

RSNO

SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL
ORCHESTRA

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**RSNO Christmas
Concert featuring**

The Snowman

Presented by Josie Long

Usher Hall, Edinburgh

Fri 19 Dec 2025 6.30pm

Glasgow Royal Concert Hall

Sat 20 Dec 2025 2pm

RSNO Christmas Concert featuring **The Snowman**

Welcome to the RSNO's Christmas Concert for an extra-special feast of Yuletide cheer! This family-friendly concert is packed with your favourite sing-along carols and festive melodies, including *The Penguin Song* and *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. And of course there's the enchanting film *The Snowman*, shown on the big screen, accompanied by the Orchestra and narrated by our star guest, comedian Josie Long. It's the perfect start to your Christmas!

Stephen Doughty Conductor

Josie Long Presenter

RSNO Youth Choruses

Patrick Barrett Director, RSNO Youth Choruses

Alison McNeill Associate Director, RSNO Youth Choruses

RSNO Changed Voices

Frikki Walker Director, RSNO Changed Voices

Royal Scottish National Orchestra

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

Christmas Overture

Howard Blake

The Snowman

Narrator: Josie Long

INTERVAL

Leroy Anderson

A Christmas Festival

Traditional (arr. Doughty)

Mary Had a Baby

Andrew Lippa (arr. Crawley)

Almost Christmas

Philip Lane

Two Pieces from Old Christmas Music

Bring a Torch

Gaudete

Traditional (arr. Doughty)

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Rick and Sylvia Powell (arr. Bock)
Peace, Peace

Leroy Anderson
Sleigh Ride

Kevin Stannard (arr. Doughty)
The Penguin Song

Mike Batt
A Christmas Overture

R Alex Anderson (arr. Higgins)
Mele Kalikimaka

Felix Mendelssohn (arr. Willcocks)
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark! The herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.'
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'

*Hark! The herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born king.'*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*Hark! The herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born king.'*

Hail the Heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings;
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

*Hark! The herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born king.'*

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.**

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Josie Long

Presenter



Josie Long is a multi-award-winning comedian, writer, podcaster and film-maker. She is a trailblazer of the UK comedy industry, as the first woman to be nominated three times for the Edinburgh Comedy Award (2010-12). Her nine critically acclaimed tours showcase her unique and powerfully original voice, and have been performed globally to sell-out shows. Her various podcasts and original radio shows have garnered her a worldwide audience of dedicated listeners and multiple awards.

Josie is an avid film-maker, having written and performed in two short films and a full-length feature called *Super November*. She's been on all the TV channels, and has two comedy specials currently streaming; *Cara Josephine* is available on Amazon Prime, and *Something Better* is available on Netflix. Her debut book, a collection of short stories called *Because I Don't Know What You Mean and What You Don't*, was published in 2023.



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Stephen Doughty

Conductor



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 amateur singers. He was Musical Director of Edinburgh Bach Choir for seven years and has enjoyed directing 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 being 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.

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 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 cultivated an international reputation for world-class film, television and videogame soundtrack recording. The Orchestra has recorded for BAFTA-winning series *Silo* (Apple TV) and worked with the likes of GRAMMY Award-winning composer Lorne Balfe on *Life on Our Planet* (Netflix). Other notable titles include *Nuremberg* (Sony Pictures), *Now You See Me: Now You Don't* (Lionsgate), *Horizon: An American Saga* (Warner Bros) and *Star Wars Outlaws* (Ubisoft). The Orchestra records at its bespoke in-house facility 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.

On Stage

FIRST VIOLIN

Maya Iwabuchi
LEADER
Shlomy Dobrinsky
ASSOCIATE LEADER
Tamás Fejes
ASSISTANT LEADER
Patrick Curlett
Caroline Parry
Ursula Heidecker Allen
Elizabeth Bamping
Lorna Rough
Susannah Lowdon
Alan Manson
Liam Lynch
Veronica Marziano
Stewart Webster

SECOND VIOLIN

Emma Oldfield
GUEST PRINCIPAL
Marion Wilson
Jacqueline Speirs
Nigel Mason
Emily Nenniger
Paul Medd
Anne Bünemann
Sophie Lang
Robin Wilson
Kirstin Drew
Colin McKee
Helena Rose

VIOLA

Tom Dunn
PRINCIPAL
Felix Tanner
Asher Zaccardelli
Susan Buchan
Nicola McWhirter
Claire Dunn
Lisa Rourke
Maria Trittinger
Francesca Hunt
Beth Woodford

CELLO

Pei-Jee Ng
PRINCIPAL
Betsy Taylor
Kennedy Leitch
Yuuki Bouterey-Ishido
Rachael Lee
Sarah Digger
Robert Anderson
Gunda Baranauskaitė

DOUBLE BASS

Nikita Naumov
PRINCIPAL
Michael Rae
Moray Jones
Alexandre Cruz dos Santos
Chris Sargeant

FLUTE

Oliver Roberts
GUEST PRINCIPAL
Janet Richardson
PRINCIPAL PICCOLO

OBOE

Adrian Wilson
PRINCIPAL
Henry Clay
PRINCIPAL COR ANGLAIS

CLARINET

Timothy Orpen
PRINCIPAL
Duncan Swindells
PRINCIPAL BASS CLARINET

BASSOON

Jamie Louise White
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL
Paolo Dutto
PRINCIPAL CONTRABASSOON

HORN

Amadea Dazeley-Gaist
PRINCIPAL
Alison Murray
Diana Sheach
David McClenaghan
Martin Murphy

TRUMPET

Christopher Hart
PRINCIPAL
Katie Bannister
Jason Lewis

TROMBONE

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

TUBA

John Whitener
PRINCIPAL

TIMPANI

Tom Hunter
GUEST PRINCIPAL

PERCUSSION

Simon Lowdon
PRINCIPAL
Peter Murch
Stuart Semple

HARP

Pippa Tunnell

KEYBOARD

Lynda Cochrane

RSNO Youth Chorus



The RSNO Youth Chorus is one of the leading children and youth choirs in the UK. Formed in 1978 by Jean Kidd, the Youth Chorus is currently led by director Patrick Barrett and boasts over 400 members aged 7 to 18. It has built up a considerable reputation singing under some of the world's most distinguished conductors and appearing on radio and television.

RSNO Youth Chorus members sing regularly with Scotland's National Orchestra in major concert halls and festivals throughout the country, and in

2021 performed at COP26 in Glasgow. The Youth Chorus has also sung at BBC concerts and regularly appears at the Edinburgh International Festival.

The RSNO Youth Chorus gratefully acknowledges support from **Dunclay Charitable Trust, Rowena Alison Goffin Charitable Trust, W A Cargill Fund** and **W M Mann Foundation**.

**RSNO YOUTH
CHORUS 1**

Aarnav Bhaat
 Anna Davis
 Ayva Kyle
 Bernadette Xin-Ying Kho
 Bronagh McKinght
 Bushan Gaddale
 Cara Thomson
 Catrin Ogle
 Colette Balmer
 Daisy Quinn
 Elise Job
 Elishka Foster
 Eunice Oyedokun
 Faith Junyen Wong
 Fiamma Milligan
 Forbes Loudon
 Gabriella Mills
 Grace Nickson
 Grace Romans
 Honor Osmond
 Ingrid McGilvery
 Joy Lam
 Kiaan Kadwe
 Kirsty McLean
 Layan Shaaban
 Lilianna Nemeth
 Lucia Fernandez-McCann
 Melissa Maffia
 Molly Kerr
 Neave MacIachlan
 Nethra Mantrala
 Netra Gaikwad
 Olivia Tang
 Osazee Orhionkapayo
 Penelope Leithead
 Rachel Ayers

Rebecca Penman
 Rhea Elizabeth Oommen
 Rita El Obbadi
 Rory Cameron
 Saffron Spybey
 Sofia Jorge
 Sophie Waller
 Yiyi Myler
 Zach Baxter
 Zara Patel

**RSNO YOUTH
CHORUS 2**

Aaleah McAulay
 Abigail Gallacher
 Abigail Hughes
 Ailsa Hutchinson
 Aimee Morton
 Alannah Clancy
 Alec Buckley
 Alexandra Cartmell
 Alicia Idessane
 Alma Correal-Jarrett
 Amelia Mashwani
 Amelia Philip
 Amy Sanderson
 Ana Ryburn-Thomson
 Anna Arbuckle
 Anshi Sai Vanga
 Bea Courtial
 Bennett Gowans
 Blair McKinlay
 Cara Mackay
 Charlotte Leathem
 Charlotte Muir
 Connie Hunter
 Cora Robertson
 Cora Welstead
 Diana Lizer

Edie Dunn
 Eilidh Hughes
 Eilidh McIntyre
 Elizabeth Poet
 Ellie Toner
 Emilia Ewer
 Emilia Rathbone
 Emily Hathaway
 Emily McKenzie
 Emma Little
 Evie Diamond
 Gregor Townsley
 Greta Ingleby
 Hannah Binu
 Holly Rodger
 Hope Henderson
 Indii McCulloch
 Iris Stalin
 Isla Balitbit
 Izzy Hughes
 Jayden Odebeatu
 Jessica Ewer
 Jessica-May Payne
 Jevia Dela Santa
 Jodie Sumpter
 Jude Tait
 Kate Mosley
 Katie Rourke
 Kimberley McFarlane
 Leila Osmond
 Lia McCulloch
 Louisa Greenhill
 Louisa Sheridan
 Louise Morris
 Lucy Arbuckle
 Magnus Holden
 Maia Fernandez-McCann
 Max Biankin
 Megan Parsons

Mia Tomb
 Mirren McGonigle
 Misha Gupta
 Nellie Heinrich
 Nirvana Balideh
 Nuala-Maria McKnight
 Olivia Coccozza
 Olivia Tait
 Orla Gilligan
 Rachel Cook
 Rachel Snaith
 Rebecca Greig
 Roberto Merayo Lluna
 Rosa Caughie
 Rowie Bryce
 Sage Plakaris-Knight
 Sarah Oliver
 Sarah Orimoloye
 Shreeya Pandit
 Sophie Hall
 Stella MacEachran
 Stella Sorenson
 Summer Wang
 Susie Wu
 Tess Fleming
 Thea Morag Heinrich
 Thomas Wyllie
 Timur Kassimkulov
 Valentina Campanella
 Winona Shashidhara
 Yasmin Patel
 Yi Han Dong
 Zoe Drysdale

**RSNO YOUTH
CHORUS STAFF****RSNO YOUTH
CHORUS DIRECTOR**

Patrick Barrett
*Training Choir, Children's
 Chorus 2 and Youth
 Chorus 2*

**ASSOCIATE
DIRECTOR**

Alison McNeill
*Youth Chorus 1 and
 Children's Chorus 1*

MUSICIANSHIP STAFF

Ellie Digger
 Heather Drysdale
 Phil Gault
 Emily Hathaway
 Mairi Leggatt
 Claire McCue
 Sarah Skerritt
 Laura Smith
 Aimee Toshney
 Frikki Walker

VOCAL COACHES

Daniela Hathaway
 Alison McNeill
 Laura Smith

PIANISTS

Edward Cohen
 Judith Keaney

RSNO Changed Voices



Changed Voices is a satellite group of the RSNO Youth Chorus for boys whose voices are changing. The choir was established in 2006, with generous support from **The Gannochy Trust**, with the aim of encouraging boys to continue singing as their voices are changing.

Studies have shown that careful singing through the changing process allows boys to develop and maintain a healthy singing technique. Changed Voices continues the fine RSNO Youth Chorus tradition of singing and musicianship taught in a lively and fun way, while giving the voice time to develop before members move into adult choirs.

Changed Voices has given performances at various high-profile engagements, including guest appearances on BBC Radio Scotland's *Classics Unwrapped* and at the RSNO's Gala Ball.

To celebrate the group's 20th anniversary, composer Cheryl Frances-Hoad and librettist Kate Wakeling were commissioned to create a piece of music inspired by the group. *You Have to be Realistic About a Perfect Day* received its world premiere in November 2025 with the Changed Voices choir and the RSNO.

Director of Changed Voices, Frikki Walker, retires at the end of 2025 after 18 years, and Andrew McTaggart will step into the role from January 2026. The group is also coached by Phil Gault.



Aarush Bhat
 Advay Kadwe
 Alastair NG
 Angus Young
 Calum Tamata
 Daniyal Sölić-Ansari
 Ewan Pilsworth
 Fergus Young
 Finlay Bryce
 Idrissa Thiam
 Jack Hammond
 Joe Thunder
 Jordy McLean

Keir Cameron
 Kjartan Magnusson
 Lev Sorokin
 Logan Adam
 Magnus Logan
 Matthew Clarkson
 Murray Graham
 Nicholas Milne
 Odunayo Orimoloye
 William Philip
 Yashar Pourghazi
 Yashvardhan Jain

RSNO CHANGED VOICES STAFF

DIRECTOR

Frikki Walker

VOCAL COACH

Phil Gault

PIANIST

Tim Mills

STAFF ASSISTANTS

Claire Bryan
 Katie Bryan
 Rennie MacKechnie
 Rachel Morrison
 Nicole Swindells

Frikki Walker

Director, RSNO Changed Voices



Frikki Walker is a choral conductor with many years' experience of conducting boys' changing voices. He has conducted the RSNO Changed Voices since 2009 and for many years conducted the Changed Voices of the National Youth Choir of Scotland. He also created and directed Glasgow Cambiata, a combination of boys' choirs from schools in the area who have performed to great acclaim with the RSNO.

Frikki is Director of Music at St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, where his choir has earned an international reputation for excellence through its regular broadcasts on radio and TV. He founded and conducts the Royal School of Church Music Scottish Voices, and has served as a guest conductor and examiner at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. He has recently retired as a member of staff at the High School of Glasgow, where his Chamber Choir has won many awards, including BBC Songs of Praise Senior School Choir of the Year, and made various radio and TV appearances.

Frikki has worked with all of Scotland's most prestigious choirs and has run workshops and adjudicated at music festivals all over the country. He is also an accomplished organist, singer and composer.

Patrick Barrett

Director, RSNO Youth Choruses



Patrick Barrett is a conductor specialising in choral music and opera. He is currently Chorus Director of the RSNO Youth Choruses, Royal Opera House Youth Opera Company, Irish Youth Choir (14-17 years) and the award-winning Farnham Youth Choirs.

Recent highlights include conducting the RSNO Youth Chorus in performances with Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Benjamin Grosvenor and Nicola Benedetti, as well as preparing them for the recording of *Gaspard's Christmas* by Jonathan Dove. Patrick also led Farnham Youth Choir to two gold medals at the World Choir Games 2024 in New Zealand. He has premiered new works by Errollyn Wallen, Jonathan Brigg, Emma O'Halloran and DJ R.Kitt, and is a regular guest conductor with the National Youth Choirs 9-15 Years.

Patrick's commitment to youth choral music extends to preparing choruses for the Edinburgh International Festival, and for the Dunedin Consort, where his work often features in major international performances. As a dedicated music educator, Patrick has worked with organisations including The Sixteen, BBC Singers, Wigmore Hall and Aldeburgh Young Musicians, and has spoken at the Post Primary Music Teachers Association in Ireland.

In opera, Patrick collaborates with leading UK companies such as the Royal Opera House, English National Opera and Garsington Opera, where he prepares youth choruses for main-stage productions and world premieres, including *Carmen* under Antonello Manacorda and *Otello* under Sir Antonio Pappano. Previously, he was the conductor of the University of Birmingham's Upper Voices Choir, University of Reading Chamber Choir and Brockham Choral Society.

Alison McNeill

Associate Director, Children's Chorus 1 and Youth Chorus 1



Alison McNeill is a trailblazing Scottish artist whose work blurs boundaries between classical, folk and world music. She is a soprano, conductor and fiddle player with a rich and diverse musical career. A graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland with a Masters in Performance, Alison further honed her craft studying with the late Teresa Berganza in Spain.

Passionate about cross-disciplinary and immersive performances, Alison draws inspiration from world music and diverse cultures. In a busy and varied career, she has performed as a soloist all over the UK, Denmark, Holland, Spain, Italy, Germany, Austria, Japan, Qatar, Pakistan, Kenya, USA and Mexico. Alison's career highlights include singing as a soloist with Ditirambo Early Music Ensemble in

Mexico, *Carmina Burana* and Verdi's *Requiem* with the RSNO in Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, winning the Andrés Segovia Prize for Spanish Song in Spain (the only non-native speaker to win this award), headlining international festivals with folk-rock band Reely Jiggered, broadcasts on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal, BBC Radio Scotland, BBC Radio 4 and Pakistani and Mexican national TV, and workshops with children in Japan, Kenya and Pakistan.

Alison is the newly appointed Youth Chorus Master at Opera North, Associate Director of the RSNO Youth Chorus and Conductor of the National Youth Choir of Scotland's National Boys Choir (Treble Voices). She is Director of Coats Choral, who perform with Glasgow Chamber

Orchestra in Paisley Abbey, and Director of the RCS's Summer Choral Courses, leading intensive training for young singers and conductors from the UK and beyond. She is Director of Voices of Argyll, who recently returned from a tour of Denmark; have performed to sold-out audiences at the O2 Academy, collaborating with renowned folk-pop band Beluga Lagoon; given a new commission at the Scottish Parliament; and perform to rural audiences using Argyll's scenic landscape as their concert hall.

Alison's growing reputation as a choral leader has led to invitations to Doha, where she served as Head Judge for the Qatar Choir of the Year Competition.

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