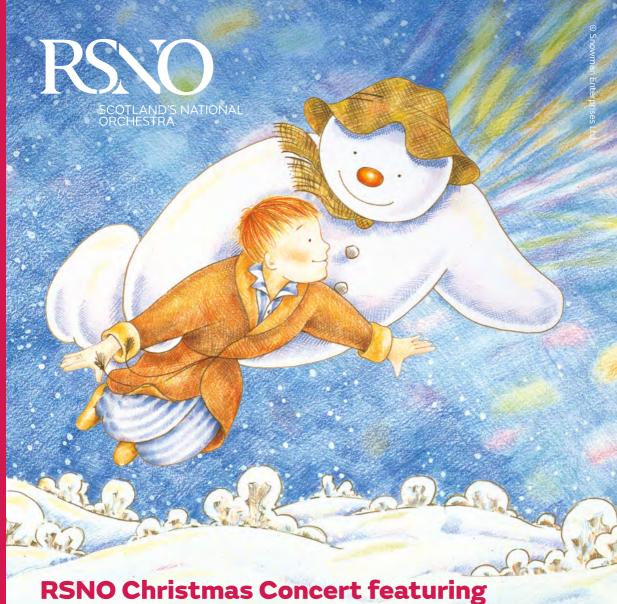


Glasgow Royal Concert Hall Sat 11 Dec 2021 7.30pm



THE SNOWMAN

ABD Thu 16 Dec: 7.30pm DND Fri 17 Dec: 7.30pm GLW Sat 18 Dec: 2.00pm EDN Sun 19 Dec: 3.00pm



Presented by **Hugh Dennis**



rsno.org.uk FD 60











Choral Classics MESSIAH

Handel's Messiah isn't just a masterpiece, it's practically a national institution, and for nearly 300 years it's been leaving audiences stirred, uplifted and humming the tunes: 'Every valley', 'For unto us a Child is born', 'Rejoice greatly', 'The trumpet shall sound' and (of course) the Hallelujah Chorus. Take a team of star soloists, add baroque powerhouse Christian Curnyn then the full RSNO Chorus, and prepare to experience all the glory, joy and inspiration of a truly timeless classic.

HANDEL Messiah [150']

Part I

INTERVAL

Parts II and III

Christian Curnyn Conductor
Jeni Bern Soprano
Tim Mead Countertenor
Benjamin Hulett Tenor
Matthew Brook Bass-baritone
RSNO Chorus
Royal Scottish National Orchestra

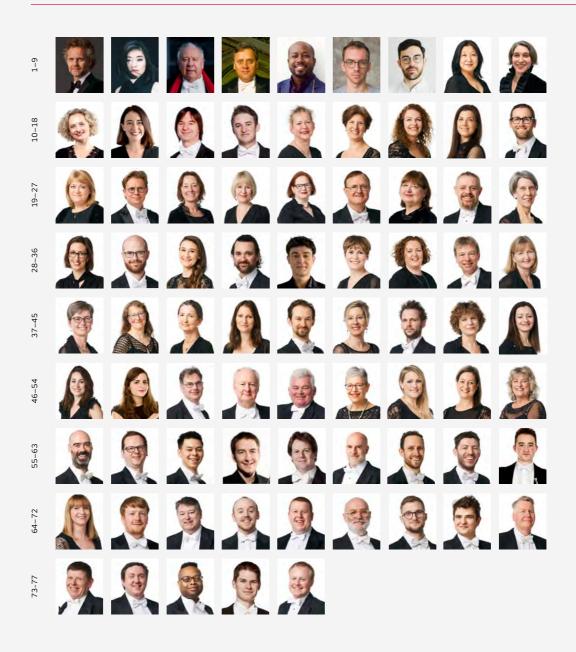
GLASGOW ROYAL CONCERT HALL Sat 11 Dec 2021 7.30pm

The performance will be recorded for the RSNO Archive. Supported by the Iain and Pamela Sinclair Legacy.

If viewing these notes at the concert, please do so considerately and not during performances.

Please silence all mobile telephones and alerts, and refrain from taking photographs, without flash, until the end of each piece.

ROYAL SCOTTISH NATIONAL ORCHESTRA



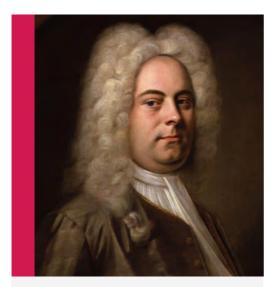
ARTISTIC TEAM		VIOLA		CLARINET	
Thomas Søndergård	1	Tom Dunn PRINCIPAL	31	Timothy Orpen	58
MUSIC DIRECTOR		Asher Zaccardelli		PRINCIPAL CLARINET	
Elim Chan	2	ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL	32	Duncan Swindells	59
PRINCIPAL GUEST CONDUCTOR		Susan Buchan SUB PRINCIPAL	33	PRINCIPAL BASS CLARINET	
Neeme Järvi	3	Lisa Rourke SUB PRINCIPAL	34		
CONDUCTOR LAUREATE		David Martin	35	BASSOON	
Alexander Lazarev	4	Nicola McWhirter	36	David Hubbard PRINCIPAL	60
CONDUCTOR EMERITUS		Claire Dunn	37	Luis Eisen associate principal	61
Kellen Gray	5	Katherine Wren	38	Paolo Dutto	62
ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR		Maria Trittinger	39	PRINCIPAL CONTRABASSOON	
Gregory Batsleer	6	Francesca Hunt	40		
CHORUS DIRECTOR, RSNO CHORUS				HORN	
Patrick Barrett	7	CELLO		Christopher Gough PRINCIPAL	63
CHORUS DIRECTOR, RSNO JUNIOR CHORU	JS	Aleksei Kiseliov PRINCIPAL	41	Alison Murray Assistant Principal	64
		Betsy Taylor ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL	42	Andrew McLean	65
FIRST VIOLIN		Kennedy Leitch ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL	. 43	ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL	
Maya Iwabuchi LEADER	8	Rachael Lee	44	David McClenaghan	66
Sharon Roffman LEADER	9	Sarah Digger	45	Martin Murphy ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL	67
Lena Zeliszewska 1	10				
ASSOCIATE LEADER		DOUBLE BASS		TRUMPET	
Emily Davis ASSOCIATE LEADER 1	11	Ana Cordova PRINCIPAL	46	Christopher Hart PRINCIPAL	68
Tamás Fejes ASSISTANT LEADER 1	12	Margarida Castro	47	Marcus Pope SUB PRINCIPAL	69
Patrick Curlett ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL 1	13	ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL		Jason Lewis ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL	70
Caroline Parry 1	14	Michael Rae ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL	48		
Ursula Heidecker Allen 1	15	Paul Sutherland SUB PRINCIPAL	49	TROMBONE	
Lorna Rough 1	16	John Clark	50	Dávur Juul Magnussen PRINCIPAL	71
Susannah Lowdon 1	17	Sally Davis	51	Lance Green ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL	72
Alan Manson	18			Alastair Sinclair	73
Elizabeth Bamping 1	19	FLUTE		PRINCIPAL BASS TROMBONE	
		Katherine Bryan PRINCIPAL	52		
SECOND VIOLIN		Helen Brew associate principal	53	TUBA	
Xander van Vliet PRINCIPAL 2	20	Janet Richardson	54	John Whitener PRINCIPAL	74
Jacqueline Speirs 2	21	PRINCIPAL PICCOLO			
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL				TIMPANI	
Marion Wilson ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL 2	22	OBOE		Paul Philbert PRINCIPAL	75
Harriet Wilson SUB PRINCIPAL 2	23	Adrian Wilson PRINCIPAL	55		
Nigel Mason 2	24	Peter Dykes ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL	56	PERCUSSION	
Wanda Wojtasinska 2	25	Henry Clay PRINCIPAL COR ANGLAIS	57	Simon Lowdon PRINCIPAL	76
Paul Medd 2	26			John Poulter associate PRINCIPAL	77
Anne Bünemann 2	27				
- 1	28				
Robin Wilson 2	29				

Emily Nenniger

30

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

MESSIAH



FIRST PERFORMANCE
Dublin, 13 April 1742
DURATION 150 minutes

It was during the summer of 1741 that Handel's regular librettist and friend, patron of the arts Charles Jennens, presented him with the text for a new oratorio on the theme of Christ the Redeemer, based upon passages from the New and Old Testaments. Handel set to work on Messiah (their fourth collaboration) on 22 August and re-emerged some 25 days later elated and exhausted. 'I think God has visited me!' he exclaimed. The feverish speed at which he composed is apparent everywhere on the original manuscript, which is covered in scribbles, smudges, crossings-out and ink blotches.

The charity premiere of Messiah, at the Music Hall on Fishamble Street in Dublin on 13 April 1742, swiftly arranged in response to a successful series of Irish subscription concerts directed by Handel earlier that year, was one of the greatest triumphs of his long career, as is testified by the following excited report in Faulkner's Journal:

Words are wanting to express the exquisite delight it afforded to the admiring crowded audience. The sublime, the grand, and the tender, adapted to the most elevated, majestic and moving words, conspired to transport and charm the ravished heart and ear.

Cast in three parts, the first prophesies the coming of the Messiah via a melodically indelible sequence of arias, choruses and recitatives. The E Minor Overture (or 'sinfony') is an imposing curtain-raiser made doubly effective by the placatory, major-key phrases of 'Comfort ye my people'. A mood of indomitable affirmation informs 'Every valley shall be exalted', while the chorus that closes out this opening section – 'And the glory of the Lord' – expresses an awe-inspired sense of wonder in more stentorian tones.

A change of atmosphere reflects the shift of emphasis from the glory of Christ's coming to the Judgement that will attend it. The gently swaying rhythms of 'But who may abide?' – astutely described by the English musical historian Charles Burney as being in 'a Sicilian pastoral style' – are dramatically offset by the driving fugal textures of 'And He shall purify'.

Now focusing on the forthcoming birth in Bethlehem, Handel's creative genius goes into overdrive for such inspired moments as the chorus' takeover in 'O Thou that tellest good tidings to Zion' and the exhilarating 'For unto us a Child is born', with its crowning final statement, 'Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace'.

The magical fourth section, which deals with the Incarnation of the Lord, opens with a sublime strings-only interlude popularly known as the Pastoral Symphony, and climaxes in yet another magnificent chorus, 'Glory to God in the highest'. The remainder of Part I is principally concerned with Christ's ministry on earth, in which Handel relaxes the tension exquisitely with the enraptured siciliano 'He shall feed His flock'.

Part II reflects upon Christ's suffering and death. The cares of the world weigh heavily on 'Behold the Lamb of God', an emotional counterweight for the calm nobility of 'He was despised', described by Burney as 'the highest idea of excellence in pathetic expression of any English song with which I am acquainted'. The stark severity of the two choruses which follow – 'Surely He hath borne our griefs' and 'And with His stripes' – is soothed by the open-air innocence of 'All we like sheep', although a change to the minor mode and a slower tempo (Adagio) signal a return to the repentant

atmosphere that characterises 'He trusted in God' and 'But Thou didst not leave His soul in Hell'.

Then comes the rousing chorus 'Lift up your heads'. The triumphant ascension of Christ into Heaven is movingly conveyed by the aria 'Thou art gone up on high' and the imposing 'The Lord gave the Word'. Following 'How beautiful are the feet' and 'Their sound is gone out', Handel notches up the dramatic tension with 'Why do the nations so furiously rage?' and the gripping chorus 'Let us break their bonds asunder'. while the tenor aria 'Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron' exudes a heightened sense of expectation. The music's pent-up emotions are subsequently released in the most famous of all choruses, the Hallelujah. Even Handel – who was not profoundly religious – said that when composing this rousing masterpiece it was 'as if I saw God on his throne and all his angels around him'

To open Part III, Handel returns to the introspective with 'I know that my Redeemer liveth', a captivating aria of heartfelt lyricism that hovers tantalisingly between elation and contemplation. The supplicatory 'Since by man came death' then finds emotional succour in the indomitable bass aria, 'The trumpet shall sound'. This is followed by the contemplative soprano aria 'If God be for us'. This most popular of large-scale choral works is then brought to a resplendent conclusion by the chorus 'Worthy is the Lamb'. No wonder Haydn considered Handel 'the master of us all'.

© Julian Haylock

MESSIAH

PART I

SINFONY (ORCHESTRA)

RECITATIVE (TENOR)

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God; speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem; and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of Him that crieth in the wilderness: prepare ye the way of the Lord: make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

AIR (TENOR)

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low, the crooked straight and the rough places plain.

CHORUS

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

RECITATIVE (BASS-BARITONE)

Thus saith the Lord of Hosts: Yet once a little while and I will shake the heavens and the earth; the sea and the dry land: and I will shake all nations; and the desire of all nations shall come. The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the Covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts.

AIR (COUNTERTENOR)

But who may abide the day of His coming? And who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire

CHORUS

And He shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

RECITATIVE (COUNTERTENOR)

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call his name Emmanuel, God with us.

AIR (COUNTERTENOR AND CHORUS)

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain: O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

RECITATIVE (BASS-BARITONE)

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall rise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee, and the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

AIR (BASS-BARITONE)

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined

CHORUS

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

PASTORAL SYMPHONY (ORCHESTRA)

RECITATIVE (SOPRANO)

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

RECITATIVE (SOPRANO)

And lo! The angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid.

RECITATIVE (SOPRANO)

And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people; for unto you is born this day in the City of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

RECITATIVE (SOPRANO)

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying:

CHORUS

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, goodwill towards men.

AIR (SOPRANO)

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, thy King cometh unto thee! He is the righteous Saviour, and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.

RECITATIVE (COUNTERTENOR)

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.

DUET (SOPRANO AND COUNTERTENOR)

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. Come unto Him, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and He will give you rest. Take His yoke upon you, and learn of Him, for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

CHORUS

His yoke is easy and His burden is light.

INTERVAL

PART II

CHORUS

Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.

AIR (COUNTERTENOR)

He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He gave His back to the smiters, and His cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: He hid not His face from shame and spitting.

CHORUS

Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows! He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him.

CHORUS

And with His stripes we are healed.

CHORUS

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to His own way. And the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

RECITATIVE (TENOR)

All they that see Him laugh Him to scorn: they shoot out their lips, and shake their heads, saying:

CHORUS

He trusted in God that He would deliver Him: let Him deliver Him, if He delight in Him.

RECITATIVE (TENOR)

Thy rebuke hath broken His heart; He is full of heaviness. He looked for some to have pity on Him, but there was no man, neither found He any to comfort Him.

RECITATIVE (TENOR)

He was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgression of Thy people was He stricken.

AIR (TENOR)

But Thou didst not leave His soul in Hell; nor didst Thou suffer Thy Holy One to see corruption.

CHORUS

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is this King of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory.

AIR (COUNTERTENOR)

Thou art gone up on high; Thou hast led captivity captive and received gifts for men, yea, even for Thine enemies, that the Lord God might dwell among them.

CHORUS

The Lord gave the Word: Great was the company of the preachers.

AIR (SOPRANO)

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things.

CHORUS

Their sound is gone out into all lands, and their words unto the ends of the world.

AIR (BASS-BARITONE)

Why do the nations so furiously rage together, and why do the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord, and against His Anointed.

CHORUS

Let us break their bonds asunder, and cast away their yokes from us.

RECITATIVE (TENOR)

He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh them to scorn; the Lord shall have them in derision.

AIR (TENOR)

Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

CHORUS

Hallelujah: for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. The Kingdom of this world is become the Kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever. King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah!

PART III

AIR (SOPRANO)

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.

CHORUS

Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

RECITATIVE (BASS-BARITONE)

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep; but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

AIR (BASS-BARITONE)

The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

AIR (SOPRANO)

If God be for us, who can be against us? Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth, who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is at the right hand of God, who makes intercession for us.

CHORUS

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by His blood, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory and blessing. Blessing and honour, glory and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever. Amen.



JENI BERN Soprano



Jeni Bern is a graduate of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and the Opera School of the Royal College of Music, where she was the winner of the prestigious President Emerita Award. She is also a Samling Artist.

Highlights in recent seasons include Professor Prentice in the world premiere of Stuart MacRae and Louise Welsh's Anthropocene and First Lady The Magic Flute (Scottish Opera); Greta Fiorentino Street Scene (Teatro Real Madrid, Opéra de Monte-Carlo); Woglinde and Waldvogel Der Ring des Nibelungen (Opera North); Lilli Vanessi/Katharine Kiss Me, Kate (Welsh National Opera, Opera North); and Susie Trevor Lady, Be Good! (Teatro de la Zarzuela Madrid, Teatro di San Carlos Naples).

Roles for the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden include Guardian of the Threshold Die Frau ohne Schatten, First Heavenly Voice Palestrina, Barbarina Le nozze di Figaro and Blumenmädchen Parsifal, and for English National Opera, Fiordiligi Così fan tutte, Mabel The Pirates of Penzance, Yum Yum The Mikado and Sophie Der Rosenkavalier. She has also performed the title role in Deidamia and Sigismondo Arminio (London Handel Festival); Atalanta Xerxes and Dalinda Ariodante (Early Opera Company); and Narcissa Philemon und Baucis with Trevor Pinnock.

An accomplished oratorio and concert artist, Jeni's performance highlights include Cunegonde Candide (MDR Leipzig Radio Symphony Orchestra), Orff's Carmina Burana, Mozart's Exsultate, jubilate, the world premiere of Michael Torke's Book of Proverbs with Marin Alsop and the RSNO, and Messiah under Sir David Willcocks with The Bach Choir.

Radio appearances include BBC Radio 2's Friday Night is Music Night and broadcasts for BBC Radios 3 and 4, and with the Dutch Radio Symphony Orchestra as Anne Truelove in the television series Of Beauty and Consolation. Her CD Let the Bright Seraphim with Baroque trumpeter Crispian Steele-Perkins (Carlton Classics) received considerable critical acclaim. Other recordings include Acis and Galatea with the Oxford Philomusica (Nimbus); Haydn's Stabat Mater with Christ Church Cathedral Choir (Griffin) and Edward Joseph Collins' Hymn to the Earth with the RSNO and Marin Alsop.

TIM MEAD Countertenor



With his 'rich, mellifluous sound' (The Guardian), Tim Mead is recognised as one of the finest across the generations of countertenors.

Highlights of the 2021/22 season include *Messiah* with the English Chamber Orchestra, La Chapelle Harmonique, Royal Northern Sinfonia and Wrocław Baroque Orchestra, Bach's *St Matthew Passion* with Collegium Vocale Gent in a European tour, Bach's *B Minor Mass* with Tafelmusik, Bach's *Stabat Mater* with Arcangelo, and Bach cantatas with La Folia Barockorchester and the Gabrieli Consort featuring multiple returns to London's Wigmore Hall.

Recent operatic highlights include Dardano Amadigi (Garsington Opera), Apollo Death in Venice (Royal Opera House, Covent Garden), Ulisse Achille Sciro (Teatro Real Madrid), Athamas Semele (Opera Philadelphia), Goffredo Rinaldo (Glyndebourne), Endimione La Calisto (Teatro Real Madrid, Bayerische Staatsoper), Bertarido Rodelinda (Opéra de Lille), Oberon

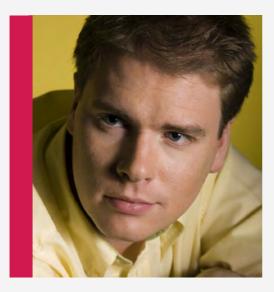
A Midsummer Night's Dream (Opera Philadelphia, Glyndebourne, Bergen National Opera), Hamor Jephtha (Opéra National de Paris), title role Akhnaten, Ottone Agrippina (Opera Vlaanderen), Boy/Angel Written on Skin (Bolshoi Moscow), Bertarido Rodelinda (English National Opera) and Arsamene in Cavalli's Xerse (Opéra de Lille, Theater an der Wien, Théâtre de Caen).

On the concert platform, recent highlights include Pergolesi's Stabat Mater and Handel's Jephtha at the BBC Proms, a European recital tour with Emmanuelle Haïm and Le Concert d'Astrée, a tour of Asia with Harry Bicket and The English Concert, Didymus Theodora with the Akademie für Alte Musik, the world premiere of Theo Loevendie's Spinoza at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Messiah with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, New York Philharmonic, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Gabrieli Consort, Handel & Haydn Society, Academy of Ancient Music and Le Concert d'Astrée, and Handel's Theodora (The English Concert), Solomon (Akademie für Alte Musik), Judas Maccabaeus (OAE) and Joseph and his Brethren (International Händel Festspiele Göttingen).

Tim's substantial discography includes Purcell songs and dances with Les Musiciens de Saint-Julien (Alpha) and Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* and Bach cantatas with La Nuova Musica (Harmonia Mundi).

Tim read music as a choral scholar at King's College, Cambridge, before continuing his vocal studies at the Royal College of Music.

BENJAMIN HULETT Tenor



Benjamin Hulett trained as a choral scholar at New College, Oxford and studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. A member of the Hamburgische Staatsoper from 2005 to 2009, he made his debuts at the Bayerische Staatsoper, Deutsche Staatsoper Berlin, Theater an der Wien in the world premiere of Kalitzke's Die Besessenen, the Salzburger Festspiele, Festspielhaus Baden-Baden and Opera di Roma. He sang Luzio Das Liebesverbot for Opéra du Rhin Strasbourg and his first Tom Rakewell The Rake's Progress in Caen, Limoges, Reims, Rouen and Luxembourg. In the UK, Benjamin has performed with Glyndebourne Festival Opera, The Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Opera North, Grange Park Opera, Opera Holland Park, Garsington Opera, Welsh National Opera, and in Sir Jonathan Miller's staging of Bach's St Matthew Passion at the National Theatre. He has appeared regularly at the BBC Proms and is increasingly in demand as an interpreter of song.

Recent highlights include *Pulcinella* at the BBC Proms under Martyn Brabbins and his debuts with the Los Angeles Philharmonic in Ravel's *L'heure espagnole*, at New York's Carnegie Hall performing Jupiter *Semele* as part of an English Concert tour around the USA and Europe, with the Teatro Real Madrid as Arbace *Idomeneo*, and David *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* in concert with the Santa Cecilia Orchestra and Antonio Pappano.

This season Benjamin sings Lysander at the Deutsche Oper Berlin in Britten's A Midsummer Night's Dream. He will also sing Britten's Serenade with the Südwestdeutsches Kammerorchester Pforzheim and Messiah with the Hallé and Sofi Jeannin and the Kammerorchester Basel and Paul McCreesh. In the New Year, Benjamin returns to the BBC Symphony Orchestra in Der Kaiser von Atlantis as well as to the Dresden Semperoper as Don Ottavio in Don Giavanni.

Benjamin's wide range of recordings have received nominations and awards from BBC Music Magazine, Gramophone, The GRAMMYs, L'Orfée d'Or and Diapason.

MATTHEW BROOK Bass-baritone



Matthew Brook has appeared as a soloist throughout Europe, Australia, North and South America and the Far East. He studied at the Royal College of Music, and has worked with many of the world's greatest conductors, including Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Richard Hickox, Sir Charles Mackerras, Harry Christophers, Christophe Rousset and Sir Mark Elder, and orchestras and ensembles including the Philharmonia, London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, St Petersburg Philharmonic, Freiburger Barockorchester, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, English Baroque Soloists, City of London Sinfonia, Collegium Vocale Gent, Gabrieli Consort, Les Talens Lyriques, The Sixteen and Orchestre National de Lille.

This season, Matthew sings his recital programme with Iain Burnside titled View from the Villa at the Lammermuir Festival, Handel's Messiah with Music of the Baroque in Chicago, and also on tour in Europe with the Academy of Ancient Music, the role of Pilate in Bach's St John Passion with Les Violons du Roy in Quebec, and Lodovico in Otello for Grange Park Opera.

Recent highlights include Aeneas in the world premiere of Errollyn Wallen's *Dido's Ghost*, co-commissioned by the Dunedin Consort, at the Barbican (and later at the Edinburgh International Festival), Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* with the Handel & Haydn Society, Haydn's *The Creation* with the Academy of Ancient Music, Il Re di Scozia in *Ariodante* at the Staatstheater Stuttgart, Claudio in *Agrippina* at the Teatro de la Maestranza Seville, and Tippett's *A Child of Our Time* at Festival St Denis.



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CHRISTIAN CURNYN Conductor



Christian Curnyn is widely recognised as one of the UK's leading conductors specialising in the baroque and classical repertoire. He was born in Glasgow and studied at Douglas Academy Music School in Milngavie. He founded the Early Opera Company in 1994, with whom he has given notable performances throughout the UK and abroad, along with multiple award-winning recordings for Chandos.

A regular at English National Opera, Christian's opera credits also include acclaimed productions for Scottish Opera, Garsington Opera, Opera North, The Royal Opera Covent Garden, as well as further afield with Komische Oper Berlin, Oper Frankfurt, Landestheater Salzburg, Oper Stuttgart, Teatro Nacional de São Carlos in Lisbon and Halle Handel Festival, as well as Opera Australia, New York City Opera, Glimmerglass Opera and Chicago Opera Theater.

On the concert platform engagements have included concerts with the Academy of Ancient Music, Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin, Bournemouth Symphony, English Concert, Essen Philharmoniker, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, The Hallé, Scottish Chamber, Swedish Chamber, Stavanger Symphony and Ulster orchestras, as well as further afield with the Tasmania, West Australia and Adelaide Symphony orchestras.

Recent and forthcoming highlights include concerts with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Budapest Festival Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales and Komische Oper Berlin. Acis and Galatea with his Early Opera Company for the Buxton Festival, a new production of Handel's Orlando for Oper Halle which will also celebrate the 100th year of the Halle Festival. Semele with AKAMUS and Opera Collective Ireland and a return to The Royal Opera for a new production. With the Early Opera Company he will conduct concerts at London's Wigmore Hall and St John's Smith Square, in Bruges and at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw as well as record their next disc for Chandos records of Handel's Amadigi.

ROYAL SCOTTISH NATIONAL ORCHESTRA



Formed in 1891 as the Scottish Orchestra, the company became the Scottish National Orchestra in 1950, and was awarded Royal Patronage in 1977. The Orchestra's artistic team is led by Danish conductor Thomas Søndergård, who was appointed RSNO Music Director in October 2018, having previously held the position of Principal Guest Conductor. Hong Kong-born conductor Elim Chan succeeds Søndergård as Principal Guest Conductor.

The RSNO performs across Scotland, including concerts in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Perth and Inverness. The Orchestra appears regularly at the Edinburgh International Festival and the BBC Proms, and has made recent tours to the USA, China and Europe.

The RSNO has a worldwide reputation for the quality of its recordings, receiving a 2020 Gramophone Classical Music Award for Chopin's Piano Concertos (soloist: Benjamin Grosvenor), conducted by Elim Chan; two Diapason d'Or

awards for Symphonic Music (Denève/Roussel 2007; Denève/Debussy 2012) and eight GRAMMY Awards nominations. Over 200 releases are available, including the complete symphonies of Sibelius (Gibson), Prokofiev (Järvi), Glazunov (Serebrier), Nielsen and Martinů (Thomson) and Roussel (Denève) and the major orchestra works of Debussy (Denève). Thomas Søndergård's debut recording with the RSNO, of Strauss' Ein Heldenleben, was released in 2019.

The RSNO's pioneering learning and engagement programme, Music for Life, aims to engage the people of Scotland with music across key stages of life: Early Years, Nurseries and Schools, Teenagers and Students, Families, Accessing Lives, Working Lives and Retired and Later Life. The team is committed to placing the Orchestra at the centre of Scottish communities via workshops and annual residencies.

ON STAGE





FIRST VIOLIN

Sharon Roffman LEADER Emily Davis ASSOCIATE LEADER Tamás Fejes ASSISTANT LEADER Caroline Parry Elizabeth Bamping Susannah Lowdon Alan Manson Catriona Price

SECOND VIOLIN

Marion Wilson ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL Harriet Wilson Sophie Lang Wanda Wojtasinska Robin Wilson Nigel Mason

VIOLA

Tom Dunn
PRINCIPAL
Lisa Rourke
David Martin
Francesca Hunt

CELLO

Aleksei Kiseliov PRINCIPAL Betsy Taylor Julia Sompolinska Rachael Lee

DOUBLE BASS

Ronan Dunne GUEST PRINCIPAL Paul Sutherland

OBOE

Adrian Wilson PRINCIPAL Peter Dykes

BASSOON

Luis Eisen ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

TRUMPET

Christopher Hart PRINCIPAL Marcus Pope

TIMPANI

Paul Philbert PRINCIPAL

HARPSICHORD

Mark Hindley

CHAMBER ORGAN

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RSNO CHORUS







The RSNO Chorus performs in around six different programmes in up to 20 concerts across Scotland with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra each year. The RSNO Chorus has also had great success in recording with the Orchestra. Its recordings, among others, of Prokofiev's Alexander Nevsky, conducted by Neeme Järvi, and Holst's The Planets, conducted by David Lloyd-Jones, have both attracted high critical acclaim.

In addition to its commitment to the Orchestra, the RSNO Chorus performs independently and has been invited to perform with orchestras in many parts of the world, establishing an international status and touring to Copenhagen, Hong Kong, Israel, Germany, Belfast, Australia, Trondheim and, most recently, Amsterdam

and Prague. In 2018 it performed Britten's War Requiem with the RSNO at the BBC Proms.

The RSNO Chorus evolved from a choir formed in 1843 to sing the first full performance of Handel's Messiah in Scotland. Today it is one of the most successful choruses in the UK. In recent years it has performed practically every work in the standard choral repertoire along with contemporary works by renowned composers, including John Adams, Magnus Lindberg, Howard Shore and James MacMillan.

The RSNO Chorus is directed by Gregory
Batsleer, one of the UK's most dynamic and indemand choral conductors and chorus masters.

SOPRANO

Alison Blair Anne Murphy Beth Kean Carol McLean Catherine Taylor Christine Hendry Eilidh Clarke Elizabeth Jack Elspeth Waugh Fiona McLeod Fiona Murray Fiona Ramage Frances Kennedy Heather Keating Helen Hyland Joan Lacy Judith Pexton Julia Young Leila Inglis Lynsey Brook Mairi Therese Cleary Margaret Mills Marrian Murray Morag Kean Rhea Mae Delgado Roberta Yule Svlvia Jenks

Theresa Hoare

ALTO

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Alistair Thom
Andrew Clifford
Andrew Gough
Cosma Gottardi
David Miller
Donald Weetman
Graham Drew
Kerr Noble
Mark Bonney
Seumas Begg
Stuart Wilson

BASS

Adam Beck Alan Caig Wilson Alistair Laird Andrew Matheson Brian Watt **Chris Spencer** Fraser Dalziel Gabriel Arbesu Ian MacKay Ian Mills John MacLellan Keith Robertson Ken Allen Martin Waddell Melvyn Davies Stephen Lipton Stephen Penman Tim Reilly

RSNO CHORUS DIRECTOR

Gregory Batsleer

ACCOMPANIST

Edward Cohen

VOCAL COACH

Polly Beck



SUPPORTING THE RSNO

I am honoured and extremely proud to be Music Director of the RSNO. It is through the continued generosity of you, our friends, donors and supporters, that we can continue to achieve and realise the most ambitious goals of the Orchestra.

The absence of live performance and the separation of musicians from the stage make these difficult times for all. It has reinforced for us all how vital music is in helping us overcome hardship, fear and loneliness. The creativity and dedication shown by RSNO musicians in recent months has been incredible. This is despite the pattern of our working lives being dramatically

interrupted and being separated, not just from one another, but also from our audiences and communities. I hope you will choose to support us now as we adapt and embark upon this next chapter in RSNO history.

Thank you for your support

Thomas Søndergård MUSIC DIRECTOR, RSNO

RSNO CONDUCTORS' CIRCLE

The RSNO Conductors' Circle is an inspirational group of individual supporters at the heart of the RSNO's Individual Giving programme. Our members' annual philanthropic gifts enable us to realise the Orchestra's most ambitious goals. Conductors' Circle members support inspirational concert performances for our audiences alongside transformational education programmes in communities across Scotland, via our ground-breaking initiative Music for Life.

The relationship between the RSNO and Conductors' Circle members involves exceptional levels of access to all aspects of Orchestra life. We design bespoke private events tailored to individual interests and passions, providing insight into the artistic process and bringing our supporters further into the RSNO family. Members of the Conductors' Circle benefit from an intimate and long-lasting connection with the RSNO Artistic Team and particularly with RSNO Music Director Thomas Søndergård, Principal Guest Conductor Elim Chan and the many

renowned guest Conductors we are privileged to welcome to the RSNO each year.

The RSNO is very grateful for the continued support of its Conductors' Circle:

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We would also like to thank those generous donors who wish to remain anonymous.

For more information on Individual Giving and becoming part of the Conductors' Circle please contact Jenny McNeely at jenny.mcneely@rsno.org.uk

PATRON PROGRAMME

CHAIR PATRON

From musical activities in schools with the musicians of the future to working in community venues across Scotland, as a Chair Patron you are enabling RSNO musicians to explore the many facets of their art and the positive impact it has on people's lives. Supporting an individual musician puts you at the heart of the RSNO family. You're connected directly to the musicians on stage and get to enjoy privileged behind-the-scenes access. RSNO musicians truly appreciate our Chair Patrons and enjoy developing personal relationships with our supporters.

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The Solti Foundation Chair

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Tamás Fejes Assistant LEADER
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LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT PATRON

Our Learning and Engagement activity is structured around our Music for Life programme. From apps for babies to concerts and workshops for school children, and lunchtime concerts for older adults, the range of projects is vast. As a Patron, you will have access to our projects to bring you closer to the communities we serve across Scotland.

Learning and Engagement Patrons

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NEW WORKS PATRON

The RSNO is dedicated to bringing new works and outstanding new talent to audiences across Scotland. Our New Works Patrons contribute a significant legacy to orchestral music that extends beyond the RSNO, providing new music for orchestras and audiences around the world – for generations to come.

New Works Patron

Susie Thomson

We are also grateful to those who give but wish to remain anonymous.

If you would like more information or would like to discuss how you can become part of the RSNO Family of Supporters, please contact Jenny McNeely, Head of Individual Giving and Partnerships, at jenny.mcneely@rsno.org.uk



We would like to thank all those who have donated to our new Play Your Part Appeal.

The generosity of our supporters at this time is deeply appreciated.



Musical Memories

Leave a gift to the RSNO and ensure future generations can create their own Musical Memories of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

We all have special Musical Memories. It could be learning to play an instrument when you were a child, or a special piece of music that just left you breathless the first time you heard the Orchestra play it. Maybe it was seeing a soloist you had always wanted to hear, or just a great concert shared with friends. Memories such as these make music such an important part of our lives.

Leaving a gift to the RSNO in your will is the single most important way you can help us to make music and to create memories. Your legacy will support the work of the Orchestra for years to come, ensuring that we can continue to bring great music to a new generation of children, young people and adults right across Scotland.

It is easy to leave a gift. After you have made provisions for family and friends, please think of the Orchestra.

Your gift is important to us and to everyone in Scotland who enjoys music. Contact your solicitor to draft a will or add a codicil to your current will.

If your estate is subject to inheritance tax, a gift to a charity, such as the RSNO, is tax-free and will reduce the amount of tax payable to the Government. Please ask your solicitor for details.

For more information please visit rsno.org.uk/memories

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Jenny McNeely, Head of Individual Giving and Partnerships, in the strictest confidence at jenny.mcneely@rsno.org.uk

To the many among you who have pledged to leave a gift already – thank you.



CHARITABLE TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

Charitable trusts and foundations have a long and illustrious history of supporting the RSNO, both on the concert platform and through our Learning and Engagement programmes in the community. Grants and awards of all sizes are greatly appreciated, and range from one-off donations for specific projects through to large-scale support over a number of years, including support of the acclaimed RSNO Junior Chorus and our flagship educational project, the National Schools Concert Programme. Our 2021:22 Season of concerts and Learning and Engagement programmes is generously supported by the following trusts and foundations:

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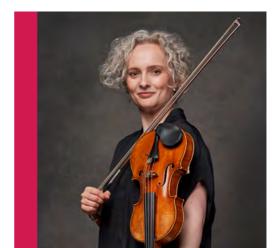
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We are also grateful to a number of trusts that wish to stay anonymous.

and Projects, at ajda.milne@rsno.org.uk

If you would like more information about our work and how you can make a difference, please contact Aida Milne, Head of Trusts



RSNO CIRCLE

The Circle is a vital part of the RSNO family. Our community of music-lovers inspire and support us. Supporting us by joining the Circle will help us to bring music to so many people, from our Learning and Engagement programmes to our brand-new digital performances. As part of our community and family, we will keep in touch with our exclusive magazine Inner Circle, our Circle member webpage and invitations to special events throughout the year.

To find out more about joining the Circle please visit rsno.org.uk/circle or get in touch with Jenny McNeely, Head of Individual Giving and Partnerships, at jenny.mcneely@rsno.orq.uk

To all our existing Circle members, thank you. Thank you for your unwavering support that allows us to continue sharing the joy of music.

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