecy and renowned for its soaring soprano lines – completes the programme.

Presented by Ex Cathedra.

**Jeffrey Skidmore**, Conductor  
**Ex Cathedra**  
**CBSO Wind and Brass**

<b>Bruckner</b> , Locus iste, Ave Maria, Ecce sacerdos, Inveni David	12mins
<b>Palestrina</b> , Missa sine nomine (Kyrie, Gloria)	9mins
<b>Allegri</b> , Miserere	5mins
<b>Bruckner</b> , Mass in E Minor	42mins

**Tickets: £15-46**

On sale date of 23 May 2024.

This concert is not part of the CBSO multi-buy discount.

Wednesday 16 October 2024, 7:30pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## SIR MARK ELDER CONDUCTS BRAHMS & SHOSTAKOVICH

**A stirring concerto, a tragic tale – and an outrageous knees-up!**

Former Principal Guest Conductor, Sir Mark Elder, makes a welcome return after more than 20 years with a wonderful programme. Brahms is on majestic form in his first Piano Concerto brought to dramatic life by Sir Stephen Hough. Janáček packs a punch with his tale of the fiddler, his sick child – and authoritarian oppression. Shostakovich knew a thing or two about that. His Symphony No.6 builds from slow start to wild conclusion – one of his most diabolical finales.

**Sir Mark Elder**, Conductor  
**Sir Stephen Hough**, Piano

<b>Brahms</b> , Piano Concerto No.1	47mins
<b>Janáček</b> , The Fiddler's Child	10mins
<b>Shostakovich</b> , Symphony No.6	30mins

**Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62**



SIR MARK ELDER © GROVE ARTISTS

Sunday 20 October 2024, 7pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# SOWETO KINCH: WHITE JUJU

SOWETO KINCH © IZAL KORSÁK



**Electronic hip-hop, jazz, rap – an invitation for the whole world to dance.**

Inspired by a year of turbulent racial politics, culture wars and the pandemic, Soweto Kinch produced *White Juju* for jazz quartet and symphony orchestra. Taking the saxophone solo spot himself, and rapping, he brings us a brilliant, bold and important work which – though serious – he intends to be healing. 'It's a tonic.' He writes. 'It's danceable.'

**Lee Reynolds**, Conductor  
**Soweto Kinch**, Saxophones & Vocals  
**Rick Simpson**, Piano  
**Nick Jurd**, Double Bass  
**Louis Hamilton-Foad**, Drums

Soweto Kinch, *White Juju* 75mins

Tickets: £26, £38

Thursday 24 October 2024, 2:15pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## PROKOFIEV & SIBELIUS



JONATHON HEYWARD © LAURA THIESBRUMMEL

**The international language of music, from Los Angeles to St Petersburg to Helsinki.**

In the mid-twentieth century Sibelius was massive: a big influence on composers and audiences loved him. Still's *Threnody* is a stunning tribute after Sibelius' death. Prokofiev's *Piano Concerto No.2* crackles with energy - an athletic workout for the brilliant Yeol Eum Son. Sibelius's exuberant *Symphony No.5* was inspired by the sight of flying swans: 'One of my greatest experiences!' he wrote. 'Lord God, what beauty!'

**Jonathon Heyward**, Conductor  
**Yeol Eum Son**, Piano

<b>William Grant Still</b> , <i>Threnody</i> (In Memory of Jean Sibelius)	6mins
<b>Prokofiev</b> , <i>Piano Concerto No.2</i>	31mins
<b>Sibelius</b> , <i>Symphony No.5</i>	30mins

Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62

### LEGACY DONORS' RECEPTION

Pre-concert and during the interval.

Friday 25 October 2024, 7:30pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## BEATLE MANIA!



© WEST END INTERNATIONAL

**Re-live, re-visit or discover the most innovative pop group ever.**

Join Eleanor Rigby, *Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds*, *Sgt. Pepper* and *the Fool on the Hill* as they buy a *Ticket to Ride* in the *Yellow Submarine* on its *Magical Mystery Tour* along the *Long and Winding Road* from *Penny Lane* to *Strawberry Fields*. Help! They must get back to see the *Paperback Writer* before they can say *Here Comes the Sun* and *When I'm Sixty Four*.

In association with West End International.

**Stuart Morley**, Conductor  
**Lucy May Barker**, **Luke Brady**, **Alice Fearn**,  
**Rob Houchen**, Singers  
**Sarah Butt**, BSL

### Programme to include:

*Eleanor Rigby*, *Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds*, *Sgt. Pepper*, *Ticket to Ride*, *Yellow Submarine*, *Magical Mystery Tour*, *Long and Winding Road*, *Penny Lane*, *Strawberry Fields*, *Ob-La-Di-Ob-La-Da*. Help!, and *Here Comes the Sun*.

Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62



Wednesday 30 October 2024, 2:15pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# KAZUKI & MILOŠ

RECOMMENDED BY  
CLASSIC FM



MILOŠ KARADAGLIĆ @ KORNING

## Pack your bags and join us on a trip to Spain!

A celebration of the music and heritage of Spain – Falla's sparkling suite, and Rodrigo's gorgeous concerto, giving a starring role to the guitar (and the brilliant Miloš Karadaglić). Chabrier's España was the result of a Spanish road-trip, while Rimsky-Korsakov seemingly never set foot in Spain – yet his Capriccio is brimming with its folk songs. And Ravel's mesmeric Boléro, nearly 100 years old, has still got it.

**Kazuki Yamada**, Conductor  
**Miloš Karadaglić**, Guitar

<b>Chabrier</b> , España	6mins
<b>Rodrigo</b> , Concierto de Aranjuez	21mins
<b>Rimsky-Korsakov</b> , Capriccio Espagnol	15mins
<b>Falla</b> , The Three-Cornered Hat: Suite No.1	10mins
<b>Falla</b> , The Three-Cornered Hat: Suite No.2	12mins
<b>Ravel</b> , Boléro	15mins

Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62

### MEMBERS' EVENT

Pre-concert and interval reception.

Thursday 31 October 2024, doors from 6pm  
Hockley Social Club

# SYMPHONIC SESSIONS: HALLOWEEN WITH THE CBSO



CBSO STRING QUARTET @ HANNAH FATHERS

## A spooky symphonic spectacular with the CBSO at Hockley Social Club.

Symphonic Sessions are back, and this time it's Halloween and Kazuki will be leading the orchestra - expect a spectacularly scary soundtrack to your night out. And the evening wouldn't be complete without Hockley's fantastic DJs, street food vendors and signature cocktails. We'll see you there!

Keep an eye on our website for more Symphonic Sessions events.

**Kazuki Yamada**, Conductor

Tickets: £10

Tickets on sale from September 2024.

This concert is not part of the CBSO multi-buy discount.

Sunday 3 November 2024, 3pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# CBSO YOUTH ORCHESTRA: MENDELSSOHN 5



CBSO YOUTH ORCHESTRAL MUSICIAN  
@ HANNAH FATHERS

## The best young musicians in the Midlands join Kazuki for an inspiring programme.

Members of the CBSO Youth Orchestra get the chance to experience the joy of our wonderful Music Director, Kazuki Yamada, in a glorious afternoon of music. Bruch's Scottish Fantasy, inspired by beautiful Scottish folk melodies, is performed today by YCAT Artist and one of Classic FM's Rising Stars of 2024, Hana Chang. The concert opens with the lush melodies of Fanny Mendelssohn's Overture in C Major, and closes with her brother's dramatic Reformation Symphony.

**Kazuki Yamada**, Conductor  
**Hana Chang**, Violin

<b>Fanny Mendelssohn</b> , Overture in C	10mins
<b>Bruch</b> , Scottish Fantasy	30mins
<b>Mendelssohn</b> , Symphony No.5 (Reformation)	28mins

Tickets: £26

Thursday 7 November 2024, 2:15pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# GRIEG & BEETHOVEN



KEREM HASAN @ TRISTAN FEMINGS

## The beauty of melody, and the powerful force of unity.

Coleman's Umoja evolved from a simple, beautiful song for women's voices to an arrangement for chamber ensemble, to becoming gloriously 'unified' in this orchestral version. Steven Osborne works his magic with Grieg's famous concerto, while Beethoven charms in his breezy, elegant Fourth Symphony.

**Kerem Hasan**, Conductor  
**Steven Osborne**, Piano

<b>Valerie Coleman</b> , Umoja: Anthem for Unity	11mins
<b>Grieg</b> , Piano Concerto	30mins
<b>Beethoven</b> , Symphony No.4	34mins

Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62

Sunday 10 November 2024, 3pm  
Town Hall, Birmingham

# GOLDBERG VARIATIONS

An afternoon with Bach and the CBSO Strings...

Sit back and enjoy one of Bach's most famous works for keyboard, wonderfully arranged for string orchestra by Leopold Sitkovetsky, and led by CBSO's Eugene Tzinkidelean. An afternoon listening to the inventive, joyful, and dance-like Goldberg Variations is time well spent indeed.

Eugene Tzinkidelean, Play/Direct (Violin)

Bach (Arr. Sitkovetsky),  
Goldberg Variations 70mins

Tickets: £26, £38

EUGENE TZINKIDELEAN © BEN SMITH

Tuesday 12 November 2024, 2:15pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# TCHAIKOVSKY 6



ANNA RAKITINA © JULIA PIVEN

Elegance, passion, and stunning musical landscapes.

Smetana's *Má vlast* makes you feel like you're strolling through the Czech countryside, taking in its beautiful castles, woods and fields. With the CBSO led by Anna Rakitina, Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No.6* aches with passion and sorrow, while the *Rococo Variations* are a delightful showcase for cellist Jaemin Han.

Anna Rakitina, Conductor  
Jaemin Han, Cello

Smetana, <i>Má vlast: Vltava</i>	12mins
Tchaikovsky, <i>Rococo Variations</i>	19mins
Tchaikovsky, <i>Symphony No.6 (Pathétique)</i>	46mins

Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62

Wednesday 20 November 2024, 7:30pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# THE MUSIC MAKERS



DAME SARAH CONNOLLY © ANDREW CROWLEY

A celebration of making music.

Led by Sofi Jeannin, the CBSO, CBSO choruses and Dame Sarah Connolly perform a superb programme of music - that's all about the people who make it. Weir's *Music, Untangled* draws on Scottish folk-song, while Muhly's *Friday Afternoons*, following Britten's example, is inventively written for children. Britten's famous *Young Person's Guide* tours the orchestra; while Elgar quotes his famous 'Nimrod' in *Music Makers*.

Sofi Jeannin, Conductor  
Dame Sarah Connolly, Mezzo Soprano  
CBSO Chorus, CBSO Youth Chorus  
CBSO Children's Chorus

Judith Weir, <i>Music, Untangled</i>	7mins
Nico Muhly, <i>Friday Afternoons (UK Premiere)</i>	18mins
Britten, <i>The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra</i>	16mins
Elgar, <i>The Music Makers</i>	38mins

Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62

## MEMBERS' EVENT

Pre-concert and interval reception.

Sunday 24 November 2024, 3pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## FAMILY CONCERT: MUSIC FROM THE MOVIES

RECOMMENDED BY  
CLASSIC *f*M



© HANNAH FATHERS

### Movie magic for the whole family!

Be transported to a galaxy far away, a land of ice and snow, a chocolate factory, Hogwarts, Casita – and a friendly corner of London with a talking bear. Some of cinema's most imaginative tales are inextricably linked to their beautiful soundtracks, with music by John Williams, Lin-Manuel Miranda and more. Plus, join us for an hour of free craft activities before the concert!



All family concerts are British Sign Language interpreted.

### Suitable for children aged 6+.

**Michael Seal**, Conductor  
**Catherine Arlidge**, Presenter  
**Sarah Butt**, BSL Interpreter

Programme to include music from Encanto, Paddington, Willy Wonka, Star Wars, Harry Potter, Frozen and more.

**Tickets: £12**

This concert is not part of the CBSO multi-buy discount.

Wednesday 27 November 2024, 7:30pm  
Town Hall, Birmingham

## SECKOU KEITA: AFRICAN RHAPSODIES



© SUNTO SUSSO @ METRONOME

### The kora and the orchestra combine for these evocative Rhapsodies.

This is a truly sublime set: as the second movement puts it, they are 'Simply Beautiful'. The kora, a multi-stringed African instrument, is given the spotlight, played here by Seckou Keita. Evocative, poetic, joyful – not to be missed.

**Clark Rundell**, Conductor  
**Seckou Keita**, Singer / Kora  
**Sunto Susso**, Guest Artist

- I. The Future Strings Variation
- II. Simply Beautiful Miro
- III. Tatono's Path
- IV. Ode to Kanou
- V. Tamala's Caravan Trail
- VI. The Shadow Left by the Invisible Man
- VII. L'Epopée Mande-Arab
- VIII. Bamba, the Light of Touba

**Tickets: £26, £38**

Wednesday 4 December 2024, 7:30pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# KAZUKI CONDUCTS WALTON & ELGAR

### Two giants of British music on sparkling form.

Any suggestion that British music has a 'stiff upper lip' would be rebuffed by these glowing, expressive works. The passionate Elgar Concerto was given the mysterious inscription "Herein is enshrined the soul of ...". The CBSO's leader Eugene Tzkindelean inhabits the enigmatic 'soul' of the piece in the soloist role. Walton's *Orb & Sceptre* is suitably ceremonial, while his *Symphony No.2* has been described as an "emotional blockbuster".

**Kazuki Yamada**, Conductor  
**Eugene Tzkindelean**, Violin

<b>Elgar</b> , Violin Concerto	48mins
<b>Walton</b> , <i>Orb &amp; Sceptre</i> : March	9mins
<b>Walton</b> , <i>Symphony No.2</i>	28mins

**Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62**

**RUSH HOUR CONCERT, TUE 3 DEC 2024, 6PM**

Elgar, Violin Concerto

See page 56

KAZUKI YAMADA @ BEKI SMITH

Friday 6 December 2024, 7pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## CITY OF BIRMINGHAM CHOIR: HANDEL'S MESSIAH



© THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM CHOIR

**A constant in the City of Birmingham Choir's hundred-year history.**

Join the City of Birmingham Choir for Handel's glorious Messiah, performed in the acoustically perfect surroundings of Birmingham's Symphony Hall with the CBSO. This is a fabulous opportunity to enjoy well known choruses and arias and of course, as is the tradition, stand up and join in with the world's most well-known chorus 'Hallelujah!'.

Presented by the City of Birmingham Choir.

**Adrian Lucas, Conductor  
City of Birmingham Choir**

**Handel, Messiah** 140mins

**Please check City of Birmingham Choir website for further details.**

This concert is not part of the CBSO multi-buy discount.

Friday 6 December 2024, 11am & 1:30pm,  
Saturday 7 December 2024, 11am, 1:30pm & 3:30pm  
CBSO Centre, Birmingham

## NOTELETS: CHRISTMAS PARTY




© HANNAH FATHERS

**Music-making doesn't have an age limit!**

It's a magical time of year, and you're invited to our fun-filled Christmas party with extra sparkle! Join CBSO musicians and members of the CBSO Chorus and CBSO SO Vocal for an interactive concert which gives children the freedom to dance, sing and learn about musical instruments for the first time.

Plus, there are free craft activities before each performance and a chance to meet the musicians and have a go at some of the instruments after the concert has finished.

Recommended for toddlers and young children.

 All Notelets performances are British Sign Language interpreted.

**Julian Wilkins, Conductor  
Lucy Hollins, Presenter  
CBSO Chorus  
CBSO SO Vocal**

**Tickets: £10**

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

This concert is not part of the CBSO multi-buy discount.

Thursday 12 December 2024, 7pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## KAZUKI CONDUCTS BRUCKNER 9

**Musical mastery from Austria – sparkling and majestic.**

Martin Helmchen is perfect for the dazzling Concerto No.26, one of Mozart's most strenuous workouts for a solo pianist. Kazuki leads the orchestra in Bruckner's stirring Symphony No.9 in the year that marks his 200th birthday. It remained unfinished at his death, but its three mighty movements are a powerful final statement from this uniquely brilliant composer.

**Kazuki Yamada, Conductor  
Martin Helmchen, Piano**

<b>Mozart, Piano Concerto No.26</b>	29mins
<b>Bruckner, Symphony No.9</b>	59mins

**Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62**



KAZUKI YAMADA © BEKI SMITH

# CBSO EXPLORES

This season, we're continuing to explore new and exciting ways to present orchestral music through our 'CBSO Explores' series. Across the season, you'll find moments where we try something different – be that through staging, movement and lighting, through narrative or context, or simply through the music we choose to play.

We've highlighted these performances throughout the brochure, so you can read a little bit more about what to expect!

**26 – 31 August 2024:**  
**CBSO in the City**

In August, your orchestra will be out and about in the city (and beyond) – aiming to reach as many people as we can with incredible music. See more on p.8.

**Sunday 15 December 2024:**  
**CBSO Explores the CBSO Centre**  
A workshop with Kazuki and the full CBSO which invites the audience to be immersed in the orchestra, as we explore the potential of our own building as a place of extraordinary performance. See more on p.25.

**Saturday 11 January 2025, 7pm:**  
**CBSO Explores: FRIENDS IN LOVE AND WAR**  
Our next step in bringing visual elements into the concert hall is a collaboration with Birmingham's Ikon Gallery and their exhibition which explores the relationship through France and England. See more on p.28.

**Saturday 15 February 2025, 7pm:**  
**CBSO Explores the New World Symphony**  
A deep dive into the origins of the music we play in the context of the world that we live in. This collaboration with Black Voices invites the audience to take a closer look at the music and poetry that inspired Dvořák's 9th Symphony. See more on p.33.

**Saturday 12 April 2025:**  
**CBSO Explores: LEGACY with Punch Records**  
We're working with the team at Punch Records to showcase the best music making that Birmingham has to offer. Connecting grime, hip-hop, rap and orchestral musicians to create incredible new work. See more on p.44.

**Sunday 8 June 2025, 3pm:**  
**Family Concert: CBSO Explores Carnival of the Animals**  
An invitation for families to come and see inside the orchestra in a fun family concert produced by MishMash – who bring elements of freedom and movement to live performances for young audiences. See more on p.50.

# CBSO EXPLORES THE CBSO CENTRE

Let our incredible musicians surround you with sound.

Join Kazuki Yamada and our musicians for a workshop in the CBSO Centre which invites the audience to be at the heart of the orchestra. Allow yourself to be completely immersed in sound as you sit surrounded by a full symphony orchestra, there really is nothing like it.

Full details and booking information will be announced at a later date, please keep an eye on our website.

**Kazuki Yamada, Conductor**  
**Tom Morris, Director**

**Tickets: £10**

This concert is not part of the CBSO multi-buy discount.



Thursday 19 & Friday 20 December 2024, 7:30pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# CHORAL CHRISTMAS WITH JESS GILLAM



JESS GILLAM © HANNAH FATHERS

'Tis the season for sleigh rides, silent nights and saxophones...

What could be more festive than a stage packed with musicians and choirs at Christmas? How about adding some sparkling saxophone from the brilliant Jess Gillam? Sit back and enjoy glorious music with the CBSO Chorus, Youth Chorus, Children's Chorus and CBSO SO Vocal, alongside conductor Simon Halsey and the full CBSO. You're sure to leave feeling full of festive cheer!

**Simon Halsey**, Conductor  
**Jess Gillam**, Presenter & Saxophone  
**CBSO Chorus**  
**CBSO SO Vocal \***  
**CBSO Youth Chorus**  
**CBSO Children's Chorus †**

\* Thursday Concert Only  
† Friday Concert Only

Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62

Saturday 21 December 2024, 7pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# CBSO CHRISTMAS PARTY



LOUISE DEARMAN © HANNAH FATHERS

Everyone's festive favourites... all in one concert!

Whether you're team Die Hard or team Love Actually - or even team Tchaikovsky - this concert is bringing the very best of Christmas music to Symphony Hall. Expect sleigh bells, songs, a full symphony orchestra and plenty of Christmas spirit in a night that will definitely kick your festive celebrations off in the best way!

**Tim Redmond**, Conductor  
**Tom Redmond**, Presenter  
**Louise Dearman**, Soprano

**Programme to include:**  
Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker, Silvestri's Suite from Polar Express, Slade's Merry Christmas, Mariah Carey's All I Want For Christmas Is You and a huge selection of festive favourites from stage and screen!

Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62

Sunday 5 January 2025, 3pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# VIENNESE NEW YEAR



FRANCESCA CHIEJINA © CHARLES CHIEJINA

The glitz and glamour of Vienna in Birmingham's Symphony Hall.

The perfect pick-me-up for a Sunday afternoon in early January, offering the sparkle of Vienna right here in Birmingham. There's something incredibly romantic and truly joyful about elegant waltzes, playful polkas and light-hearted operetta. So, let the CBSO whirl you into a new year feeling romanced, revitalised and ready for 2025!

**Stephen Bell**, Conductor  
**Francesca Chiejina**, Soprano

**Programme to include:**  
Strauss, Gypsy Baron March  
Strauss, Ich liebe dich Op.37, No.2  
Lehár, Land of Smiles Overture  
Strauss, Elyen A Magyar Polka  
Strauss, Beim Schlafengehen  
Korngold, Straussiana  
Lehár, Gold and Silver  
Waltzes, Binge Fair Frou Frou  
Lehár, Meine Lippen, Sie küssen so heiß  
Strauss, Romance No.1 in D minor and more!

Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62

Saturday 11 January 2025, 7pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## CBSO EXPLORES: FRIENDS IN LOVE AND WAR



HÉLOÏSE WERNER © APHRA HISCOCK

Contemporary French and British art and music combine.

In collaboration with Ikon Gallery, we're further exploring visual elements within the concert hall. FRIENDS IN LOVE AND WAR is an exhibition which looks at the theme of friendship through France and Britain. This concert responds to the theme through a programme of exploratory French and British pieces, including a world premiere by French-born, London-based composer and soprano Héloïse Werner.

Ilan Volkov, Conductor  
Héloïse Werner, Soprano

Programme to include:

**Héloïse Werner**, 'siren suite' for soprano and orchestra (CBSO commission: World Premiere) 15mins  
Alongside music by **Satie, Debussy** and more.

Tickets: £20

FRIENDS IN LOVE AND WAR is on at Ikon Gallery from 2 October 2024 – 23 February 2025.

This concert is supported by John Feeney Charitable Trust



Wednesday 15 January 2025, 7:30pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## ROMEO & JULIET



KIRILL KARABITS © KONRAD CWIK

A celebration of Ukraine, and the most famous romance in literature.

This programme showcases a fabulously rich heritage of Ukrainian musicians: from conductor Kirill Karabits, to Lyatoshinsky, who studied with Glière, who studied with Prokofiev! Experience this astonishing wealth of talent with an unusual concerto for voice (the amazing Jennifer France scales its dramatic heights) and two colourful treatments of Romeo and Juliet.

Kirill Karabits, Conductor  
Jennifer France, Soprano

<b>Lyatoshinsky</b> , Romeo and Juliet	28mins
<b>Glière</b> , Concerto for Coloratura Soprano and Orchestra	14mins
<b>Prokofiev</b> , Selections from Romeo and Juliet	45mins

Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62

Sunday 19 January 2025, 7pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# MUSIC AT THE MOVIES

A night of drama, romance, tragedy – and sometimes all three.

Epic tales need epic soundtracks. From world-saving Avengers and the legends of Middle Earth to tragedy on a personal and global scale, composers James Horner, Howard Shore, John Williams, Hans Zimmer and many others get right to the centre of the emotional drama.

Ben Parry, Conductor

Programme to include music from:

Harry Potter, Jane Eyre, The Avengers, Pirates of the Caribbean, Chariots of Fire, James Bond, Titanic, Lord of the Rings, Schindler's List, and more.

Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62



THE CBSO © HANNAH FATHERS

Thursday 23 January 2025, 2:15pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# MENDELSSOHN & BRAHMS

RECOMMENDED BY  
CLASSIC FM



BENJAMIN GROSVENOR © JENNY BESTWICK

### Charm, wit - and a well-earned triumph!

"I wrote it in but a few days and almost carelessly", said Mendelssohn (perhaps too modestly!) about his first Piano Concerto. Benjamin Grosvenor sparkles in the solo role. Mozart's 'Prague' Symphony is effortless elegance itself, while hinting at a dark side. Brahms, on the other hand, laboured over his first symphony for nearly 20 years. It was well worth his trouble – personal, powerful and with a glorious (possibly relieved) finale.

Robert Trevino, Conductor  
Benjamin Grosvenor, Piano

Mozart, Symphony No.38 (Prague)	26mins
Mendelssohn, Piano Concerto No.1	21mins
Brahms, Symphony No.1	45mins

Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62

**MEMBERS' EVENT**

Pre-concert and interval reception.

Sunday 26 January 2025, 3pm  
Town Hall, Birmingham

# CBSO WINDS PLAYS MOZART



NICHOLAS DANIEL © ERIC RICHMOND

### Two pearls of beauty for wind ensemble.

Anna Clyne was inspired by Emily Dickinson's enigmatic poetry for Overflow in which the poet flirts with the mighty power of the sea. The wind 'dectet' portrays both the seabed, and the playful, sometimes sinister, creatures and forces within. Mozart's Gran Partita is simply sublime – in the 1984 film Amadeus, Salieri is overcome with wonder on hearing it: "This was a music I'd never heard. Filled with such longing..."

Nicholas Daniel, Play/Direct (Oboe)  
CBSO Wind Ensemble

Anna Clyne, Overflow	10mins
Mozart, Gran Partita for 13 Winds	43mins

Tickets: £26, £38

Friday 31 January 2025, 7:30pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# MUSICAL MAGIC



© HANNAH FATHERS

### The wonderful world of musicals!

Settle in for some of the most well-loved songs from the world of musicals – from classic Disney and Roald Dahl's Matilda to a flying car and a flying house – and magical kingdoms of all kinds. With amazing singers from the West End stage, alongside conductor Michael England and the full CBSO, it's sure to be a magical evening.

In association with West End International.

Michael England, Conductor  
Jodie Steele, Rob Houchen, Stephanie McKeon & Trevor Dion Nicholas, Singers  
Sarah Butt, BSL Interpreter

**Programme to include music from:**

Aladdin, Beauty & the Beast, Mary Poppins, The Lion King, Frozen, The Little Mermaid, The Wizard of Oz, Wicked, Into the Woods, Cinderella, Matilda, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, and Charlie & the Chocolate Factory and more.

Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62

Sunday 2 February 2025, 10:30am-4:15pm  
CBSO Centre, Birmingham

# COME AND SING: HAYDN'S CREATION



SIMON HALSEY © HANNAH FATHERS

### Spend a day singing Haydn's glorious music!

If you love to sing, then join us at the CBSO Centre and learn to sing Haydn's glorious Creation in a day! The workshop will include a masterclass with renowned conductor Simon Halsey on a piano arrangement of the work, the opportunity to sing with others, and an informal performance at the centre at the end of the day.

Simon Halsey, Conductor

Haydn, The Creation	109mins
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**Tickets: £20**

This concert is not part of the CBSO multi-buy discount.



Wednesday 5 February 2025, 7:30pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# KAZUKI CONDUCTS SHOSTAKOVICH & BARTÓK



ISABELLE FAUST © FELIX BROEDE

**Hungarian dances, Russian violins - and a showcase for the whole orchestra!**

Bartók's lively Dance Suite was written in 1923 to remember the joining of Buda and Pest 50 years earlier. With the CBSO and Kazuki Yamada it glows and dances with Hungarian folk-like rhythms and melodies. Shostakovich's Violin Concerto No.2 – a blend of fire and ice – is perfect for the supreme artistry of Isabelle Faust. In the second half, Akio Yashiro celebrates the entire Orchestra in his symphony.

**Kazuki Yamada**, Conductor  
**Isabelle Faust**, Violin

<b>Bartók</b> , Dance Suite	17mins
<b>Shostakovich</b> , Violin Concerto No.2	33mins
<b>Yashiro</b> , Symphony for Large Orchestra (UK Premiere)	32mins

**Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62**

Saturday 8 February 2025, 2:15pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# CBSO BENEVOLENT FUND: KAZUKI CONDUCTS TCHAIKOVSKY



JAMES EHNES © BEN EALOVEGA

**Tchaikovsky triumphs over fate - while Shostakovich races against the clock!**

Tchaikovsky's stunning Violin Concerto famously flopped at its premiere – one critic saying that "The violin is no longer played; it is tugged about, torn, beaten black and blue". Today it's a firm favourite with violinists, and James Ehnes rises spectacularly to its challenges. Tchaikovsky triumphs over fate in his dramatic Symphony No.4, while Shostakovich has a blast in his Festive Overture (composed in just 3 days!).

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.

**Kazuki Yamada**, Conductor  
**James Ehnes**, Violin

<b>Shostakovich</b> , Festive Overture	7mins
<b>Tchaikovsky</b> , Violin Concerto	33mins
<b>Tchaikovsky</b> , Symphony No.4	44mins

**Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62**

RECOMMENDED BY  
CLASSIC fm

Friday 14 February 2025, 7pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# KAZUKI CONDUCTS DVOŘÁK 9



**New musical worlds.**

A rare chance to hear Brazilian composer Villa-Lobos' brilliant take on Bach in one of his Bachianas Brasileiras. With one of the best opening tunes ever-written, Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto is brilliantly played by Suyoen Kim. And speaking of great tunes - Kazuki Yamada leads the CBSO in Dvořák's famous 'New World' Symphony, which is simply bursting with them.

**Kazuki Yamada**, Conductor  
**Suyoen Kim**, Violin

<b>Villa Lobos</b> , Bachianas Brasileiras No.9	10mins
<b>Mendelssohn</b> , Violin Concerto	26mins
<b>Dvořák</b> , Symphony No.9 (New World)	40mins

**Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62**

Saturday 15 February 2025, 7pm  
Town Hall, Birmingham

# CBSO EXPLORES: THE NEW WORLD SYMPHONY



© BLACK VOICES

**Join us for a deep dive into the origins of this iconic piece.**

Performed in collaboration with Black Voices, tonight we look to explore the origins of music we know and love. We'll be taking a deep dive into the history and context of Dvořák's 9th Symphony, hoping to offer insight and further understanding into the music and poetry that inspired its creation.

**Kazuki Yamada**, Conductor  
**Black Voices**

<b>Dvořák</b> , Symphony No.9 (New World)	40mins
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**Tickets: £20**

Thursday 20 February 2025, 2:15pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## STRAVINSKY'S FIREBIRD



RANDALL GOOSBY © HANNAH FATHERS

**A trailblazing concerto, and a fiery ballet.**

Both of Price's Violin Concertos were found in a box as recently as 2009, and are finally getting the love they deserve. Randall Goosby is the perfect champion of the beautiful Concerto No.2. Stravinsky's brilliant Firebird weaves an incredible tale of wizards, princesses and a magical bird. And just sit back and adore Price's Adoration.

**Alexander Shelley**, Conductor  
**Randall Goosby**, Violin

<b>Gershwin</b> , An American in Paris	16mins
<b>Price</b> , Violin Concerto No.2	14mins
<b>Price</b> , Adoration	4mins
<b>Ravel</b> , Le Tombeau de Couperin	17mins
<b>Stravinsky</b> , The Firebird (1919)	23mins

**Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62**

**MEMBERS' EVENT**

Pre-concert and interval reception.

Friday 21 February 2025, 7:30pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## THE BEST OF JOHN WILLIAMS

RECOMMENDED BY  
CLASSIC *f*M



© STEPHEN BELL

**A celebration of the best of the best!**

Conductor Leonard Slatkin once said that John Williams was the most "influential composer of the twentieth century": given that Williams has composed some of the most recognisable themes in cinema history Slatkin probably has a point. These include – just for starters – Jaws, Superman, Harry Potter, E.T., Jurassic Park... need we say more?

**Stephen Bell**, Conductor

**Programme to include music from:**  
Jaws, Superman, Harry Potter, E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial, Jurassic Park and more.

**Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62**

Wednesday 26 February 2025, 7:30pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## KAZUKI CONDUCTS HAYDN'S CREATION

**"Let there be light": The Creation of the whole world in Haydn's glorious oratorio.**

A regular visitor to London, Haydn was inspired to write a mighty oratorio after hearing performances of Handel's choral works. He tackled the biggest subject in the Bible: the creation of everything. The music is suitably immense, for a big orchestra, chorus and soloists. Three fantastic singers take up the solo roles while Kazuki leads the CBSO and CBSO Chorus to bring out every detail of this epic work.

**Kazuki Yamada**, Conductor  
**Carolyn Sampson**, Soprano  
**James Way**, Tenor  
**Ashley Riches**, Bass  
**CBSO Chorus**

**Haydn**, The Creation 109mins

**Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62**

KAZUKI YAMADA © HANNAH FATHERS

Sunday 2 March 2025, 3pm  
Town Hall, Birmingham

# KAZUKI CONDUCTS CBSO BRASS & PERCUSSION



CBSO BRASS © HANNAH FATHERS

**Dance the tango around an exhibition – all in one fantastic concert!**

Gade's Tzigane is probably the most famous tango in the world; while the fabulous music from Piazzolla's tango-opera Maria de Buenos Aires deserves to be better-known. Eliasson's Kimmo is a wild ride for trumpet and percussion, before CBSO brass and percussion combine for Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition.

**Kazuki Yamada**, Conductor  
**CBSO Brass and Percussion**

<b>Jacob Gade</b> , Tango Tzigane	4mins
<b>Piazzolla</b> , Maria de Buenos Aires	11mins
<b>Eliasson</b> , Kimmo for Trumpet and 6 Percussion	17mins
<b>Mussorgsky (arr. Howarth)</b> , Pictures at an Exhibition	35mins

**Tickets: £26, £38**

Thursday 6 March 2025, 7:30pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# BEETHOVEN & MAHLER

RECOMMENDED BY  
CLASSIC *f*M



ALPEAH CHAUHAN © ANDREW FOX

**Experience the wonders of the natural world.**

Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony is one of the sunniest works ever written for orchestra, with its songs and merry gatherings. Mahler's Song of the Earth is earthy indeed, with its boisterous drinking songs. But it ends with an acceptance of man's short life – and earth's endless renewal. Karen Cargill and Brendan Gunnell take on the powerful vocal solos, and we welcome back the brilliant Alpeah Chauhan to lead the orchestra.

**Alpeah Chauhan**, Conductor  
**Karen Cargill**, Mezzo Soprano  
**Brendan Gunnell**, Tenor

<b>Beethoven</b> , Symphony No.6 (Pastoral)	40mins
<b>Mahler</b> , Das Lied von der Erde	59mins

**Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62**

**LEGACY DONORS' RECEPTION**  
Pre-concert and during the interval.

Saturday 8 March 2025, 7:30pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# IT'S A LIVING THING: THE MUSIC OF ELO



RICHARD BALCOMBE © HANNAH FATHERS

**ELO classic hits, like you've never heard them before!**

Come and celebrate Brummie legends ELO and their catalogue of classic chart hits – not re-imagined, but like you've never heard them before! Think pop music fused with classical overtones as Richard Balcombe conducts full symphony orchestra, the CBSO Chorus and two amazing singers performing favourites including Last Train to London, Xanadu and Mr Blue Sky.

In association with GRB Concerts.

**Richard Balcombe**, Conductor  
**Graham Bickley & Patrick Smyth**, Singers  
**CBSO Chorus**

**Programme to include:**

Evil Woman, Last Train to London, Showdown, Telephone Line, Living Thing, Shine a Little Love, Eldorado Suite, Xanadu, Mr Blue Sky and more.

**Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62**

Wednesday 12 March 2025, 2:15pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# DVOŘÁK & RACHMANINOFF



JOSHUA WEILERSTEIN & THE CBSO © BENI SMITH

**Memories of home, fabulous melodies and a journey from dark to light.**

The earth is reborn from darkness in Grant Still's stirring Poem. Rachmaninoff remembers his homeland in his energetic last work, The Symphonic Dances, while Dvořák's Cello Concerto is full of beautiful, nostalgic 'songs'. Brother and sister Joshua and Alisa Weilerstein are conductor and soloist for this afternoon's programme.

**Joshua Weilerstein**, Conductor  
**Alisa Weilerstein**, Cello

<b>William Grant Still</b> , Poem for Orchestra	14mins
<b>Dvořák</b> , Cello Concerto	39mins
<b>Rachmaninoff</b> , Symphonic Dances	35mins

**Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62**

**MEMBERS' EVENT**  
Post-concert afternoon tea with Alisa Weilerstein.

Sunday 16 March 2025, 3pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## FAMILY CONCERT: WHERE ARE ALL THE BLACK FEMALE COMPOSERS?



MILLICENT B JAMES © AHPRA HISCOCK

Discover some of the best composers from around the world!

Join presenter Nate Holder and the CBSO on a journey to find incredible composers, inspired by Nate's book. Including music by Jessie Montgomery, Hannah Kendall, Edewede Oriwoh, and Birmingham's own Millicent B James. Plus, join us for an hour of free craft activities before the concert!

Suitable for children aged 6+.

**Ben Gernon**, Conductor  
**Nate Holder**, Presenter  
CBSO Youth Chorus, CBSO Children's Chorus

**Programme to include:**  
Jessie Montgomery's Starburst, Errollyn Wallen's Photography 1, Tania León's Stride, Millicent B James' Come Show Them the River.

Tickets: £12

This concert is not part of the CBSO multi-buy discount.

This concert is supported by the ABO Sirens Fund



Sunday 16 March 2025, 4:30pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## PROJECT REMIX



CBSO PROJECT REMIX © JENNY BESTWICK

Following the family concert, stick around for a free post-concert performance from Project Remix!

Each year, our free non-auditioned programme for young musicians aged 11-18 celebrates a different theme through exciting orchestral arrangements. In the past, we've performed music from MOBO award-winning CBSO Youth Orchestra alum Laura Mvula, as well as celebrating Birmingham's rich cultural heritage with a collection of South Asian hits alongside Bollywood singer Navin Kundra, and sitarist Tommy Khosla. We've even explored the music of video games like Final Fantasy, Legend of Zelda and Super Mario Bros!

This event is free, no tickets required.



All family concerts are British Sign Language interpreted.

Thursday 20 March 2025, 7:30pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## AN EVENING OF THELONIOUS MONK & MILES DAVIS



Jazz: reimagined, with the Xhosa Cole Quartet and Guy Barker.

Experience the brilliance of Thelonius Monk and Miles Davis, given a new twist by local saxophonist Xhosa Cole and his quartet, alongside jazz legend Guy Barker with the full CBSO.

**Guy Barker**, Conductor  
**Xhosa Cole**, Saxophone  
**Pat Thomas**, Piano  
**Josh Vadiveloo**, Double Bass  
**Jim Bashford**, Drums  
**Rachael Cohen**, Saxophone  
**Byron Wallen**, Trumpet

Thelonius Monk: Reimagined, set by the Xhosa Cole Quartet	25mins
Miles Davis (arr. Guy Barker), Kind of Blue	50mins

Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62

### MEMBERS' EVENT

Pre-concert and interval reception.

Friday 21 March 2025, 7:30pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# CLASSIC FM HALL OF FAME

The definitive countdown of Britain's favourites!

You love them, so we play them! The Classic FM Hall of Fame is the definitive countdown of Britain's favourite classical music. Nessun Dorma, Un bel di, Lord of the Rings and Sleeping Beauty... admit it, you're humming them already! Classic FM's John Suchet hosts, as conductor Ben Palmer and the full CBSO present a whole evening of great melodies.

**Ben Palmer**, Conductor  
**Ella Taylor**, Soprano  
**Charne Rochford**, Tenor  
**John Suchet**, Presenter

**Programme to include:**  
**Rachmaninoff's** Symphony No.2: Adagio,  
**Sibelius' Karelia Suite**, **Tchaikovsky's** Sleeping Beauty Waltz, **Beethoven's** Symphony No. 7: Il Allegretto, **Mascagni's** Cavalleria Rusticana: Intermezzo, **Puccini's** Nessun Dorma, and **Verdi's** Libiamo ne' lieti calici and music from Emma, Lord of the Rings, Carmen and A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62

BEN PALMER © ARTURS KONDRATS

Wednesday 26 March 2025, 2:15pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# ABBEY ROAD CONCERTO



GUY BRAUNSTEIN © BOAZ ARAD

**Come Together with the Beatles, Braunstein, Britten, and other great British works.**

Howard's glittering Argentum was written for the silver anniversary of Classic FM, while Anna Meredith was inspired by 'stomping along a beach in Scotland' for Nautilus. Violinist Guy Braunstein combines the Beatles' Abbey Road with the orchestra in the UK Premiere of his new concerto, under the baton of Eivind Gullberg Jensen. Plus, Vaughan Williams' inspiring The Lark Ascending, Elgar's short-but-sweet Elegy, and Britten's famous Sea Interludes.

**Eivind Gullberg Jensen**, Conductor  
**Guy Braunstein**, Violin

<b>Dani Howard</b> , Argentum	7mins
<b>Elgar</b> , Elegy	4mins
<b>Guy Braunstein / The Beatles</b> , Violin Concerto (Abbey Road) (UK premiere)	35mins
<b>Vaughan Williams</b> , Lark Ascending	14mins
<b>Anna Meredith</b> , Nautilus	5mins
<b>Britten</b> , Four Sea Interludes	16mins

Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62

Friday 28 March 2025, 11am & 1:30pm  
Saturday 29 March 2025, 11am, 1:30pm & 3:30pm  
CBSO Centre, Birmingham

# NOTELETS: WIND QUINTET



© HANNAH FATHERS

**It's play time!**

Join the CBSO Wind Quintet (made up of flute, oboe, clarinet, french horn, and bassoon) for this hour-long performance, perfectly designed to introduce your little ones to their new favourite music. Dancing, singing and getting involved is most definitely encouraged!

Plus, there are free craft activities before each performance and a chance to meet the musicians and have a go at some of the instruments after the concert has finished.

Recommended for toddlers and young children.



All Notelets performances are British Sign Language Interpreted.

**Tickets: £10**

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

This concert is not part of the CBSO multi-buy discount.

Book online at [cbsocook.co.uk](http://cbsocook.co.uk) or call the B:Music Box Office on 0121 780 3333

Thursday 3 April 2025, 7:30pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## SIBELIUS & DVOŘÁK

RECOMMENDED BY

CLASSIC *f*M



ALINA IBRAGIMOVA @ JOSS MCKINLEY

### Portraits of Finland – and gardening in Estonia!

Arvo Pärt's *Our Garden* is a cheerful wonderland of activity, brought to joyful life by the CBSO Youth Chorus. Nobody could evoke a Finladian winter like Sibelius – shiver with the brilliant Alina Ibragimova in his *Violin Concerto*, and be inspired by his patriotic *Finlandia*. Dvořák's cheerful *Symphony No.8* is a parade of one terrific tune after another, conducted by Dinis Sousa.

**Dinis Sousa**, Conductor  
**Alina Ibragimova**, Violin  
**CBSO Youth Chorus**

<b>Arvo Pärt</b> , <i>Our Garden</i> (Cantata for Children's Chorus and Orchestra)	12mins
<b>Sibelius</b> , <i>Violin Concerto</i>	35mins
<b>Sibelius</b> , <i>Finlandia</i>	8mins
<b>Dvořák</b> , <i>Symphony No.8</i>	34mins

Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62

Saturday 5 April 2025, 8pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## NORTHERN LIGHTS



### Epic landscapes and crossing musical boundaries in Iceland.

"I think pretty much every classical musician I've met [in Iceland] plays in a rock band of some kind too," writes Guy Damann. Musicians in Iceland certainly don't have much time for the boundaries between classical music and other genres - from soundtracks to pop to heavy metal. Come and hear how that works in this fantastic programme of modern Icelandic music, including works by musicians from Sigur Rós and composer of *The Joker* and *Tár* soundtracks Hildur Guðnadóttir.

**Robert Ames**, Conductor  
**Ex Cathedra**

**Programme to include:**  
**Jóhann Jóhannsson** (arr. Robert Ames), *Kanguru*  
**Hildur Guðnadóttir** (arr. Robert Ames), *Ascent*  
**Ólafur Arnalds** (arr. Geoff Lawson), *Momentary*  
**Jonsi & Alex Somers** (arr. David Handler), *Boy 1904*  
**Kjartan Sveinsson**, *Der Klang Der Offenbarung des Göttlichen*

Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62

Thursday 10 April 2025, 7:30pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# KAZUKI CONDUCTS MAHLER 9

Be inspired by two soulful, uplifting masterworks.

Takemitsu's *Requiem* and Mahler's *Symphony No.9* were triggered by loss and grief – Takemitsu for his mentor Fumio Hayasak, Mahler for his own daughter. But in the midst of death there is life: despite the solemn circumstances, these works have incredible spirit, even joy at times.

**Kazuki Yamada**, Conductor

<b>Takemitsu</b> , <i>Requiem</i>	8mins
<b>Mahler</b> , <i>Symphony No.9</i>	87mins

Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62

### CBSO REMEMBERS

This performance is the annual CBSO Remembers Concert. At this concert we remember and celebrate those we have lost throughout the last year, including dear friends, members and colleagues.

If you would like to include a loved one on the dedication list within the concert programme, please contact [marketing@cbsoco.uk](mailto:marketing@cbsoco.uk)



Saturday 12 April 2025

## CBSO EXPLORES: LEGACY WITH PUNCH RECORDS



LEGACY © PUNCH RECORDS

**Orchestral music meets grime, hip-hop and rap.**

Together with Punch Records, we're bringing together some of the best artists making music here in the Midlands. LEGACY explores the stories of Birmingham's grime, hip-hop, and rap scenes - the artists who have been responsible for, and have influenced the city's Black music scene, and emerging talent born here in Birmingham. Join us to see what happens when you mix grime and orchestral music and experience some incredible new work.

**Phil Meadows, Conductor**  
**Guest artists to be announced.**

Full details and booking information will be announced at a later date, please keep an eye on our website.

**Tickets: £10**

This concert is not part of the CBSO multi-buy discount.

Wednesday 16 April 2025, 7:30pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## KAZUKI CONDUCTS RAVEL & POULENC



KAZUKI YAMADA © JENNY BESTWICK

**Singing, dancing, and tinkling the ivories à la France.**

No-one can make an orchestra shimmer like Ravel – his *Daphnis et Chloé* could light up a whole town. Meanwhile, he and Fazil Say strut their stuff like Gershwin in the jazz-inspired *Piano Concerto*. Eleanor Lyons' shining soprano is perfect for Poulenc's gorgeous *Stabat Mater*.

**Kazuki Yamada, Conductor**  
**Fazil Say, Piano**  
**Eleanor Lyons, Soprano**  
**CBSO Chorus**

<b>Ravel</b> , <i>Daphnis et Chloé</i> : Suite No.1	11mins
<b>Ravel</b> , <i>Piano Concerto</i> in G major	23mins
<b>Ravel</b> , <i>Daphnis et Chloé</i> : Suite No.2	16mins
<b>Poulenc</b> , <i>Stabat Mater</i>	31mins

**Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62**

### MEMBERS' EVENT

Pre-concert and interval reception.

Sunday 27 April 2025, 7:30pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# TOP GUN: MAVERICK IN CONCERT

**Feel the need for speed with *Top Gun: Maverick* live with the CBSO.**

Experience the Academy Award® winning blockbuster on the big screen, with Lorne Balfe, Harold Faltermeyer, Lady Gaga and Hans Zimmer's epic score performed live-to-picture by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Ben Palmer.

Presented by esk film.

**Ben Palmer, Conductor**

**Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62**

This concert is not part of the CBSO multi-buy discount.

Thursday 1 May 2025, 2:15pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# KAZUKI CONDUCTS JOY

A waltz, a dance at the gym, and all the fun of the fair!

You'll have a hard time keeping to your seat in this programme of dances and fantastical scenes led by Kazuki Yamada. After capering at the Roman Carnival with Berlioz, pause for breath in Fauré's stunning Elogy, featuring the mesmeric Kian Soltani, before the cello has a major workout in Saint-Saëns's blazing Cello Concerto. Then it's no holds barred for Bernstein's riotous Symphonic Dances before Ravel leads us in an elegant Valse.

**Kazuki Yamada**, Conductor  
**Kian Soltani**, Cello

<b>Berlioz</b> , Roman Carnival	8mins
<b>Fauré</b> , Elogy for Cello & Orchestra	8mins
<b>Saint-Saëns</b> , Cello Concerto No.1	19mins
<b>Bernstein</b> , Symphonic Dances from West Side Story	24mins
<b>Ravel</b> , La Valse	12mins

Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62

#### MEMBERS' EVENT

Post-concert afternoon tea with CBSO musicians.



KAZUKI YAMADA © HANNAH FATHERS

Friday 23 May 2025, 11am & 1:30pm and  
Saturday 24 May 2025, 11am, 1:30pm & 3:30pm  
CBSO Centre, Birmingham

# NOTELETS: STRING ENSEMBLE



© HANNAH FATHERS

Sing, dance and join in with the CBSO!

Join the CBSO musicians for this hour-long interactive concert which gives children the freedom to dance, sing and learn about musical instruments for the first time.

Plus, there are free craft activities before each performance and a chance to meet the musicians and have a go at some of the instruments after the concert has finished.

Recommended for toddlers and young children.



All Notelets performances are British Sign Language interpreted.

Tickets: £10

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

This concert is not part of the CBSO multi-buy discount.

Sunday 25 May 2025, 7pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# VIDEO GAMES IN CONCERT

RECOMMENDED BY  
CLASSIC FM



EIMEAR NOONE © STEVE HUMPHREYS

Visionary worlds, uncharted territories – and the will to survive.

Some of the most inspiring soundtracks in recent years have been written for video games. Enter into a mind-bending world of mysterious kingdoms, medieval legends, epic battles – and escaping from zombies – with Eimear Noone, the CBSO and the CBSO Chorus.

**Eimear Noone**, Conductor  
**CBSO Chorus**

**Programme to include music from:**

The Last of Us, Halo, Witcher, Kingdom Hearts, Fortnite, Uncharted, World of Warcraft, Resident Evil, Hades and more.

Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62



Wednesday 28 May 2025, 2:15pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## MENDELSSOHN & WAGNER



JAMIE BARTON © BARBARA AMMUELLER

**Gorgeous love songs and a symphonic sunshine.**

Wagner's sumptuous Wesendonck Lieder were inspired by the poetry of Mathilde Wesendonck, the wife of his patron with whom he fell in love (somewhat unwisely). The exceptional Jamie Barton brings out every romantic word. Mendelssohn's 'Italian' symphony is reminiscent of beautiful blue skies and brings a sunny conclusion to this lovely afternoon of music.

**Pierre Bleuse**, Conductor  
**Jamie Barton**, Mezzo Soprano

<b>Mendelssohn</b> , A Midsummer Night's Dream: Overture	12mins
<b>Wagner</b> , Wesendonck Lieder	22mins
<b>Roxanna Panufnik</b> , Alma's Songs Without Words	14mins
<b>Mendelssohn</b> , Symphony No.4 (Italian)	25mins

**Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62**

Friday 30 May 2025, 7:30pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## BEST OF BOLLYWOOD



SAMPAD © PAUL STRINGER

**A brilliant night of singing and dancing – the Best of Bollywood!**

Experience the greatest and best-loved Bollywood songs, performed by Birmingham's very own symphony orchestra! We'll be joined by a host of incredible vocalists, alongside dancers from Sampad Arts who will choreograph exciting and expressive dance to add to the fun and energy of the evening.

**Michael Seal**, Conductor  
**Shin DCS, Priti Kaur, Navin Kundra, Rekha Sawhney**, Vocalists  
**Dancers from Sampad Arts**

**Programme to include music from:**  
Kabhi Kushi Kabhi Gham, Kabhi Kabhie and Chalte Chalte, Suhani Raat, Chand Mera Dil and more!

**Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62**

Wednesday 4 June 2025, 7:30pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# KAZUKI CONDUCTS RESPIGHI & SAINT-SAËNS

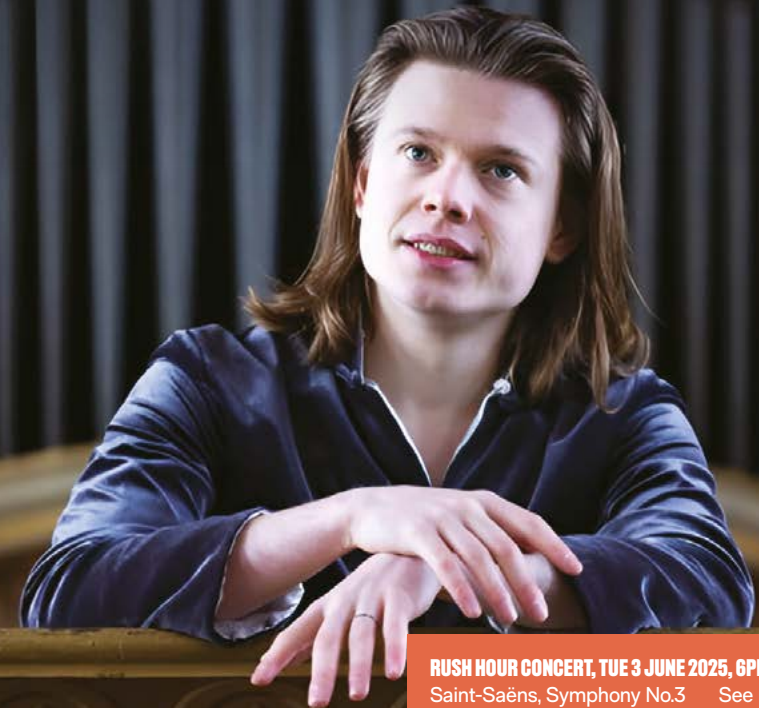
**Magical dreams and landscapes – inspiration meets boundless imagination.**

Berlioz dreams of pirates, Takemitsu of water and Respighi of fountains: three brilliant landscapes inspired by poems, paintings and Rome. Saint-Saëns is simply epic in his 'Organ' Symphony, its big moment provided by "miracle musician" Sebastian Heindl. CBSO's Marie-Christine Zupancic delights in the Takemitsu with its stunning solo for flute.

**Kazuki Yamada**, Conductor  
**Sebastian Heindl**, Organ  
**Marie-Christine Zupancic**, Flute

<b>Berlioz</b> , Le Corsaire Overture	9mins
<b>Takemitsu</b> , I Hear Water Dreaming	12mins
<b>Respighi</b> , Fountains of Rome	19mins
<b>Saint-Saëns</b> , Symphony No.3 (Organ)	36mins

**Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62**



**RUSH HOUR CONCERT, TUE 3 JUNE 2025, 6PM**  
Saint-Saëns, Symphony No.3 See page 56

Sunday 8 June 2025, 3pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## FAMILY CONCERT: CBSO EXPLORES CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS



ARTHUR BOUTILLIER © JENNY BESTWICK

Take a look inside the orchestra with this fun family concert.

MishMash Productions is on a mission to transform live music for young audiences, and we're very excited to be working with them! You're invited to come and see inside the orchestra, and to discover some amazing music including the famous Carnival of the Animals. Plus, join us for an hour of free craft activities before the concert!



All family concerts are British Sign Language interpreted.

Suitable for children aged 6+.

**Ellie Storach**, Conductor  
**MishMash Productions**, Creative Associates  
**Sarah Butt**, BSL

**Programme to include:**  
**Saint-Saëns**, Carnival of the Animals  
**Valerie Coleman**, Red Clay & Mississippi Delta

**Tickets: £12**

This concert is not part of the CBSO multi-buy discount.

Wednesday 11 June 2025, 7:30pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## MIRGA CONDUCTS WEINBERG & BRAHMS



MIRGA GRAŽINYTĖ-TYLA © BENI SMITH

Lush romantics for the violin, and the full power of the symphony.

A welcome return for CBSO's Associate Artist Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla to lead the CBSO in Brahms' gorgeous, sweeping Violin Concerto (the composer apparently sweated over every bar, but you would never know it!). Stephen Waarts tackles the sparkling solo part. Weinberg's Symphony No.4 is all about contrast: fierce and powerful - but with a sweet centre.

**Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla**, Conductor  
**Stephen Waarts**, Violin

**Programme to include:**  
**Brahms**, Violin Concerto 38mins  
**Weinberg**, Symphony No.4 32mins

**Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62**

Wednesday 18 June 2025, 7:30pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

## KAZUKI CONDUCTS RACHMANINOFF & TCHAIKOVSKY

RECOMMENDED BY  
CLASSIC FM

Epic romantic journeys with Rachmaninoff and Tchaikovsky.

From those thrilling opening chords to the stormy last bars Rachmaninoff's second Piano Concerto is peak Romance, and Hisako Kawamura brings out the surging power of the solo role. Kazuki and the CBSO partner in Tchaikovsky's symphonic journey from despair to triumph.

**Kazuki Yamada**, Conductor  
**Hisako Kawamura**, Piano

**Rachmaninoff**, Piano Concerto No.2 32mins  
**Tchaikovsky**, Symphony No.5 47mins

**Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62**

Thursday 19 June 2025, 2:15pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# KAZUKI CONDUCTS ELGAR & TCHAIKOVSKY

A blazing symphony, and a stunning swansong for the cello.

The Cello Concerto is one of Elgar's last works – and one of his best. It is a gorgeously rich blend of melody and melancholy, with one of the most powerful opening bars ever written for the cello. What an absolute treat to hear Sheku Kanneh-Mason in the solo role. Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony tackles fate head-on right up to its triumphant finale.

**Kazuki Yamada**, Conductor  
**Sheku Kanneh-Mason**, Cello

**Elgar**, Cello Concerto 30mins  
**Tchaikovsky**, Symphony No.5 47mins

Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62

KAZUKI YAMADA & SHEKU KANNEH-MASON © HANNAH FATHERS

## MEMBERS' EVENT

Pre-concert and interval reception.  
Post-concert afternoon tea with Kazuki Yamada.

Saturday 19 July 2025, 7:30pm  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

# THE CBSO & THE ORCHESTRAL QAWWALI PROJECT

This glorious blend of Sufi poetry, Indian Classical dance and symphony orchestra returns to Birmingham.

Written and directed by critically acclaimed composer Rushil Ranjan, the Orchestral Qawwali Project features the soaring vocals of Abi Sampa in effortless combination with rich orchestral arrangements performed by the CBSO. All of these elements come together to encapsulate qawwali's original intention - to lead the listener to spiritual rapture. Following a sold out performance with Birmingham's orchestra in 2023, the Project returns to Symphony Hall with new compositions and arrangements, conductor Melvin Tay and the addition of the brilliant CBSO Chorus and University of Birmingham Voices.

**Melvin Tay**, Conductor  
**Rushil Ranjan**, Composer / Arranger / Piano  
**Abi Sampa**, Lead Vocalist  
**Orchestral Qawwali Project**  
**CBSO Chorus**  
**University of Birmingham Voices**

Tickets: £26, £38, £50, £62



THE ORCHESTRAL QAWWALI PROJECT © WILLIAM PAULI

# CENTRE STAGE

Our series of short, informal afternoon concerts, programmed and introduced by CBSO musicians.

**Tickets: £10**

Centre Stage concerts are not part of the CBSO multi-buy discount.

Centre Stage is supported by John Osborn CBE.

**Friday 20 September 2024, 2pm:**  
Brandenburg Concerto No.3

**Friday 11 October 2024, 2pm:**  
Golijov Quintet

**Thursday 17 October 2024, 2pm:**  
Ravel & Berio

**Monday 21 October 2024, 2pm:**  
Baroque Concert

**Friday 8 November 2024, 2pm:**  
Brass Quintet

**Wednesday 13 November 2024, 2pm:**  
Double Bass & Friends

**Friday 29 November 2024, 2pm:**  
Cello Ensemble

**Monday 16 December 2024, 2pm:**  
Britten String Quartet No.2

**Friday 24 January 2025, 2pm:**  
Arensky, Schubert & Mozart

**Thursday 6 February 2025, 2pm:**  
Schubert Octet

**Thursday 27 February 2025, 2pm:**  
Brahms Sextet

**Thursday 13 March 2025, 2pm:**  
Woodwind Octet

**Monday 7 April 2025, 2pm:**  
Chausson's Concerto for Violin, Piano & Strings

**Thursday 15 May 2025, 2pm:**  
Career Accelerator Fellows

**Friday 13 June 2025, 2pm:**  
Eduardo & Friends



© HANNAH FATHERS

# CUPPA CONCERTS

Our relaxed concerts, suitable for those living with dementia, their carers, family and friends.

Each concert features a small ensemble of musicians from the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

We are happy for audience members to chat, come and go as they please, and we feature sing-and-play-along sections. We also keep the hall well-lit during the concert, rather than dimming the auditorium lights. After the concert, please join us (and the musicians) for free tea and cake!

Friday 22 November 2024, 2pm  
Monday 31 March 2025, 2pm  
Tuesday 24 June 2025, 2pm

**Tickets: £5**

Use code CUPPACARER at checkout to claim a complimentary carer's ticket.



© HANNAH FATHERS

# NOTELETS

Notelets are fun-filled interactive concerts that give children the freedom to dance, sing and learn about musical instruments for the first time.

Friday 6 December 2024, 11am & 1:30pm  
Saturday 7 December 2024, 11am, 1:30pm & 3:30pm

Friday 28 March 2025, 11am & 1:30pm  
Saturday 29 March 2025, 11am, 1:30pm & 3:30pm

Friday 23 May 2025, 11am & 1:30pm  
Saturday 24 May 2025, 11am, 1:30pm & 3:30pm

Recommended for toddlers and young children.

Babies under 9 months do not require a ticket.



All Notelets performances are British Sign Language interpreted.

**Tickets: £10**



© HANNAH FATHERS

# RUSH HOUR CONCERTS

If you're looking to wind down after the working day, or perhaps you just fancy a something short and sweet, then our Rush Hour Concerts are perfect for you!

Experience the full force of the CBSO, complete with world-famous soloists and conductors, and still make it home in time for dinner...

**Tickets: £10**

## Wednesday 9 October 2024, 6pm:

Brahms Symphony No.2

Brahms wrote to his publisher that for his Symphony No.2 he had 'never written anything so sad'. His tongue, however, was firmly in his cheek as this is one of his most outrageously cheerful pieces.

**Thomas Søndergård**, Conductor

## Tuesday 3 December 2024, 6pm:

Elgar Violin Concerto

Any suggestion that British music has a 'stiff upper lip' would be rebuffed by Elgar's passionate violin concerto, which was given the mysterious inscription 'Herein is enshrined the soul of ...!' The CBSO's leader Eugene Tzikindelean inhabits the enigmatic 'soul' of the piece in the soloist role.

**Kazuki Yamada**, Conductor  
**Eugene Tzikindelean**, Violin

## Tuesday 3 June 2025, 6pm:

Saint-Saëns Organ Symphony

Saint-Saëns is simply epic in his 'Organ' Symphony. Tonight, its big moment (which you might recognise if you're a fan of the film Babe) is provided by the brilliant Sebastian Heindl.

**Kazuki Yamada**, Conductor  
**Sebastian Heindl**, Organ

**"[KAZUKI] LETS HIS ORCHESTRA  
PLAY SO IMMEDIATELY, SO DIRECTLY,  
SO JOYFULLY THAT YOU DON'T MISS  
THEM AT ANY MOMENT"**

**SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG**

# SCHOOLS' CONCERTS

In February 2024, we welcomed 11,000 children and young people to our 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. These concerts take place on an annual basis.

Delivered in partnership with Services for Education and the Birmingham Music Education Hub.



© HANNAH FATHERS

Key Stage 2  
Monday 10 February 2025, 11am & 1.30pm

Key Stage 3  
Tuesday 11 February 2025, 11am & 1.30pm  
Wednesday 12 February 2025, 11am & 1.30pm

Key Stage 1  
Monday 17 March 2025, 10.30am & 1pm  
Tuesday 18 March 2025, 10.30am & 1pm

For further information please contact [education@cbso.co.uk](mailto:education@cbso.co.uk)

## SCHOOLS' CONCERTS APPEAL 2025

A huge thank you to those of you who supported our 2024 appeal which raised over £48,000 to support our Schools' Concerts!

Our next appeal will launch later this year. For more information please contact the Development team via email [development@cbso.co.uk](mailto:development@cbso.co.uk) or call 0121 616 6510.



For roughly 80% of our students, this is the first time they will hear a live orchestra. Having an experience like this on your doorstep is invaluable.

# RELAXED CONCERTS

In 2024, a total of 11,250 children and young people watched Relaxed Concerts, online and at the CBSO Centre.

We hold four relaxed concerts every year to enable pupils attending Special Schools to experience live music in a supported, accessible and engaging environment. These concerts feature a 10-piece mini-orchestra of CBSO musicians and a presenter, who take the audience through an exciting musical narrative combining storytelling, music, and audience participation.

All performances take place at the CBSO Centre, a fully accessible venue, and are delivered in partnership with Services for Education and the Birmingham Music Education Hub.



All Schools' and Relaxed Concerts are British Sign Language interpreted.

Thursday 16 January 2025, 10.30am & 1pm  
Friday 17 January 2025, 10.30am & 1pm

For further information please contact [education@cbso.co.uk](mailto:education@cbso.co.uk)



SARAH BUTT © HANNAH FATHERS

Supported by the Clive Richards Foundation, principal supporter of the CBSO's work with young people.

# YOUR SUPPORT

**We exist to create music that brings connection, inspiration, and joy to the people of 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 generous support to continue our work on and off the concert hall stage.

When you make a donation to the CBSO, become a Member, leave a gift in your will, or support us through your trust or business you will play your part in helping us to reach the £12.5 million target for our 5-year fundraising campaign The Sound of the Future 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.



This is by far the best arts membership that I belong to. Well organised, friendly & always welcoming. **CBSO Friend**

## DONATE TODAY

As a charity, we rely on the support of people like you, helping us to plan ahead. If you can, please make a gift to support our campaign and help share the joy.

For more information, please visit [cbso.co.uk/support-us](https://cbso.co.uk/support-us)

## JOIN THE FAMILY

From as little as £5 a month you can join as a CBSO Member. You'll have the chance to meet artists and musicians at special events, sit in on member-only rehearsals, and be the first to receive behind-the-scenes news. All Members also get priority booking before concerts go on sale to the general public. So, join our thriving network of likeminded music-lovers and receive these wonderful benefits, all while providing vital support for our world-renowned performances and community and education programmes.

For more information on how to join as a new Member, or book on to any of the Members' Events visit [cbso.co.uk/membership](https://cbso.co.uk/membership) or call us on **0121 616 6510**.

# WHAT YOUR SUPPORT ACHIEVES

## In the last 12 months...

- We presented over 250 concerts and events at home and on tour, reaching more than 180,000 people.
- Over 300 young people took part in our youth programmes and ensembles.
- We engaged with 220 schools from across the West Midlands.
- We opened the Shireland CBSO Academy in Sandwell, welcoming 150 Year 7 students.
- Our four choirs welcomed over 500 singers.
- We had more than 78,000 engagements with our community and education projects.
- Over 11,500 children watched our live Schools' Concerts, and more than 10,000 young people were able to watch our streamed Relaxed Concerts.
- More than 1 in 4 attendees at a CBSO Concert in Birmingham was under 30.

To help us to continue delivering this work, please consider becoming a Member or making a donation. Find out more at [cbso.co.uk/support-us](https://cbso.co.uk/support-us) or call **0121 616 6500**.



CBSO SCHOOLS' CONCERT © HANNAH FATHERS



CBSO YOUTH ORCHESTRA © HANNAH FATHERS

# TAKE YOUR SEAT

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

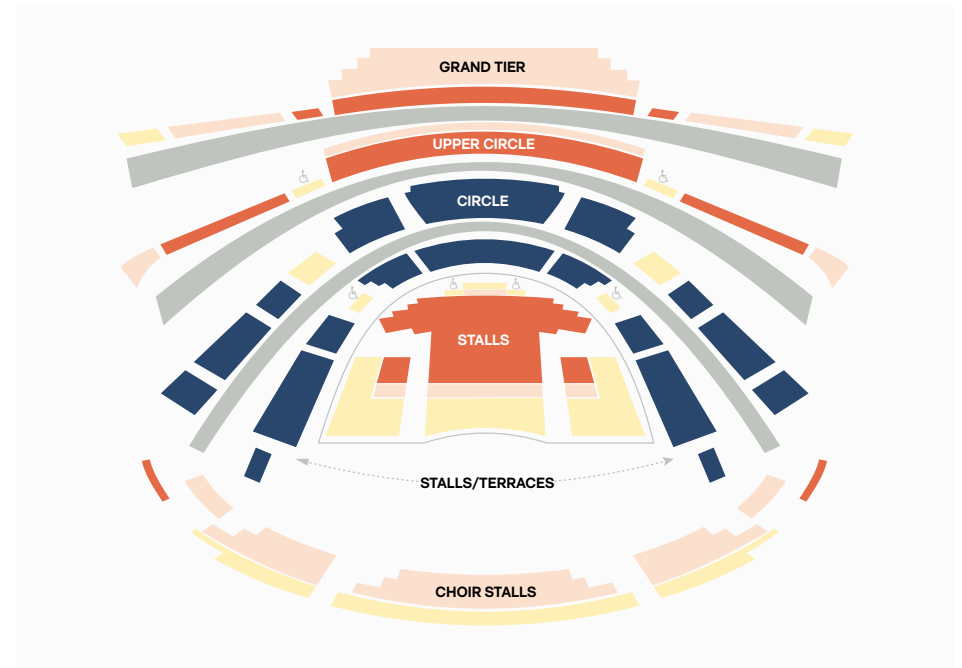
For the 24-25 Season, we have made the decision to continue to hold the Grand Tier off sale for the majority of our performances, barring exceptional audience demand.

## PROGRAMME PRE-ORDERS

Pre-order your concert programme and it'll be available for you to collect on the day of the concert. Please show your voucher at the programme desk before heading into the performance.

As part of our ongoing commitment to becoming more sustainable, we encourage audiences to read the digital programme online instead of buying a printed programme. Digital programmes are made available online at least 24 hours before the concert at [cbsso.co.uk/programmes](https://cbsso.co.uk/programmes).

Please note a limited number of printed programmes will be available to purchase from the programmes desk. Customers are encouraged to pre-order a programme to guarantee a copy.



## TICKETS

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

PRICE BAND	TICKET COST (INC. COMMISSION)
A	£62
B	£50
C	£38
D	£26

Our Youth Orchestra, Family, Notelets, Cuppa and Centre Stage concerts have a single ticket price. Concerts at Town Hall, CBSO Explores, and select concerts throughout the season have alternative prices. Please see the individual events for details.

## HOW TO BOOK

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

- Online at [cbsso.co.uk](https://cbsso.co.uk)
- Over the phone on **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 [cbsso.co.uk/terms-conditions](https://cbsso.co.uk/terms-conditions)



# WAYS TO SAVE

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](https://cbso.co.uk/terms-conditions) for full details about our multi-buy discount.

### Terms

Some performances are excluded from the multi-buy discount, including Notelets, Cuppa Concerts, Centre Stage, Family Concerts, Youth Orchestra, Rush Hour Concerts, Symphonic Sessions and specific one-off performances. Please see the individual events for details, or find a list of all excluded concerts at [cbso.co.uk/terms-conditions](https://cbso.co.uk/terms-conditions). The multi-buy discount cannot be combined with any other discount or concession, and all performances must be booked in a single transaction to qualify for this discount. When booking a different number of tickets for each performance, the total discount applied may vary, as the multi-buy discount is accrued on a per-ticket, per-concert basis. Future savings are only available on eligible concerts and while your original discount will apply, these bookings will not be exempt from commission.

## TICKET OFFERS

- Student tickets from £5
- Under-18s tickets from £5
- 18-30s tickets from £10
- 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 289 6331**.

# YOUR VISIT

We want you to have a completely joyful 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 [cbsocobirmingham.co.uk/your-visit](https://cbsocobirmingham.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 HALL BROAD 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 CENTRE BERKLEY ST, BIRMINGHAM, B1 2LF

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



## TOWN HALL VICTORIA SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM, B3 3DQ

Experience a CBSO concert at Birmingham Town Hall - a Grade I listed building in the heart of the city with a rich musical history. Built in 1834 to accommodate everything from public and town meetings, to concerts and other entertainment, we have a long history of performing at Birmingham's beautiful Town Hall.

### ACCESS

Symphony Hall, Town Hall, and the CBSO Centre are all accessible venues.

#### SYMPHONY HALL & TOWN HALL

If you have additional access requirements, we would suggest joining the B:Music Access Scheme. To find out more visit [bmusic.co.uk](https://bmusic.co.uk) or contact B:Music on **0121 289 6343**.

Family, Notelets and Schools concerts are **BSL-interpreted**. When booking online, seats are marked to show 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.

July 2024 - July 2025

Wednesday 17 July 2024, 7:30pm  
**Schubert 9**

Sunday 28 July 2024, 7pm  
**Youth Orchestra Academy**

Wednesday 21 August 2024, 7pm  
**Kazuki conducts Mozart & Mussorgsky**

Thursday 19 September 2024, 7:30pm  
**Kazuki conducts Beethoven 9**

Wednesday 25 September 2024, 2:15pm  
**Mozart & Shostakovich**

Friday 4 October 2024, 7:30pm  
**Life on our Planet in Concert**

Wednesday 9 October 2024, 6pm  
**Rush Hour Concert: Brahms 2**

Thursday 10 October 2024, 7:30pm  
**Brahms 2**

Sunday 13 October 2024, 4pm  
**Ex Cathedra: Bruckner, Palestrina & Allegri**

Wednesday 16 October 2024, 7:30pm  
**Sir Mark Elder conducts Brahms & Shostakovich**

Sunday 20 October 2024, 7pm  
**Soweto Kinch: White Juj**

Thursday 24 October 2024, 2:15pm  
**Prokofiev & Sibelius**

Friday 25 October 2024, 7:30pm  
**Beatle Mania!**

Wednesday 30 October 2024, 2:15pm  
**Kazuki & Miloš**

Thursday 31 October 2024, doors from 6pm  
**Symphonic Sessions:  
Halloween with the CBSO**

Sunday 3 November 2024, 3pm  
**CBSO Youth Orchestra: Mendelssohn 5**

Thursday 7 November 2024, 2:15pm  
**Grieg & Beethoven**

Sunday 10 November 2024, 3pm  
**Goldberg Variations**

Tuesday 12 November 2024, 2:15pm  
**Tchaikovsky 6**

Wednesday 20 November 2024, 7:30pm  
**The Music Makers**

Sunday 24 November 2024, 3pm  
**Family Concert: Music from the Movies**

Wednesday 27 November 2024, 7:30pm  
**Seckou Keita: African Rhapsodies**

Tuesday 3 December 2024, 6pm  
**Rush Hour Concert: Elgar's Violin Concerto**

Wednesday 4 December 2024, 7:30pm  
**Kazuki conducts Walton & Elgar**

Friday 6 December 2024, 7pm  
**City of Birmingham Choir: Handel's Messiah**

Friday 6 December 2024, 11am & 1:30pm,  
Saturday 7 December 2024, 11am, 1:30pm &  
3:30pm

**Notelets: Christmas Party**

Thursday 12 December 2024, 7pm  
**Kazuki conducts Bruckner 9**

Sunday 15 December 2024  
**CBSO Explores the CBSO Centre**

Thursday 19 & Friday 20 December 2024, 7:30pm  
**Choral Christmas with Jess Gillam**

Saturday 21 December 2024, 7pm  
**CBSO Christmas Party**

Sunday 5 January 2025, 3pm  
**Viennese New Year**

Saturday 11 January 2025, 7pm  
**CBSO Explores: FRIENDS IN LOVE AND WAR**

Wednesday 15 January 2025, 7:30pm  
**Romeo & Juliet**

Sunday 19 January 2025, 7pm  
**Music at the Movies**

Thursday 23 January 2025, 2:15pm  
**Mendelssohn & Brahms**

Sunday 26 January 2025, 3pm  
**CBSO Winds plays Mozart**

Friday 31 January 2025, 7:30pm  
**Musical Magic**

Sunday 2 February 2025, 10:30am-4:15pm  
**Come and Sing: Haydn's Creation**

July 2024 - July 2025

Wednesday 5 February 2025, 7:30pm  
**Kazuki conducts Shostakovich & Bartók**

Saturday 8 February 2025, 2:15pm  
**CBSO Benevolent Fund:  
Kazuki conducts Tchaikovsky**

Friday 14 February 2025, 7pm  
**Kazuki conducts Dvořák 9**

Saturday 15 February 2025, 7pm  
**CBSO Explores: The New World Symphony**

Thursday 20 February 2025, 2:15pm  
**Stravinsky's Firebird**

Friday 21 February 2025, 7:30pm  
**The Best of John Williams**

Wednesday 26 February 2025, 7:30pm  
**Kazuki conducts Haydn's Creation**

Sunday 2 March 2025, 3pm  
**Kazuki conducts CBSO Brass & Percussion**

Thursday 6 March 2025, 7:30pm  
**Beethoven & Mahler**

Saturday 8 March 2025, 7:30pm  
**It's a Living Thing: The Music of ELO**

Wednesday 12 March 2025, 2:15pm  
**Dvořák & Rachmaninoff**

Sunday 16 March 2025, 3pm  
**Family Concert: Where are all the Black  
Female Composers?**

Sunday 16 March 2025, 4:30pm  
**Project Remix**

Thursday 20 March 2025, 7:30pm  
**An Evening of Thelonious Monk & Miles Davis**

Friday 21 March 2025, 7:30pm  
**Classic FM Hall of Fame**

Wednesday 26 March 2025, 2:15pm  
**Abbey Road Concerto**

Friday 28 March 2025, 11am & 1:30pm  
Saturday 29 March 2025, 11am, 1:30pm & 3:30pm  
**Notelets: Wind Quintet**

Thursday 3 April 2025, 7:30pm  
**Sibelius & Dvořák**

Saturday 5 April 2025, 8pm  
**Northern Lights**

Thursday 10 April 2025, 7:30pm  
**Kazuki conducts Mahler 9**

Saturday 12 April 2025  
**CBSO Explores: LEGACY with Punch Records**

Wednesday 16 April 2025, 7:30pm  
**Kazuki conducts Ravel & Poulenc**

Sunday 27 April 2025, 7:30pm  
**Top Gun: Maverick in Concert**

Thursday 1 May 2025, 2:15pm  
**Kazuki conducts Joy**

Friday 23 May 2025, 11am & 1:30pm  
Saturday 24 May 2025, 11am, 1:30pm & 3:30pm  
**Notelets: String Ensemble**

Sunday 25 May 2025, 7pm  
**Video Games in Concert**

Wednesday 28 May 2025, 2:15pm  
**Mendelssohn & Wagner**

Friday 30 May 2025, 7:30pm  
**Best of Bollywood**

Tuesday 3 June 2025, 6pm  
**Rush Hour Concert: Saint-Saëns' Symphony  
No.3 (Organ)**

Wednesday 4 June 2025, 7:30pm  
**Kazuki conducts Respighi & Saint-Saëns**

Sunday 8 June 2025, 3pm  
**Family Concert: CBSO Explores Carnival of  
the Animals**

Wednesday 11 June 2025, 7:30pm  
**Mirga conducts Weinberg & Brahms**

Wednesday 18 June 2025, 7:30pm  
**Kazuki conducts Rachmaninoff & Tchaikovsky**

Thursday 19 June 2025, 2:15pm  
**Kazuki conducts Elgar & Tchaikovsky**

Saturday 19 July 2025, 7:30pm  
**The CBSO & the Orchestral Qawwali Project**

# 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.

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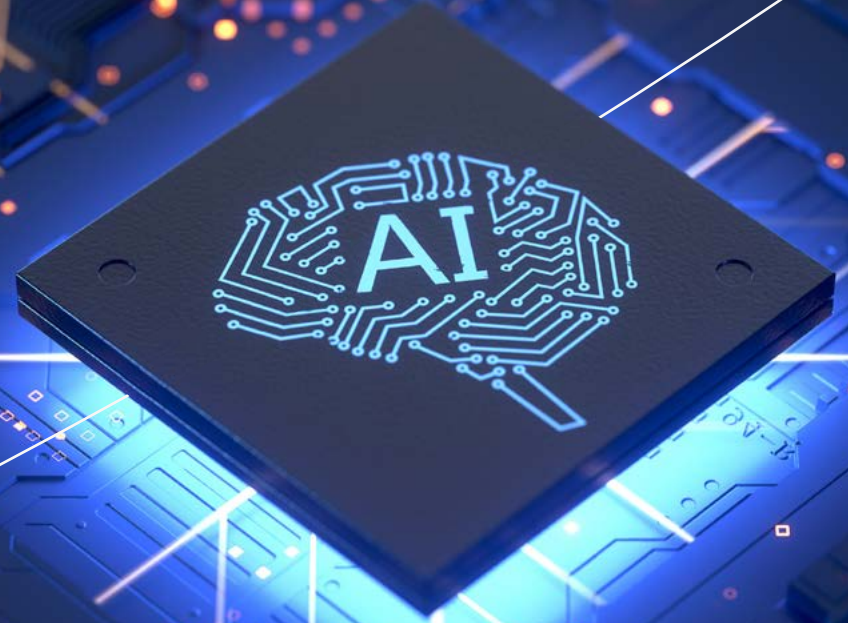
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To view a comprehensive list of supporters please visit [cbsocobirmingham.co.uk/support-us/thank-you](https://cbsocobirmingham.co.uk/support-us/thank-you) or scan the QR code.



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