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Usher Hall, Edinburgh Fri 25 Apr 2025 7.30pm **Glasgow Royal Concert Hall** Sat 26 Apr 7.30pm

If you've seen Amadeus, you'll already know the myth of Mozart's Requiem – the masked stranger, the secret commission, the doomed composer. But the music itself is even more incredible, and tonight Principal Guest Conductor Patrick Hahn joins the RSNO Chorus and a terrific team of guest singers to bring the legend to life. The whole concert is just as haunting – with a rarely heard gem from Beethoven and the superb violinist Carolin Widmann as soloist in Berg's entrancing Concerto.

BEETHOVEN Elegischer Gesang Op118 [4'] **BERG** Violin Concerto [28']

INTERVAL

MOZART Requiem K626 [60']

Patrick Hahn Conductor
Carolin Widmann Violin
Mhairi Lawson Soprano
Hanna Hipp Mezzo-soprano
Jamie MacDougall Tenor
Laurent Naouri Baritone
RSNO Chorus
Stephen Doughty Director, RSNO Chorus

tephen Doughty Director, RSNO Choru
Paul Whittaker BSL Performer
Royal Scottish National Orchestra

The Glasgow 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.



Håkan Hardenberger performs

might-slaylolle

ABERDEEN Thu 8 May 7.30pm

EDINBURGH Fri 9 May 7.30pm

GLASGOW Sat 10 May 7.30pm **Debussy orch Stokowski** Clair de lune from Suite bergamasque

Helen Grime Trumpet Concerto night-sky-blue Scottish Premiere

Takemitsu How Slow the Wind **Rachmaninov** Isle of the Dead

Nodoka Okisawa Conductor Håkan Hardenberger Trumpet

Book online at rsno.org.uk





Welcome



It's an absolute pleasure to have our Principal Guest Conductor, Patrick Hahn, back with us this evening. We are in for a treat with his choice of music – Beethoven, Berg and Mozart – which is just one example of his ingenuity when it comes to programming. Our newly announced 2025:26 Season is testament to that, with Patrick conducting Crumb, Britten, Elgar, Wagner and Scriabin all in one concert, as well as displaying his talent as a pianist in Antheil's A Jazz Symphony.

Tonight is a chance for our wonderful RSNO Chorus to shine in both the Beethoven and the Mozart. The Chorus continues to go from strength to strength and with a tour to Budapest coming up in October, its international demand is growing. In Glasgow's St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral on 20 September you'll have a chance to hear the Chorus performing the repertoire they'll take to Hungary.

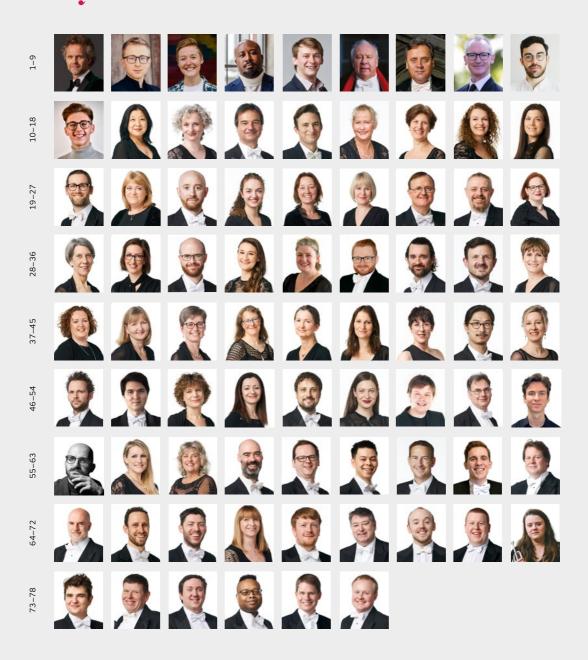
Among the many soloists and singers on the stage tonight is BSL Performer Paul Whittaker, a fantastic addition to what is already a spectacular programme. I would encourage you to pay special attention to Paul; he interprets not only the words of Mozart's Requiem but also the music, creating a new experience for deaf and hearing audiences alike.

Over the last few weeks, we've been busy launching the 2025:26 Seasons in Perth, Aberdeen and Dundee. There's lots to look forward to, including Patrick conducting in Aberdeen, star violinist Nicola Benedetti performing in Dundee and RSNO Music Director Thomas Søndergård heading to Perth. They are going to be brilliant Seasons – we hope to see you there!

Alistair Mackie

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Royal Scottish National Orchestra



Thomas Søndergård	1	Tom Dunn principal	34	David Hubbard PRINCIPAL	6
MUSIC DIRECTOR		Felix Tanner		Luis Eisen associate principal	6
Patrick Hahn	2	ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL	35	Paolo Dutto	6
PRINCIPAL GUEST CONDUCTOR		Susan Buchan SUB PRINCIPAL	36	PRINCIPAL CONTRABASSOON	
Ellie Slorach	3	Lisa Rourke SUB PRINCIPAL	37		
ENGAGEMENT CONDUCTOR		Nicola McWhirter	38	HORN	
Kellen Gray	4	Claire Dunn	39	Alison Murray Assistant Principal	6
ASSOCIATE ARTIST		Katherine Wren	40	Andrew McLean	6
Derrick Morgan	5	Maria Trittinger	41	ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL	
ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR		Francesca Hunt	42	David McClenaghan	6
Neeme Järvi	6	Beth Woodford	43	Martin Murphy ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL	7
CONDUCTOR LAUREATE				. ,	
Alexander Lazarev	7	CELLO		TRUMPET	
CONDUCTOR EMERITUS		Pei-Jee Ng PRINCIPAL	44	Christopher Hart PRINCIPAL	7
Stephen Doughty	8	Betsy Taylor ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL	45	Katie Smith sub-principal	7
DIRECTOR, RSNO CHORUS		Kennedy Leitch ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL	L 46		
Patrick Barrett	9	Yuuki Bouterey-Ishido	47	TROMBONE	
DIRECTOR, RSNO YOUTH CHORUSES		SUB PRINCIPAL		Dávur Juul Magnussen PRINCIPAL	7
Eden Devaney	10	Rachael Lee	48	Alastair Sinclair	7
SIR ALEXANDER GIBSON MEMORIAL		Sarah Digger	49	PRINCIPAL BASS TROMBONE	
FELLOWSHIP FOR CHORAL CONDUCTOR	RS	Robert Anderson	50	,	
		Gunda Baranauskaitė	51	TUBA	
FIRST VIOLIN		Garrag Bararrags raise	01	John Whitener PRINCIPAL	7
Maya Iwabuchi LEADER	11	DOUBLE BASS			
Lena Zeliszewska	12	Nikita Naumov PRINCIPAL	52	TIMPANI	
ASSOCIATE LEADER		Michael Rae ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL	53	Paul Philbert PRINCIPAL	7
Tamás Fejes ASSISTANT LEADER	13	Moray Jones	54		
Patrick Curlett ASSOCIATE PRINCIPA	L 14	Alexandre Cruz dos Santos	55	PERCUSSION	
Caroline Parry	15			Simon Lowdon PRINCIPAL	7
Ursula Heidecker Allen	16	FLUTE		John Poulter Associate PRINCIPAL	7
Lorna Rough	17	Katherine Bryan PRINCIPAL	56		
Susannah Lowdon	18	Janet Richardson	57		
Alan Manson	19	PRINCIPAL PICCOLO	0,		
Elizabeth Bamping	20	7110712.1100020			
Liam Lynch	21	OBOE			
Veronica Marziano	22	Adrian Wilson PRINCIPAL	58		
		Peter Dykes associate principal	59		
SECOND VIOLIN		Henry Clay PRINCIPAL COR ANGLAIS	60		
Jacqueline Speirs	23	Tierri y Gray Francon File Golf File and File	00		
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL		CLARINET			
Marion Wilson ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL	24	Timothy Orpen PRINCIPAL	61		
Nigel Mason	25	William Knight	62		
Paul Medd	26	ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL	02		
Harriet Hunter	27	Duncan Swindells	63		
Anne Bünemann	28	PRINCIPAL BASS CLARINET	05		
Sophie Lang	29	TAIRCH AL DADD CLAIMINET			
Robin Wilson	30				
Emily Nenniger	31				
Kirstin Drew	32				

BASSOON

VIOLA

ARTISTIC TEAM

Colin McKee

33

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Elegischer Gesang

Op118



FIRST PERFORMANCE Vienna, 1814 **DURATION** 4 minutes

By 1814, the year he composed Elegischer Gesang, Beethoven had accomplished a great deal. He had written eight of his nine symphonies and begun exploring, often to profound effect, the medium of the string quartet. Indeed, in the next phase of his life Beethoven was increasingly drawn to the intimate: other works from this period include the chamber sonatas and the song cycle An die ferne Geliebte (1816). Eligischer Gesang certainly fell into this category as it was originally scored for string quartet and a small group of voices, though it is normally performed by scaled-up forces. It is perhaps one of Beethoven's least-known works; in the 1970s music writer Elliott Forbes described it as a 'iewel hidden in Beethoven's choral literature'

Eligischer Gesang was written for Baron Johann Baptiste Pasqualati, who had been a loyal and generous friend to Beethoven over many years, and who was intermittently the composer's landlord in Vienna. His wife Eleanor had died in childbirth in 1811, aged only 24, and Elegischer Gesang was composed in her memory. The piece was first performed, most likely at Pasqualati's home, in the summer of 1814 but not published until 1826, a year before Beethoven's death. Its text was originally unattributed, but the very scrupulous website lieder.net (which aims to match song texts to their original sources) suggests convincingly that the words were adapted from a poem by Friedrich Haug (1761-1829), published in 1814 after the death of the poet Johann Georg Jacobi.

The piece is in a simple ABA structure. The 'A' material is mostly a gentle setting of the opening lines of text, introduced by the orchestra, yet with a powerful, sudden fortissimo (very loud) response to the words 'für den Schmerz' (for the pain). At its repetition these words are almost discordantly anguished. The music hangs in the air, as if shocked, followed by the 'B' section, which comprises a solemn fugue (a theme appearing in sequence across the voices). The 'A' section' returns, and the work concludes with a soft coda, suitable to the words 'hast du vollendet': You have ended.

© Lucy Walker

Elegischer Gesang

Sanft, wie du lebtest, hast du vollendet, zu heilig für den Schmerz!

Kein Auge wein' ob des himmlischen Geistes Heimkehr.

Sanft, sanft wie du lebtest, hast du vollendet, du, sanf sanft wie du lebtest, hast du vollendet, ja, hast du vollendet.

Elegiac Song

Gently as You lived have You ended, more holy for the pain!

No eye weeps for the heavenly spirit's homecoming.

Gently, gently as You lived have You ended, You – gently as You lived You have ended, yes, You have ended.

What was happening in 1814?

- **1 Feb** Lord Byron's semi-autobiographical *The Corsair* sold 10,000 copies on its publication day
- **11 Feb** Norway proclaimed independence from Denmark and Sweden, the other members of the Kalmar Union, originally established in 1397
- **11 Apr** The Treaty of Fontainebleau between Napoleon and Austria, Russia and Prussia: Napoleon ceased to be emperor of the French and was exiled to Elba
- **12 Apr** Charles Burney, the English music historian and father of the writer Fanny Burney, died
- **14 Sep** The successful defence of Baltimore's Fort McHenry against a British bombardment inspired Francis Scott Key to write the poem *The Star-Spangled Banner*
- **17 Oct** In the London Beer Flood, a vat of Meux Brewery's porter burst, demolishing buildings and killing 8 people
- **1 Nov** The Congress of Vienna opened, in order to settle issues arising from the French Revolutionary Wars, Napoleonic Wars and the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire; it ended on 9 Jun 1815, nine days before the Battle of Waterloo
- **6 Nov** Adolphe Sax, the inventor of the saxophone, was born in Dinant, present-day Belgium

Alban Berg (1885-1935)

Violin Concerto

FIRST PERFORMANCE

Barcelona, 19 April 1936

DURATION 28 minutes

1a. Andante: Prelude1b. Allegretto: Scherzo2a. Allegro: Cadenza

2b. Adagio (Chorale Variations)

After the great success of his opera Wozzeck in 1925, and the subsequent improvement in his finances, Alban Berg began work on his second opera, Lulu. However, this was still unfinished when the composer, quick to new ideas but with a perfectionist ethic that made the composition process a slow one, grudgingly put it aside to write his Violin Concerto in early 1935. The Concerto had been commissioned by the American violinist Louis Krasner (1903-95), who was convinced that Berg's stylistic approach to 12-tone serialism, with his working-in of musical elements from the past, would bring the violin concerto to its modern apogee.

Reticent at first, the sudden death in April 1935 of Manon Gropius, daughter of Alma Mahler and the Bauhaus School architect Walter Gropius, aged just 18, gave Berg renewed impetus. He considered Manon a daughter, and the Violin Concerto a memorial of sorts, with the score being inscribed 'to the memory of an angel'.

Working fast, he completed the Concerto in just four months. 'I'm probably more surprised by it than you will be,' he wrote to Krasner, '… the work gave me more and more joy'. Yet a few months later, Berg himself was dead, and his moving Concerto, one of the defining works of the 20th-century violin repertoire, served not only as a memorial to Manon, but to Berg himself.

This is a powerfully emotional and technically demanding work, split into two bipartite movements – slow-fast/fast-slow – in which the soloist plays almost continuously. Berg's thoughtful expansion of the 12-tone structure - his tutor Arnold Schoenberg's method of avoiding a dominant 'key' by using all 12 notes in the chromatic scale equally – makes a number of experimental leaps. Unusually, the defining opening 'tone row' is a completely ascending series of notes, which takes away the usual 'random' jaggedness, before mirroring itself in descent. The first four notes - G, D, A, E - sound the open strings of the violin; the last four notes are those of the opening of Bach's setting of the Lutheran hymn Es ist genug (It is enough) from his cantata O Ewigkeit, du Donnerwort BWV 60 (Oh Eternity, Thou Fateful Word).

The first movement contains echoes of Viennese dance music and the ghost of a Carinthian folk tune which Berg associated with Manon. The second movement, a series of variations on the Bach, is a searingly beautiful drama of death and transfiguration. As the final climax fades, the four open strings heard at the beginning are sounded again, taken up by the first violins as if a distant echo of a life lived.

'The sounds that emanate from the violin ... bring into being a completely new world for the instrument,' wrote the conductor Otto Klemperer on conducting the North American premiere, a year after Berg's death: 'at the conclusion the music seems to span the cosmos'.

© Sarah Urwin Jones

Carolin Widmann

Violin



A wonderfully versatile musician, Carolin Widmann's activities span the great classical concertos, new commissions, solo recitals, a wide variety of chamber music and, increasingly, period instrument performances, including play/direction from the violin. Recent successes have included engagements with the Berliner Philharmoniker, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Munich Philharmonic, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Irish Chamber Orchestra, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, Hallé Orchestra, Netherlands Radio Symphony, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, WDR Rundfunk Sinfonieorchester Cologne, and the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra at the Musikverein.

Carolin debuts with a number of orchestras during the 2024/25 season, including the RSNO, London Symphony Orchestra, Danish National Symphony, Seoul Philharmonic, Helsinki Philharmonic and The Philadelphia Orchestra. Further highlights include the Robert Gerhard concerto with the Orquestra Simfònica de Barcelona, a Kurt Weill-inspired play/direct programme with the Orchestre de Chambre de Paris featuring Ute Lemper, a tribute to Kaija Saariaho with the SWR Symphonieorchester, and the UK premiere of Jörg Widmann's Violin Concerto No2, a piece written for and dedicated to her, with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. She is also the Fondazione Arturo Toscanini's artist-in-residence for the 2024/25 season.

Chamber music projects include two recitals at the Pierre Boulez Saal in Berlin, a quartet programme with Nils Mönkemeyer, Julian Steckel and William Youn, as well as a solo project for violin and electronics and a return to the Alte Oper Frankfurt.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-91)

Completed By Franz Xaver Süssmayr (1766-1803)

Requiem

K626



FIRST PERFORMANCE 2 January 1793 **DURATION** 60 minutes

- 1. Introitus Requiem aeternam
- 2. Kyrie
- 3. Sequentia
 Dies irae
 Tuba mirum
 Recordare
 Confutatis
 Lacrymosa
- 4. Offertorium Domine Jesu Hostias
- 5. Sanctus
- 6. Benedictus
- 7. Agnus Dei
- 8. Communio Lux aeterna

Mozart notoriously left his sole setting of the Requiem Mass incomplete –something that has led to the work attracting not merely a good deal of research but also inevitably much myth and some dispute.

Because of the financial situation in which Mozart's widow Constanze and their two sons were left following his death, it was vital that some attempt was made to complete the piece and thereby be able to claim the outstanding fee. But the strange circumstances surrounding the Requiem's commissioning, and indeed our limited knowledge of the exact events of its posthumous completion, have led to a good deal of confusion: one might suggest that the account presented in the fictional film Amadeus is little more bizarre than the reality.

On 14 February 1791 Anna, Countess of Walsegg-Stuppach, died at the age of 20. Her husband Franz was an amateur musician who occasionally commissioned works from professional composers for him to copy out and then claim as his own. Having decided to commemorate his late wife with a performance of a new Requiem Mass, he selected Mozart to write it. An anonymous approach to the composer made via an unknown intermediary in the summer of 1791 offered a fee of 50 ducats – half to be paid in advance, the remainder on delivery.

Presumably having already pondered and planned the composition of the Requiem, around this time Mozart began to write it down – but with significant interruptions because he was up to his eyes in work. He had already made a start on a new opera, *The Magic Flute*, written in collaboration with his friend Emanuel Schikaneder, which needed to be ready to perform within a matter of weeks. Mostly

complete by July, it was premiered at the Theater auf der Wieden in the Vienna suburbs on 30 September.

Meanwhile, a second – more urgent – commission was offered to him: to write the opera *La clemenza di Tito* to celebrate the coronation in Prague of the new emperor Leopold II as King of Bohemia. Mozart probably started work on this in the early weeks of July 1791, with the premiere taking place at the Estates Theatre, Prague on 6 September, allowing the composer to return to Vienna shortly afterwards.

However, with Constanze away for a health cure at the nearby spa of Baden, Mozart was now suffering from depression and a belief that he had been poisoned. He was nevertheless obliged to carry on composing, finishing two other works – the Clarinet Concerto, and a small cantata written for a Masonic celebration – while feeling increasingly ill. Three days after completing the cantata on 17 November, he took to his bed.

During what proved to be his final illness, Mozart was nursed by his wife and her sister. Among regular visitors was his musical assistant Franz Xaver Süssmayr, who apparently discussed with him the completion of the Requiem which, by this point, Mozart no longer believed he could finish. His condition worsened in early December and he died just before 1am on the 5th. The Introitus and Kyrie from the Requiem were performed on 10 December at a memorial for the composer at St Michael's Church in Vienna arranged by the staff of the Theater auf der Wieden.

The need to have the Requiem completed, however, soon became a pressing one. It seems – somewhat surprisingly – that Süssmayr was not the first choice for the task: scholars have

detected contributions in the manuscript score from three other hands. One of these – Joseph Eybler, the Imperial Court's Director of Music – even signed a contract agreeing to fulfil the commission on 2 January 1791 (though decades later Constanze would deny this).

But for whatever reason, it would be Süssmayr who continued where Mozart left off: he would even sign the work on Mozart's behalf: 'di me W: A: Mozart, mppa [in my own hand] 1791 [sic]'. Copies were made and the original manuscript passed on to Walsegg-Stuppach in February 1792.

By 1799, when the Requiem was first published, Süssmayr was being asked to give an account of exactly what his involvement had been. Both he and later Constanze stressed the discussions he had held with the dying Mozart as to how to proceed. Mozart's widow also noted that Süssmayr had access to Wolfgang's sketches and other papers, perhaps including some no longer available. (A sketch of an Amen fugue – which Süssmayr seems to have ignored – turned up as recently as 1961.)

But during the more than 200 years since Süssmayr's completion there has been increasing criticism of his work. Numerous modern editions have attempted to improve upon it: the one we hear tonight is Franz Bayer's interpretation.

Mozart completed only the first two movements – the Introitus and Kyrie – in full orchestral garb. The opening sections of the Dies irae (as far as the first eight bars of the Lacrymosa) are also in his hand, as are parts of the Domine Jesu and Hostias. Süssmayr's contributions include the Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei, though scholars believe he may have had access to sketches now lost.

However inconsistent the result may be, Mozart's only setting of the text represents his first significant piece of church music for almost a decade. The Requiem retains its fascination not merely because of its curious creation but also due to the quality of the music Mozart penned during his final weeks in a score imbued with noble solemnity and alternating the vividly dramatic with the reflective.

The first complete performance – arranged by Mozart's long-term supporter Gottfried van Swieten as a benefit for Constanze – was given on 2 January 1793.

There are one or two instrumental surprises in the scoring Mozart used. Firstly, he employs two basset horns, an instrument he seems to have been unusually fond of – it appears in no fewer than three of his operas (The Abduction from the Seraglio, The Magic Flute and La clemenza di Tito) as well as in his Gran Partita and the Masonic Funeral Music. Secondly, where those familiar with the King James Version of the Bible might expect a trumpet to sound the Last Trump, Mozart's setting of the Tuba mirum uses a trombone ('Posaune'), as specified in the Lutheran Bible.

© George Hall

1. Introitus

Requiem aeternam

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.
Te decet hymnus, Deus, in Sion, et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem.
Exaudi orationem meam, ad te omnis caro veniet.
Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. A hymn, O God, becomes You in Zion; and a vow shall be paid to You in Jerusalem: hear my prayer; all flesh shall come to You.

Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord,

and let perpetual light shine upon them.

et iux pei petua iuceat eis.

2. Kyrie

Kyrie, eleison. Christe, eleison. Kyrie, eleison. Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.

3. Sequentia

Dies irae

Dies irae, dies illa Solvet saeclum in favilla, teste David cum Sibylla. Quantus tremor est futurus, quando judex est venturus, cuncta stricte discussurus! Day of wrath, day of anger will dissolve the world in ashes, as foretold by David and the Sibyl. Great trembling there will be when the Judge descends from heaven to examine all things closely!

Tuba mirum

Tuba mirum spargens sonum per sepulcra regionum, coget omnes ante thronum. Mors stupebit et natura, cum resurget creatura,

judicanti responsura. Liber scriptus proferetur, in quo totum continetur,

unde mundus judicetur.
Judex ergo cum sedebit, quidquid latet,
apparebit,
nil inultum remanebit.
Quid sum miser tunc dicturus?
Quem patronum rogaturus,
cum vix justus sit securus?

The trumpet will send its wondrous sound throughout earth's sepulchres and gather all before the throne.

Death and nature will be astounded, when all creation rises again, to answer the judgement.

A book will be brought forth, in which all will be written,

by which the world will be judged.
When the judge takes his place, what is hidden will be revealed,
nothing will remain unavenged.
What shall a wretch like me say?
Who shall intercede for me,
when the just ones need mercy?

Rex tremendae

Rex tremendae majestatis, qui salvandos salvas gratis, salve me, fons pietatis. King of tremendous majesty, who freely saves those worthy ones, save me, source of mercy.

Recordare

Recordare, Jesu pie, quod sum causa tuae viae;

ne me perdas illa die. Quaerens me, sedisti lassus, redemisti crucem passus; tantus labor non sit cassus.

Juste judex ultionis, bonum fac remissionis ante diem rationis.

Ingemisco, tamquam reus: culpa rubet vultus meus; supplicanti parce, Deus.

Qui Mariam absolvisti, et latronem exaudisti, mihi quoque spem dedisti. Preces meae non sunt dignae, sed tu, bonus, fac benigne, ne perenni cremer igne.

Inter oves locum praesta, Et ab haedis me sequestra, Statuens in parte dextra.

Confutatis

Confutatis maledictis, flammis acribus addictis, voca me cum benedictis.

Oro supplex et acclinis, cor contritum quasi cinis, gere curam mei finis.

Lacrymosa

Lacrymosa dies illa, qua resurget ex favilla judicandus homo reus.

Huic ergo parce, Deus, pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem. Amen. Remember, kind Jesus, my salvation caused Your suffering:

suffering;
do not forsake me on that day.
Faint and weary You have sought me,
redeemed me, suffering on the cross; may such
great effort not be in vain.
Righteous judge of vengeance,
grant me the gift of absolution before the day of

retribution.
I moan as one who is guilty:
owning my shame with a red face; suppliant
before You. Lord.

You, who absolved Mary, and listened to the thief, give me hope also.

My prayers are unworthy, but, good Lord, have mercy, and rescue me from eternal fire.

Provide me a place among the sheep, and separate me from the goats, guiding me to Your right hand.

When the accused are confounded, and doomed to flames of woe, call me among the blessed.

I kneel with submissive heart, my contrition is like ashes, help me in my final condition.

That day of tears and mourning, when from the ashes shall arise all humanity to be judged.

Spare us by Your mercy, Lord, gentle Lord Jesus, grant them eternal rest.

Amen.

4. Offertorium

Domine Jesu

Domine Jesu Christe, Rex gloriae, libera animas omnium fidelium defunctorum de poenis inferni et de profundo lacu. Libera eas de ore leonis, ne absorbeat eas Tartarus, ne cadant in obscurum.

Sed signifer Sanctus Michael, repraesentet eas in lucem sanctam. Quam olim Abrahae promisisti et semini ejus. Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, liberate the souls of the faithful departed from the pains of hell and from the bottomless pit. Deliver them from the lion's mouth, lest hell swallow them up lest they fall into darkness.

Let the standard-bearer, holy Michael, bring them into holy light. Which was promised to Abraham and his descendants

Hostias

Hostias et preces tibi, Domine, laudis offerimus.

Tu suscipe pro animabus illis, quarum hodie memoriam facimus. Fac eas, Domine,

de morte transire ad vitam, Quam olim Abrahae promisisti et semini ejus. Sacrifices and prayers of praise, Lord, we offer to You

Receive them on behalf of those souls we commemorate today. And let them, Lord,

pass from death to life, which was promised to Abraham and his descendants.

5. Sanctus

Sanctus, sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth! Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua Hosanna in excelsis! Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth! Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is He who cometh in the name of the

6. Benedictus

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.

Lord.
Hosanna in excelsis! Hosanna in the highest!

7. Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi,

dona eis requiem.

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi,

dona eis requiem sempiternam.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

grant them rest.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the

grant them everlasting rest.

8. Communio

Lux aeterna

Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine, cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, quia pius es.

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et Lux perpetua luceat eis, cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, quia pius es. Let eternal light shine on them, Lord, as with Your saints in eternity, because You are merciful.

Grant them eternal rest, Lord, and let perpetual light shine on them, as with Your saints in eternity, because You are merciful.

Mhairi Lawson

Soprano



Mhairi Lawson has performed in opera houses and concert halls worldwide. In the UK, she has regularly collaborated with the Gabrieli Consort and Players, Academy of Ancient Music, English National Opera, Early Opera Company and Scottish Chamber Orchestra, and with leading conductors such as William Christie, Sir Charles Mackerras, Paul McCreesh, Dame Jane Glover and Sir John Eliot Gardiner, in repertoire ranging from traditional folksong to opera.

This season, in addition to performing Mozart's Requiem with the RSNO, and a Netherlands tour of the piece with the Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century, she returns to the London Handel Festival and the Gabrieli Consort.

Recent highlights include performances of Handel's Messiah with the RSNO and Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León, Bach's B Minor Mass with the SCO, Haydn's Creation with the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra, Mozart's Requiem with the Royal Northern Sinfonia, Bach's St Matthew Passion with the Nieuwe Philharmonie Utrecht, BBC National Orchestra of Wales and Academy of Ancient Music, residencies at the Carmel

Bach Festival, and performances of Purcell's *King Arthur* on tour with the Gabrieli Consort and Early Opera Company.

With Les Arts Florissants, Mhairi has performed at the Cité de la Musique Paris, throughout Europe, and at London's Barbican Centre and Birmingham's Symphony Hall. She has sung Bach's St John Passion in New York's Lincoln Center and in Weimar, the St Matthew Passion with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and King Arthur with the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, San Francisco.

Mhairi has made many commercial recordings, including Haydn's *Creation* with the Choir of New College, Oxford, conducted by Edward Higginbottom, Scottish Jacobite songs on the Avison Ensemble's CD *Rebellion*, and two discs of Schubert Lieder with clarinettist Jane Booth and pianist Eugene Asti. She also features on Les Arts Florissants' *Monteverdi Madrigals Vol.* 3 *Venezia* for Harmonia Mundi, a finalist for the Gramophone Baroque Vocal Award.

With La Serenissima, Mhairi has recorded many of Vivaldi's sacred and operatic works, and has performed La senna festeggiante and La fida ninfa in Venice.

A keen recitalist, Mhairi's engagements have included songs from the British folksong tradition and Lieder by Haydn, Mozart, Schubert, Schumann, Strauss and Wolf with appearances in the Edinburgh Festival, Newcastle and York Universities, recordings for BBC Radio 3, and a recital with lutenist Elizabeth Kenny as part of the St Magnus International Festival.

While still a student at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Mhairi won the International Early Music Network Young Artists Prize with the fortepianist Olga Tverskaya.

Hanna Hipp

Mezzo-soprano



Hanna Hipp's ardent and impassioned singing make her a favourite for the leading lyric mezzo repertoire, with her recent roles including Offred in *The Handmaid's Tale* at the Royal Danish Theatre, Der Komponist in *Ariadne auf Naxos* at Glyndebourne Festival Opera and Opera North, Dorabella in *Così fan tutte* at Seattle Opera, English National Opera and New Zealand Opera, and Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro* at the Royal Opera House.

Hanna sang her first Varvara (*Katya Kabanova*) for Scottish Opera, and the title role in Offenbach's *Fantasio* and her first Octavian (*Der Rosenkavalier*) for Garsington Opera. International debuts include the Teatro Real Madrid as Frances, Countess of Essex (*Gloriana*) in Sir David McVicar's production under Ivor Bolton, Dutch National Opera as Ein Page in Ivo van Hove's production under Daniele Gatti, and Isolier (*Le Comte Ory*) and Beatrice (*Beatrice and Benedict*) for Seattle Opera.

Increasingly in demand on the concert platform, in the 2024/25 season Hanna joins Nil Venditti and the Norwegian Arctic Philharmonic

Orchestra for Berio's Folk Songs, Delyana Lazarova and The Hallé for Boulanger's Psalm 130, and reunites with Vladimir Jurowski and the London Philharmonic Orchestra for Haydn's Missa in tempore belli and Sir Simon Rattle and the London Symphony Orchestra for concert performances of The Excursions of Mr Brouček after her recent appearance in Jenůfa and performance of Szymanowski's Stabat Mater at the Barbican. Most recently, Hanna joined Halldis Rønning and the Malmö Symphony Orchestra for Viva España featuring De Falla's El amor brujo, and Thomas Zehetmair and Royal Northern Sinfonia for Bruckner's Mass No.3.

Recent notable operatic appearances include Federico García Lorca in productions of Golijov's *Ainadamar* at Welsh National Opera and Pacific Opera Victoria, as well as a return to the ROH for *Hänsel und Gretel*. This season Hanna joins ENO as Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro* and Scottish Opera for The Strauss Collection, including excerpts from *Ariadne auf Naxos* and *Der Rosenkavalier*.

On disc, Hanna has appeared as Anna in Berlioz's Les Troyens with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg under John Nelson on Warner Classics, Flora in Verdi's La traviata at the Glyndebourne Festival under Sir Mark Elder on Opus Arte DVD, and released her debut recital album featuring the songs of Ildebrando Pizzetti with pianist Emma Abbate on Resonus Classics. She is a former member of the ROH's Jette Parker Artists Programme.

Jamie MacDougall

Tenor



Born in Glasgow, Jamie MacDougall is one of Scotland's leading artists, enjoying a career as both a performer and broadcaster.

He has worked at Scottish Opera, Opera Holland Park, English National Opera and Opera North, as well as companies in Europe and Canada. His most recent roles at Scottish Opera are the Spy in the UK premiere of Jonathan Dove's Marx in London and Mayor Upfold in Britten's Albert Herring. He will also appear in the world premiere of Emma Jones and Toby Hession's A Matter of Misconduct! in May and June this year. Passionate about new opera, Jamie collaborates closely with New Opera in Scotland Events (NOISE).

On the concert platform, Jamie has worked with some of the world's top Baroque, chamber and symphony orchestras. In 2017 he was Artist in Residence at the St Andrews Voices Festival, and in 2022 launched the New Scottish Song Book, which is published by the Voices Festival. He is on the teaching staff at the Laidlaw Centre at St Andrews University.

Jamie's extensive discography of over 45 titles covers Baroque and Classical, German, Scottish and English song, as well as 20th-century music. With Haydn Trio Eisenstadt he released the 20 CD collection of Haydn Folksong arrangements. In 2020, with Trio van Beethoven, he marked the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth with recitals in Germany.

Since 2001 Jamie has been 'Scotland's Voice' for classical music on BBC Radio Scotland, presenting *Grace Notes*, *Classics Unwrapped* and *Classical Now*. His voice can be heard regularly presenting for BBC Radio 3, and for 17 years he anchored BBC TV's *Proms in the Park* from Glasgow as part of the Last Night of the Proms festivities.

In a co-production with Scottish Opera, Jamie staged an adaptation of Jimmy Logan's one-man play Lauder! that helped mark the 150th anniversary of the Theatre Royal in Glasgow. During the Covid-19 pandemic, Jamie Crowdfunded a film of the play at the King's Theatre in Edinburgh to mark Lauder's 150th birthday. In 2025 Jamie will be touring Lauder! to raise awareness and funds for Erskine Hospital, for which he is honoured to be an Ambassador.

Laurent Naouri

Baritone



Baritone Laurent Naouri is recognised as much for the dramatic intensity of his operatic performances as for his fine musicianship and poignant interpretation on the concert platform. Since his professional debut in 1992 at the Théâtre Impérial de Compiègne, he has amassed over 40 roles, ranging from Baroque to contemporary, and has performed on the world's most prestigious stages.

In the current season, he debuts as Hamm in a new staging of Kurtág's Fin de partie at the Staatsoper Berlin under Alexander Soddy, joins the Münchner Philharmoniker and Alain Altinoglu in rare performances of Frank Martin's In terra pax and returns to the Opéra National de Paris in Barrie Kosky's production of Offenbach's Les brigands, conducted by Michele Spotti.

Roles pivotal to Naouri's enduring success include the Devils in Offenbach's Les contes d'Hoffmann, which he has sung at the Teatro Real Madrid, Teatro alla Scala Milan, Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona, Metropolitan Opera New

York and Festival d'Aix-en-Provence; Golaud in Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande* at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées Paris, Staatsoper Berlin, Teatro Real, Gran Teatre del Liceu, Los Angeles Opera and Aix-en-Provence; Sir John Falstaff in Verdi's *Falstaff* at the Opéra National de Lyon, Santa Fe Opera and Glyndebourne Festival Opera; and Germont in Verdi's *La traviata* at Santa Fe, Dallas Opera, New National Theatre Tokyo and Théâtre des Champs-Élysées.

Naouri made his Metropolitan Opera debut in 2012 as Sharpless in Puccini's Madama Butterfly, and has returned as Capulet in Gounod's Roméo et Juliette, Pandolfe in Massenet's Cendrillon, High Priest in Saint-Saëns' Samson et Dalila and Marquis de la Force in Poulenc's Dialogues des Carmélites.

His appearances with the Opéra National de Paris since 1994 include Massenet's Manon and Cendrillon, Rameau's Platée, Donizetti's L'elisir d'amore and Don Pasquale, Puccini's Madama Butterfly, Gounod's Roméo et Juliette, Charpentier's Médée and Enescu's Œdipe.

A sensitive recitalist, enthusiastic jazz performer and frequently recorded artist, Naouri's operatic discography includes Lully's *Phaëton* and *Acis* et *Galatée*, Rameau's *Hippolyte* et *Aricie* and *Dardanus*, Handel's *La Resurrezione* and *Aci, Galatea* e *Polifemo*, Berlioz's *Benvenuto Cellini,* Gounod's *Colombe* and the title role in Donizetti's *Le duc d'Albe*. As soloist he has recorded songs by Poulenc, Ravel and Roussel.

The RSNO is extremely grateful to Laurent Naouri for stepping in for the advertised bass-baritone, Daniel Okulitch.

Paul Whittaker

BSL Performer



Paul Whittaker was born in Huddersfield in 1964 and has been deaf all his life. After being awarded a music degree from Wadham College Oxford and a postgraduate diploma from the Royal Northern College of Music, he founded Music and the Deaf, a charity he ran for 27 years before leaving to pursue a freelance career.

Paul has signed many shows and concerts across the UK, and performed with The King's Singers, Voces 8, Tenebrae, Children's Classic Concerts, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and at many festivals, including the Cumnock Tryst and the BBC Proms. He previously signed with the RSNO for the Scottish premiere of Sir James MacMillan's Christmas Oratorio in November 2023, and Handel's Messiah earlier this Season.

Paul was awarded an OBE for services to music in 2007 and continues to promote music and deafness wherever possible.



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Patrick Hahn

Conductor



Patrick Hahn is one of the most sought after and exciting conductors of his generation. He was appointed Principal Guest Conductor of the RSNO in 2024. He is also General Music Director of the Sinfonieorchester und Oper Wuppertal and Principal Guest Conductor of the Münchner Rundfunkorchester of the Bayerischer Rundfunk (Munich Radio Orchestra). He was Principal Guest Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra between 2021 and 2023.

As a guest conductor in the 2024/25 season, Patrick makes his first appearances with the hr-Sinfonieorchester Frankfurt, Brussels Philharmonic and RAI National Symphony Orchestra in Turin, at the Semperoper Dresden conducting Richard Strauss' Intermezzo and Staatsoper Hamburg with Wagner's Parsifal. Return visits include the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Vienna Symphony and Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich. He has also taken part in the Johann Strauss 2025 celebration in Vienna, celebrating the 200th anniversary of Strauss' birth conducting a concert performance of Der Karneval in Rom.

Previous seasons' highlights include his debut at Zürich Opera House with Barrie Kosky's production of Lehár's *Die lustige Witwe* and New National Theatre Tokyo with Johann Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*, as well as debuts with the Bamberg Symphony and the SWR Symphonieorchester in Stuttgart. Patrick enjoys a regular relationship with Klangforum Wien and the Vienna Symphony, most recently conducting Schoenberg's *Ertwartung* with Dorothea Röschmann at the Vienna Musikverein.

Patrick and the Münchner Rundfunkorchester's explorations and recordings of rarely performed repertoire such as Viktor Ullmann's *Der Kaiser von Atlantis* and Alexander von Zemlinsky's *Eine florentinische Tragödie* have received critical acclaim. Other recordings include Alpha label's Britten and Bruch Violin Concertos with Kerson Leong and the Philharmonia Orchestra, and Beethoven's Piano Concertos 1 and 2 with Olivier Cavé and the Kammerakademie Potsdam.

Aside from his work in classical music, Patrick accompanies himself on the piano singing cabaret songs by the Austrian satirist and composer Georg Kreisler. As a jazz pianist, he received awards from the Chicago Jazz Festival, and the Outstanding Soloist Award from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse as the best jazz pianist of the 37th Annual Jazz Festival.

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. Many renowned conductors have contributed to its success, including Sir John Barbirolli, Walter Susskind, Sir Alexander Gibson, Neeme Järvi, Walter Weller, Alexander Lazarev and Stéphane Denève.

The Orchestra's artistic team is led by Danish conductor Thomas Søndergård, who was appointed Music Director in 2018. In March 2024, Austrian-born conductor, composer and musician Patrick Hahn became the Orchestra's Principal Guest Conductor.

The RSNO is supported by the Scottish Government and is one of the Scottish National Performing Companies. The Orchestra performs across Scotland, including concerts in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Perth and Inverness, and appears regularly at the Edinburgh International Festival and BBC Proms. The RSNO 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 (Denève/Roussel 2007; Denève/Debussy 2012) and eight GRAMMY Award nominations. In recent years, the RSNO has increasingly recorded soundtracks for film, television and video games, with notable titles including Horizon: An American Saga (Warner Bros), Life on Our Planet (Netflix), Star Wars Outlaws (Ubisoft), Avatar: Frontiers of Pandora (Meta Quest VR) and The Woman King (Sony Pictures). The Orchestra records at its bespoke in-house facility, Scotland's Studio, in Glasgow.

The RSNO believes that music can enrich lives, and aims to inspire, educate and entertain people throughout Scotland and beyond with its performances, recordings and engagement programmes. Supporting schools, families, young professionals and wider communities, the RSNO delivers high-quality initiatives for all ages and abilities, reaching over 68,000 people in 2023.

On Stage

FIRST VIOLIN

Lena Zeliszewska ASSOCIATE LEADER Tamás Fejes ASSISTANT LEADER

ASSISTANT LÉADER
Patrick Curlett
Cheryl Crockett
Caroline Parry
Elizabeth Bamping
Lorna Rough
Susannah Lowdon
Alan Manson
Liam Lynch
Veronica Marziano
Gillian Risi

SECOND VIOLIN

Emily Davis GUEST PRINCIPAL Jacqueline Speirs Marion Wilson Nigel Mason Paul Medd Harriet Hunter Anne Bünemann Sophie Lang Robin Wilson Kirstin Drew

VIOLA

Tom Dunn PRINCIPAL Felix Tanner Susan Buchan Nicola McWhirter

Claire Dunn Maria Trittinger Francesca Hunt Beth Woodford

CELLO

Pei-Jee Ng PRINCIPAL Betsy Taylor Kennedy Leitch Sarah Digger Niamh Molloy Gunda Baranauskaitė

DOUBLE BASS

Nikita Naumov PRINCIPAL Michael Rae Alexandre Cruz dos Santos Olaya Garcia Alvarez

FLUTE

Fiona Sweeney GUEST PRINCIPAL Janet Richardson PRINCIPAL PICCOLO

OBOE

Adrian Wilson PRINCIPAL Peter Dykes

CLARINET

Timothy Orpen PRINCIPAL William Knight Robert Digney Duncan Swindells PRINCIPAL BASS CLARINET

SAXOPHONE

Lewis Banks

BASSOON

David Hubbard
PRINCIPAL
Hugo Mak
Paolo Dutto
PRINCIPAL CONTRABASSOON

HORN

Benji Hartnell-Booth GUEST PRINCIPAL Alison Murray Andrew McLean David McClenaghan Martin Murphy

TRUMPET

Jonathan Holland GUEST PRINCIPAL Katie Smith

TROMBONE

Dávur Juul Magnussen PRINCIPAL Cillian Ó Ceallacháin Alastair Sinclair PRINCIPAL BASS TROMBONE

TUBA

John Whitener

TIMPANI

Paul Philbert

PERCUSSION

Simon Lowdon PRINCIPAL Scott Vassie Peter Murch

HARP

Eluned Pierce

ORGAN

Michael Bawtree

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, most recently, the critically acclaimed Scottish Premiere of Sir James MacMillan's Christmas Oratorio.

The RSNO Chorus is directed by Stephen Doughty, who was appointed to the role at the start of the 2022:23 Season.

RSNO Chorus

SOPRANO 1

Alison Blair Alison Pryce-Jones Caroline Cradock Catherine Taylor Charlotte McKechnie Iris O'Connell Joan Lacy Joanna Beaton Karman Leung Katherine Szumowski Katie Cochrane Mhairi Hendry Morag Kean Rei Camilleri Rhona Christie Roberta Yule Sarah Greer Seonaid Fadie

SOPRANO 2

Amelie Masters Beth Kean Carol McLean Carole Sim Sayce Eleanor Gaskell Elizabeth Jack Elspeth Waugh Frances Kennedy Heather Keating Helen Hyland Jenny Cheung Judith Pexton Kate Adams Katie Dew Laura Gorman Lizzie Reather Lorna Robertson Lynsey Brook Lynsey Scott Mairi Therese Cleary Sally Sandground Theresa Hoare

ALTO 1

Ailie MacDougall Angela McDonald Anne Browning Anne Murphy Anne Thies Brenda Williamson Cath Malone Catriona Eadie Esther McMillan Fiona Taylor Freya Atkinson Gibson Harriet Skipworth Julia Haddow Julia King June Thomas Laura MacDonald Lauren Hadlev Linda McLauchlan Louise Reid Marrian Murray Mary Taylor Maureen McCroskie Marita McMillan Ruth Townsend Sophy Ying Steve Halfyard Thea Jones Uta Engelbrecht

ALTO 2

Alice Bennett Alison Bryce Ann Firth Anne Newlands Carol Leddy Catharine Perrin Denny Henderson Eleanor McLaren Elizabeth Scobie Elizabeth Stevenson Gillian Downie Hilde McKenna Jane Stansfield Janette Morrison Moira Allingham Sonja Crossan

TENOR 1

Alex Rankine Andrew Clifford David Miller Lawrence Smith Nathan Dunsmore

TENOR 2

Calum Lowe
Cosma Gottardi
David MacDonald
Donald Weetman
Frikki Walker
Graham Parsonage
Kerr Noble
Laurie Nelson
Robert Paterson
Tyler Newton

BASS 1

Alistair Laird
Andrew Matheson
Fraser Dalziel
George Lloyd
Ian MacKay
Martin Engelbrecht
Martin Waddell
Peter Saunders
Robin Watson
Stephen Penman
Stuart Corkindale
Toby Reed

BASS 2

Alan Maxwell Brian Watt Chris Morris Chris Spencer Findlay Peters Graeme Simpson Ian Gray John MacLellan Kenneth Allen Melvvn Davies Oluwatimilehin Bimbo-Adeola Richard Goldie Stephen Lipton Stewart McMillan Tim Reilly

RSNO CHORUS DIRECTOR

Stephen Doughty

RSNO CHORUS VOCAL COACH

Polly Beck

RSNO CHORUS REHEARSAL PIANIST

Edward Cohen

Stephen Doughty

Director, RSNO Chorus



Stephen Doughty has been Chorus Director of the RSNO Chorus since the start of the 2022:23 Season. Since his arrival, the Chorus has seen an influx of new members and an abundance of varied and critically acclaimed performances, including Verdi's Requiem, Britten's War Requiem, Bruckner's E Minor Mass and the Scottish premiere of Sir James MacMillan's Christmas Oratorio. He has also directed the Chorus in new and imaginative programmes in their own right, including Rheinberger's Mass in E flat for double choir, and concerts with percussion and organ featuring Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, the European premiere of McIntyre's Missa Brevis and Ives' final major choral work, Psalm 90.

Stephen's previous 12-year tenure as Chorus Master of Belfast Philharmonic Choir included a number of world premieres, most significantly James Whitbourn's *The Seven Heavens* and Philip Hammond's *Requiem for the Lost Souls of the Titanic*, performed exactly 100 years since the liner went down, and further European premieres

of both Stuart Scott's Requiem Brevis, which saw the 100-strong choir separated into eight choirs spaced around the audience, and Christopher Marshall's Earthsong.

Stephen particularly enjoys working with amateur singers, not least leading regular singing days frequently involving up to 800 singers. He was Musical Director of Edinburgh Bach Choir for seven years and has directed the Garleton Singers for over 30 years, performing with them recently at the Lammermuir Festival.

Stephen plays harpsichord/organ continuo and orchestral piano and has given frequent organ recitals, including several on the grand Mulholland Organ in the Ulster Hall, Belfast. He is also in demand as an arranger and orchestrator, with a large portfolio of work particularly for young voices. He has produced a plethora of arrangements of the music of pianist Christopher Norton, including two publications of piano duets and a suite for wind sextet, and has received commissions from Children's Classic Concerts, the Ulster Orchestra and the RSNO. Commissions from the BBC have seen his work performed on BBC Alba and at the Last Night of the Proms, and his pieces feature on several recordings, including with the RSNO Chorus.

Stephen is an examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

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cornerstone of all that we do, as it allows us to continually build and develop.

Thank you for being part of this wonderful Orchestra's journey, as we adapt and grow towards a bright future.

(Mans Spalorgical

Thomas Søndergård

MUSIC DIRECTOR, RSNO

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

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Ms Chris Grace Hartness

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

If you would like more information about our work and how you can make a difference, please contact Kirsten Reid, Head of Development (Trusts and Projects), at kirsten.reid@rsno.org.uk

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Our Circle Members are at the centre of the RSNO. Your membership helps to support the future of the RSNO while sharing the joy of music both on and off stage.

When you join the RSNO Circle you enhance your relationship with the Orchestra and enjoy exclusive updates from our musicians. If you would like to find out more about joining the Circle, please visit **rsno.org.uk/circle** or get in touch with Polly Lightbody, Individual Giving and Partnerships Officer, at polly.lightbody@rsno.org.uk

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