

RSNO PLAYS
Holst

St Mary's Parish Church, Haddington
Tue 28 Apr 2026 11.30am

Sometimes genius runs in the family. Gustav Holst's *St Paul's Suite* blew like fresh air into the polite world of British music – a cheerful collision of folk dance and pure imagination. But Gustav's daughter Imogen was a composer too, and thanks to conductor Alice Farnham she's getting her place in the sun.

Gillian Moore introduces these two Holst family pieces, plus a bracing, dance-inspired new work from Cecilia McDowall, just to set things spinning.

Alice Farnham Conductor
Gillian Moore Presenter
Royal Scottish National Orchestra

Supported by the **Music Repeival Trust**

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.

Cecilia McDowall (Born 1951)

Off the Ground

FIRST PERFORMANCE New Romney, Kent, 16 July 2021

DURATION 8 minutes

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

St Paul's Suite

FIRST PERFORMANCE St Paul's Girls' School, London, 1913

DURATION 12 minutes

1. Jig: Vivace

2. Ostinato: Presto

3. Intermezzo: Andante con moto

4. Finale (The Dargason): Allegro

Imogen Holst (1907-1984)

Suite for String Orchestra

FIRST PERFORMANCE London, 4 June 1943

DURATION 15 minutes

1. Prelude: Andante

2. Fugue: Allegro

3. Intermezzo: Moderato

4. Jig: Presto

Alice Farnham Conductor



Shortlisted for the prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society Conductor Award in 2024, and listed in the Classic FM Today's Ten Best Women Conductors and in the BBC Woman's Hour Music Power List, Alice Farnham is a British conductor, teacher and author. She trained at the St Petersburg Conservatoire with Ilya Musin.

Guest conducting includes the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, BBC Concert Orchestra, Jönköping Sinfonietta, Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Opéra de Rouen Normandie, Malmö Opera, Mariinsky Theatre St Petersburg, Calgary Opera, Folkoperan Stockholm, Longborough Festival Opera, Wermland Opera and the RSNO.

She has also guest conducted ballet companies including the Royal Ballet Covent Garden, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Danish Royal Ballet, English National Ballet, Rambert Dance Company, Skånes Dansteater and Ballet Preljocaj.

Alice is passionate about training young singers and instrumentalists, and has worked with the Royal Academy of Music, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. She was Music Director of Welsh National Youth Opera for Maxwell Davies' *Kommilitonen!*, Britten's *Paul Bunyan* and Shostakovich's *Cheryomushki*.

Alice is renowned for her work in training the next generation of conductors, particularly in

her ground-breaking programmes encouraging women into conducting. Since 2014 she has been Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Women Conductors with the Royal Philharmonic Society, and the National Concert Hall Dublin Female Conductor Programme (2017-21), and Artistic Advisor of Perth Symphony Orchestra's Women on the Podium (2019-present). Her book *In Good Hands: The Making of a Modern Conductor* was published by Faber & Faber in 2023.

Alice was Organ Scholar at St Hugh's College Oxford and Organ Fellow at St Thomas' Church Fifth Avenue, New York.

Gillian Moore **Presenter**



Until 2022, Gillian Moore was Director of Music and Performing Arts at Southbank Centre, London. She is currently the Centre's Artistic Associate.

Gillian broadcasts regularly on BBC Radio 3 and 4, and her writings about music include a critically acclaimed book about Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*.

Born in Glasgow, she studied Music at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, and subsequently the universities of Glasgow and York. In 1983 she became the first Education Officer at a UK orchestra, taking the London Sinfonietta into schools and prisons in a piece of pioneering creative work. She became Artistic Director of the Sinfonietta in 1998.

Throughout her career, she has been committed to changing the landscape for music and encouraging wider conversation and action to improve diversity and equality in the industry. In 2019 she was awarded the CBE.

Royal Scottish National Orchestra

The RSNO is one of Europe's leading symphony orchestras. 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 Music Director in 2018.

The RSNO is supported by the Scottish Government and is one of the five 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 the BBC Proms. The RSNO has made recent tours to the USA, China and Europe.

The RSNO's Engagement strategy, Music for Life, sees the Orchestra work with schools and community groups, connecting its music with the people of Scotland.

On Stage

FIRST VIOLIN

Maya Iwabuchi
LEADER

Lena Zeliszewska
ASSOCIATE LEADER

Tamás Fejes
ASSISTANT LEADER

Patrick Curlett
Alan Manson

Helena Rose
Veronica Marziano

Liam Lynch
Elizabeth Bamping
Caroline Parry

SECOND VIOLIN

Jacqueline Speirs
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

Marion Wilson
Joana Rodrigues

Emily Nenniger
Kirstin Drew

Sophie Lang
Colin McKee

Robin Wilson

VIOLA

Tom Dunn
PRINCIPAL

Felix Tanner
Asher Zaccardelli

Lisa Rourke
Claire Dunn

Beth Woodford

CELLO

Betsy Taylor
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL
Yuuki Bouterey-Ishido
Robert Anderson
Gunda Baranauskaitė

DOUBLE BASS

Michael Rae
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
Moray Jones
Alexandre Cruz de Santos

rsno.org.uk



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