





WELCOME TO THE RSNO'S

SPRING/SUMMER SEASON



Dear Friends,

It's been great to be back in concert halls across Scotland and reconnect with the fantastic audiences that support the RSNO. We've missed live performance so much and to feel the energy and excitement of a live concert

once again has given a huge boost to us all.

This coming Season, we're delighted to welcome many of the world's greatest artists to join us here in Scotland. Cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason performs Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No2, violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja returns with Stravinsky's Violin Concerto, Sir Andrew Davis brings Elgar's Enigma Variations to life, and Nicola Benedetti performs the Scottish premiere of Mark Simpson's Violin Concerto. Co-commissioned by the RSNO and London Symphony Orchestra, Simpson's concerto had its first live performance at London's Barbican Hall in June.

It was met with unanimous critical acclaim which resulted in it being short-listed for a Royal Philharmonic Society award. It's a seriously exciting piece of music that provides a virtuosic platform for one of Scotland's greatest musicians.

One of my own favourite concerts from 2019 was our unconducted performance of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. It was a unique experience to see a symphony of that size and difficulty being directed from the leader's chair and I'm delighted that our concertmaster Sharon Roffman has agreed to take up the challenge again, with Beethoven's Fourth Symphony. RSNO favourite Steven Osborne joins the unconducted RSNO for a performance of Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto in the first half.

Beethoven will also feature in our Season Finale when Music Director Thomas Søndergård will finally be able to lead a performance of Beethoven's magnificent Ninth Symphony. With choruses unable to sing for most of the pandemic,

'Scotland's national orchestra is indeed world class'

 $\star\star\star\star\star$ The Herald

it promises to be a landmark moment in the journey back to normal musical life.

After 18 months of socially distanced small orchestras it is great to be programming big repertoire again. Strauss' Alpine Symphony is just about as big as it gets and to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, the RSNO will be joined on stage by some of the talented students that make it such a special institution. It's going to be an extravagantly large orchestra delivering Strauss' epic musical vision of an Alpine adventure.

Symphonies by Sibelius, Shostakovich and Rachmaninov alongside concertos by Stravinsky, Dvořák and Gershwin complete what we hope will be a thrilling set of concerts. We can't wait to share them with you.

Alistair Mackie

RSNO Chief Executive



YOUR NEW

SPRING/SUMMER SEASON

We're thrilled to be back performing LIVE for you in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall and Usher Hall, Edinburgh. With some of the biggest stars in the industry joining us – Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Nicola Benedetti, Steven Osborne, Patricia Kopatchinskaja and more – join the RSNO this spring for a Season packed full of the music you love.

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

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

'An ultimately mind-blowing return to full power by the RSNO' **** The Scotsman

DIGITAL SEASON

Join us online for three stunning concerts live-streamed from the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. Purchase a DIGITAL subscription and you can enjoy our live streams from the comfort of your own home, plus watch them on demand until 30 June 2022.

Visit rsno.org.uk/watch-online for full information.

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







Steven Osborne Plays BEETHOVEN

EDN Fri 4 Feb 2022: 7.30pm GLW Sat 5 Feb 2022: 7.30pm

RECOMMENDED BY CLASSIC M

David Fennessy Hirta Rounds



Beethoven Symphony No4

Sharon Roffman Director/Violin Steven Osborne Piano

The lost dances of St Kilda echo and swirl on a sea breeze. A pianist places a chord into silence – and opens a new world of poetry and play, whilst Ludwig van Beethoven throws caution to the wind, in a symphony that feels like a huge, uninhibited burst of sunlight and laughter. Steven Osborne is the pianist, and RSNO's leader Sharon Roffmann is the guiding spirit, in a concert that celebrates the sheer joy of making music with friends.

Scotch Snap supported by the John Ellerman Foundation and Fidelio Charitable Trust



Søndergård Conducts **RACHMANINOV TWO**

EDN Fri 18 Feb 2022: 7.30pm GLW Sat 19 Feb 2022: 7.30pm

RECOMMENDED BY CLASSIC **f**M

Carlijn Metselaar Into the Living Mountain (RSNO Composers' Hub winner 2019:20) **Stravinsky** Violin Concerto Rachmaninov Symphony No2

Thomas Søndergård Conductor Patricia Kopatchinskaja Violin

Patricia Kopatchinskaja is a violinist who pushes the boundaries - and when she plays Stravinsky's brilliant, ferociously difficult Violin Concerto, you'll hear why. 'You can only win the freedoms you dare to take,' she says. 'The limits are in the imagination.' That could almost be a motto for a concert that begins with a new vision of the Scottish landscape from Carlijn Metselaar and ends with the romantic melodies and sweeping vistas of Rachmaninov's Second Symphony. Thomas Søndergård won't hold back.

Supported by the **Ambache Charitable Trust**, which raises the profile of music by women. RSNO Composers' Hub 2019:20 was supported by RSNO New Works Patron, Susie Thomson



Elgar's **ENIGMA VARIATIONS**

EDN Fri 25 Feb 2022: 7.30pm GLW Sat 26 Feb 2022: 7.30pm •

Jasper Dommett Dreams of Isolation (RSNO Composers' Hub winner 2020:21) **Elgar** Enigma Variations Vaughan Williams Symphony No7 Sinfonia Antartica

Sir Andrew Davis Conductor Katie Coventry Soprano RCS Voices

Vaughan Williams' Sinfonia Antartica began as a film score, and in it you'll hear icesheets, snowstorms and even a few penguins. But with Sir Andrew Davis conducting this vast symphonic panorama, it won't just be the cold that makes you shiver! First, though, he travels to more temperate climes with Elgar's hugely popular Enigma Variations, plus something brand new from Jasper Dommett: a young British composer with a voice that's entirely their own.

Supported by The Vaughan Williams Charitable Trust

RSNO Composers' Hub 2020:21 was supported by the RVW Trust, Idlewild Trust, Garrick Charitable Trust, Leche Trust, Michael Tippett Musical Foundation, and RSNO New Works Patron, Susie Thomson



Sheku Kanneh-Mason Plays SHOSTAKOVICH

EDN Fri 4 Mar 2022: 7.30pm GtW Sat 5 Mar 2022: 7.30pm

- RECOMMENDED BY
- CLASSIC M

Bacewicz Divertimento Shostakovich Cello Concerto No2 Fauré Requiem

Elim Chan Conductor Sheku Kanneh-Mason Cello Katv Anna Hill Soprano Marcus Farnsworth Baritone RSNO Junior Chorus

Still waters run deep. Gabriel Fauré was a guiet man, and there's no anger or fury in his haunting Requiem – just some of the most beautiful choral music ever written, masking a world of heartfelt emotion. Conducted by Elim Chan, it's a lovely showcase for our superb Junior Chorus, while Shostakovich's brooding Second Cello Concerto will reveal a new side of Sheku Kanneh-Mason's extraordinary talent. Grażyna Bacewicz's brilliant, bracing Divertimento launches the evening in a burst of energy.

Sheku Kanneh-Mason appears courtesy of **Decca Classics**

The performance of Bacewicz's Divertimento is made possible with funding from the ABO Trust's Sirens programme, a ten-year initiative to support the performance and promotion of music by historical women composers, and the Ambache Charitable Trust, which raises the profile of music by women



Romantic **RACHMANINOV**

EDN Fri 18 Mar 2022: 7.30pm GLW Sat 19 Mar 2022: 7.30pm •

Walton Scapino. A Comedy Overture Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No2 Elgar Symphony No1

Thomas Søndergård Conductor Lise de la Salle Piano

'Nobly and simply' was how Elgar described the majestic tune that opens his First Symphony. But appearances can be deceptive, and it's just the starting point for a musical odyssey filled with courage, passion and epic struggle. Walton's firecracker overture lights the touchpaper, and together with Thomas Søndergård, pianist Lise de la Salle will dive deep into the dark, tender heart of the world's favourite piano concerto. This should be much more than just a brief encounter...





Shostakovich SPECTACULAR

EDN Fri 22 April 2022: 7.30pm GLW Sat 23 April 2022: 7.30pm

Shostakovich Suite from Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk Shostakovich Piano Concerto No2 Shostakovich Symphony No5

James Conlon Conductor Simon Trpčeski Piano

Shostakovich wrote his Fifth Symphony in terror for his life and gave it the title 'A Soviet artist's response to justified criticism'. But the music tells another story: of fear, resistance and unbreakable courage. James Conlon explores the many faces of a 20th-century genius – joining the phenomenal Simon Trpčeski in the delightful Concerto that Shostakovich wrote for his teenage son, and unleashing the raw satirical energy of Lady Macbeth: music so outrageous that Stalin had it banned.



Søndergård Conducts ALPINE SYMPHONY

EDN Fri 29 April 2022: 7.30pm
GLW Sat 30 April 2022: 7.30pm
•

Jay CapperauldFèin-Aithne



Alfvén Bergakungen (The Mountain King) Suite **R Strauss** An Alpine Symphony

Thomas Søndergård Conductor Musicians from **Royal Conservatoire of Scotland**

Richard Strauss once boasted that he could depict even a knife and fork in music – so when he sets out to paint the full majesty of the Bavarian Alps, it's fair to say that the results are spectacular! Musicians from the RCS join forces with Thomas Søndergård and the RSNO on a musical adventure that takes in waterfalls, glaciers and breath-taking views, as well as the very Scottish scenery of Fèin-Aithne, by RSNO Composers' Hub alumnus Jay Capperauld.

Scotch Snap supported by PRS Foundation's Resonate Fund, John Mather Trust and John Ellerman Foundation





SIBELIUS

FIVE

Thea Musgrave Song of the Enchanter

Dvořák Cello Concerto

Sibelius Symphony No5

Tabita Berglund Conductor **Torleif Thedéen** Cello

Sibelius saw a flight of swans in the sunset and heard the tune that crowns his Fifth Symphony. Antonín Dvořák was overwhelmed by the power and beauty of the Niagara Falls and poured his feelings into a Cello Concerto as tender as it is passionate. And Thea Musgrave, a giant among Scottish composers, summons shimmering magic from an old Finnish myth. Tabita Berglund and soloist Torleif Thedéen take a journey to a place where nature, fantasy and emotion become one.

Scotch Snap supported by the **John Ellerman Foundation** and the **Ambache Charitable Trust**, which raises the profile of music by women



GERSHWIN &RACHMANINOV

EDN Fri 20 May 2022: 7.30pm GLW Sat 21 May 2022: 7.30pm RECOMMENDED BY CLASSIC **f**M

Ravel Valses nobles et sentimentales Gershwin Concerto in F Rachmaninov Symphony No3

John Wilson Conductor Louis Schwizgebel Piano

New worlds for old. George Gershwin once asked Maurice Ravel to teach him how to compose – he didn't realise that Ravel was actually his greatest fan! Few living musicians conduct both of them with the sheer, irresistible flair of John Wilson, just as noone plays Gershwin's swinging piano concerto more brilliantly than Louis Schwizgebel. And finally, big-band glamour meets the Russian soul in Rachmaninov's fabulous Third Symphony. If you've never heard it, you'll soon wonder why.

Nicola Benedetti Plays **SIMPSON**

EDN Fri 27 May 2022: 7.30pm GLW Sat 28 May 2022: 7.30pm

Holmès La Nuit et l'Amour, Interlude from Ludus pro Patria Mark Simpson Violin Concerto Scottish premiere Berlioz Symphonie fantastique

Fabien Gabel Conductor Nicola Benedetti Violin

Fantastique by name, fantastic by nature! When Hector Berlioz couldn't win the girl of his dreams he poured all his unrequited passion into this opium-fuelled extravaganza for a super-sized orchestra. There's nothing quite like it – but equally there's nothing quite like the passionate, neglected music of his French contemporary Augusta Holmès or Mark Simpson's flamboyant, sensuous new Violin Concerto, especially when performed by the one and only Nicola Benedetti.

Nicola Benedetti appears courtesy of **Decca Classics**

Supported by the Ambache Charitable Trust, which raises the profile of music by women



Søndergård Conducts **BEETHOVEN NINE**

EDN Fri 3 June 2022: 7.30pm GLW Sat 4 June 2022: 7.30pm • CLASSIC fM

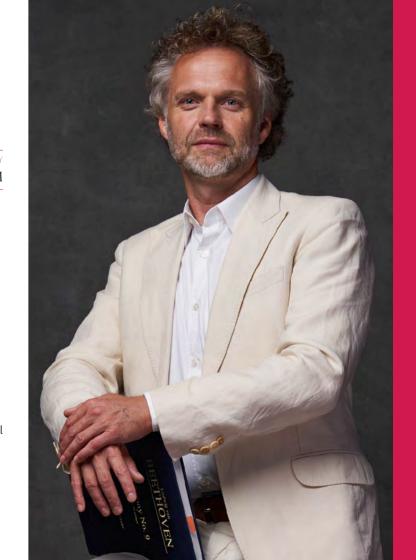
RECOMMENDED BY

Beethoven Overture to The Creatures of Prometheus Jay Capperauld Our Gilded Veins World premiere SCOTCH SNAPS Beethoven Symphony No9 Choral

Thomas Søndergård Conductor Katherine Bryan Flute Eleanor Dennis Soprano Stephanie Maitland Mezzo-soprano Benjamin Hulett Tenor Božidar Smiljanić Bass RSNO Chorus

'I embrace you, all you millions!' There are moments when only Beethoven really hits the spot, and there's no better way to end our Season than with his mighty Choral symphony - a masterpiece that begins in darkest tragedy and ends with that roof-raising, life-affirming Ode to Joy. Thomas Søndergård conducts the RSNO and RSNO Chorus and introduces a magical new flute concerto from 21st century Scotland, commissioned by the RSNO and performed by our very own Katherine Bryan.

Scotch Snap supported by the **John Ellerman Foundation**, **John Mather Trust** and Fidelio Charitable Trust



MAKE A NIGHT OF IT

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



Din

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. dineedinburgh.co.uk



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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**

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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!

BBC SSO &

RSNO





GLW Wed 9 Feb 2022: 7.30pm

Samy Moussa Elysium UK premiere Shostakovich Violin Concerto No1 John Adams Harmonielehre

Kevin John Edusei Conductor
María Dueñas Violin
Members of the BBC Scottish Symphony and
Royal Scottish National Orchestras

Orchestras assemble! Join the RSNO and BBC SSO as we combine forces to mark the 2022 Association of British Orchestras Conference in Glasgow. María Dueñas is the youthful soloist in Shostakovich's Soviet thriller of a Violin Concerto and there's a UK premiere, too, from Canadian composer Samy Moussa. Then get ready for blast-off as our double-orchestra brings John Adams' high-octane masterpiece to vivid life, inspired by his dream of an oil tanker sailing into the San Francisco sky.

This concert is presented in association with the **Association of British Orchestras**. It will be broadcast live on **BBC Radio 3** and **BBC Sounds**.





Tickets on sale from 18 November



John Williams BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

EDN Fri 11 Feb 2022: 7.30pm GLW Sat 12 Feb 2022: 7.30pm

Anthony Weeden Conductor Tommy Pearson Presenter

With over 50 nominations and five awards, no movie composer has conquered the Oscars as completely as John Williams. And with scores like Star Wars, Superman, E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial, Jaws, Schindler's List and Saving Private Ryan, that's no surprise! Hear all those favourites – and many more – played live by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra as we celebrate this amazing composer's 90th birthday in style, with a full-scale symphonic tribute.



Gavin Bryars Conducts A VISUAL CONCERT



GLW Sat 12 March 2022 7pm • – Tramway

Gavin Bryars Conductor Morgan Goff Viola Alba G. Corral Live Visuals

One of the most influential British composers working today, Gavin Bryars and the RSNO perform at Sonica Glasgow 2022 in spectacular and atmospheric fashion. Bryars conducts his own iconic Jesus' Blood Never Failed Me Yet and the UK premiere of his Viola Concerto (A Hut in Toyama). The performance also features Estonian composer Arvo Pärt's poignant If Bach had Been a Beekeeper. In a world-first, the prodigious Alba G. Corral paints large-scale kaleidoscopic digital landscapes that interact with the music, performed in real time. Her approach fulfils Kandinsky's prophecy: light, form, movement, colour and space combine to create visual music.



Tchaikovsky SYMPHONY No5

GLW Wed 23 Mar 2022: 2pm • - New Auditorium

Hensel Overture in C major **Tchaikovsky** Symphony No5

Tianyi Lu Conductor

When a composer asks for his music to be played 'with passion and desire', you know you're in for an adventure. Pulsing with emotion and packed with unforgettable tunes, Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony is just about as romantic as music gets, and Tianyi Lu and the RSNO will live every note. But there's no emotion that music can't express – and this joyous overture by Fanny Hensel (better known by her maiden name of Mendelssohn) is powered by pure sunshine.

Supported by the **Ambache Charitable Trust**, which raises the profile of music by women



RSNO presents NYOS

John Harle Briggflatts (Concerto for Soprano Saxophone) **Respighi** Fountains of Rome

Kerem Hasan Conductor
Jess Gillam Soprano Saxophone
NYOS Symphony Orchestra

National Youth Orchestras of Scotland

NYOS Symphony Orchestra returns to the concert stage to showcase the incredible talents of Scotland's most promising young musicians. NYOS is thrilled to be joined by BBC Young Musician of the Year 2016 finalist, Jess Gillam, in John Harle's vibrant and dynamic concerto for soprano saxophone, *Briggflatts*, an epic tapestry of orchestral colour based on Basil Bunting's eponymous poem. The concerto is programmed alongside a selection of richly orchestrated 20th-century masterpieces, including Respighi's exquisitely atmospheric *Fountains of Rome*.

Tickets on sale from 18 November



DVOŘÁK & **BRAHMS**

GLW Wed 4 May 2022: 2pm • – New Auditorium

Dvořák Legends Nos 1, 3, 4 & 8

Thea Musgrave Loch Ness -SCOTCH SNAPS A postcard from Scotland

Brahms Serenade No2

Erina Yashima Conductor

Even great composers take time off to relax, and Brahms' Second Serenade is music with an unmistakable smile, written for an orchestra with a magical difference. In fact, there's more than a hint of magic about this whole concert, from Dvořák's lively Czech folktales to Thea Musgrave's hunt for a fabulous beast rather closer to home. With guest conductor Erina Yashima leading the quest this afternoon, we might not see Nessie exactly, but we'll definitely get to hear her

Scotch Snap supported by the John Ellerman Foundation and the Ambache Charitable Trust, which raises the profile of music by women



The Music of **STAR WARS**

EDN Fri 6 May 2022: 7.30pm GLW Sat 7 May 2022: 7.30pm •

Stephen Bell Conductor Tom Redmond Presenter

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away Feel the full force of Scotland's National Orchestra as we celebrate John Williams' epic music from the blockbusting Star Wars saga. Filled with your favourite themes from The Phantom Menace to The Last Jedi, this concert packs more punch than an Imperial Blaster! If you think it sounds good in the cinema, wait 'til you hear this iconic music played live by the RSNO. The Force is strong with this one!







YOUR **SAFETY**

AND COMFORT

to ensure that you can visit us confidently and safely.

These recommendations may include:

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

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.

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- 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.

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We are deeply grateful for your support.

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THANK YOU

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0131 228 1155

Please check usherhall.co.uk for current opening hours
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Season Concerts: £42, £33.50, £25.50, £19.50, £14 **John Williams/Star Wars**: £45, £39, £33, £26, £19

NYOS: £23.50, £20

Glasgow Royal Concert Hall

0141 353 8000 (Open Mon-Fri 10am-5pm)

A transaction fee of £1.50 is charged for online bookings and £1.75 for phone bookings. Fees correct at time of print.

Season & ABO Concerts: £40, £31, £25, £19, £14

Matinees in the New Auditorium: £18

John Williams/Star Wars: £45, £39, £33, £26, £19

NYOS: £20

Gavin Bryars: £26, £13

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*Seating area restrictions may apply to some performances. Subject to availability.



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Single Subscription: £25

Concession Subscription: £9

(U26, mature students, disabled, unemployed, NHS staff)

Digital Season – Pay Per Concert

Household Ticket: £20

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Concession Ticket: £3

(U26, mature students, disabled, unemployed, NHS staff)

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