

THRILLING

SAINT-SAËNS' ORGAN SYMPHONY

Caird Hall, Dundee Thu 6 Oct 2022 7.30pm

Usher Hall, Edinburgh Fri 7 Oct 7.30pm

Glasgow Royal Concert Hall Sat 8 Oct 7.30pm

Supported by Jennie S. Gordon Memorial Foundation

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with sustainable travel options for their musicians, staff and audiences.





SAINT-SAËNS' ORGAN SYMPHONY

There's nothing quite like hearing Saint-Saëns' Third Symphony played live. The orchestra thunders, there's a sudden silence, and then – with one mighty chord – the organ practically blows the roof off. It's just one of a whole series of musical surprises in tonight's stunning concert, from Stravinsky's brilliant musical card game to the phenomenal Mahan Esfahani bringing the harpsichord powering into the 21st century in Poul Ruders' gripping new concerto.

STRAVINSKY Jeu de cartes [23'] **POUL RUDERS** Concerto for Harpsichord [20']
UK PREMIERE

INTERVAL

SAINT-SAËNS Symphony No3 in C minor Op78 Organ [36']

Thomas Søndergård Conductor Mahan Esfahani Harpsichord Royal Scottish National Orchestra

CAIRD HALL, DUNDEE Thu 6 Oct 2022 7.30pm

USHER HALL, EDINBURGH Fri 7 Oct 7.30pm

GLASGOW ROYAL CONCERT HALL Sat 8 Oct 7.30pm

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.





The concert in Dundee is supported by the Northwood Charitable Trust, R J Larg Family Trust, Tay Charitable Trust and Dundee Leisure & Culture Major Music Award

Supported by

Jennie S. Gordon Memorial Foundation



DRAMATIC DVOŘÁK SEVEN

EDN Fri 14 Oct **GLW** Sat 15 Oct

Julia Perry A Short Piece for Orchestra Korngold Violin Concerto **Dvořák** Symphony No7

Christian Reif Conductor Philippe Quint Violin

rsno.org.uk # 60



The RSNO is supported by the



WELCOME



Welcome to this evening's concert, with a programme that celebrates the role of keyboard instruments in orchestral music.

Tonight we will enjoy the UK premiere of Poul Ruders' Concerto for Harpsichord performed by Mahan Esfahani, making his RSNO debut. The piece was co-commissioned by the RSNO and the Aarhus Symphony Orchestra and was written especially for Mahan. I can't wait to see him bring it to life with his trademark exuberance. We're thrilled also to be making the most of some of the great concert-hall organs that we have in Scotland in Saint-Saëns' Symphony No3.

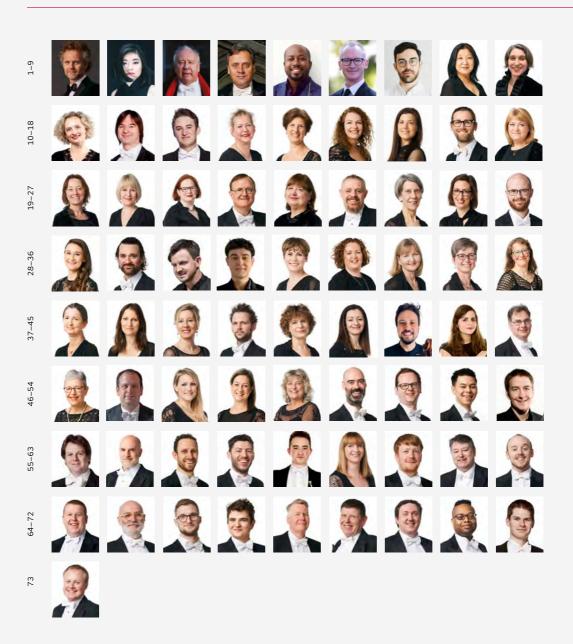
You'll read of Poul's interest in restoration, giving revived identities to ideas and objects that once seemed outdated. This is something we're lucky to experience constantly in classical music, as artists and conductors interpret works and often transform the familiar into something brand new. In both recordings and live on stage, our musicians continue to embrace this and each week I arrive to hear something fresh.

The RSNO has recently worked on a number of new releases, including the second volume of Sir Roger Norrington and Francesca Dego's recordings of Mozart's violin concertos, which has received some fantastic reviews. You can now also pre-order RSNO Assistant Conductor Kellen Gray's recording of music by George Walker, William Grant Still and William Levi Dawson, to be released at the end of the month on Linn Records. As Kellen starts his second Season with the RSNO, we also look forward to seeing him conduct this programme live in November. Just as it is a pleasure to come together on a weekly basis for our Season concerts, it is also heartening to see the Orchestra's reach continue to grow nationally and internationally with these eclectic new releases.

Alistair Mackie

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ROYAL SCOTTISH NATIONAL ORCHESTRA



ARTISTIC TEAM		VIOLA		CLARINET	
Thomas Søndergård	1	Tom Dunn PRINCIPAL	29	Timothy Orpen	54
MUSIC DIRECTOR		Felix Tanner		PRINCIPAL CLARINET	
Elim Chan	2	ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL VIOLA	30	Duncan Swindells	55
PRINCIPAL GUEST CONDUCTOR		Asher Zaccardelli		PRINCIPAL BASS CLARINET	
Neeme Järvi	3	ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL	31		
CONDUCTOR LAUREATE		Susan Buchan SUB PRINCIPAL	32	BASSOON	
Alexander Lazarev	4	Lisa Rourke SUB PRINCIPAL	33	David Hubbard PRINCIPAL	56
CONDUCTOR EMERITUS		Nicola McWhirter	34	Luis Eisen associate principal	57
Kellen Gray	5	Claire Dunn	35	Paolo Dutto	58
ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR		Katherine Wren	36	PRINCIPAL CONTRABASSOON	
Stephen Doughty	6	Maria Trittinger	37		
CHORUS DIRECTOR, RSNO CHORUS		Francesca Hunt	38	HORN	
Patrick Barrett	7			Christopher Gough PRINCIPAL	59
CHORUS DIRECTOR, RSNO JUNIOR CHOR	US	CELLO		Alison Murray ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL	60
		Betsy Taylor ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL	39	Andrew McLean	61
FIRST VIOLIN		Kennedy Leitch ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL	40	ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL	
Maya Iwabuchi LEADER	8	Rachael Lee	41	David McClenaghan	62
Sharon Roffman LEADER	9	Sarah Digger	42	Martin Murphy assistant PRINCIPAL	63
Lena Zeliszewska	10	Robert Anderson	43		
ASSOCIATE LEADER				TRUMPET	
	11	DOUBLE BASS		Christopher Hart PRINCIPAL	64
Patrick Curlett ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL		Margarida Castro	44	Marcus Pope SUB PRINCIPAL	65
	13	ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL		Jason Lewis associate principal	66
	14	Michael Rae ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL	45		
3 3 3 5	15	Sally Davis	46	TROMBONE	
	16	Aaron Berrera Reyes	47	Dávur Juul Magnussen PRINCIPAL	
	17			Lance Green ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL	68
Elizabeth Bamping	18	FLUTE		Alastair Sinclair	69
		Katherine Bryan PRINCIPAL	48	PRINCIPAL BASS TROMBONE	
SECOND VIOLIN		Helen Brew ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL	49		
The state of the s	19	Janet Richardson	50	TUBA	
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL		PRINCIPAL PICCOLO		John Whitener PRINCIPAL	70
Marion Wilson Associate Principal					
	21	OBOE		TIMPANI	
	22	Adrian Wilson PRINCIPAL	51	Paul Philbert PRINCIPAL	71
	23	Peter Dykes ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL	52		
	24	Henry Clay PRINCIPAL COR ANGLAIS	53	PERCUSSION	
	25			Simon Lowdon PRINCIPAL	72
5 1	26			John Poulter associate principal	73
	27				
Emily Nenniger	28				

Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)

JEU DE CARTES



FIRST PERFORMANCE New York, 27 April 1937 **DURATION** 23 minutes

First Deal:

Introduction. Alla breve –
Pas d'action. Meno mosso –
Dance variation. Moderato assai –
Dance of the Joker. Stringendo –
Waltz-Coda. Tranquillo –

Second Deal:
Introduction. Alla breve –
March. Marcia –
Variation I. Allegretto –
Variation III –
Variation IV –
Variation V. Sostenuto e pesante –
Coda. Più mosso –
Reprise of March. Marcia –
Ensemble. Con moto –

Third Deal : Introduction. Alla breve – Waltz. Valse – Battle between Spades and Hearts. Presto – Final Dance – Coda. Tempo del principio It was – so the story goes – in the back of a Paris taxi in 1936 that inspiration struck Igor Stravinsky for his ballet score Jeu de cartes (or 'Game of Cards'). He was so delighted with his idea that he invited the somewhat bewildered cabbie into a nearby café for a pre-dinner apéritif.

Stravinsky was living in the French capital at the time, and had been asked the previous November to write a new score for the recently established American Ballet, which had enlisted eminent choreographer George Balanchine to create the dance to go with it. The composer was somewhat at a loss for a possible scenario, however, so you can understand his relief at finally thinking one up.

And what he came up with was based around what Stravinsky described as 'my favourite pastime in the rest periods between composition': poker. The dancers would be dressed as playing cards, and the three short movements of his score would be entitled 'deals', charting the course of a poker game itself. There the card-game analogy breaks down a bit, however, since there's frankly little in the way of serious plot. Instead, Stravinsky focuses on characters, especially the chameleon-like, apparently all-powerful Joker, who can always ensure he wins by transforming himself into any other card, as well as the lower-ranking cards who can only overcome the Joker's power by combining their forces.

The outline drew from Stravinsky one of his wittiest, most sparkling scores, and though it's sometimes described as one of his least profound, there's a far more serious side to Jeu de cartes. The composer was growing increasingly alarmed at the rise of the Third Reich and its apparently all-powerful Führer, and indeed left Europe for the USA just three

years after he composed the ballet. You can't help but see connections between Jeu de cartes' malevolent Joker and the figure who would plunge the globe into World War II, parallels that Stravinsky himself drew attention to in the quotation from La Fontaine's verse fable 'The Wolves and the Sheep' that he included at the front of his score: 'We must wage continual war against the wicked. Peace in itself is a fine thing, I agree, but what use can it be with enemies who do not keep their word?'

Jeu de cartes was also a score in which Stravinsky shamelessly plundered the music of earlier composers, starting with the famous four-note 'fate' motif from the beginning of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, recast as a bright and breezy brassy fanfare that opens each of Jeu de cartes' 'deals', and also brings the work to its rather abrupt conclusion. Loud, screaming woodwind and dashing strings accompany the entry of the Joker in the first 'deal', and Stravinsky returns to his affectionate pilfering in the third 'deal', with half-heard memories of Ravel's La valse and a more thorough work-through of a famous melody from Rossini's The Barber of Seville.

© David Kettle

What was happening in 1937?

- **20 Jan** Franklin D Roosevelt was sworn in for a second term as US President
- **23 Jan** 17 leading Communists went on trial in Moscow, accused of participating in a plot led by Leon Trotsky to overthrow Joseph Stalin's regime
- **6 Feb** John Steinbeck's novella Of Mice and Men was first published
- **16 Feb** Wallace H Carothers received a patent for nylon
- **12 Apr** In Rugby, Frank Whittle groundtested the first jet engine designed for an aircraft
- **26 Apr** In the Spanish Civil War, the Nazi Luftwaffe bombed Guernica in support of the Francoists, killing hundreds
- **6 May** The German airship *Hindenburg* burst into flames when mooring at Lakehurst, New Jersey; 13 passengers and 22 crew died
- **12 May** Coronation of King George VI at Westminster Abbey, London
- **28 May** Neville Chamberlain became UK Prime Minister following the retirement of Stanley Baldwin
- **21 Sep** J R R Tolkien's *The Hobbit* was first published
- **4 Dec** Dundee-based D C Thomson produced the first issue of *The Dandy* comic
- **29 Dec** The Constitution of Ireland came into force; the Irish Free State became Ireland and Éamon de Valera the first Taoiseach

Poul Ruders (Born 1949)

CONCERTO FOR HARPSICHORD

FIRST PERFORMANCE

Aarhus Symphony Orchestra, 10 September 2020

UK PREMIERE

DURATION 20 minutes

Should one, when listening to my Concerto for Harpsichord and Symphony Orchestra, entertain the suspicion that the composer has brought the past into the present – and vice versa – then one is not completely off the mark. I've always been fascinated by the form of restoration architecture, with which old, disused but conservation-worthy buildings, such as churches, factories and warehouses, are being given a new identity and purpose through a happy symbiosis between contemporary ideas and inventions – a modernity that hasn't congealed through blind self-indulgence.

The harpsichord is an instrument normally associated with music from the Baroque; in other words, a 'period instrument' which, for better or worse, is marooned in the past. However, new compositions have been written for the harpsichord, solo and with ensemble, but not until well into the 20th century.

As a young man I myself played the harpsichord and developed a solid 'hands on' (literally) relationship with the instrument, but didn't compose anything for it till 1985, the year when Book 1 of Cembal d'Amore came about, a piece in which the past meets the present in the guise of a piano! There are now two Books entitled Cembal d'Amore. And that was enough harpsichord, I thought. But little did I know ...

Because one day a few years ago, a commission from the Aarhus Symphony Orchestra popped up on the computer screen - a new piece for harpsichord and symphony orchestra, starring the phenomenal harpsichord virtuoso Mahan Esfahani. Now, there was an offer I couldn't refuse, a welltimed opportunity for me to create the perfect symbiosis between 'yesterday' and 'today' (but without slipping into hackneyed neoclassicism), not only stylistically, but also on a practical level. The harpsichord was never supposed to appear with the modern symphony orchestra - an obvious balance issue springs to mind - but involving a carefully prepared and controlled electronic amplification, a new world of constellations between harpsichord and orchestra presents itself, unexpected sonorous alliances that would be unthinkable (and

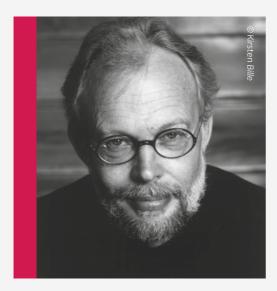
Selected purists and period-instrument fundamentalists will be horrified ... the mere thought is abominable. But so be it. I could, however, be granted a 'reduced sentence', observing the time-honoured order of movements in a classical concerto, in which the first movement is fast, the second slow, and the third, well ... just you wait ...

impossible) without amplification.

© Poul Ruders

Poul Ruders' Concerto for Harpsichord was co-commissioned for Mahan Esfahani by the Aarhus Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

POUL RUDERS Composer



How does one describe a phenomenon like Poul Ruders? No sooner have you found the *mot juste* than something in the music clamours to contradict it. He can be gloriously, explosively extrovert one minute – withdrawn, haunted, intently inward-looking the next. Super-abundant high spirits alternate with pained, almost expressionistic lyricism; simplicity and directness with astringent irony.

Try and restrict the language to technical matters and the paradoxes continue: few composers on the contemporary scene are so versatile, so accomplished, so obviously in command of their tools and materials, and yet the music can give the impression of dancing on the edge of a precipice. It is a language of extremes, commandingly integrated – and perhaps all the more startling for that.

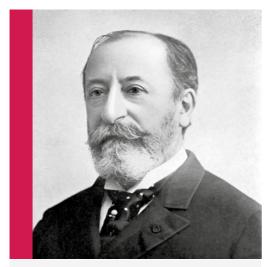
Finding his voice has taken Ruders longer than many other composers, he admits, but it has also been an adventure – a period of experimentation and discovery which has led him in all manner of directions, metaphorically and literally: confronting American minimalism in the early 80s and developing his own perspective; making London his spiritual home later in that decade and employing the peculiar English technique of 'change-ringing'; exploring – in his own words – female values in the 90s as a vital counterbalance to the world of violence and desolation he had opened up in his previous works.

In the opera *The Handmaid's Tale* (1996-8), more than in any of his other works, Ruders draws together the themes which have preoccupied him for so long: the apocalyptic, the elemental and the human, aching tenderness, grotesque irony, despair. However, also, as in the closing pages of the First Symphony (1989), a flicker of hope. For Ruders, perhaps, 'The One True Path' is that there is no path at all. And thus the adventure continues.

© Stephen Johnson

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

SYMPHONY No3 in C minor Op78 **Organ**



FIRST PERFORMANCE London, 19 May 1886 **DURATION** 36 minutes

1. Adagio-Allegro moderato-Poco adagio

2. Allegro moderato-Presto-Maestoso-Allegro

Camille Saint-Saëns was one of the great polymaths of the 19th century. Quite apart from his exceptional skills as a composer, pianist, organist, conductor and distinguished pedagogue, he was also a fluent multi-linguist, a consulted authority on literature and the arts in general, a notable author and poet, and could hold his own with experts in a wide range of disciplines, most notably archaeology and astronomy. He possessed both visual and aural photographic memory and phenomenal powers of recall.

Saint-Saëns also possessed all the distinctive qualities of a French composer – colourful yet tasteful, flamboyant yet refined, perfumed yet elegant. However, his most natural mediums of expression were the core genres of his German predecessors – the concerto, symphony and

sonata. Fellow French composer Hector Berlioz summed him up succinctly when he wrote that 'Saint-Saëns knows everything, but lacks inexperience'. Franz Liszt, the most celebrated pianist of the day, felt humbled by Saint-Saëns' unparalleled ability to improvise music of extraordinary complexity, and it was to Liszt's memory that the Frenchman dedicated his majestic Third Symphony.

Saint-Saëns' dedication was no mere homage, but a reflection of his symphony's indebtedness to Liszt's formal innovations. Although ostensibly cast in the standard Romantic four movements - an arresting opening allegro, followed by a reflective adagio, lively scherzo and heroic finale – Saint-Saëns takes Liszt's lead in deriving all the main themes from the same fundamental melodic shape (an ingenious process known as thematic transformation). He also blurs their structural distinction by running the opening and closing pairs of movements together. Even for a composer of Saint-Saëns' towering genius this was a demanding undertaking, so while work on his magnum opus was progressing, he took some time out to compose by way of light relief what turned out (much to his chagrin) to be his most popular work – Carnival of the

Composed for the Royal Philharmonic Society's 73rd anniversary, the Third Symphony's opening theme came to the composer (rather appropriately) as he strolled down a London street one rainy day. As was common in British musical circles, Saint-Saëns was invited to provide a programme note for the premiere, and felt it was such a splendid idea that he encouraged several French musical organisations to take up the practice, much to the disapproval of the young Claude Debussy, who felt passionately that music should stand on its own, free of literary annotation.

Saint-Saëns directed the premiere from the podium, although he would dearly have loved to play the organ part that emerges spectacularly in the finale, especially as the organ in St James' Hall (the chosen venue) had only recently been installed and he was itching to try it out. The premiere was a blazing success, and although it took France a year to catch up, the symphony created such a sensation that three repeat performances were swiftly arranged during the same season.

Laying down the gauntlet with a brooding, stormy opening movement lacerated by shafts of orchestral lightning, Saint-Saëns releases the accumulated musical tension in a slow movement of gentle melodic radiance that breathes (according to the composer) 'an air of pure tranquillity'. The scherzo's fiery temperament and unstoppable forward momentum is alleviated by the glittering sound of two pianos scampering after one another in the central trio section. Then, just as the music peters away following a heartfelt string chorale, Saint-Saëns plays his coup de théâtre as a massive chord from the organ sets up the allconquering finale (there's even a jaunty fugue along the way), culminating in one of the most thrilling perorations in the orchestral repertoire.

© Julian Haylock

What was happening in 1886?

- **5 Jan** Robert Louis Stevenson's Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde was published in the USA: it was published in the UK four days later
- **29 Jan** Karl Benz patented the first successful petrol-driven car, the Benz Patent-Motorwagen
- **29 Mar** Wilhelm Steinitz became the first recognised World Chess Champion
- **8 May** American pharmacist Dr John Pemberton invented a carbonated drink that would become known as Coca-Cola, first advertised on 29 May
- **25 Jun** Arturo Toscanini made his conducting debut, with an Italian opera company in Rio de Janeiro
- **30 Jun** The Royal Holloway College for women was opened by Queen Victoria
- **25 Jul** Conservative Robert Cecil, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury, became the UK's 30th Prime Minister
- **9 Sep** The Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works was signed
- **28 Oct** The Statue of Liberty, a gift from France, was dedicated by US President Grover Cleveland
- **30 Nov** The Folies Bergère staged its first revue in Paris
- **11 Dec** Founded as Dial Square, what was to become on 25 Dec the football club known as Royal Arsenal played its first match

MAHAN ESFAHANI Harpsichord



Mahan Esfahani has made it his life's mission to rehabilitate the harpsichord in the mainstream of concert instruments, and to that end his creative programming and work in commissioning new works have drawn the attention of critics and audiences across Europe, Asia and North America. He was the first and only harpsichordist to be a BBC New Generation Artist (2008-10), a Borletti-Buitoni prize winner (2009) and a nominee for *Gramophone* Artist of the Year (2014, 2015 and 2017).

His work for the harpsichord has resulted in recitals in most of the world's major concert series and concert halls. Recent highlights include the premiere of Poul Ruders' Concerto for Harpsichord with the Aarhus Symphony Orchestra in Denmark, a tour and BBC Prom of harpsichord concertos with the Manchester Collective, works by J C Bach and J C F Bach with Riccardo Minasi and the Orchestra La Scintilla at Zürich Opera House, Poulenc's Concert champêtre with the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra, his Vienna Musikverein debut and recitals at Wigmore Hall, De Bijloke Ghent, Alte Oper Frankfurt and Walt Disney

Concert Hall LA, with Emmanuel Pahud at the Brucknerhaus Linz, a Scarlatti Day curated for the Barbican, and residencies with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and Royal Northern Sinfonia. Further invitations include the world premiere of Miroslav Srnka's harpsichord concerto with the Gürzenich-Orchester Köln under François-Xavier Roth, and the world premiere of Bent Sørensen's new harpsichord concerto with the Bergen Philharmonic.

Particularly renowned for his championing of contemporary music, Esfahani has commissioned and premiered works from such composers as George Lewis, Bent Sørensen, Anahita Abbasi, Sunleif Rasmussen, Daniel Kidane, Laurence Osborn, Gary Carpenter, Harold Meltzer, Elena Kats-Chernin and Miroslav Srnka.

His richly varied discography includes seven critically acclaimed recordings for Hyperion and Deutsche Grammophon, garnering one Gramophone award, two BBC Music Magazine Awards, a Diapason d'Or and 'Choc de Classica' in France, and an International Classical Music Award

Esfahani studied musicology and history at Stanford University, where he first came into contact with the harpsichord in the class of Elaine Thornburgh. Following his decision to abandon the law for music, he studied harpsichord privately in Boston with Peter Watchorn then with celebrated Czech harpsichordist Zuzana Růžičková. Following three years as Artist-in-Residence at New College, Oxford, he continues his academic associations as an honorary member at Keble College, Oxford, and as professor at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Born in Tehran in 1984 and raised in the United States. Mahan Esfahani lived in Milan and London before taking up residence in Prague.

THOMAS SØNDERGÅRD Conductor



Danish conductor Thomas Søndergård has been Music Director of the RSNO since the 2018:19 Season, following six seasons as Principal Guest Conductor. From 2012 to 2018 he was Principal Conductor of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales (BBC NOW), after stepping down as Principal Conductor and Musical Advisor of the Norwegian Radio Orchestra. He becomes Music Director of the Minnesota Orchestra in September 2023.

Thomas has appeared with many notable orchestras in leading European centres, such as Berlin (including the Berliner Philharmoniker, Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin, Mahler Chamber Orchestra), Leipzig (Gewandhausorchester), Paris (Orchestre National de France), London (London Philharmonic, BBC Symphony, London Symphony and Philharmonia), Amsterdam and Rotterdam (Royal Concertgebouw, Netherlands Philharmonic, Rotterdam Philharmonic), and throughout Scandinavia. North American appearances have included the orchestras of Chicago, Toronto, Atlanta, Vancouver, Houston and Seattle.

In November 2021 Thomas conducted the RSNO in the world premiere of Detlev Glanert's Violin Concerto No2 To the Immortal Beloved (with Midori) during the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) held in Glasgow. Recent highlights with the RSNO have included tours to China and the US, the premiere of Wynton Marsalis' Violin Concerto with Nicola Benedetti (also at the 2022 BBC Proms) and much-praised performances at the Edinburgh Festival.

Following his acclaimed debut for Royal Danish Opera with Poul Ruders' Kafka's Trial, Thomas has returned regularly to conduct repertoire ranging from contemporary to Le nozze di Figaro, Il barbiere di Siviglia, La bohème, The Cunning Little Vixen and Il viaggio a Reims, and has made short concert tours with the Royal Danish Orchestra. He has also enjoyed successful collaborations with Norwegian Opera and Royal Swedish Opera. His Stockholm productions of Tosca and Turandot (both with Nina Stemme) led to his Bayerische Staatsoper debut, conducting main season and Opera Festival performances of Turandot with Stemme. He made his Deutsche Oper Berlin debut with the world premiere of Andrea Lorenzo Scartazzini's Edward II and has since returned for Berlioz's Romeo and Juliet.

Thomas has recorded with violinist Vilde Frang and the WDR Köln and cellist Johannes Moser and the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin, and the music of Poul Ruders with the Aarhus Symphony, Norwegian Radio Orchestra and Royal Danish Opera. For Linn Records he has recorded Sibelius symphonies and tone poems with the BBC NOW, and Prokofiev symphonies 1 and 5 and Richard Strauss' Ein Heldenleben with the RSNO.

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. The Orchestra's artistic team is led by Danish conductor Thomas Søndergård, who was appointed RSNO Music Director in October 2018, having previously held the position of Principal Guest Conductor. Hong Kong-born conductor Elim Chan succeeds Søndergård as Principal Guest Conductor.

The RSNO performs across Scotland, including concerts in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Perth and Inverness. The Orchestra appears regularly at the Edinburgh International Festival and the BBC Proms, and has made recent tours to the USA, China and Europe.

The Orchestra is joined for choral performances by the RSNO Chorus, directed by Stephen Doughty. The RSNO Chorus evolved from a choir formed in 1843 to sing the first full performance of Handel's *Messiah* in Scotland. Today, the RSNO Chorus is one of the most distinguished large symphonic choruses in Britain. The Chorus has performed nearly every work in the standard choral repertoire, along with contemporary works by composers including John Adams, Howard Shore and Sir James MacMillan.

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 for Symphonic Music (Denève/Roussel 2007; Denève/Debussy 2012) and eight GRAMMY Awards nominations. Over 200 releases are available, including Thomas Søndergård conducting Strauss (Ein Heldenleben, Der Rosenkavalier Suite) and Prokofiev (Symphonies Nos1 and 5), the complete symphonies of Sibelius (Gibson), Prokofiev (Järvi), Bruckner (Tintner) and Roussel (Denève), as well as further discs championing the music of William Grant Still (Eisenberg), Xiaogang Ye (Serebrier) and Thomas Wilson (Macdonald).

The RSNO's pioneering learning and engagement programme, Music for Life, aims to engage the people of Scotland with music across key stages of life: Early Years, Nurseries and Schools, Teenagers and Students, Families, Accessing Lives, Working Lives and Retired and Later Life. The team is committed to placing the Orchestra at the centre of Scottish communities via workshops and annual residencies.

ON STAGE

FIRST VIOLIN

Sharon Roffman

Lena Zeliszewska ASSOCIATE LEADER

Tamás Fejes

Evgeny Makhtin Patrick Curlett

Joonas Pekonen

Michelle Dierx

Lorna Rough Alan Manson

Alan Manson

Elizabeth Bamping Susannah Lowdon

Caroline Parry

Ursula Heidecker Allen Wen Wang

SECOND VIOLIN

Emily Davis GUEST PRINCIPAL

Jacqueline Speirs Marion Wilson

Anne Bünemann

Harriet Hunter

Robin Wilson

Emily Nenniger

Nigel Mason

Sophie Lang

Paul Medd

John Robinson Colin McKee

VIOLA

Tom Dunn

Felix Tanner Asher Zaccardelli

Lisa Rourke Matt Johnstone

Katherine Wren

Nicola McWhirter

Francesca Hunt

David McCreadie Edward Keenan

CELLO

Karen Stephenson GUEST PRINCIPAL

Betsy Taylor

Kennedy Leitch Rachael Lee

Sarah Digger

Robert Anderson

Miranda Phythian-Adams

Sonia Cromarty

DOUBLE BASS

Roberto Carrillo-Garcia GUEST PRINCIPAL

Margarida Castro

Michael Rae

Tom Berry

Christopher Sergeant Brendan Norris

FLUTE

Katherine Bryan

Jimena Vicente-Alvarez Adam Richardson

OBOE

Adrian Wilson

Peter Dykes

Henry Clay

PRINCIPAL COR ANGLAIS

CLARINET

Timothy Orpen

Lewis Graham
Duncan Swindells

PRINCIPAL BASS CLARINET

BASSOON

David Hubbard

Luis Eisen Paolo Dutto

PRINCIPAL CONTRABASSOON

HORN

Christopher Gough

Alison Murray Andrew McLean

David McClenaghan Martin Murphy

TRUMPET

Jason Lewis
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

Simon Bird

Marcus Pope

TROMBONE

Dávur Juul Magnussen PRINCIPAL

Lance Green Alastair Sinclair

PRINCIPAL BASS TROMBONE

TUBA

John Whitener

TIMPANI

Paul Philbert PRINCIPAL

PERCUSSION

Simon Lowdon PRINCIPAL

John Poulter

HARP

Pippa Tunnell

PIANO/CELESTE

Lynda Cochrane Judith Keaney

ORGAN

Michael Bawtree



SUPPORTING THE RSNO

I am honoured and extremely proud to be Music Director of the RSNO. It is through the continued generosity of you, our friends, donors and supporters, that we can continue to achieve and realise the most ambitious goals of the Orchestra.

One of the wonders of the RSNO is how it brings high-quality music not only to concert halls, but to the wider community. From hospital settings to care homes, from our Astar app for families with newborns to our National Schools Concert Programme, our music touches so many lives in Scotland and beyond.

Your support is the 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.

Thomas Søndergård
MUSIC DIRECTOR, RSNO

RSNO CONDUCTORS' CIRCLE

The RSNO Conductors' Circle is an inspirational group of individual supporters at the heart of the RSNO's Individual Giving programme. Our members' annual philanthropic gifts enable us to realise the Orchestra's most ambitious goals. Conductors' Circle members support inspirational concert performances for our audiences alongside transformational education programmes in communities across Scotland, via our ground-breaking initiative Music for Life.

The relationship between the RSNO and Conductors' Circle members involves exceptional levels of access to all aspects of Orchestra life. We design bespoke private events tailored to individual interests and passions, providing insight into the artistic process and bringing our supporters further into the RSNO family. Members of the Conductors' Circle benefit from an intimate and long-lasting connection with the RSNO Artistic Team and particularly with RSNO Music Director Thomas Søndergård, Principal Guest Conductor Elim Chan and the many

renowned guest Conductors we are privileged to welcome to the RSNO each year.

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

Ardgowan Charitable Trust
Geoff and Mary Ball
Sir Ewan and Lady Brown
Stina Bruce Jones
Ian and Evelyn Crombie
Carol Grigor and the Trustees of Dunard Fund
Gavin and Kate Gemmell
Kenneth and Julia Greig
Ms Chris Grace Hartness
Kat Heathcote and Iain Macneil
Bruce and Caroline Minto
David and Alix Stevenson
Eric and Karen Young

We would also like to thank those generous donors who wish to remain anonymous.

For more information on Individual Giving and becoming part of the Conductors' Circle please contact Jenny McNeely at jenny.mcneely@rsno.org.uk

PATRON PROGRAMME

CHAIR PATRON

From musical activities in schools with the musicians of the future to working in community venues across Scotland, as a Chair Patron you are enabling RSNO musicians to explore the many facets of their art and the positive impact it has on people's lives. Supporting an individual musician puts you at the heart of the RSNO family. You're connected directly to the musicians on stage and get to enjoy privileged behind-the-scenes access. RSNO musicians truly appreciate our Chair Patrons and enjoy developing personal relationships with our supporters.

Assistant Conductor

Kellen Gray
The Solti Foundation Chair

First Violin

Maya lwabuchi LEADER

Sharon Roffman LEADER

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Sophie Lang

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Viola

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The Cathy & Keith MacGillivray
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The Meta Ramsay Chair

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Betsy Taylor
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The Maxwell Armstrong Chair

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Rachael Lee
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Double Bass

Michael Rae

James Wood Bequest Fund Chair

With thanks to the Gregor Forbes Chair for their support of the RSNO Double Bass section

Flute

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Helen Brew ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
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Oboe

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The Hedley Wright Chair

Peter Dykes
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL
Witherby Publishing Group
Charitable Trust Chair

Cor Anglais

Henry Clay PRINCIPAL
In memory of a dear friend, Fiona H

Bassoon

David Hubbard PRINCIPAL

The James and Morag Anderson Chair

Horr

Christopher Gough PRINCIPAL
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ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
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Paul Philbert
Ms Chris Grace Hartness

Percussion

John Poulter
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL
The Dot and Syd Taft Chair

Library and Orchestra Assistant

Xander van Vliet The Hilda Munro Chair

LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT PATRON

Our Learning and Engagement activity is structured around our Music for Life programme. From apps for babies to concerts and workshops for school children, and lunchtime concerts for older adults, the range of projects is vast. As a Patron, you will have access to our projects to bring you closer to the communities we serve across Scotland.

Learning and Engagement Patrons

Neil and Nicola Gordon Professor Gillian Mead, FRSE Mr Maurice Taylor CBE RSNO Principal Oboe, Adrian Wilson Witherby Publishing Group Charitable Trust

NEW WORKS PATRON

The RSNO is dedicated to bringing new works and outstanding new talent to audiences across Scotland. Our New Works Patrons contribute a significant legacy to orchestral music that extends beyond the RSNO, providing new music for orchestras and audiences around the world – for generations to come.

New Works Patron

Susie Thomson

We are also grateful to those who give but wish to remain anonymous.

If you would like more information or would like to discuss how you can become part of the RSNO Family of Supporters, please contact Jenny McNeely, Head of Individual Giving and Partnerships, at jenny.mcneely@rsno.org.uk



We would like to thank all those who have donated to our new Play Your Part Appeal.

The generosity of our supporters at this time is deeply appreciated.



Musical Memories

Leave a gift to the RSNO and ensure future generations can create their own Musical Memories of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

We all have special Musical Memories. It could be learning to play an instrument when you were a child, or a special piece of music that just left you breathless the first time you heard the Orchestra play it. Maybe it was seeing a soloist you had always wanted to hear, or just a great concert shared with friends. Memories such as these make music such an important part of our lives.

Leaving a gift to the RSNO in your will is the single most important way you can help us to make music and to create memories. Your legacy will support the work of the Orchestra for years to come, ensuring that we can continue to bring great music to a new generation of children, young people and adults right across Scotland.

It is easy to leave a gift. After you have made provisions for family and friends, please think of the Orchestra.

Your gift is important to us and to everyone in Scotland who enjoys music. Contact your solicitor to draft a will or add a codicil to your current will.

If your estate is subject to inheritance tax, a gift to a charity, such as the RSNO, is tax-free and will reduce the amount of tax payable to the Government. Please ask your solicitor for details.

For more information please visit rsno.org.uk/memories

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Torran McEwan, Individual Giving and Partnerships Officer, in the strictest confidence, at torran.mcewan@rsno.org.uk

To the many among you who have pledged to leave a gift already – thank you.



CHARITABLE TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

Charitable trusts and foundations have a distinguished history of supporting the RSNO, both on and off stage. From one-off donations for specific projects to multi-year funding for our flagship outreach initiatives, including the National Schools Concert Programme and Young Creatives, every grant in support of our work is truly appreciated. We are grateful to the following trusts and foundations for their generosity:

Aberdeen Endowments Trust
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Barrack Charitable Trust
Bòrd na Gàidhlig
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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 Naomi Stewart, Head of Trusts and Projects, at naomi.stewart@rsno.org.uk



RSNO CIRCLE

The Circle is a vital part of the RSNO family. Our community of music-lovers inspire and support us. Supporting us by joining the Circle will help us to bring music to so many people, from our Learning and Engagement programmes to our brand-new digital performances. As part of our community and family, we will keep in touch with our exclusive magazine Inner Circle, our Circle member webpage and invitations to special events throughout the year.

To find out more about joining the Circle please visit rsno.org.uk/circle or get in touch with Torran McEwan, Individual Giving and Partnerships Officer, at torran.mcewan@rsno.org.uk

To all our existing Circle members, thank you. Thank you for your unwavering support that allows us to continue sharing the joy of music.

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Thank you to all our members of the Circle, including those who wish to remain anonymous. Every one of you makes a real difference.

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