

CBSO

City of
Birmingham
Symphony
Orchestra

CBSO.CO.UK



2026-
2027

WELCOME TO YOUR 2026-27 SEASON

As we look ahead to another remarkable season of music in Birmingham, I'm reminded once again of what makes this orchestra so special. I'm writing after a few unforgettable weeks travelling with the players on our spring tour. A journey that took us from Linz to Paris and beyond. Sitting on the train with 90 musicians, hearing their laughter and reflections, I was struck by how deeply the spirit of Birmingham travels with us wherever we go.

Every time I hear our orchestra perform overseas, I feel enormous pride. The programmes that begin at home, cherished by our loyal local concert-goers, are a powerful communicator when they meet listeners around the world. These performances remind me how music connects us: it speaks of friendship, humanity and hope, long before words are needed.

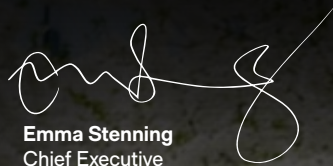
And yet, everything truly begins at home. We are, above all, Birmingham's orchestra, and it is for you that we craft each new season.

This year, we continue our Mahler cycle and begin an exciting new Beethoven cycle with our Music Director, Kazuki Yamada. We're also delighted to welcome Ilan Volkov as our new Principal Guest Conductor, and to introduce new Collaborative Artists Jess Gillam, Alice Sara Ott and Rushil Ranjan: all bringing fresh voices and energy to the CBSO family.

For me, I've long wanted to see Britten's War Requiem, so our performance in November at Coventry Cathedral will be my season highlight. The CBSO premiered this monumental work in 1962, and its message of peace feels more important than ever.

Meanwhile, I hope that you enjoy all that this season has to offer – terrific nights of popular music at Symphony Hall (Kazuki's Opera Night should be a real treat!), a bumper festive season with The Nutcracker, Choral Christmas and our much loved Viennese New Year, and many a family concert and Notelets for our younger music lovers.

Whatever your choice, week in week out, we are thrilled to share brilliant music with you.

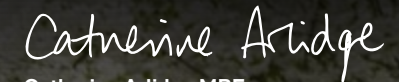


Emma Stenning
Chief Executive

I'm thrilled to invite you to join us for another year of extraordinary music-making here at the CBSO.

Our creative partnerships continue to flourish: Kazuki's artistic leadership grows ever more compelling both here in Birmingham and on stages around the world; while our enduring relationship with Mirga brings her back for a major Birmingham concert, a powerful opera, and two international tours. This season also marks the introduction of our new Collaborative Artists, Principal Guest Conductor and Composer in Residence – remarkable musicians who embody our belief that great music happens through inspiring collaboration.

From the epic sweep of Mahler's Second and Third Symphonies, Britten's War Requiem in Coventry Cathedral, Messiaen's Turangalila Symphony and a complete Beethoven cycle, to festive Tchaikovsky and Ellington, groundbreaking new commissions and an emotional staging of Weinberg's opera The Passenger, this season promises unforgettable experiences.



Catherine Arlidge MBE
Director of Artistic Planning





WELCOME TO ANOTHER SEASON OF GREAT MUSIC

It brings me so much happiness to be looking forward to another season with this wonderful orchestra and our fantastic audiences. And what a year of music-making it's going to be: 18 concerts at home and another 21 across the UK and around the world. Wherever we perform, I am always proud to share the CBSO's incredible energy, openness, and spirit with our audiences.

Two huge moments for me will be the continuation of our Mahler journey. We open the season with his Resurrection Symphony, a piece for which the CBSO and CBSO Chorus are so rightly celebrated. Although the theme is "Resurrection", it's not limited to Christianity; it's a grand work that transcends religious boundaries. I believe this work has a grand theme that is especially relevant in today's world. At the other end of the year, we close with his monumental Third Symphony. What I like about this piece is how it unfolds like the theory of evolution, and how it ultimately culminates in the theme of love. To perform both these masterpieces in one season with this orchestra will be a truly wonderful experience.

We will be performing all of Beethoven's symphonies across four concerts in 2027, the year which marks 200 years since his death. Beethoven's music is, for me, a precious legacy for all of humanity. There is a sublimity about it that makes it difficult to even approach him. I would be very happy if I could get even a little closer to him by performing his legacy with the CBSO. And I can't wait to rediscover these works.

I'm also thrilled to continue my partnership with Alice Sara Ott – who joins us this season, and next, as one of our Collaborative Artists. Together we'll explore the shimmering worlds of Grieg and Ravel, as well as a more intimate programme of music for piano at the CBSO Centre.

We journey into the CBSO's history as we perform Britten's War Requiem at Coventry Cathedral, and we look ahead with music by this season's Composer in Residence, Anna Clyne, whose voice represents the creativity and dynamism of today.

I'm really excited to perform some lighter programmes too, including our festive "double Nutcracker" at Town Hall pairing Tchaikovsky's beloved score with Duke Ellington's brilliant, jazz-infused take, as well as a joyful night at the opera. And before the season begins, we'll be out across the city once again with free performances for everyone in Birmingham.

I cannot wait to experience this season with you.

Kazuki Yamada
Music Director

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THURSDAY 27 – MONDAY 31 AUGUST 2026
ACROSS BIRMINGHAM

CBSO IN THE CITY

This summer, we're heading back out into Birmingham to bring fun, free performances to as many people as possible across the city. Find us in libraries, galleries, gardens and community centres, and we'll be heading back to New Street Station for the 10th time!



Keep an eye on our website and social media for future announcements!

SATURDAY 5 - SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2026
SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

6TH EVGENY SVETLANOV INTERNATIONAL CONDUCTING COMPETITION



The prestigious Evgeny Svetlanov International Conducting Competition comes to Birmingham.

For its 6th edition, the Svetlanov Competition will travel to the UK for the first time and be held in partnership with the CBSO. Created in accordance with the wish of conductor and composer Evgeny Svetlanov, the competition is dedicated to discovering and supporting the next generation of outstanding conductors.

Tickets: £15, £29, £39

This concert is promoted by B:Music and not part of the CBSO multi-buy discount.

THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2026, 7:30PM
SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

KAZUKI CONDUCTS MAHLER'S 2ND SYMPHONY

Rise again! Kazuki Yamada launches the season with Mahler's vast Resurrection Symphony.

An emotional odyssey; a CBSO favourite, and an epic musical journey from the depths of despair to the end of the world - and beyond. Mahler's mighty Second Symphony is all of these things and so much more. And as the CBSO Chorus gives its 1000th performance, there could be no more thrilling celebration: an intensely emotional instalment of Kazuki Yamada's ongoing Mahler cycle.

Kazuki Yamada, Conductor
Eleanor Lyons, Soprano
Jess Dandy, Contralto
CBSO Chorus

Mahler, Symphony No.2 (Resurrection) 87mins

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

This concert is generously supported by Ian McAlpine.

Free pre-concert talk. See page 59.

FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2026, 1PM
 CBSO CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM

CENTRE STAGE

SCHUMANN'S PIANO QUINTET



© JONATHAN FERRO

Stravinsky at his wittiest and Schumann at his most passionate.

Robert Schumann was in love when he wrote his only Piano Quintet, and you can tell. From headlong opening to exuberant finish, this is chamber music to make the heart leap – though along with pianist John Thwaites, this team of CBSO musicians will bring out all its tenderness and poetry too. Stravinsky's zingy miniatures will whet the palate nicely...

Georgia Hannant, Violin
Gabriel Holloway-Dyker, Violin
Isobel Doncaster, Viola
Miguel Fernandes, Cello
John Thwaites, Piano

Stravinsky , Three Pieces for String Quartet	8mins
Schumann , Piano Quintet	35mins

Tickets: £12

TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2026, 7PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

RECOMMENDED BY CLASSIC FM

KAZUKI CONDUCTS GRIEG'S PIANO CONCERTO



© HANNAH BLAKE-FATHERS

Alice Sara Ott plays Grieg's beloved Piano Concerto, in a concert inspired by the beauty of the sea.

For composers, the sea unlocks boundless emotions. Debussy painted it in glowing colours, Arnold Bax weaved tales of King Arthur and the wild Atlantic, and now Composer in Residence Anna Clyne tells her own untamed stories. And to launch a season of collaborations, Kazuki Yamada and the CBSO welcome the wonderful Alice Sara Ott, in Grieg's Piano Concerto: music that's always fresh.

Kazuki Yamada, Conductor
Alice Sara Ott, Piano

Bax , Tintagel	16mins
Grieg , Piano Concerto	30mins
Anna Clyne , Restless Oceans	5mins
Debussy , La mer	25mins

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

Free pre-concert talk. See page 59.

See Alice in Birmingham: TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2026, SATURDAY 29 AND SUNDAY 30 MAY 2027
 See Alice on tour with the CBSO: SATURDAY 19 JUNE–MONDAY 12 JULY 2027

COLLABORATIVE ARTIST: ALICE SARA OTT

We're delighted to welcome internationally acclaimed pianist Alice Sara Ott as a CBSO Collaborative Artist for the next two seasons, with performances at home in Birmingham and on tour in Japan.

A visionary musician, Alice is known for captivating audiences worldwide with performances and chart-topping recordings that combine technical brilliance, poetry and refinement, with strikingly original programming. Exploring and experimenting have long been part of Alice's approach to her work, and this, together with her existing partnership with Kazuki Yamada, aligns perfectly with the CBSO's ambition to make Birmingham a hub for musical innovation and creativity.

Why are you excited to be a Collaborative Artist with the CBSO this season?

"Working with the musicians of the CBSO and Kazuki Yamada is an experience defined by deep musical understanding, true commitment to quality, and an open, curious spirit."

What are you most excited about sharing with our audiences?

"Both the Grieg and Ravel G major concertos are works that are very dear to me - pieces I have grown with over the years - and I very much look forward to rediscovering them together with Kazuki and the CBSO musicians."



© HANNES CASPAR

THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2026, 8PM
 CBSO CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM

LIVE AT THE CENTRE

WALTON'S FAÇADE



© PABLO STRONG

Kazuki Yamada conducts Walton's Façade – a deliciously offbeat Entertainment from the roaring '20s.

When surrealist poet Edith Sitwell met William Walton, the result was Façade. Rap '1920s-style', an outrageously entertaining cocktail of words and music in which devils eat dessert, flappers become goddesses and British music learns to foxtrot. The fabulous Jennifer France is our storyteller today; Kazuki Yamada conducts - and - hold onto your hats - because this is going to get very silly indeed.

Kazuki Yamada, Conductor
Jennifer France, Narrator

Ibert , Divertissement	16mins
Milhaud , The Creation of the World	16mins
Walton , Façade	39mins

Tickets: £15

WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2026, 2:15PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

ELGAR'S ENIGMA VARIATIONS



© ANDREW FOX

Three starry soloists, an exciting conductor debut and one of the greatest pieces of the 19th century.

Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Ben Goldscheider, and CBSO Collaborative Artist Jess Gillam: three inspirational artists who need no introduction. Bring them together in a brand-new triple concerto by jazz phenomenon Gwilym Simcock (following a world premiere at the BBC Proms), and it's safe to say that this will be quite an afternoon before we even get to Elgar's evergreen Enigma Variations.

Stephanie Childress, Conductor
Jess Gillam, Saxophone
Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Cello
Ben Goldscheider, Horn

Britten , Simple Symphony	18mins
Gwilym Simcock , Triple Concerto	25mins
Elgar , Enigma Variations	33mins

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

This concert is generously supported by Dr Charley Johnston in memory of Dolores.

Free pre-concert talk. See page 59.
 Members' reception.
 Members' afternoon tea.

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER 2026, 8PM
 CBSO CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM

LIVE AT THE CENTRE

STEVE REICH AT 90



© ALEXANDRA GEORGADIS

Two hands clapping: a 90th birthday salute to the legend that is Steve Reich.

Steve Reich turns 90 today, but his music feels younger and more vibrant than ever. This is the composer who broke music down to its natural elements and made it pulse with new life; an artist who defined the sound of our century. Our Principal Percussionist Toby Kearney directs a multi-coloured celebration of a very special musical birthday.

Toby Kearney, Director

Pre-Show: Reich , Pendulum Music	10mins
Eastman , Buddha	10mins
Steve Reich , New York Counterpoint	11mins
Steve Reich , Runner	16mins
Steve Reich , Clapping Music	3mins
Midori Takada , Crossing	9mins
Steve Reich , Vibrations for Vibes, Pianos & Strings	25mins

Tickets: £15

THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER 2026, 2:15PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

SIBELIUS' 5TH SYMPHONY



© JONATHAN FERRO

Brahms at his most powerful and Sibelius at his most beautiful.

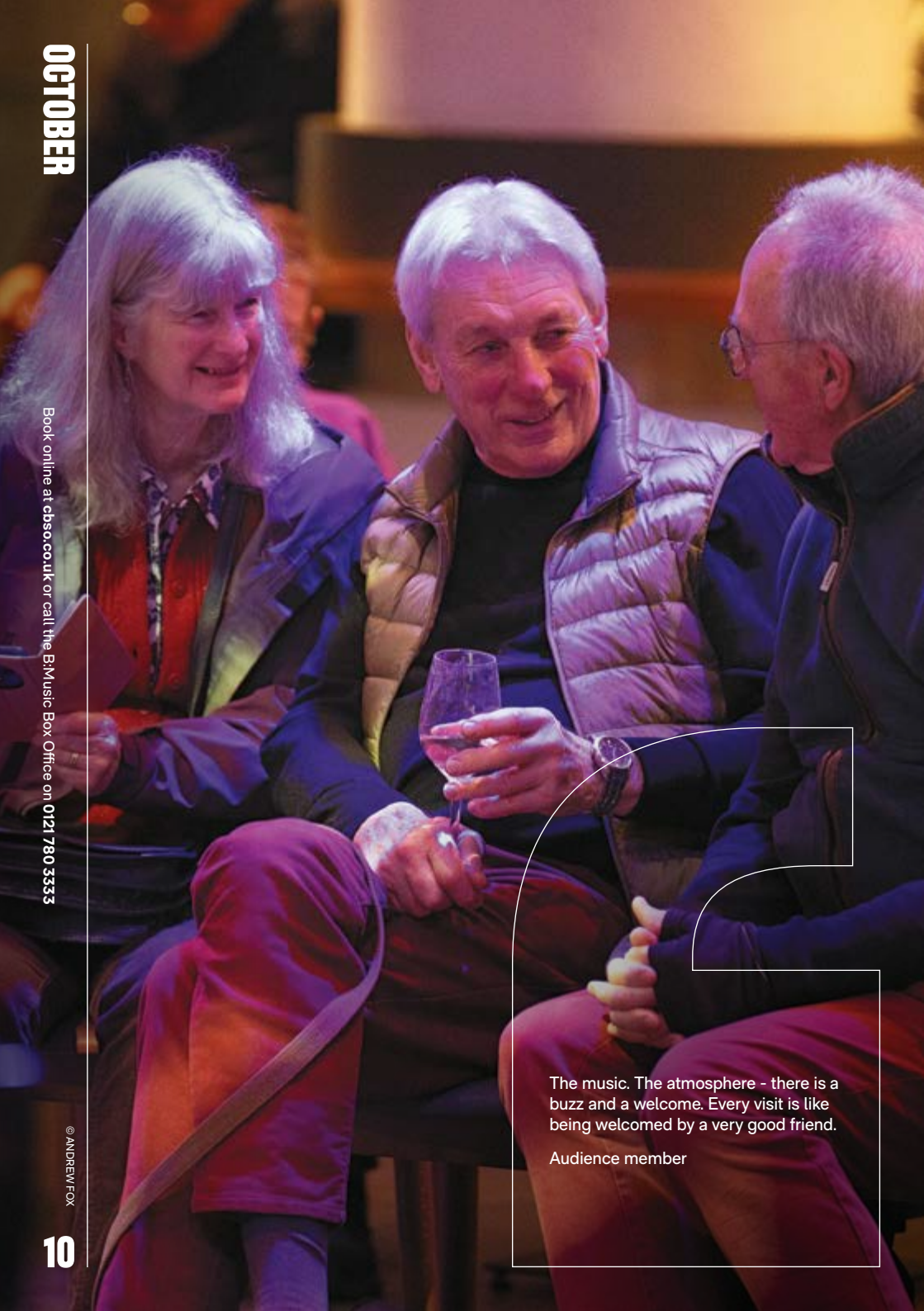
'What beauty!' declared Jean Sibelius, as a flight of swans soared above his home in the Finnish forests. That shining vision grew into his Fifth Symphony, and from opening sunrise to unforgettable finish, few living conductors understand it better than our guest Thomas Dausgaard. First, though, pianist Benjamin Grosvenor – another great friend of the CBSO – hurls himself into Brahms' tempestuous First Piano Concerto.

Thomas Dausgaard, Conductor
Benjamin Grosvenor, Piano

Brahms , Piano Concerto No.1	47mins
Sibelius , Symphony No.5	32mins

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

Free pre-concert talk. See page 59.



The music. The atmosphere - there is a buzz and a welcome. Every visit is like being welcomed by a very good friend.

Audience member

WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2026, 7PM
 📍 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE



© ANDREW FOX

Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique* – music without limits – conducted by the fabulous François Leleux.

Sex, drugs and symphony orchestras: Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique* is one of those pieces you never forget – a wild-eyed genius dialling his imagination up to eleven and going rogue. The orchestra loves to play it, and that goes double when we're working with the unstoppable François Leleux – who also plays the cor anglais and conducts classics by Debussy and Birmingham's very own Ruth Gipps.

François Leleux, Conductor/Cor Anglais

Debussy , Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun	10mins
Gipps , Wind Sinfonietta	13mins
Debussy , Rhapsody for Cor Anglais and Orchestra	11mins
Berlioz , <i>Symphonie fantastique</i>	50mins

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

Free pre-concert talk. See page 59.
 Members' reception.

THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER 2026, 1PM
 📍 CBSO CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM

CENTRE STAGE

SERENADES WITH FRANÇOIS LELEUX



© JEAN-BAPTISTE MILLOT

Guest artist François Leleux joins the woodwind section for an afternoon of tuneful gems.

Not every oboist is described as "larger than life", but then not every oboist is the irrepressible François Leleux! Today he joins our woodwind section as first among equals, in joyous mini-masterpieces by Dvořák, Gounod and the young Richard Strauss. Expect sparkling melodies and playful wit: here in the CBSO Centre, it'll feel close enough to touch.

François Leleux, Oboe
CBSO Woodwind Section

Gounod , <i>Petite Symphonie</i>	21mins
Strauss , <i>Serenade in Bb</i>	10mins
Dvořák , <i>Serenade in D minor</i>	24mins

Tickets: £15

SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER 2026, 7:30PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

LIVE IN CONCERT: HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 2



© 2014 DREAMWORKS ANIMATION LLC.

An epic adventure and breathtaking animation, brought to life by a soaring live orchestral score.

When Hiccup and Toothless discover a secret ice cave with wild dragons and a mysterious Dragon Rider, they find themselves in an epic battle to save the future of man and dragons! Experience the spectacular film sequel presented in HD, with its thrilling score by John Powell performed live by the CBSO.

© 2014 DreamWorks Animation LLC. All Rights Reserved.

This performance is promoted by esk live in association with B:Music.

Anthony Gabriele, Conductor

Tickets: £32-£69.50

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

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER 2026, 3PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

RECOMMENDED BY CLASSIC *f*M

FAMILY CONCERT: HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR



© JONATHAN FERRO

Wizards, witches and tiny trick-or-treaters welcome – join us as we celebrate spooky season at Symphony Hall!

From iconic movie themes including Ghostbusters and Jaws to Saint-Saëns' eerie Danse Macabre and Mussorgsky's wicked Baba Yaga, get your spookiest costume on and join us at Symphony Hall for an afternoon of ghoulishly delightful classics for the whole family.

Suitable for children aged 6+. BSL interpreted. Join us for free craft activities, in partnership with Ikon Gallery, from 2pm.

Ellie Slorach, Conductor
Jane Wright, Presenter
CBSO Children's Chorus

Programme to include: Jaws and Ghostbusters, 'Golden' from KPop Demon Hunters, and a selection of suitably spooky music by Mussorgsky, Grieg, Saint-Saëns and Anna Clyne.

Tickets: £12

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

This concert is generously supported by the Clive Richards Foundation.

Free crafts
from 2pm

Centre Stage concerts are generously supported by John Osborn CBE.

CENTRE STAGE

New 1pm
start time

Centre Stage is an opportunity for us to delve into our 'bucket list' pieces and share our passions by curating our own chamber concerts. This offers you, our wonderful audience, a deeper insight into who we are as musicians. CBSO supporters have told me that they gain a greater understanding of the musicians within the orchestra by getting up close at the CBSO Centre.

Last season we included section-specific concerts with the bassoons and the violas; we continue this thread into 2026-27 with the oboes and a concert showcasing the harp devised by our Principal Harpist Katherine Thomas.

There's more Brahms, a composer close to my heart as a musician, with both the Clarinet Trio and the Quintet. And, of course, we have taken the opportunity to celebrate the giant that is Beethoven: ranging from the well-known string quartets and his astonishing Septet, to his unusual Sextet for Horns and String Quartet.

We are also thrilled to have the opportunity to play alongside some amazing guest soloists, François Leleux, Steven Osborne, Alice Sara Ott and Kazuki himself.

After two years of stewardship of this extraordinary series, it's clear to me that Centre Stage is special. I hope you can join us to discover that for yourselves at the CBSO Centre this season.

Lowri

Lowri Porter
Section Leader 2nd Violins
and Centre Stage Co-ordinator



WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2026, 1PM
 CBSO CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM

CENTRE STAGE

BRAHMS' CLARINET QUINTET



© ALEXANDRA GEORGADIS

Music for an autumn day with Brahms' haunting Clarinet Quintet.

Brahms had retired from music when he met the clarinetist of his dreams. Result: this magical Clarinet Quintet, in which melodies curl like woodsmoke, and passionate sorrows burst like wildfire into golden autumn afternoons. In short, it's a masterpiece, and with our own Section Leader Clarinet Oliver Janes leading a team of colleagues, it's 40 minutes of magic.

Oliver Janes, Clarinet
Charlotte Skinner, Violin
Victoria Farrell-Reed, Violin
David BaMaung, Viola
Miguel Fernandes, Cello

Brahms, Clarinet Quintet

40mins

Tickets: £12

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 2026, 7:30PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

LIVE IN CONCERT: CASINO ROYALE



Betrayal, high-stakes poker and explosive action - this is Bond's origin story as you've never seen (or heard) it before.

Experience Casino Royale on the big screen, accompanied by the full CBSO who perform David Arnold's thrilling score live – a spectacular way to celebrate the film's 20th anniversary. Directed by Martin Campbell, Casino Royale brings us Bond at the start of his career, having just earned 00 status and his licence to kill.

Film Concerts Live! presents Casino Royale in Concert, produced in association with EON Productions and Metro Goldwyn Mayer Studios (MGM).

This performance is promoted by esk live in association with B:Music.

Caleb Young, Conductor

Tickets: £42.50-£82.50

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

SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER 2026, 7:30PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

LIVE IN CONCERT: WORLD OF WARCRAFT



Discover the epic world of Azeroth in a breathtaking musical celebration.

Join us for a powerful symphonic journey through twenty years of World of Warcraft's unforgettable music. In partnership with Blizzard Entertainment®, Helvepic presents this special "World of Warcraft®: 20 Years of Music" anniversary concert which brings the landscapes, legends and heroes of Azeroth to life with full orchestra and choir. From the game's earliest themes to its latest adventures, expect soaring melodies, thrilling moments and a chance to experience this iconic universe like never before.

This performance is promoted by esk live in association with B:Music.

Tickets: £31.50-£61.50

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



The CBSO is an official partner of Classic FM

CLASSIC *fm*

See Aled on Friday 19 February. See page 36.



On behalf of Classic FM, I'm delighted to invite you to our 'Classic FM Recommends' series, as part of the CBSO's 2026-27 Season.

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra is an Official Partner of Classic FM - we have loved partnering with this stunning orchestra, including at Classic FM Live concerts. We have hand-picked several performances from across the season that we think will appeal to you. So, whether you fancy treating yourself to Beethoven's mighty Fifth Symphony, or maybe a taste of Grieg's Piano Concerto... or even a night celebrating 50 years of Star Wars - this world-class orchestra has something for everyone. Enjoy!

Aled Jones
 Presenter, Classic FM

See Ilan in Birmingham: TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2026, THURSDAY 4 MARCH 2027
AND WEDNESDAY 19 MAY 2027

PRINCIPAL GUEST CONDUCTOR: ILAN VOLKOV

In the Autumn last year, we announced Ilan Volkov as our new Principal Guest Conductor – a role in which he'll work closely with the orchestra and help shape several exciting concerts every year. Ilan is known around the world for his bold and imaginative approach to orchestral music. His fearless programming and deep curiosity lead him to create genre-spanning, surprising programmes for audiences. We're thrilled to be working more closely with him, not least because of his commitment to bringing Birmingham's audiences closer to music they might never otherwise experience.

“

"I've always had such amazingly warm encounters here [in Birmingham], with everybody in the management team, the audience and of course, the orchestra." He explains that both he and the orchestra have developed a confidence in each other over the years and, as he puts it, "listening to an orchestra as a conductor, you never stop learning."

Ilan Volkov
Principal Guest Conductor



Buy more, save more with our multi-buy discounts [cbso.co.uk/ways-to-save](https://www.cbso.co.uk/ways-to-save)

© VOTTECH BRTNICKY

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TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2026, 7PM
SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

BRUCKNER'S 7TH SYMPHONY



© HANNAH BLAKE-FATHERS

Ilya Gringolts plays Prokofiev and Ilan Volkov conducts Bruckner: soul music, Austrian style.

Imagine a symphony played by an angel. That's how Bruckner imagined the opening of his Seventh Symphony, and when you hear it, you'll understand why. For conductor Ilan Volkov, every performance is a voyage of discovery, and in his first concert as our new Principal Guest Conductor he pairs it with Prokofiev at his most enchanting – a musical fairytale retold by the great Ilya Gringolts.

Ilan Volkov, Conductor
Ilya Gringolts, Violin

Prokofiev, Violin Concerto No.1 22mins
Bruckner, Symphony No.7 64mins

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

This concert is generously supported by Jerry Sykes.

Free pre-concert performance. See page 59.

THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2026, 1PM
CBSO CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM

CENTRE STAGE

SHOSTAKOVICH'S PIANO QUINTET



© JONATHAN FERRO

Shostakovich goes to town, as we perform his magnificent Piano Quintet.

If you enjoy Shostakovich's symphonies, you're going to love his Piano Quintet. Big, bold and written with the same emotional force as the Fifth Symphony, it's an unforgettable introduction to his chamber music, and a perfect upbeat to next week's performance of the War Requiem by his great friend Britten. A haunting Czech miniature sets the mood.

Lowri Porter, Violin
Bethan Allmand, Violin
Chris Yates, Viola
Kate Setterfield, Cello
Robert Markham, Piano

Suk, Elegy 7mins
Shostakovich, Piano Quintet 35mins

Tickets: £12

NOVEMBER

17

WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2026, 7:30PM
 COVENTRY CATHEDRAL, COVENTRY

BRITTEN'S WAR REQUIEM

This Remembrance Day, Kazuki Yamada brings Britten's humanitarian masterpiece home to Coventry Cathedral - a plea for peace as resonant now as the day it was written.

What passing bells...? Benjamin Britten composed his War Requiem for the opening of the new Coventry Cathedral, but it's become a classic. A timeless, intensely moving meditation on man's inhumanity to man. The CBSO gave its world premiere: this music is in our soul, and every performance is special to us. Join us as Kazuki Yamada and a team of incredible musicians, choirs and international soloists bring it home today.

Kazuki Yamada, Conductor
 Irina Lungu, Soprano
 Andrew Staples, Tenor
 Christian Gerhaher, Baritone
 CBSO Chorus
 CBSO Youth Chorus
 Trinity Boys Choir

Britten, War Requiem 80mins

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53

Please note, this concert is not part of the CBSO multi-buy discount and will go on sale after the majority of the 2026-27 Season. Please see p.64 for details.

This concert is generously supported by David and Sandra Burbidge.

WAR REQUIEM ON TOUR

Following our performance at Coventry Cathedral, we'll be taking Britten's War Requiem to concert halls across Europe. Keep an eye on our website for full details.

This tour is generously supported by Barry and Frances Kirkham and Rohm Music Foundation and ROHM Semiconductor GmbH.

THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2026, 8PM
 CBSO CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM

LIVE AT THE CENTRE

JASDEEP SINGH DEGUN



© ROWLAND THOMAS

A programme of gloriously cinematic music for sitar and strings.

Composer and sitarist Jasdeep Singh Degun's music complements the ancient traditions of ragas with contemporary techniques. In this beautiful evening performance, string players from the CBSO will join Jasdeep and tabla player Harkiret Bahra on stage to co-create a musical tale, driven by the beautiful spontaneity of the Indian classical tradition, transporting you through layers of mesmerising melody.

Jasdeep Singh Degun, Sitar
Harkiret Bahra, Tabla

Programme to include a selection of pieces for sitar, tabla and string quartet by Jasdeep Singh Degun, including: Abbhā, Alaap, Lament from Orpheus, Rageshri, Veer and the 2nd movement from his Concerto for sitar & orchestra (Arya).

Tickets: £15

FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2026, 1PM
 CBSO CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM

CENTRE STAGE

BEETHOVEN & BEAMISH QUARTETS



© HANNAH BLAKE-FATHERS

Beethoven with a twist: four musicians perform three remarkable string quartets.

Everything that Beethoven touched became larger than life, and when he set out to write string quartets, he certainly didn't hold back. Wild, passionate and surprisingly playful, his Fourth Quartet is the perfect curtain-raiser for our 2027 Beethoven festivities. Today, our players pair it with a romantic discovery from Sweden and Sally Beamish's imagined portrait of Beethoven in California.

Colette Overdijk, Violin
Georgia Hannant, Violin
Amy Thomas, Viola
Arthur Boutillier, Cello

Aulin, String Quartet No.1: II and IV	10mins
Sally Beamish, String Quartet No.2 (Opus California)	11mins
Beethoven, String Quartet No.4	23mins

Tickets: £12

SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2026, 3PM
 TOWN HALL, BIRMINGHAM

RECOMMENDED BY CLASSIC FM

BEETHOVEN'S VIOLIN CONCERTO

Eugene Tzinkidelean plays and directs Beethoven's Violin Concerto. Pure genius, played from the heart.

In 2027 the world commemorates Ludwig van Beethoven, but when music is as powerful, as profound and as wonderfully beautiful as his Violin Concerto, we've never needed any excuse to play it. CBSO Leader Eugene Tzinkidelean is both soloist and conductor today, and to set the scene he opens with three of Beethoven's most thrilling overtures: controlled explosions of melody, courage and drama.

Eugene Tzinkidelean, Play/Direct

Beethoven, Leonore Overture No.2	15mins
Beethoven, Egmont Overture	9mins
Beethoven, Corolian Overture	9mins
Beethoven, Violin Concerto	42mins

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53

WEDNESDAY 2 DECEMBER 2026, 7PM
 📍 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

ELGAR'S CELLO CONCERTO



Elgar's Cello Concerto and Shostakovich's Tenth: powerful classics, superbly played.

Tales from a dark century: Elgar wrote his Cello Concerto in the aftermath of the Great War and it's become one of the best-loved of all British classics. The brother-and-sister team of Joshua and Alisa Weilerstein will show you why today; an oasis of poetry between Shostakovich's titanic symphony (some say it's his greatest) and the impassioned Rhapsody by his friend Weinberg.

Joshua Weilerstein, Conductor
Alisa Weilerstein, Cello

Weinberg,	
Rhapsody on Moldavian Themes	12mins
Elgar, Cello Concerto	30mins
Shostakovich, Symphony No.10	57mins

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

Free pre-concert talk. See page 59.
 Members' reception.

FRI 4 DEC 2026, 11AM, 1PM
 SAT 5 DEC 2026, 11AM, 1:30PM, 3:30PM
 📍 CBSO CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM

NOTELETS: CHRISTMAS ADVENTURE

Free pre-concert crafts



Wrap up warm, we're flying around the world with Santa!

It's a magical time of year, and you're invited to hop on Santa's sleigh and soar across the skies this Christmas! Join CBSO musicians 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, in partnership with Ikon Gallery, 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. BSL interpreted.

Tickets: £10

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

All children over 9 months require a ticket.

Notelets concerts are generously supported by the Clive Richards Foundation.



SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER 2026, 3PM
 📍 TOWN HALL, BIRMINGHAM

EX CATHEDRA: BRITTEN AT CHRISTMAS



Joyful, radiant and dramatic - Britten's vision of the Christmas spirit.

Start your Christmas season with three festive masterpieces by Benjamin Britten, as we join forces with Ex Cathedra to mark his 50th anniversary. From the precocious A Boy was Born, written aged 19 and the much-loved A Ceremony of Carols, to the vivid storytelling of Saint Nicolas - this is an unmissable festive afternoon of music that glitters and endures.

Jeffrey Skidmore, Conductor
Sebastian Hill, Tenor
Katherine Thomas, Harp
Ex Cathedra Choir & Academy of Vocal Music
City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Britten, A Boy was Born	32mins
Britten, A Ceremony of Carols	23mins
Britten, Saint Nicolas	50mins

Tickets: £22-£48.50

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

WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2026, 1PM
 📍 CBSO CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM

CENTRE STAGE

TWO HARPS



A concert of fairytales and wonder from harpists Katherine Thomas and Alex Rider.

What could be more magical than the sound of a harp? Two harps, of course, and today CBSO Principal Harpist Katherine Thomas is joined by her inspirational colleague Alex Rider to weave sonic enchantment. There'll be mysterious tales from Ravel, shimmering nocturnes, and the ravishing musical images of Claude Debussy – music to spark the imagination and soothe the soul.

Katherine Thomas, Harp
Alex Rider, Harp

Programme to include:
Salzedo, Song in the Night
Ravel, Mother Goose
Debussy, Preludes

Tickets: £12

THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER 2026, 2.15PM & 7PM
 TOWN HALL, BIRMINGHAM

KAZUKI CONDUCTS THE NUTCRACKERS

Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker gets a swinging makeover in this fun-filled concert to kick off our festive season.

Christmas is coming; time to crack open the sweets! Musical treats don't get much more delicious than Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker. But there are some mouthwatering surprises in Kazuki Yamada's musical selection box too, as the CBSO's own Oliver Janes goes to town with Leonard Bernstein, and Duke Ellington brings his own irresistible swing to Tchaikovsky's best tunes. You're in for a treat.

Kazuki Yamada, Conductor
Oliver Janes, Clarinet

Tchaikovsky , Selection from The Nutcracker	57mins
Bernstein , Prelude, Fugue and Riffs	9mins
Ellington , The Nutcracker Suite	30mins

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53

Buy more, save more with our multi-buy discounts [cbso.co.uk/ways-to-save](https://www.cbso.co.uk/ways-to-save)

© ANDREW FOX

THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER 2026, 7.30PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

CBSO CHRISTMAS PARTY



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

Experience the very best of Christmas music in an evening presented by Jess Gillam at 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!

Stephen Bell, Conductor
Jess Gillam, Presenter
Sumudu Jayatilaka, Vocalist
Tom Solomon, Vocalist
CBSO Chorus
CBSO Youth Chorus
CBSO Children's Chorus

Programme to include: Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire), Santa Claus is Coming to Town, White Christmas, I'll be Home for Christmas, It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year, Winter Wonderland, All I Want for Christmas is You and more!

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

This concert is generously supported by the Clive Richards Foundation and the Leverhulme Trust.

FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER 2026, 7.30PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

CBSO CHORAL CHRISTMAS



'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 Michael Seal and the full CBSO. You're sure to leave feeling full of festive cheer!

Michael Seal, Conductor
Jess Gillam, Presenter
CBSO Chorus
CBSO Youth Chorus
CBSO Children's Chorus
CBSO SO Vocal

Programme to include: Carol of the Bells, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, In the Bleak Midwinter, O Holy Night, Once in Royal David's City and more.

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

This concert is generously supported by Peter How.

SATURDAY 19 DECEMBER 2026, 1PM & 7PM
 BP PULSE LIVE, BIRMINGHAM

LIVE IN CONCERT: THE LORD OF THE RINGS



Feel the magic of Middle-earth like never before.

Marking 25 years of the legendary film, *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*, this special anniversary event brings Howard Shore's iconic score to life as the full movie plays on the big screen. Performed live by the CBSO, Shore's richly imagined sound world takes centre stage, creating an epic and deeply immersive concert experience.

This performance is presented by The Flying Music Company by arrangement with Cami Music.

Tickets: £35-£75

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

WEDNESDAY 23 DECEMBER 2026, 7:30PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

LIVE IN CONCERT: HOME ALONE



© 1990 TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

A mischievous Christmas classic, made even more magical by a sparkling live orchestra.

A true holiday favourite, this beloved comedy classic features renowned composer John Williams' charming and delightful score performed live to picture by the CBSO. Macaulay Culkin stars as Kevin McCallister, an 8-year-old boy who's accidentally left behind when his family leaves for Christmas vacation, and who must defend his home against two bungling thieves. Hilarious and heart-warming, *Home Alone* is holiday fun for the entire family!

This performance is promoted by esk live in association with B:Music.

Tickets: £37.50-£77.50

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

SUNDAY 3 JANUARY 2027, 3PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

RECOMMENDED BY CLASSIC *f*M

VIENNESE NEW YEAR

On the beautiful *Blue Danube*... toast the New Year Viennese-style, with our annual salute to the Strauss family.

You haven't seen in the New Year until you've raised a glass of bubbly to Vienna, the city of dreams where every waltz awakes a thousand memories. The CBSO's traditional Viennese afternoon has all the tunes you love (including *The Blue Danube*), plus the fabulous Ailish Tynan singing melodies to melt the heart. *Prosit Neujahr!*

Tess Jackson, Conductor
Ailish Tynan, Soprano

Programme to include: Light Cavalry Overture, *The Blue Danube*, *Thunder and Lightning*, *Chit-chat Polka*, *Roses from the South*, *Auld Lang Syne* and more.

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

This concert is generously supported by Peter How.

WEDNESDAY 20 JANUARY 2027, 7PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

RECOMMENDED BY CLASSIC *f*M

MENDELSSOHN'S VIOLIN CONCERTO



© ALEXANDRA GEORGIAIDIS

Alina Ibragimova plays Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto, and Thomas Søndergård conducts Sibelius' Second Symphony.

It's hard to describe some music in words. An epic as stirring as Sibelius' Second Symphony tells its own mighty tale, and in the hands of a violinist as imaginative as Alina Ibragimova, Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto never sounds old. But the British composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor hasn't always had his due, and guest conductor Thomas Søndergård puts that right today.

Thomas Søndergård, Conductor
 Alina Ibragimova, Violin

Coleridge-Taylor, Ballade	12mins
Mendelssohn, Violin Concerto	28mins
Sibelius, Symphony No.2	45mins

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

Free pre-concert talk. See page 59.
 Members' reception.

THURSDAY 21 JANUARY 2027, 1PM
 CBSO CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM

CENTRE STAGE

BEETHOVEN'S SERENADE



© ALEXANDRA GEORGIAIDIS

The lighter side of Beethoven, from flautist Marie-Christine Zupancic and friends.

Beethoven wasn't always in a stormy mood. In 1801 he took three instruments, added a generous sprinkling of musical jokes and gave us his Serenade – six movements of tuneful quirks that are pretty much guaranteed to put a smile on your face. A delightfully unexpected overture to Beethoven's 200th anniversary year, from three of the CBSO's brightest stars.

Marie-Christine Zupancic, Flute
 Richard Thomas, Violin
 Adam Römer, Viola

Reger, Serenade	10mins
Beethoven, Serenade	25mins

Tickets: £12

SATURDAY 23 JANUARY 2027, 7PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

RECOMMENDED BY CLASSIC *f*M

50 YEARS OF STAR WARS



© PATCH DOLAN

A long time ago in galaxy far, far away...

John Williams' scores for Star Wars are some of the most thrilling music ever written for the cinema. Tonight, conductor Michael Seal joins the CBSO and radio presenter Zeb Soanes to celebrate 50 years since the release of Star Wars: A New Hope and the incredible scores that bring the films to life. From The Phantom Menace to The Rise of Skywalker, from the sands of Tatooine to the cliffs of AhchTo - the Force will be with you once more.

Michael Seal, Conductor
 Zeb Soanes, Presenter

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

MONDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2027, 1PM
 CBSO CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM

CENTRE STAGE

DANCES FOR WOODWIND



© JONATHAN FERRO

A knees-up with an international flavour as we go dancing all over the world.

A wind quintet is like a sonic paintbox – a riot of fresh, bright colours, just waiting for a composer with a sense of fun to come and play with them. Five CBSO wind players dive straight in today, with a globetrotting programme that dances from the plains of Hungary to the streets and dancehalls of Cuba. Bossa nova comes to Brum!

Helen Benson, Flute
 Rachael Pankhurst, Oboe
 Joanna Patton, Clarinet
 Tony Liu, Bassoon
 Elspeth Dutch, French horn

Agay, Five Easy Dances	10mins
Farkas, Early Hungarian Dances	10mins
Félix Darío Morgan, Suite Popular	
Cubana	10mins
Hallam, Dance Suite	10mins

Tickets: £12

COLLABORATIVE ARTIST: RUSHIL RANJAN

We're so excited to continue to work with genre-defying composer, arranger and producer Rushil Ranjan as a CBSO Collaborative Artist this season. A self-taught and boundary-pushing artist, whose work brings together orchestral, Sufi and classical musical traditions, Rushil has created music for concert performance, award-winning dance productions, and BAFTA-nominated film and television, alongside his internationally renowned Orchestral Qawwali Project.

Why are you excited to be a Collaborative Artist with the CBSO?

"The CBSO continues to go from strength to strength, simultaneously pushing the boundaries of what an orchestra can be whilst honouring where they came from. It has been incredible discovering new sound worlds and bringing them to new audiences. I can't wait to continue on that journey this year."



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.

Melvin Tay, Conductor
Rushil Ranjan, Composer/Arranger/Piano
Abi Sampa, Lead Vocalist
Orchestral Qawwali Project

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

Free pre-concert talk. See page 59.

NOTELETS: ON SAFARI



Grab your binoculars, we're going on Safari!

Get ready for a wild musical adventure as your little explorers journey up close to the sounds of the orchestra. Created especially for children under 6, these fun, interactive concerts invite them to dance, sing and discover instruments for the very first time. With free craft activities in partnership with Ikon Gallery before each performance, and the chance to meet musicians and try instruments afterwards, it's the perfect way to spark curiosity and let imaginations roam free.

Recommended for toddlers and young children. BSL interpreted.

Tickets: £10

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

All children over 9 months require a ticket.

Notelets concerts are generously supported by the Clive Richards Foundation.

Free pre-concert crafts

See Jess in Birmingham: WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2026, THURSDAY 17 AND FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER 2026 AND WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2027

COLLABORATIVE ARTIST: JESS GILLAM

Introducing the remarkable Jess Gillam as a Collaborative Artist for our 2026-27 and 2027-28 Seasons. Jess became the first saxophonist to reach the finals of BBC Young Musician and has since topped the classical charts, recognised as not only as one of the UK's brightest soloists but also as a trailblazer for opening up classical music to new audiences. With her boundless energy, broadcasting work and education projects, we can't wait to work with her across every part of our music-making.

What are you looking forward to most about working with the CBSO?

"I'm so excited to be a Collaborative Artist with the CBSO. They embody all of the best things about playing music and it's always inspiring to be onstage with the orchestra. The CBSO is genuinely passionate about getting people involved in all kinds of brilliant projects and creating communities. I can't wait to work with the team on some of those events!"



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WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2027, 7PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

DVOŘÁK'S 7TH SYMPHONY



Saxophone star Jess Gillam plays a spine-tingling concerto, and Alpesh Chauhan conducts Dvořák.

Anything can become music. Dvořák saw a train entering a station and heard the start of his Seventh Symphony. Janáček turned bloody history into dazzling orchestral colour. And Composer in Residence Anna Clyne and Collaborative Artist Jess Gillam transform a legend of Irish banshees into one of the most original masterpieces of the 21st century. Birmingham-born conductor Alpesh Chauhan retells all three tales today.

Alpesh Chauhan, Conductor
Jess Gillam, Saxophone

Janáček , Taras Bulba	20mins
Anna Clyne , Glasslands	25mins
Dvořák , Symphony No.7	35mins

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

Free pre-concert talk. See page 59.

SATURDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2027, 7PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

A CELEBRATION OF QUINCY JONES



A salute to Quincy Jones – from *The Wiz* to *Austin Powers* – with BBC Proms sensation Jules Buckley.

They called him "Q" – Quincy Jones, the legendary composer, arranger and life-force who made the movies swing and gave disco its mojo. Together with British music's own 'King of Swing', Jules Buckley, the CBSO gets its groove on tonight in this fabulous, full orchestral celebration of music from *The Wiz*, *The Italian Job*, *Austin Powers* and many more!

Jules Buckley, Conductor

Programme to include: *The Color Purple*, *They Call Me Mr Tibbs*, *The Italian Job*, *Sanford and Son*, *Ironsides*, *Austin Powers*, *Roots Mural*, *The Wiz*, *The Deadly Affair*, *The Getaway*, *The Pawnbroker*, *The Anderson Tapes*, *The Lost Man* and *In the Heat of the Night*.

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

KAZUKI CONDUCTS BEETHOVEN'S EROICA

Kazuki Yamada conducts Beethoven: the first three symphonies of a full cycle with the CBSO.

The symphonies of Ludwig van Beethoven are the greatest journey a conductor and an orchestra can take together, and today, Kazuki Yamada and the orchestra begin that adventure afresh. The first two symphonies are the sound of a young genius stretching his wings and then - with the two mighty chords that open Eroica - changing music forever. It'll knock you backwards.

Kazuki Yamada, Conductor

Beethoven, Symphony No.1	26mins
Beethoven, Symphony No.2	32mins
Beethoven, Symphony No.3 (Eroica)	47mins

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

Free pre-concert talk. See page 59.
Members' reception.
Members' afternoon tea.

BEETHOVEN IN BIRMINGHAM

200 years after his death, Ludwig van Beethoven remains one of the most powerful creative forces in music. His symphonies, concertos, and chamber works continue to ignite imaginations, challenge performers, and move audiences in ways few composers ever have.

He pushed boundaries at every turn, writing with real courage, even as his world became quieter, creating music that bursts with hope, struggle and joy.

That honesty is why his work continues to move us, whether it's a symphony that shakes the room or a moment of stillness that catches you off guard.

This series is our chance to share his spirit with Birmingham: music that welcomes everyone in, rewards curious listeners and reminds us how powerful a live orchestra can be. We can't wait for you to hear it.



- 27 November 2026
String Quartet No.4
See page 20
- 29 November 2026
Violin Concerto
See page 21
- 21 January 2027
Serenade
See page 28
- 17 February 2027
Symphonies 1, 2 and 3
See page 35
- 24 February 2027
Symphonies 4 and 5
See page 37
- 26 February 2027
String Quartet No.14
See page 37
- 5 March 2027
Clarinet Trio
See page 39
- 7 March 2027
Missa Solemnis
(Ex Cathedra)
See page 40
- 21 April 2027
Symphonies 6 and 7
See page 45
- 23 April 2027
Septet
See page 46
- 26 April 2027
Selection of Chamber Works
See page 47
- 4 June 2027
Sextet for Horns & String Quartet
See page 55
- 14 October 2027
Symphonies 8 and 9
(part of the 2027-28 Season)

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

FRIDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2027, 7:30PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

RECOMMENDED BY CLASSIC FM

KAZUKI CONDUCTS A NIGHT AT THE OPERA



© ANDREW FOX

Kazuki and an all-star cast bring opera's greatest hits live.

Pop songs didn't start with the charts – opera composers have been writing them for centuries. From *La bohème* to *Aida*, *Marriage of Figaro* to *Eugene Onegin*, these are tunes you already know and love. Tonight, Kazuki Yamada joins an all-star cast for an unforgettable evening of Verdi, Puccini, Donizetti and more. Glorious melodies, incredible voices, and emotion by the bucket.

Kazuki Yamada, Conductor
Aled Jones, Presenter
Katharina Konradi, Soprano
Robert Lewis, Tenor
CBSO Chorus

Programme to include: 'Nessun dorma' from *Turandot*, 'Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves' from *Nabucco*, 'Your tiny hand is frozen' from *La bohème*, 'Humming Chorus' from *Madam Butterfly*, and music from *Marriage of Figaro*, *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Eugene Onegin*.

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

This concert is generously supported by the Clive Richards Foundation and the Leverhulme Trust.

SUNDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2027, 3PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

BENEVOLENT FUND CONCERT

TCHAIKOVSKY, MOZART & PROKOFIEV



© ANDREW FOX

Kazuki Yamada is joined by a host of CBSO Section Leaders in a magnificent concert which directly supports our musicians and staff.

Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* sweeps from thunderous drama to tender lyricism, drawing you into Shakespeare's story with unmistakable colour and intensity. Add the melody and magic of Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* and Mozart's bubbly showpiece for the woodwind section, and this concert with Kazuki in aid of the CBSO Benevolent Fund really is the music of friends.

Kazuki Yamada, Conductor
Hyun Jung Song, Oboe
Oliver Janes, Clarinet
Nikolaj Henriques, Bassoon
Elspeth Dutch, Horn

Tchaikovsky, Selection from *Swan Lake* 25mins
Mozart, Sinfonia Concertante for Four Winds 30mins
Prokofiev, Selection from *Romeo and Juliet* 45mins

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

Free pre-concert performance. See page 59.

WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2027, 7PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

RECOMMENDED BY CLASSIC FM

KAZUKI CONDUCTS BEETHOVEN'S 5TH SYMPHONY



© GEOFFROY SCHIED

Kazuki reaches landmark Beethoven, and Matilda Lloyd shines in Haydn's elegant concerto.

"Thus Fate knocks at the door!" Everyone's heard the first four notes of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, but if that's all you've heard, you're in for a thrilling surprise, as the orchestra's Beethoven adventure arrives at the most famous symphony of all time. In the first half, prepare to be delighted by the Fifth's faster, funnier little sibling, as well as 'trumpeter extraordinaire' Matilda Lloyd's joyously virtuosic Haydn.

Kazuki Yamada, Conductor
Matilda Lloyd, Trumpet

Beethoven, Symphony No.4 34mins
Haydn, Trumpet Concerto 18mins
Beethoven, Symphony No.5 31mins

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

Free pre-concert performance. See page 59.

FRIDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2027, 1PM
 CBSO CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM

CENTRE STAGE

BEETHOVEN'S GREATEST STRING QUARTET



© ANDREW FOX

Ultimate Beethoven as we perform his sublime late string quartet.

"From the heart – may it go to the heart". Cut off from the world by his deafness, Beethoven reached deep into his imagination and two centuries later his late string quartets stand as an enduring miracle of beauty, wonder and the visionary power of great music. Some say that this is the greatest string quartet ever written: we say, hear for yourself.

Jonathan Martindale, Violin
Lowri Porter, Violin
Chris Yates, Viola
Arthur Boutillier, Cello

Beethoven, String Quartet No.14 45mins

Tickets: £12

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SATURDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2027, 7PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

GUITAR HEROES WITH LIVE ORCHESTRA

A celebration of some of the greatest guitar legends of all time.

From blues to rock, metal to disco, jazz to acoustic, for this feel-good show the CBSO is joined by a star line-up of guitarists and vocalists with incredible orchestral arrangements of unforgettable songs and solos made famous by some of the most influential guitarists of all time. There'll also be a few surprises – including a special Black Sabbath tribute for Birmingham audiences only.

Stephen Bell, Conductor
Emma Kershaw, Vocalist
Mick Wilson, Vocalist
Steve Trowell, Vocalist
Adam Martin, Guitar
Alex Voysey, Guitar

Programme to include music by Chic, Black Sabbath, Pink Floyd, Jimi Hendrix, Guns N' Roses, Santana, Eric Clapton, Queen, David Bowie, Joe Bonamassa and more.

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

Book online at cbsoc.co.uk or call the BMMusic Box Office on 0121 780 3333

© YURI STUPENUNSPASH



THURSDAY 4 MARCH 2027, 7:30PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

MENDELSSOHN'S A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM



© ANDREW FOX

If music be the food of love... a Shakespeare-inspired concert devised by Ilan Volkov.

The Bard, the Swan of Avon – call him what you will, but there's no question that local boy William Shakespeare has inspired some magnificent music throughout the centuries. Ilan Volkov conducts his personal favourites: magic spells from Thomas Adès, high tragedy from Richard Strauss and the fairytale wonder of Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* – including that wedding march...

Ilan Volkov, Conductor
CBSO Youth Chorus

Adès , Five Spells from <i>The Tempest</i>	22mins
Strauss , <i>Macbeth</i>	20mins
Mendelssohn , <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	42mins

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

This concert is generously supported by Chris and Jane Loughran and the Clive Richards Foundation, the Leverhulme Trust.

Free pre-concert talk. See page 59.
 Members' reception.

FRIDAY 5 MARCH 2027, 1PM
 CBSO CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM

CENTRE STAGE

BRAHMS & BEETHOVEN CLARINET TRIOS



© ALEXANDRA GEORGIADIS

Three's company: an afternoon of magical clarinet trios by Beethoven and Brahms.

When Beethoven wanted to relax, he listened to pop songs! And then he turned them into something altogether more extraordinary. That's exactly what he does in his exuberant "Gassenhauer" trio. And then these three wonderful players turn inwards to the poignant emotions and autumn colours of Brahms at his most intimate. A concert of two halves, and they're both winners.

Joanna Patton, Clarinet
Helen Edgar, Cello
John Thwaites, Piano

Beethoven , Clarinet Trio (<i>Gassenhauer</i>)	20mins
Brahms , Clarinet Trio	30mins

Tickets: £12

SUNDAY 7 MARCH 2027, 3PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

EX CATHEDRA: BEETHOVEN MISSA SOLEMNIS



Passionate, majestic and intense: join Ex Cathedra and the CBSO for Beethoven's most profound masterpiece.

Beethoven devoted four years to his monumental Missa solemnis. Passionate, majestic and intense, nothing he composed surpasses it for scale, sincerity or vision. A work Jeffrey Skidmore loves dearly, it will be a highlight of his final season – marking Beethoven's bicentenary with music performed 'from the heart that it may go to the heart'.

Jeffrey Skidmore, Conductor
Carolyn Sampson, Soprano
Martha McLorinan, Mezzo-soprano
Sebastian Hill, Tenor
James Rutherford, Bass
Ex Cathedra
City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Beethoven, Missa solemnis 82mins

Tickets: £22-£58

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

WEDNESDAY 10 MARCH 2027, 2:15PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

RECOMMENDED BY CLASSIC *f*M

NEW WORLD SYMPHONY



Mirga takes us from Shostakovich's brooding darkness into Dvořák's wondrous New World.

Some pieces are like good friends, and the epic drama and haunting melodies of Dvořák's "New World" Symphony needs no introduction. But nor does our former Music Director Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, an artist who makes every performance into an adventure. Along with cellist Maximillian Hornung, she'll drive straight for the dark heart of Shostakovich's concerto – and naturally, there's a surprise from her native Lithuania.

Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, Conductor
Maximillian Hornung, Cello

Šerkšnytė, Midsummer Song	14mins
Shostakovich, Cello Concerto No.2	33mins
Dvořák, Symphony No.9 (From the New World)	40mins

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

Free pre-concert performance. See page 59.

SUNDAY 14 MARCH 2027, 3PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

RECOMMENDED BY CLASSIC *f*M

FAMILY CONCERT: CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS

Creatures great and small are gathering at Symphony Hall...

Join us for a joyful afternoon where animals jump, swoop and scamper through the concert hall. From the playful magic of Saint-Saëns' Carnival of the Animals to Debbie Wiseman's moving tribute to endangered species, alongside some mischievous musical monkey business, this is a celebration of animals in all their forms. Expect surprises, smiles and plenty of feel-good musical storytelling the whole family will love.

Suitable for children aged 6+. BSL interpreted. Join us for free craft activities, in partnership with Ikon Gallery, from 2pm.

CBSO Assistant Conductor Tom Redmond, Presenter
CBSO Children's Chorus

Programme to include: Saint-Saëns' Carnival of the Animals, Boulanger's Spring Morning, Debbie Wiseman's Carnival of the Endangered Animals, Laura Shighihara's Grasswalk from Plants vs Zombies, Rebecca Lawrence's Animal Antics, Bob Chilcott's Spells: Spell to bring lost creatures home and more.

Tickets: £12

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

This concert is generously supported by the Clive Richards Foundation and the Leverhulme Trust.

Free post-concert performance from Project Remix
 cbsoco.uk/project-remix

Free crafts
from 2pm



Hear Anna's music in Birmingham: TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2026, SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER 2026,
WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2027, WEDNESDAY 17 MARCH 2027 AND SUNDAY 25 JULY 2027

COMPOSER IN RESIDENCE: ANNA CLYNE

Introducing GRAMMY-nominated and Ivor Novello Award-winning composer Anna Clyne as our Composer in Residence for this season. Described by The New York Times as a "composer of uncommon gifts and unusual methods," Anna is one of today's most in-demand and widely performed composers, and we can't wait to have her with us this season.

What are you most excited about for this upcoming season?

"I am most looking forward to meeting and working with the musicians of the CBSO and Kazuki Yamada, and to the world premiere of my viola concerto, Resonant Forms, featuring soloist Lawrence Power. This piece is inspired by the sculptures of Barbara Hepworth, including one housed at the Birmingham Museum of Art, Alabama. The viola serves as the voice of the sculptor's hand, tracing the gestures of carving, tension, and observation, while the orchestra shapes the space around it."

“

"I am honoured to join the CBSO as Composer in Residence. This incredible orchestra has long been a beacon of musical excellence and innovation, and I'm excited to contribute my voice to this vibrant artistic community. Through this collaboration, I look forward to exploring new musical landscapes, connecting with the musicians, and sharing experiences with the audience. This residency is an inspiring opportunity to push boundaries and deepen my connection with the rich tradition of orchestral music."

Anna Clyne
Composer in Residence



WEDNESDAY 17 MARCH 2027, 7PM
📍 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

KAZUKI CONDUCTS STRAUSS, WAGNER & CLYNE



Kazuki Yamada conducts Strauss' blockbuster plus a brand-new concerto by Anna Clyne.

Richard Strauss didn't mind blowing his own trumpet, and Ein Heldenleben has got to be one of music's most spectacular (and entertaining) self-portraits in all music. But Kazuki Yamada is making history in the first half of the concert, too, when Lawrence Power gives the world premiere of a new viola concerto by CBSO Composer in Residence Anna Clyne.

Kazuki Yamada, Conductor
Lawrence Power, Viola

Wagner , Seigfried Idyll	21mins
Anna Clyne , Resonant Forms (CBSO Commission, World Premiere)	25mins
Strauss , Ein Heldenleben	50mins

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

This commission is generously supported by John Cole and Jennie Howe.

Free pre-concert performance. See page 59.

SATURDAY 27 MARCH 2027, 7:30PM
📍 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

MAESTRO OF THE MOVIES: A TRIBUTE TO JOHN WILLIAMS



Relive some of cinema's greatest musical moments as they come alive in Symphony Hall.

Celebrate the magic of John Williams as the CBSO unleashes the soundtracks that shaped generations. From Star Wars and Indiana Jones to Harry Potter, Jurassic Park and beyond, Anthony Gabriele conducts these iconic scores live to picture in over fifty minutes of specially edited film moments. This promises to be a heartfelt tribute to cinema's greatest musical storyteller in an evening bursting with orchestral wonder.

This performance is promoted by esk live in association with B:Music.

Anthony Gabriele, Conductor

Tickets: £42.50-£82.50

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

FRIDAY 2 APRIL 2027, 7PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

WEINBERG'S THE PASSENGER

Weinberg's extraordinary opera *The Passenger*, in a landmark concert performance conducted by Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla.

On an ocean liner bound for Brazil, shortly after World War 2, a German passenger with a dark past encounters a woman she thought was dead. Memories, however, can deceive, and not every story has a simple ending. Shostakovich declared Weinberg's opera *The Passenger* "a masterpiece" and Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla agrees. This concert performance should be a landmark of our season.

Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, Conductor
Adrienn Miksch, Marta
Iurii Samoïlov, Tadeusz
Daveda Karanas, Lisa
Nikolai Schukoff, Walter
Anna Gorbachyova-Ogilvie, Katja
Lidia Vinyes Curtis, Krzystina
Marta Fontanals-Simmons, Vlasta
Shay Bloch, Hannah
Olivia Doray, Ivette
Helen Field, Alte
Liubov Sokolova, Bronka
Géraldine Dulex, Oberaufseherin & Kapo
Hrólfur Sæmundsson, Marcell Bakonyi,
Albert Casals, SS Officers
CBSO Chorus

Weinberg, *The Passenger* 140mins

Tickets: £27.50, £40



CBSO on tour in Europe
 Tuesday 6–Saturday 10 April 2027

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© ANDREW FOX

WEDNESDAY 21 APRIL 2027, 7PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

RECOMMENDED BY CLASSIC *f*M

KAZUKI CONDUCTS BEETHOVEN'S PASTORAL SYMPHONY



Kazuki Yamada conducts two more Beethoven symphonies, alongside a playful salute to Beethoven from John Adams.

Surely you jest! When Beethoven wrote his headlong Seventh Symphony, he threw the classical rule book out the window - and yet his Pastoral Symphony might be the most serene music he ever wrote. Two very different masterpieces form the next episode in Kazuki Yamada's Beethoven cycle; in between them comes the ultimate homage to Beethoven: John Adams' wildly entertaining concerto for string quartet.

Kazuki Yamada, Conductor
Villiers Quartet

Beethoven , Symphony No.6 (Pastoral)	40mins
John Adams , <i>Absolute Jest</i>	22mins
Beethoven , Symphony No.7	36mins

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

Free pre-concert talk. See page 59.

THURSDAY 22 APRIL 2027, 7PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

SYMPHONIC ABBA



The CBSO gets a fabulously Scandinavian treatment in this celebration of all-things-ABBA.

You'll find all the best-loved songs, from their international hit single *Waterloo* through to fan favourites, including *S.O.S.*, *Mamma Mia*, *Dancing Queen* and many more. Join us for this symphonic spectacular which pays tribute to one of the world's most beloved pop groups and promises to be an epic night out!

In association with Capital Voices.

Stephen Bell, Conductor
Annie Skates, Vocalist
Kate Graham, Vocalist
Steve Trowell, Vocalist
David Combes, Vocalist

Programme to include: *Waterloo*, *Honey Honey*, *Fernando*, *Take A Chance On Me*, *Does Your Mother Know*, *Money, Money, Money*, *Super Trouper*, *The Winner Takes It All*, *Chiquitita*, *Mamma Mia*, *Dancing Queen* and more!

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

Free pre-concert performance. See page 59.

FRIDAY 23 APRIL 2027, 1PM
 CBSO CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM

CENTRE STAGE

BEETHOVEN SEPTET



© JONATHAN FERRO

Beethoven lets his hair down – and seven musicians share the fun.

Never mind the symphonies: one of Beethoven's greatest hits in his own lifetime was this marvellous Septet. A team of CBSO players are bringing it back today, and quite honestly, what's not to enjoy? Symphonic drama and delicate poetry; musical jokes and irresistibly catchy tunes – this life-affirming pocket masterpiece has got it all. Summer arrives early at the CBSO Centre.

Oliver Janes, Clarinet
Nikolaj Henriques, Bassoon
Elspeth Dutch, French horn
Eugene Tzikindeclean, Violin
Adam Römer, Viola
Arthur Boutillier, Cello
Anthony Alcock, Double bass

Beethoven, Septet 41mins

Tickets: £12

SUNDAY 25 APRIL 2027, 8PM
 CBSO CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM

LIVE AT THE CENTRE

SECKOU KEITA'S AFRICAN RHAPSODIES



© ANDREW FOX

A breathtaking blend of kora and orchestra.

Seckou Keita's ambitious work for kora and orchestra 'African Rhapsodies' is an incredible fusion of kora and symphonic music. Serving as a grand homage to West Africa's iconic 22-stringed harp, the piece bridges Western and African classical music in a way that is uniquely expressive.

Together with musicians from the CBSO, and conductor Clark Rundell, Senegalese drummer Mohamed Gueye, they will present an intimate version of this work for small ensemble.

Clark Rundell, Conductor
Seckou Keita, Kora

Seckou Keita (arr. D. Mantovani), African Rhapsodies: Little bro, Ataya sonata, Bimo duo, Tatono's path, L' Epopée Mande-Arab, Tamala's caravan trail, Simply beautiful Miro Ode to Kanou, Alhambra, Bamba, the light of Touba.

Tickets: £15

MONDAY 26 APRIL 2027, 1PM
 CBSO CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM

CENTRE STAGE

BEETHOVEN'S OBOES



© ANDREW FOX

Ludwig van Beethoven was full of surprises and here we share some delightful rarities and miniatures.

A trio for two oboists, plus an unexpected friend. A bubbly fantasy on Mozart's naughtiest opera. And a pocket-sized duo for two spectacle-wearers... well, no-one ever said that Beethoven's sense of humour was tactful. But it's very Beethoven, and that's the point today: as we explore the wit, the charm and the sheer fun of Ludwig with his hair down.

Hyun Jung Song, Oboe
Emmet Byrne, Oboe
Rachael Pankhurst, Oboe/Cor Anglais
Isobel Doncaster, Viola
Helen Edgar, Cello

Beethoven, Trio for two Oboes and Cor Anglais 25mins
 Beethoven, Eyeglass Duo 15mins
 Beethoven, Variations from Don Giovanni 10mins

Tickets: £12

THURSDAY 29 APRIL 2027, 2:15PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

STRAUSS & SCHUBERT



© ANDREW FOX

Viennese whirl: three dancing delights from the City of Dreams, plus sparkling Saint-Saëns with pianist Pavel Kolesnikov.

They knew how to have fun in old Vienna, and in his first ever concert with the CBSO, conductor David Danzmayr hits the dance floor with Johann Strauss, shares the heart-melting tenderness of Franz Schubert and waltzes into the night with Richard Strauss' Der Rosenkavalier. In between, things just get livelier – as the phenomenal Pavel Kolesnikov plays Saint-Saëns' irresistible piano concerto. Champagne for the ears.

David Danzmayr, Conductor
Pavel Kolesnikov, Piano

Strauss II, Tik Tak Polka 3mins
 Saint-Saëns, Piano Concerto No.2 23mins
 Schubert, Symphony No.8 (Unfinished) 22mins
 Strauss, Suite from Der Rosenkavalier 21mins

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

Free pre-concert talk. See page 59.
 Members' reception.

SATURDAY 1 MAY 2027, 7PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

75 YEARS OF BOLLYWOOD



© JONATHAN FERRO

The best-loved songs from the golden age of Bollywood.

Experience an unforgettable evening as Birmingham's orchestra joins two extraordinary vocalists to honour the timeless voices of Bollywood legends such as Lata Mangeshkar, Mohammed Rafi, Asha Bhosle, Arijit Singh and Shreya Ghoshal. Immerse yourself in lush orchestral arrangements, soaring melodies and much-loved favourites reimagined on an epic scale. A celebration of music, dance, nostalgia and cinematic magic right here in Symphony Hall.

Michael Seal, Conductor
Navin Kundra, Vocalist
Rekha Paurana, Vocalist
Dancers from Sampad Arts

Programme to include: Lag Ja Gale, Chaiyya Chaiyya, Tujhe Dekha Toh, Tum Hi Ho, Chura Liya Hai, Kabhi Kabhie, Kal Ho Na Ho, Chalthe Chalthe and more!

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

WEDNESDAY 5 MAY 2027, 7:30PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

CBSO REMEMBERS

VERDI'S REQUIEM



© ANDREW FOX

Verdi's colossal Requiem promises a thrilling CBSO comeback for the great Sir Mark Elder.

Drums thunder, trumpets blaze, and a huge chorus cries out in terror: Verdi's Requiem isn't what you might expect from religious music! But it's exactly what you'd expect from the grand master of Italian opera – and with the massed CBSO Chorus and four magnificent voices, prepare to be stirred as former Principal Guest Conductor Sir Mark Elder makes his return.

Sir Mark Elder, Conductor
Masabane Cecilia Rangwanasha, Soprano
Alice Coote, Mezzo-soprano
Thomas Atkins, Tenor
William Thomas, Bass
CBSO Chorus

Verdi, Requiem 84mins

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

This concert is generously supported by Jerry Sykes.

In this performance we remember and celebrate those close to us that we have lost throughout the last year. If you would like to include a loved one on the dedication list, please contact marketing@cbso.co.uk

FRI 7 MAY 2027, 11AM, 1PM
 SAT 8 MAY 2027, 11AM, 1:30PM, 3:30PM
 CBSO CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM

NOTELETS: A MUSICAL BUS TOUR



© JONATHAN FERRO

Hop on board the CBSO bus for a whistle-stop tour of the best stops in Birmingham!

Join Charlotte and Bryony to sing songs at the farm, hear wonderful stories in the library and dance in the park as we enjoy lots of great music along the journey. Designed especially for under-6s, our lively Notelets concerts invite little ones to move, sing and discover instruments up close. With free craft activities in partnership with Ikon Gallery before each performance, and the chance to meet musicians afterwards, it's the perfect way to spark curiosity and set little imaginations in motion.

Recommended for toddlers and young children. BSL interpreted.

Tickets: £10

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

All children over 9 months require a ticket.

Notelets concerts are generously supported by the Clive Richards Foundation.

Free pre-concert crafts

MONDAY 10 MAY 2027, 1PM
 CBSO CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM

CENTRE STAGE

RACHMANINOFF & LYAPUNOV



© JUDE RADLEY

Discover the passionate chamber music of Rachmaninoff and his contemporary Lyapunov.

The young Rachmaninoff was a Romantic with a capital R, and he poured all his yearning into a piano trio that's everything you'd expect (and more) from this hugely popular composer. And then discover the glittering, wildly emotional world of Rachmaninoff's forgotten contemporary Sergei Lyapunov – composer, star pianist and master of melody. It's grand, it's dreamy and we think you're going to love it.

Nate Bomans, Violin
Victoria Farrell-Reed, Violin
Michael Jenkinson, Viola
Helen Edgar, Cello
Julian Atkinson, Double bass
John Thwaites, Piano

Rachmaninoff, Piano Trio No.1 15mins
Lyapunov, Piano Sextet 35mins

Tickets: £12

THURSDAY 13 MAY 2027, 2:15PM
 📍 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

RACHMANINOFF'S 3RD SYMPHONY



© HANNAH BLAKE-FATHERS

Stravinsky, Prokofiev and Rachmaninoff: a kaleidoscope of Russian melody, starring pianist Tomos Boyles.

When Russian composers encountered the new world, anything was possible. Stravinsky taught elephants to boogie. Prokofiev set out to amaze his listeners, and a rising star of our own century – Dudley Piano Competition winner Tomos Boyles – takes his place today. And Rachmaninoff poured all his hope and homesickness into a symphony that sings, dances, and grabs you by the heart.

Bertie Baigent, Conductor
Tomos Boyles, Piano

Stravinsky , Circus Polka for a Young Elephant	4mins
Prokofiev , Piano Concerto No.3	27mins
Rachmaninoff , Symphony No.3	40mins

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

Members' reception.
 Members' afternoon tea.

FRIDAY 14 MAY 2027, 7:30PM
 📍 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

RECOMMENDED BY CLASSIC FM

CLASSIC FM HALL OF FAME



© ANDREW FOX

The nation's favourite classics! John Suchet hosts a live celebration of the Classic FM Hall of Fame.

You love them, so we play them! The Classic FM Hall of Fame is the definitive countdown of Britain's favourite classical music. Finlandia, Harry Potter, Peer Gynt... come on, you're humming them already! Classic FM's John Suchet hosts, as maestro Michael Seal and the full CBSO present a whole evening of great tunes, from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart to Wolf Hall.

Michael Seal, Conductor
Leia Zhu, Violin
John Suchet, Presenter

Programme to include: Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto, Mozart's Symphony No.40 and The Marriage of Figaro Overture, Bruch's Scottish Fantasy, Walton's Crown Imperial, Grieg's In the Hall of the Mountain King, Price's Adoration, Debbie Wiseman's theme from Wolf Hall and Sibelius' Finlandia.

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

WEDNESDAY 19 MAY 2027, 7PM
 📍 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

MESSIAEN'S TURANGALILA SYMPHONY



Hold tight! Ilan Volkov conducts Messiaen's monumental symphony, and you simply have to hear it live.

Picture an action film score, a rhythmic workout and a hymn to love on a cosmic scale. Add a gigantic orchestra, a virtuoso pianist and a vintage electronic instrument straight out of science fiction, and you can understand why Messiaen's mind-boggling Turangalila Symphony has become one of the CBSO's favourite showpieces. Principal Guest Conductor Ilan Volkov is crazy about it: come and hear why!

Ilan Volkov, Conductor
Steven Osborne, Piano
Nathalie Forget, Ondes Martenot

Messiaen, Turangalila Symphony 76mins

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

This concert is generously supported by Jamie and Alison Justham.

Free pre-concert talk. See page 59.

THURSDAY 20 MAY 2027, 1PM
 📍 CBSO CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM

CENTRE STAGE

QUARTET FOR THE END OF TIME WITH STEVEN OSBORNE



© BENJAMIN FAJOLVEGA

Pure transcendence from pianist Steven Osborne and four CBSO colleagues.

In a wartime prison camp, Olivier Messiaen found himself with a clarinettist, a violinist, an old piano and a cello with a broken string. From them, he created a vision of beauty on a cosmic scale. Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time leaves no one unmoved, and we're privileged to play it today with one of Messiaen's greatest living champions, guest artist Steven Osborne.

Steven Osborne, Piano
Oliver Janes, Clarinet
Lowri Porter, Violin
Miguel Fernandes, Cello

Messiaen, Quartet for the End of Time 50mins

Tickets: £15

This concert is generously supported by Jamie and Alison Justham.

WEDNESDAY 26 MAY 2027, 2:15PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

KAZUKI CONDUCTS HAYDN & MOZART

Haydn lights up London and Strauss raises an eyebrow – fun without limits from Kazuki Yamada.

All the best composers love a joke! Mozart wrote his 'Haffner' Symphony for a family celebration; his great friend Haydn, meanwhile, brought London to its feet with music full of wit and theatrical flair. We won't spoil the fun today: but let's just say that with Kazuki Yamada conducting the naughtiest of French ballets and the CBSO's own Elspeth Dutch playing Strauss' playful concerto, everyone gets to join in!

Kazuki Yamada, Conductor
Elspeth Dutch, French horn

Haydn , Symphony No.104 (London)	28mins
Strauss , Horn Concerto No.2	18mins
Poulenc , Les Biches: Suite for Orchestra	19mins
Mozart , Symphony No.35 (Haffner)	23mins

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

This concert is generously supported by Jerry Sykes.

Free pre-concert talk. See page 59.
 Members' reception.

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© ANDREW FOX



The whole orchestra was fantastic and we are so lucky to have such talent in Birmingham.

Audience member

© ANDREW FOX

SATURDAY 29 MAY 2027, 7PM
 📍 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

KAZUKI CONDUCTS SHOSTAKOVICH'S 5TH SYMPHONY



© UGO PONTE

Walton blazes, Ravel dazzles and Shostakovich's mighty symphony defies everything.

"A Soviet artist's response to just criticism". That's what Shostakovich called his Fifth Symphony, but for him, it was a matter of life and death, and you can sense it in every note. With Kazuki Yamada conducting, it's a powerful climax to a high-voltage concert that opens with Walton's roof-raising coronation march and stars Alice Sara Ott in Ravel's glittering piano concerto.

Kazuki Yamada, Conductor
Alice Sara Ott, Piano

Walton, Orb and Sceptre	5mins
Ravel, Piano Concerto in G	23mins
Shostakovich, Symphony No.5	46mins

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

Free pre-concert talk. See page 59.

SUNDAY 30 MAY 2027, 1PM
 📍 CBSO CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM

CENTRE STAGE

KAZUKI YAMADA & ALICE SARA OTT



© HANNA BLAKE-FATHERS

Pianist Alice Sara Ott stars in a celebration of the wit, the wonder and the boundless imagination of Maurice Ravel.

"I get inspired by things I see and experience," says our Collaborative Artist Alice Sara Ott, "by conversations, by people". So, we're especially delighted to be playing chamber music alongside her this afternoon: the enchanted visions of Maurice Ravel, from the fantastic Introduction and Allegro to the dizzying La Valse. Up close in the CBSO Centre, it'll sound like magic.

Kazuki Yamada, Piano
Alice Sara Ott, Piano
Helen Benson, Flute
Joanna Patton, Clarinet
Colette Overdijk, Violin
Yuriko Matsuda, Violin
Amy Thomas, Viola
Kate Setterfield, Cello
Daniel Vassallo, Double bass
Katherine Thomas, Harp

Ravel, Introduction and Allegro	12mins
Satie, Gnossienne No.1 and No.3	9mins
Debussy, Danse sacrée et danse profane	11mins
Ravel, La Valse	12mins

Tickets: £15

FRIDAY 4 JUNE 2027, 1PM
 📍 CBSO CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM

CENTRE STAGE

BEETHOVEN & MOZART



© ALEXANDRA GEORGADIS

Mozart and Beethoven in an outdoor mood – perfect chamber music for a summer day!

Add a horn or two to a string quartet, and it's like flinging open a window. For Beethoven and Mozart, it inspired absolute enjoyment (and a fair bit of mischief too); for Brahms it was all about poetry. Savour the mood today, as Elspeth Dutch leads a team of CBSO friends on an adventure with the happiest of endings.

Elspeth Dutch, French horn
Neil Shewan, French horn
Charlotte Skinner, Violin
Bryony Morrison, Violin
Jess Tickle, Viola
Isobel Doncaster, Viola
Miguel Fernandes, Cello

Beethoven, Sextet for Horns & String Quartet	16mins
Brahms, Five Songs	12mins
Mozart, Horn Quintet	15mins

Tickets: £12

SUNDAY 6 JUNE 2027, 3PM
 📍 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

RECOMMENDED BY CLASSIC FM

FAMILY CONCERT: SUMMER HOLIDAY



© ANDREW FOX

Pack your bags and join us on a musical summer holiday like no other!

When their holiday plans take an unexpected turn, Amy and Toby invite the whole orchestra along for the ride – and suddenly the journey gets a lot more interesting. Think magical moments, seaside mischief and plenty of joyful surprises. So grab your sun hats, pack your sense of adventure, and bring the whole family for a summer holiday everyone will remember.

Suitable for children aged 6+. BSL interpreted. Join us for free craft activities, in partnership with Ikon Gallery, from 2pm.

Jack Lovell-Huckle, Conductor
Toby Kearney, Presenter
Amy Thomas, Presenter

Programme to include: Golden from KPop Demon Hunters, Vivaldi's Summer, How Far I'll Go from Moana, excerpts from Bizet's Carmen and Gershwin's American in Paris and more!

Tickets: £12

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

This concert is generously supported by the Clive Richards Foundation.

Free crafts
from 2pm

The CBSO under the leadership of Kazuki Yamada is an experience everyone should have. Absolutely outstanding.

Audience member

THURSDAY 10 JUNE 2027, 7:30PM
 📍 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

KAZUKI CONDUCTS MAHLER'S 3RD SYMPHONY

Spring marches in! Kazuki Yamada tackles the huge vistas and glowing colours of Mahler's gigantic Third Symphony.

Gustav Mahler did nothing by halves, and his Third Symphony is one of the biggest ever written. Distant trumpets, children's songs and serene mountain-top meditations: this isn't just a symphony, it's a whole universe, and it ends with a ravishing hymn to love. This latest instalment in Kazuki Yamada's Mahler symphony cycle ends our season with a glimpse of heaven.

Kazuki Yamada, Conductor
Jennifer Johnston, Mezzo-soprano
CBSO Chorus
CBSO Youth Chorus
CBSO Children's Chorus

Mahler, Symphony No.3

92mins

Tickets: £27.50, £40, £53, £65.50

This concert is generously supported by
 Chris and Jane Loughran.

Free pre-concert talk. See page 59.



CBSO on tour in Japan and South Korea
 Saturday 19 June–Monday 12 July 2027

SUNDAY 25 JULY 2027, 7PM
 SYMPHONY HALL, BIRMINGHAM

CBSO ORCHESTRAL RESIDENCY

KAZUKI CONDUCTS STRAUSS' ALPINE SYMPHONY

Kazuki Yamada conducts Strauss' spectacular Alpine Symphony, and music doesn't get much more colourful.

Richard Strauss said that he could depict even a knife and fork in music. So when his subject is the full majesty of the Bavarian Alps... well, hear for yourself, as Kazuki Yamada, the CBSO and the aspiring musicians of our Orchestral Residency programme break open Anna Clyne's musical paint box, before scaling the summit of Strauss' stupendous Alpine Symphony.

Kazuki Yamada, Conductor

Anna Clyne, Palette	35mins
Strauss, Alpine Symphony	55mins

Tickets: £27.50, £40

This concert is generously supported by the Art Mentor Foundation Lucerne.



Free pre-concert talk. See page 59.

PRE AND POST CONCERT EVENTS

Visit
cbso.co.uk
 for the most
 up-to-date
 information

Thursday 17 September, 6.30pm
 Pre-concert talk with Kazuki Yamada

Tuesday 22 September, 6pm
 Pre-concert talk with Alice Sara Ott

Wednesday 30 September, 1.15pm
 Pre-concert talk with Stephanie Childress
 and Jess Gillam

Thursday 15 October, 1.15pm
 Pre-concert talk with Thomas Dausgaard

Wednesday 21 October, 6pm
 Pre-concert talk with François Leleux

Tuesday 3 November, 6pm
 Pre-concert performance from the
 RBC Symphony Orchestra

Wednesday 2 December, 6pm
 Pre-concert talk with Alisa and
 Joshua Weilerstein

Wednesday 20 January, 6pm
 Pre-concert talk with Alina Ibragimova

Thursday 4 February, 6pm
 Pre-concert talk with Rushil Ranjan

Wednesday 10 February, 6pm
 Pre-concert talk with Alpesh Chauhan

Wednesday 17 February, 1.15pm
 Pre-concert talk with Jonathan James

Sunday 21 February, 2pm
 Pre-concert performance from the
 CBSO Children's Chorus

Wednesday 24 February, 6pm
 Pre-concert performance from the
 RBC Chamber Ensemble

Thursday 4 March, 6.30pm
 Pre-concert talk with Ilan Volkov

Wednesday 10 March, 1.15pm
 Pre-concert performance from the
 RBC Chamber Ensemble

Sunday 14 March, 4pm
 Post-concert performance from the
 Project Remix Ensemble

Wednesday 17 March, 6pm
 Pre-concert performance from the
 RBC Symphony Orchestra

Wednesday 21 April, 6pm
 Pre-concert talk with the Villiers Quartet

Thursday 22 April, 6pm
 Pre-concert performance with
 Shireland CBSO Academy students

Thursday 29 April, 1.15pm
 Pre-concert talk with David Danzmayr

Wednesday 19 May, 6pm
 Pre-concert talk with Jonathan James

Wednesday 26 May, 1.15pm
 Pre-concert talk with Elspeth Dutch

Saturday 29 May, 6pm
 Pre-concert talk with Kazuki Yamada

Thursday 10 June, 6.30pm
 Pre-concert talk with Jennifer Johnston

Sunday 25 July, 6pm
 Pre-concert talk with CBSO Orchestral
 Residency members

Please note, these events are subject to change. Please see cbso.co.uk for the most up-to-date information.

WHAT WE DO

For more than 100 years, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra has been part of this city's heartbeat: an internationally celebrated orchestra that still feels unmistakably rooted in Birmingham. We're a family of remarkable musicians, choirs and staff, led by Music Director Kazuki Yamada, who share a simple belief: music matters, and it should belong to everyone.

Every day across the West Midlands and beyond, we create moments of connection through music. With more than 150 performances each year, we welcome audiences of all ages to experience the spark that happens when imagination, craft and curiosity meet live on stage.

That spark reaches far beyond the concert hall. In hospitals, classrooms, care homes, gardens, museums, and even on trams and boats, our musicians bring comfort, joy and connection when people need it most. As one parent at Birmingham Children's Hospital told us, "This has made a difficult day so much better." And for a young Project Remix musician, the impact was life changing: "You encouraged me to play loudly and proudly... something I will carry with me going forward."

In the last year alone, more than **40,000** people took part in our learning and engagement programmes, creating over **160,000** moments of connection with the CBSO. **14,000** school children experienced the thrill of hearing a full symphony orchestra up close at our Schools' Concerts, **30,000** more watched our Relaxed Concerts online, and more than **70,000** people enjoyed live music in Birmingham's concert halls.

We're proud to see the next generation growing with us too. More than 500 young people and community members rehearse across the year in our ensembles, and at Shireland CBSO Academy nearly 500 students have been inspired by our musicians, staff and guest artists this year. Through our new Wellbeing Collective, young people are also finding friendship, confidence and a safe space to be themselves.

We've continued to build bold new collaborations across the city. This includes work with 18 grime artists, a homecoming concert with Laura Mvula, new music commissioned for a multi-faith celebration of light, and helping to launch the Sikh Sacred Music Curriculum, each partnership helping to shape a musical future that is diverse, joyful and alive with possibility.

We are your orchestra: proudly rooted in Birmingham, open to the world and powered by the belief that music can shape lives in ways big and small. And every time you join us, you are part of what makes this all possible.

“

You encouraged me to play loudly and proudly... something I will carry with me going forward.

Project Remix musician



© HANNAH BLAKE-FATHERS



© JONATHAN FERRO



© JONATHAN FERRO

GET CLOSER TO THE MUSIC WITH A CBSO MEMBERSHIP

As a CBSO Member, you'll enjoy unforgettable experiences while helping us continue to make music that truly matters.

From as little as £5.50 a month, you can join our thriving community of music lovers, enjoy great benefits, and play your part in securing a vibrant future for orchestral music here in Birmingham.

When you support the CBSO by donating, becoming a member, leaving a gift in your will, or partnering with us, you help make remarkable musical moments possible. Your generosity brings music to the stage and meaningful experiences to communities across our region.

Only around 30% of our income comes from ticket sales, so we rely on people and organisations like you to keep this work going: connecting people through music, inspiring young musicians, and enriching lives near and far.

For more information on how to join as a member or to support our work by making a donation, visit cbsoco.uk/support-us or call us on 0121 616 6510.

“

I've had a great delight in many concerts over the years. Becoming a member has allowed me to contribute to the family feel of the events, which I've enjoyed!

CBSO Member

MEMBER BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Exclusive events with artists and musicians
- Members-only open rehearsals
- Early access to tickets through priority booking
- Regular membership newsletters

Find out more at cbsoco.uk/support-us



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THANK YOU

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

PUBLIC FUNDERS



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

To view a comprehensive list of supporters please visit cbsoco.uk/support-us/thank-you or scan the QR code.



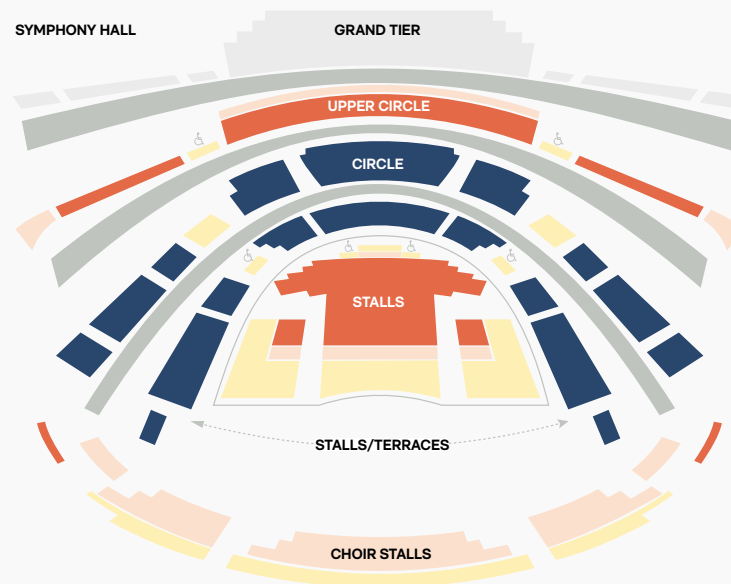
TAKE YOUR SEAT

There's no such thing as a bad seat in Symphony Hall – you'll enjoy great views and wonderful sound wherever you sit.

For the 2026–27 Season, the Grand Tier will remain off sale for most performances unless demand is exceptionally high. Other seating levels may also be held back and released later as needed.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- For the majority of evening concerts this season, we've moved to a **7pm** start time. There are some exceptions, please see individual events for details.
- Concerts at Town Hall and Symphony Hall will be on sale from **Wednesday 20 May**.
- Concerts at the CBSO Centre and Britten's War Requiem at Coventry Cathedral will be on sale from **Wednesday 3 June**.
- Events promoted by B:Music, esk and The Flying Music Company are not part of the CBSO multi-buy discount and may have different on sale dates.
- Please note: all details are correct at the time of printing, but please check our website for the most up-to-date information.



TICKETS

From £27.50 our tickets are available to purchase online, in person, and over the phone.

PRICE BAND	TICKET COST (INC. COMMISSION)
A	£65.50
B	£53
C	£40
D	£27.50

Some concerts throughout the season have alternative prices and seating plans. Please see the individual events for prices; seating plans can be viewed when booking online.

HOW TO BOOK

There are four ways to book your tickets.

- Online at [cbso.co.uk](https://www.cbso.co.uk)
- Over the phone (for events at Symphony Hall and Town Hall only) on **0121 780 3333** from 10am–4pm, Mon–Sat.
- In person during Box Office opening hours at **Symphony Hall** for events at Symphony Hall and Town Hall only.
- On the door from 1 hour before performances at the **CBSO Centre**.

You can purchase e-tickets for all CBSO performances or choose to have your tickets purchased from B:Music printed for an additional postage cost of £3.

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

For events at Symphony Hall and Town Hall, Ticket Protection can be added as part of your original transaction to protect your purchase against certain unforeseen circumstances.

For full Terms and Conditions, please visit [cbso.co.uk/terms-conditions](https://www.cbso.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 CBSO-promoted concerts at Symphony Hall or Town Hall this Season, you'll qualify for great savings – **PLUS** future savings on any additional bookings!

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

EXTRA BENEFITS FROM 7+ CONCERTS:

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

- Exemption from the £4 per ticket commission charge for all eligible concerts booked as part of your initial transaction.
- Free ticket exchange up to 48 hours before the concert, if your plans change.
- Discounted parking at Q-Park Brindleyplace and The Mailbox (online booking only, subject to availability).
- 10% off at Presto Music throughout the Season.

TICKET OFFERS

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

Concessionary tickets cannot be combined with any other discount, and concessions may vary for some performances. For full terms and conditions, including eligibility criteria, please visit cbso.co.uk/terms

*Benefit Recipient tickets can only be booked for collection at the box office, where you will be required to demonstrate proof of eligibility.

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 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 CBSO-promoted 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 on **0121 289 6331**.

Terms & Conditions

Selected concerts may have a different discount policy, or may not be included in the multi-buy discount. Please see individual events online at cbso.co.uk or ask for details when booking by phone or in person. 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 exchanges must be requested 48 hours in advance of the concert for which you would like to exchange. Visit cbso.co.uk/terms for full T&Cs.

YOUR VISIT

We want you to have a great 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 cbsoco.uk/your-visit

GETTING HERE

All of our performance venues in Birmingham are accessible by rail, road, tram and bus. It's 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 at Brindleyplace and The Mailbox.

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.



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ABOUT THE VENUES



B:Music

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.

B:Music is the music charity responsible for Birmingham Symphony Hall and Town Hall.



B:Music

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.



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.

ACCESS

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

- Accessible seating is available in all performance spaces
- Free companion tickets are available
- Hearing loop systems at Symphony Hall and Town Hall
- Family, Notelets and Schools' concerts are all BSL-Interpreted
- Nimbus Access Card required to book accessible tickets with B:Music

For detailed access information please visit bmusic.co.uk for performances at Town Hall and Symphony Hall and cbsoco.uk for events at the CBSO Centre.



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2026-27 SEASON: AT A GLANCE

Saturday 5 - Sunday 6 September 2026
6th Evgeny Svetlanov International Conducting Competition

Thursday 17 September 2026, 7:30pm
Kazuki conducts Mahler's 2nd Symphony

Friday 18 September 2026, 1pm
Centre Stage: Schumann's Piano Quintet

Tuesday 22 September 2026, 7pm
Kazuki conducts Grieg's Piano Concerto

Thursday 24 September 2026, 8pm
Live at the Centre: Walton's Façade

Wednesday 30 September 2026, 2:15pm
Elgar's Enigma Variations

Saturday 3 October 2026, 8pm
Live at the Centre: Steve Reich at 90

Thursday 15 October 2026, 2:15pm
Sibelius' 5th Symphony

Wednesday 21 October 2026, 7pm
Symphonie Fantastique

Thursday 22 October 2026, 1pm
Centre Stage: Serenades with François Leleux

Saturday 24 October 2026, 7:30pm
Live in Concert: How to Train your Dragon 2

Sunday 25 October 2026, 3pm
Family Concert: Halloween Spooktacular

Wednesday 28 October 2026, 1pm
Centre Stage: Brahms' Clarinet Quintet

Friday 30 October 2026, 7:30pm
Live in Concert: Casino Royale

Saturday 31 October 2026, 7:30pm
Live in Concert: World of Warcraft

Tuesday 3 November 2026, 7pm
Bruckner's 7th Symphony

Thursday 5 November 2026, 1pm
Centre Stage: Shostakovich's Piano Quintet

Wednesday 11 November 2026, 7:30pm
Britten's War Requiem

Thursday 26 November 2026, 8pm
Live at the Centre: Jasdeep Singh Degun

Friday 27 November 2026, 1pm
Centre Stage: Beethoven & Beamish Quartets

Sunday 29 November 2026, 3pm
Beethoven's Violin Concerto

Wednesday 2 December 2026, 7pm
Elgar's Cello Concerto

Fri 4 Dec 2026, 11am, 1pm
Sat 5 Dec 2026, 11am, 1:30pm, 3:30pm
Notelets: Christmas Adventure

Saturday 5 December 2026, 3pm
Ex Cathedra: Britten at Christmas

Wednesday 9 December 2026, 1pm
Centre Stage: Two Harps

Thursday 10 December 2026, 2:15pm & 7pm
Kazuki conducts The Nutcrackers

Thursday 17 December 2026, 7:30pm
CBSO Christmas Party

Friday 18 December 2026, 7:30pm
CBSO Choral Christmas

Saturday 19 December 2026, 1pm & 7pm
Live in Concert: The Lord of the Rings

Wednesday 23 December 2026, 7:30pm
Live in Concert: Home Alone

Sunday 3 January 2027, 3pm
Viennese New Year

Wednesday 20 January 2027, 7pm
Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto

Thursday 21 January 2027, 1pm
Centre Stage: Beethoven's Serenade

Saturday 23 January 2027, 7pm
50 Years of Star Wars

Monday 1 February 2027, 1pm
Centre Stage: Dances for Woodwind

Thursday 4 February 2027, 7pm
The CBSO & The Orchestral Qawwali Project

Fri 5 Feb 2027, 11am, 1pm
Sat 6 Feb 2027, 11am, 1:30pm, 3:30pm
Notelets: On Safari

Wednesday 10 February 2027, 7pm
Dvořák's 7th Symphony

Saturday 13 February 2027, 7pm
A Celebration of Quincy Jones

Wednesday 17 February 2027, 2:15pm
Kazuki conducts Beethoven's Eroica

Friday 19 February 2027, 7:30pm
Kazuki conducts A Night at the Opera

Sunday 21 February 2027, 3pm
Tchaikovsky, Mozart & Prokofiev

Wednesday 24 February 2027, 7pm
Kazuki conducts Beethoven's 5th Symphony

Friday 26 February 2027, 1pm
Centre Stage: Beethoven's Greatest String Quartet

Saturday 27 February 2027, 7pm
Guitar Heroes with Live Orchestra

Thursday 4 March 2027, 7:30pm
Mendelssohn's A Midsummer Night's Dream

Friday 5 March 2027, 1pm
Centre Stage: Brahms & Beethoven Clarinet Trios

Sunday 7 March 2027, 3pm
Ex Cathedra: Beethoven Missa Solemnis

Wednesday 10 March 2027, 2:15pm
New World Symphony

Sunday 14 March 2027, 3pm
Family Concert: Carnival of the Animals

Wednesday 17 March 2027, 7pm
Kazuki conducts Strauss, Wagner & Clyne

Saturday 27 March 2027, 7:30pm
Maestro Of The Movies: A Tribute to John Williams

Friday 2 April 2027, 7pm
Weinberg's The Passenger

Wednesday 21 April 2027, 7pm
Kazuki conducts Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony

Thursday 22 April 2027, 7pm
Symphonic ABBA

Friday 23 April 2027, 1pm
Centre Stage: Beethoven Septet

Sunday 25 April 2027, 8pm
Live at the Centre: Seckou Keita's African Rhapsodies

Monday 26 April 2027, 1pm
Centre Stage: Beethoven's Oboes

Thursday 29 April 2027, 2:15pm
Strauss & Schubert

Saturday 1 May 2027, 7pm
75 Years of Bollywood

Wednesday 5 May 2027, 7:30pm
Verdi's Requiem

Fri 7 May 2027, 11am & 1pm
Sat 8 May 2027, 11am, 1:30pm, 3:30pm
Notelets: A Musical Bus Tour

Monday 10 May 2027, 1pm
Centre Stage: Rachmaninoff & Lyapunov

Thursday 13 May 2027, 2:15pm
Rachmaninoff's 3rd Symphony

Friday 14 May 2027, 7:30pm
Classic FM Hall of Fame

Wednesday 19 May 2027, 7pm
Messiaen's Turangalila Symphony

Thursday 20 May 2027, 1pm
Centre Stage: Quartet for the End of Time with Steven Osborne

Wednesday 26 May 2027, 2:15pm
Kazuki conducts Haydn & Mozart

Saturday 29 May 2027, 7pm
Kazuki conducts Shostakovich's 5th Symphony

Sunday 30 May 2027, 1pm
Centre Stage: Kazuki Yamada & Alice Sara Ott

Friday 4 June 2027, 1pm
Centre Stage: Beethoven & Mozart

Sunday 6 June 2027, 3pm
Family Concert: Summer Holiday

Thursday 10 June 2027, 7:30pm
Kazuki conducts Mahler's 3rd Symphony

Sunday 25 July 2027, 7pm
Kazuki conducts Strauss' Alpine Symphony

Proud to be Birmingham's Orchestra

CBSO

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CBSO Centre
Berkley Street Birmingham, B1 2LF
information@cbsoco.uk
0121 616 6500

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Registered Charity no. 506276. All performance timings are approximate. The information in this brochure was correct at the time of going to print (April 2026), please visit cbsoco.uk for the most up-to-date information. The CBSO reserves the right to alter programmes and artists without notice. All tickets and offers are subject to availability and agreement to terms and conditions.