

RSNO

SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL
ORCHESTRA

LIVE & DIGITAL

Autumn 2021

rsno.org.uk



WELCOME TO THE RSNO's AUTUMN SEASON



Dear Friends,

I'm delighted to be able to share the RSNO's Autumn Season with you. On behalf of everyone at the RSNO, I want to say how excited we are to welcome you back to live concerts. Music only fully comes to life when it is shared with others, and we can't wait to experience

that unique buzz of excitement that surrounds a big symphonic concert with you once again. For the first time, this six-concert Season will be presented both in-person and live-streamed so that the live concert atmosphere can be shared wherever you are and whatever your circumstances.

There are not many symphonic concerts bigger than Music Director Thomas Søndergård's choice for the Season Opener.

The music from Stravinsky's *The Firebird* ballet suite has always been a popular concert piece, but the full ballet really shows off Stravinsky's genius as a writer of unforgettable melodies and as an orchestrator able to uncover endless colours. It promises to be an explosive welcome back to the live concert experience.

Thomas returns to the RSNO in November when the world will be watching Scotland as Glasgow hosts the COP26 United Nations Climate Change Conference. His choice of Dvořák's *New World* Symphony surely captures the hopes of us all. Paired with the world premiere of Detlev Glanert's Second Violin Concerto, *To the Immortal Beloved*, performed by superstar violinist Midori, we hope this concert will stand as a statement of optimism for a brighter global future. A performance of Sibelius' ever popular Second Symphony completes Thomas Søndergård's three Autumn concerts.

'The RSNO is on scintillating form'

BBC Music Magazine

Other highlights of the Season include Principal Guest Conductor Elim Chan performing Tchaikovsky's beloved *Nutcracker* Suite and we look forward to two RSNO conducting debuts. Esteemed Danish conductor Michael Schönwandt will conduct Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* and rising Finnish star Eva Ollikainen joins pianist Sunwook Kim for Brahms' Piano Concerto No1. It's a Season full of great music that's sure to deliver some memorable evenings.

The support the RSNO has received throughout the pandemic has been fantastic. It has enabled us to keep playing through some very challenging times and ensured that the Orchestra comes back to live concerts playing as well as ever. I'd like to thank you all for that support and hope that we see you back in a concert hall very soon.

Alistair Mackie, RSNO Chief Executive



Christopher Gough
RSNO Principal Horn
The Springbank Distillers Chair

YOUR NEW AUTUMN SEASON LIVE...

This autumn, we're delighted to be returning to LIVE concerts in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall and the Usher Hall, Edinburgh. We have six stunning subscription concerts planned for you to enjoy between October and December. **Book all six LIVE concerts in your local venue and save money today.**

We know that the world has changed a lot since you were last at an RSNO concert, but we haven't! We're ready to play the music you love and we want you to have the best night out, so please be assured that we are working closely with our venues and following current government advice to make your visit as safe and enjoyable as we possibly can. **We're looking forward to welcoming you back!**

All **LIVE** and **DIGITAL** ticket holders will receive a complementary digital concert programme. (Valid email address required.)

Throughout this brochure **LIVE** concerts can be identified by a ●



...& DIGITAL

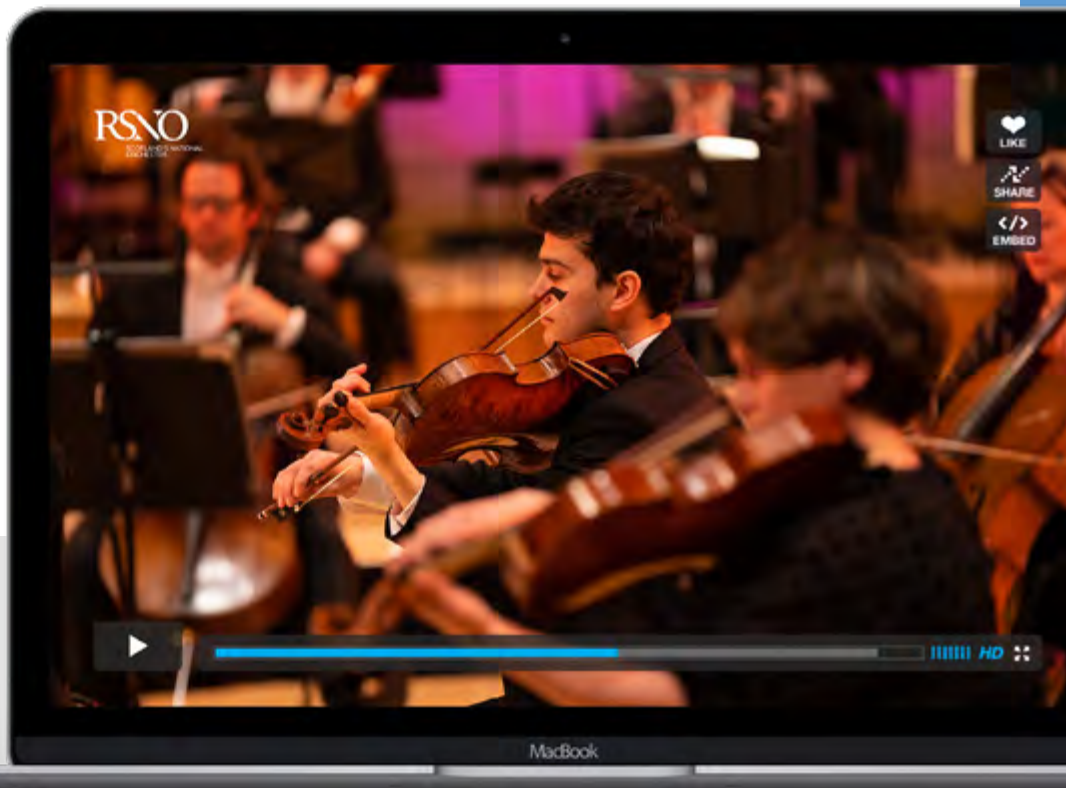
Following on from the success of our recent Digital Seasons, we will be live-streaming each of the six subscription concerts from the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on Saturday nights.

Purchase a DIGITAL subscription and you'll be able to enjoy the live streams from the comfort of your own home and also watch all six concerts again on demand on our new website until 31 January 2022.


SPECIAL OFFER!

Book a LIVE concert subscription and you'll receive an exclusive discount code to redeem against your DIGITAL Season purchase. It's the perfect way to remember your special concert experience.

**LIVE &
DIGITAL**



Throughout this brochure **DIGITAL** concerts can be identified by a ●



Thomas Søndergård
RSNO Music Director


‘A flash of light,
a cascade of
sparks, and
The Firebird
explodes into
dazzling life.’



Søndergård Conducts THE FIREBIRD

RECOMMENDED BY
CLASSIC *f*M

EDN Fri 22 Oct 2021 7.30pm ●
GLA Sat 23 Oct 2021 7.30pm ●●

Matthew Rooke The Isle is Full of Noises! 

Shostakovich Festive Overture

Tchaikovsky Variations on a Rococo Theme

Stravinsky The Firebird

Thomas Søndergård Conductor

Bruno Deleplaire Cello

A flash of light, a cascade of sparks, and *The Firebird* explodes into dazzling life. Well, Stravinsky liked to create a sensation, and we couldn't think of a more fitting way to open our new Season with Music Director Thomas Søndergård. But first, Shostakovich raises the roof, cellist Bruno Deleplaire plays Tchaikovsky's delightful *Rococo Variations* and Matthew Rooke, one of Scotland's most original composers, gives a salute to the sheer joy of music. We can't wait to share it with you.

Dedicated to the **RSNO Conductors' Circle**

RSNO Scotch Snaps Series is supported by the
John Ellerman Foundation

Søndergård Conducts DVOŘÁK NINE

EDN Fri 5 Nov 2021 7.30pm ●
GLA Sat 6 Nov 2021 7.30pm ●●

Rautavaara Swans Migrating from *Cantus Arcticus*,
Concerto for Birds and Orchestra

Detlev Glanert Violin Concerto No2 *To the Immortal Beloved*
World Premiere

Dvořák Symphony No9 *From the New World*

Thomas Søndergård Conductor

Midori Violin

Dvořák's *New World* Symphony is a heartfelt musical drama of hope and longing, and when it's conducted by Thomas Søndergård, every note comes alive. First, though, experience the vast Nordic horizons of Rautavaara's *Concerto for Birds and Orchestra*, plus violin superstar Midori in a passionate, brand-new violin concerto by Detlev Glanert – a modern composer with a deeply romantic spirit.

Supported by **Jennie S. Gordon Memorial Foundation**



Schønswandt Conducts SCHEHERAZADE

RECOMMENDED BY
CLASSIC *f*M

EDN Fri 12 Nov 2021 7.30pm ●
GLA Sat 13 Nov 2021 7.30pm ●●

R Strauss Tod und Verklärung [Death and Transfiguration]
Ravel Piano Concerto for the Left Hand
Rimsky-Korsakov Scheherazade

Michael Schønswandt Conductor
Kirill Gerstein Piano

A ruthless sultan, his beautiful young wife, and 1001 nights of stories from beyond the imagination. That was the inspiration behind Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*: a glittering, wide-screen orchestral epic, drenched in full symphonic colour. It's the climax of a concert that starts with Richard Strauss' vision of the infinite, and features the ear-dazzling concerto that Ravel wrote for a pianist who'd lost an arm. Our soloist Kirill Gerstein can play it with one hand behind his back!



Søndergård Conducts SIBELIUS TWO

EDN 19 Nov 2021 7.30pm ●
GLA 20 Nov 2021 7.30pm ●●

Bent Sørensen Evening Land
Berlioz Les nuits d'été
Sibelius Symphony No2

Thomas Søndergård Conductor
Catriona Morison Mezzo-Soprano

Sibelius' Second Symphony begins quietly, almost playfully. But it ends with soaring emotions and the feeling that somehow, you've been on the journey of a lifetime. Thomas Søndergård conducts a concert that's all about the journey, and whether it's Bent Sørensen following his imagination from the Manhattan skyline to a half-remembered Scandinavia, or the award-winning Scottish mezzo Catriona Morison setting sail with Hector Berlioz for the wildest shores of love, getting there is half the pleasure.

In memory of **Tom Bruce Jones** and in recognition of the generosity of **Stina Bruce Jones**.



‘Scheherazade:
a glittering,
widescreen
orchestral epic,
drenched in
full symphonic
colour’

Paul Philbert
RSNO Principal Timpani
Ms Chris Grace Hartness Chair



‘Brahms’ First
Piano Concerto
erupts like
a volcano
of barely-
controlled
passion’

Margarida Castro
RSNO Associate Principal
Double Bass



Kim Plays BRAHMS PIANO CONCERTO No1

RECOMMENDED BY
CLASSIC *f*M

EDN Fri 26 Nov 2021 7.30pm ●
GLA Sat 27 Nov 2021 7.30pm ●●

Wagner Prelude to Act I from *Lohengrin*
Anna Thorvaldsdottir *Metacosmos*
Sibelius *Tapiola*
Brahms Piano Concerto No1

Eva Ollikainen Conductor
Sunwook Kim Piano

Brahms never talked about his love life, but he didn't need to: his youthful First Piano Concerto erupts like a volcano of barely-controlled passion. Every performance is an occasion, and in the hands of the phenomenal Sunwook Kim, it'll blaze brighter than ever. Conductor Eva Ollikainen sets the scene with northern landscapes from Iceland and Finland - places where natural beauty conceals elemental forces. Warning: it gets powerful.



Chan Conducts THE NUTCRACKER

RECOMMENDED BY
CLASSIC *f*M

EDN Fri 3 Dec 2021 7.30pm ●
GLA Sat 4 Dec 2021 7.30pm ●●

Ravel *Une barque sur l'océan*
Ravel Piano Concerto in G Major
Tchaikovsky Selection from *The Nutcracker*

Elim Chan Conductor
Bertrand Chamayou Piano
RSNO Junior Chorus

You already know the story, and you definitely know the tunes! But there's much more to Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* than the *Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy*, and tonight Principal Guest Conductor Elim Chan presents a whole musical selection box full of fantasy, wonder and mouth-watering sounds. It's a wonderful way to launch your festive season, but the magic begins even before the interval, as the phenomenal Bertrand Chamayou plays Ravel's witty, jazz-inspired Concerto in G. Go on, treat yourself!

YOUR **SAFETY** AND **COMFORT**

The health and safety of our audiences, musicians and staff matters to us. Please rest assured we will continue to follow the latest government guidance and safety recommendations to ensure that you can visit us confidently and safely.

These recommendations may include:



**reduced
attendance**



**physical
distancing**



**mandatory
face masks**



**frequent sanitising
of common areas**



**timed entries
to concerts**

Government guidance and safety protocols may change over the coming Season. We recommend that you check these with us at the time of your next visit. You can find information and advice about our Covid safety measures on our website at **rsno.org.uk** Or, if you would prefer, you can call us on **0141 226 3868** and we'll tell you everything you need to know about your next concert visit.



MAKE A NIGHT OF IT!

Make your concert night out even more special with these offers from our partners.

DINE

Dine

Located just beside the Usher Hall, Edinburgh, Dine is the perfect location for a concert supper. RSNO ticket holders will receive a **10% discount** when dining on the evening of a Season concert performance. Please quote '**Dine with the RSNO**' when making your reservation. Tel: 0131 218 1818. dinedinburgh.co.uk

La Bonne Auberge

Located opposite the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, enjoy a pre-concert dinner at La Bonne Auberge with their **3 2 1 Offer**. That's 3 courses for 2 people and 1 bottle of wine all for the great price of just £49.95 per couple, the perfect start to your evening. Plus, join La Bonne Auberge's loyalty programme and receive **10% off** your next visit and ongoing offers. labonneauberge.co.uk

Contini

Contini's are delighted to offer all RSNO concert attenders a complimentary glass of Prosecco if you book ahead quoting 'RSNO'. Offer is available at *Cannonball Restaurant & Bar*, *Contini George Street* and *The Scottish Cafe & Restaurant*. Tel: 0131 225 1550. contini.com

ScotRail

Let ScotRail, the RSNO's Transport Partner, take you to the concert. By travelling Off-Peak or Super Off-Peak you can save money on your train ticket, helping you to really make a night of it. Find out more at scotrail.co.uk

Parking

If you would prefer to drive to the concert, there are two 24-hour car parks close to the concert halls – NCP Castle Terrace, Edinburgh (prices from £8.50) and Concert Square Car Park, Glasgow (prices from £4).



**MORE LIVE
CONCERTS**
FOR YOU TO
ENJOY!



Choral Classics **THE CREATION**

GLA Sun 3 Oct 2021 3pm ●

Haydn The Creation

Gregory Batsleer Conductor

Hollie McNish Poet

Anna Dennis Soprano

Andrew Staples Tenor

Neal Davies Bass-Baritone

RSNO Chorus

Let there be light! 'When I think of God, I can write only cheerful music,' said Joseph Haydn, and his oratorio *The Creation* starts with the Big Bang and ends in paradise. Is this the happiest of all great choral masterpieces? Come and decide for yourself in this special performance which includes new poetry from Scottish writer Hollie McNish. With the RSNO's acclaimed Chorus Director Gregory Batsleer conducting the reunited RSNO Chorus, one thing's for certain: it's great to be back!



Mozart **CLARINET CONCERTO**

GLA Thu 7 Oct 2021 – New Auditorium 7.30pm ●

Sibelius Karelia Overture

Mozart Clarinet Concerto K622

Vaughan Williams Symphony No5

Rory Macdonald Conductor

Timothy Orpen Clarinet

Vaughan Williams' Fifth Symphony is a rapturous vision of optimism and peace. Recently voted the greatest of all British symphonies, it's an inspirational way to return to live performance, especially coming after the elemental power and epic Scandinavian vistas of Sibelius' stirring overture. Rory Macdonald conducts, and one of the RSNO's own stars – clarinetist Timothy Orpen – plays Mozart's lovely Clarinet Concerto. Music to refresh the spirit.



The Music of Bond, **JAMES BOND**

EDN Fri 29 Oct 2021 7.30pm ●

GLA Sat 30 Oct 2021 7.30pm ●

Nicholas Dodd Conductor

Emma Lindars Vocals

Lance Ellington Vocals

The name's Bond, James Bond. The RSNO puts on black tie and tux and pours itself a Vesper Martini with some of the sassiest signature tunes in cinematic history: six decades of girls, gadgets, supervillains and knockout songs, performed by Emma Lindars and *Strictly Come Dancing* vocalist Lance Ellington. Well, you know what they say: *Diamonds are Forever*. These tunes are every bit as enduring – and as brilliant. Nobody does it better: guaranteed to leave you shaken...and stirred!

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A Response to Climate Change **DIES IRAE**

GLA Wed 10 Nov 2021 7pm - New Auditorium ●

Patricia Kopatchinskaja Violin
RSNO Chamber Ensemble
RCS Vocal Ensemble

How much time do we have left? Scientists warn that global warming will lead to a devastated planet. Previous measures to mitigate climate change have been nothing more than a sticking plaster. Starting with Galina Ustwolskaja's *Dies irae*, renowned violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja leads a musicians' reaction to a threatened world in this uniquely curated concert experience featuring the RSNO Chamber Ensemble and special guests. Includes music by Biber, Crumb, Lotti and Dowland.



Choral Classics **MESSIAH**

GLA Sat 11 Dec 2021 7.30pm ●

Handel Messiah

Christian Curnyn Conductor
Jeni Bern Soprano
Tim Mead Countertenor
Benjamin Hulett Tenor
Matthew Brook Bass-Baritone
RSNO Chorus

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: *Ev'ry 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 plus the full RSNO Chorus, and prepare to experience all the glory, joy and inspiration of a truly timeless classic.

FAMILY CONCERTS



Children's Classic Concerts GHOST SHIP

GLA Sat 30 Oct 2021 3pm ●

EDN Sun 31 Oct 2021 3pm ●

Ahoy! Family favourite and first mate, Owen, has been given orders by the dreaded Cap'n Tootlepuff to create a swash-buckling supernatural show aboard HMS CC-Sea this Hallowe'en, along with his band of ghostly pirates from the RSNO and RSNO Junior Chorus. With creepy classics, spooky sound waves and nautical nonsense up his sleeves (he knows the ropes), he's ready to give a Jaws-dropping performance that'll impress phantom fans in the audience. Guaranteed to be a whale of a good time...Ghost Ship will reel you in for more!



Our family-friendly performances, in collaboration with Children's Classic Concerts, are a fantastic way to introduce children to the sensational sounds of the symphony orchestra. Perfect for children aged 4-12 and the whole family to enjoy!



Children's Classic Concerts SANTA'S POSTBOX

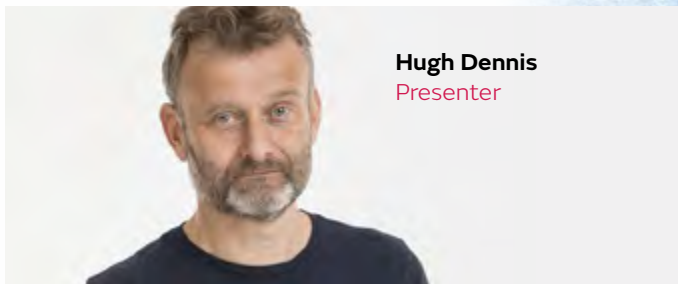
GLA Sat 4 Dec 2021 – Save the date ●

EDN Sun 5 Dec 2021 – Save the date ●

Delivery! Santa's postbox is overflowing with Christmas wishes this year and he's feeling a little snowed under. Not to worry! – he's called on Chief Elf Owen and the miracle makers of the RSNO and RSNO Junior Chorus to help clear the backlog. We've got an (icy) mountain to climb to make everyone's festive dreams come true but Owen's got his trusty skis handy (and ballet shoes of course!). With plenty of CCC sparkle, musical magic and seasonal singalongs, we've got the perfect recipe for an action-packed concert yule never forget!

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Hugh Dennis
Presenter

RSNO Christmas Concert featuring THE SNOWMAN

GLA Sat 18 Dec 2021 2pm ●

EDN Sun 19 Dec 2021 3pm ●

Hugh Dennis Presenter
RSNO Junior Chorus & Changed Voices

The RSNO's magical Christmas Concert returns! Don't miss this family-friendly event packed full of your favourite festive melodies and Raymond Brigg's enchanting film *The Snowman*. Shown on the big screen and accompanied by the Orchestra, the film will be narrated by our special star guest, Hugh Dennis from *Outnumbered*, and will feature the wonderful *Walking in the Air*. Always a special event, join the RSNO for this special feast of Christmas cheer!



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JOIN IN!

At the RSNO, we believe that music can enrich lives as well as support the ambition and well-being of our communities.

Through our dynamic learning and engagement programme, we deliver performances, concerts, participatory workshops and events that bring the Orchestra to people of all ages and backgrounds in Scotland.

Visit rsno.org.uk/join-in to find out how you can join in!

In the last year

165,000+

People viewed our #RSNOchallenge videos for young families

270+

Singers aged 7-18 joined our weekly online Junior Chorus rehearsals

46,000+

Primary school children enjoyed *Gaspard's Foxtrot*

250+

Musicians of all ages participated in RSNO Community Orchestra

42+

Care homes, hospices and charities enjoyed our digital care packages



Schools Concerts

Following the success of our concert for Scottish primary school children, *Gaspard the Fox* will be making a return in 2022.

Teachers can register their school for updates by emailing engage@rsno.org.uk or find out more at rsno.org.uk/join-in



All Together Now

Do you miss making music in a group setting? Then join the RSNO's Digital Community Orchestra: All Together Now. Find out more at rsno.org.uk/community-orchestra



RSNO Chorus

From new commissions to popular film scores, the RSNO Chorus sings it all! If you're an enthusiastic and committed singer who'd like to share this passion with others, please email chorus@rsno.org.uk to arrange your audition today.

We are grateful for the generosity of our donors and the numerous trusts and foundations which support the RSNO's learning and engagement activities across Scotland.



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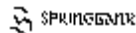
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The RSNO is deeply grateful for the generosity of its individual supporters. Our inspirational Conductors' Circle and dedicated Patrons are a vital part of our annual fundraising. As a charity, we also rely upon a wide range of support from Trusts and Foundations; each grant received makes a difference and we would like to thank all of those who continue to support the RSNO in this way.



Play *your* Part *appeal*

Donate to our **Play your Part** appeal and help us to continue supporting our diverse community through the joy of music.

- **Help us inspire more children and young musicians than ever before.**
- **Help our musicians return to the stage and reconnect with you, our audience.**
- **Help us to expand our reach in Scotland's communities, supporting those who need it most.**

Our work in the community has never been more vital and your support will enable us to provide a lifetime of musical inspiration, from thrilling orchestral performance to inspirational workshops and musical opportunities for young people.

Simply include your donation when you book your tickets or alternatively you can donate at **rsno.org.uk/playyourpart**

We are deeply grateful for your support.

rsno.org.uk/playyourpart

BOOK NOW
rsno.org.uk

Concert information is correct at time of print. Please note, due to the ongoing uncertainty of the current Coronavirus pandemic, the RSNO may have to change programmes and/or artists at short notice or delay a broadcast date. If a concert has to be cancelled in its entirety and an alternative concert is not possible, all ticket money will be refunded.

RSNO photography © Martin McCready, Upfront Photography

Location: Thank you to our friends at the Usher Hall

Cover: Lena Zeliszewska, RSNO Associate Leader



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