RS\O

SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL ORCHESTRA

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Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No2

Perth Concert Hall Thu 9 Nov 2023 7.30pm

Usher Hall, Edinburgh Fri 10 Nov 7.30pm

Glasgow Royal Concert Hall Sat 11 Nov 7.30pm

In memory of Mr Roderick Jones

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Rachmaninov Piano Concerto NO2

Perth Concert Hall Thu 9 Nov 2023 7.30pm Usher Hall, Edinburgh Fri 10 Nov 7.30pm Glasgow Royal Concert Hall Sat 11 Nov 7.30pm

A hymn, a dance rhythm, a flurry of birdsong ... and Dvořák's Eighth Symphony is on its gloriously tuneful way. Not that we are short of tunes with guest conductor Anja Bihlmaier, as British composer Anna Clyne takes Beethoven on the ride of his life, and pianist Nelson Goerner performs Rachmaninov's deeply romantic Second Piano Concerto.

> **GRIEG** In the Hall of the Mountain King from Peer Gynt Suite No1 Op46 [3'] (Perth only) Side-by-side with Big Noise Raploch

> > **ANNA CLYNE** Stride [12']

RACHMANINOV Piano Concerto No2 in C Minor Op18 [32']

INTERVAL

DVOŘÁK Symphony No8 in G Major Op88 [36']

Anja Bihlmaier Conductor **Nelson Goerner** Piano **Royal Scottish National Orchestra**

In memory of Mr Roderick Jones



The concert in Perth is kindly supported by Gannochy the Gannochy Trust **Trust**



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.



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USHER HALL, EDINBURGH FRIDAY 17 NOV 2023: 7.30PM

GLASGOW ROYAL CONCERT HALL SATURDAY 18 NOV 2023: 7.30PM

rsno.org.uk FX 60

Welcome



Welcome to this evening's concert.

Our 2023:24 Season continues this weekend in Perth, Edinburgh and Glasgow, where we are joined by some incredible artists. German conductor Anja Bihlmaier makes her debut with the RSNO and we are excited to see her in action on the podium. Anja studied for a year in Salzburg, from where the Orchestra recently returned after a successful three-night residency at the Grosses Festspielhaus with Music Director Thomas Søndergård. We have already been invited to return to the Salzburg stage and look forward to exploring this possibility.

Our soloist is the Argentinian pianist Nelson Goerner, who last performed with the Orchestra during the 1993 Season, when he also played a Rachmaninov Piano Concerto. In the time since that appearance, Nelson has built up an impressive roster of appearances with orchestras worldwide and we are thrilled to be able to once again share this major artist with you.

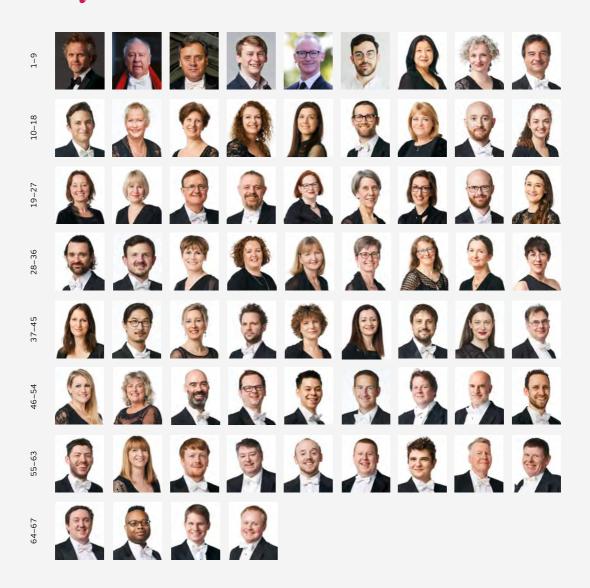
This concert also includes Anna Clyne's Beethoven-inspired *Stride*. We've been fortunate to perform several of Anna's works over the past few Seasons and are delighted to bring another of her compositions to Scottish venues. Anna studied at the University of Edinburgh and her success as a composer is testament to the high quality of Scottish musical education. At the recent SNP Conference, First Minister Humza Yousaf expressed a commitment to double the Scottish Government's funding for arts and culture over the next five years; an intention we welcome in the hope of continuing to put Scottish talent on the international stage.

Finally, at our concert in Perth this weekend we once again have the pleasure of inviting the young musicians of Sistema Scotland's Big Noise Raploch onto the stage alongside our musicians. Please do give them a warm welcome!

Alistair Mackie

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Royal Scottish National Orchestra

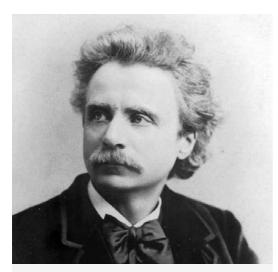


ARTISTIC TEAM		VIOLA		BASSOON	
Thomas Søndergård	1	Tom Dunn PRINCIPAL	28	David Hubbard PRINCIPAL	53
MUSIC DIRECTOR		Felix Tanner		Luis Eisen associate principal	54
Neeme Järvi	2	ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL	29	Paolo Dutto	55
CONDUCTOR LAUREATE		Susan Buchan SUB PRINCIPAL	30	PRINCIPAL CONTRABASSOON	
Alexander Lazarev	3	Lisa Rourke SUB PRINCIPAL	31		
CONDUCTOR EMERITUS		Nicola McWhirter	32	HORN	
Derrick Morgan	4	Claire Dunn	33	Alison Murray ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL	56
ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR		Katherine Wren	34	Andrew McLean	57
Stephen Doughty	5	Maria Trittinger	35	ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL	
DIRECTOR, RSNO CHORUS		Beth Woodford	36	David McClenaghan	58
Patrick Barrett	6	Francesca Hunt	37	Martin Murphy ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL	59
DIRECTOR, RSNO YOUTH CHORUS					
		CELLO		TRUMPET	
FIRST VIOLIN		Pei-Jee Ng PRINCIPAL	38	Christopher Hart PRINCIPAL	60
Maya Iwabuchi LEADER	7	Betsy Taylor ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL	39		
Lena Zeliszewska	8	Kennedy Leitch ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL	. 40	TROMBONE	
ASSOCIATE LEADER		Rachael Lee	41	Dávur Juul Magnussen PRINCIPAL	61
Tamás Fejes ASSISTANT LEADER	9	Sarah Digger	42	Lance Green ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL	62
Patrick Curlett ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL	10	Robert Anderson	43	Alastair Sinclair	63
Caroline Parry	11	Gunda Baranauskaitė	44	PRINCIPAL BASS TROMBONE	
Ursula Heidecker Allen	12				
Lorna Rough	13	DOUBLE BASS		TUBA	
Susannah Lowdon	14	Michael Rae ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL	45	John Whitener PRINCIPAL	64
Alan Manson	15				
Elizabeth Bamping	16	FLUTE		TIMPANI	
Liam Lynch	17	Katherine Bryan PRINCIPAL	46	Paul Philbert PRINCIPAL	65
Veronica Marziano	18	Janet Richardson	47		
		PRINCIPAL PICCOLO		PERCUSSION	
SECOND VIOLIN				Simon Lowdon PRINCIPAL	66
Jacqueline Speirs	19	OBOE		John Poulter ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL	67
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL		Adrian Wilson PRINCIPAL	48		
Marion Wilson ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL	20	Peter Dykes associate PRINCIPAL	49		
Nigel Mason	21	Henry Clay PRINCIPAL COR ANGLAIS	50		
Paul Medd	22				
Harriet Hunter	23	CLARINET			
Anne Bünemann	24	Timothy Orpen	52		
Sophie Lang	25	PRINCIPAL CLARINET			
Robin Wilson	26	Duncan Swindells	52		
Emily Nenniger	27	PRINCIPAL BASS CLARINET			

Edvard Grieg (1843–1907)

In the Hall of the Mountain King

from Peer Gynt Suite No1 Op46



FIRST PERFORMANCEKristiania (now Oslo), 24 February 1876 **DURATION** 3 minutes

A wild rumpus is kicking off all around us. It might begin slowly and quietly, but by the end, we're right in the thick of it, and it's noisy, up close and more than a little bit frightening. Because dancing and stomping around us are trolls. We're in their home deep in the Norwegian mountains, in the company of Peer Gynt, globetrotting anti-hero of Henrik Ibsen's fiveact play of 1867, for which the playwright specifically asked Edvard Grieg to supply the music for the 1876 premiere.

Wandering among Norway's peaks, naive country boy Peer has met a mysterious woman in green, who's invited him inside the trolls' underground kingdom, claiming to be the daughter of Dovregubben, monarch of that squalid realm. The king clearly takes a shine

to the young man, offering his daughter's hand in marriage – on the condition that Peer becomes a troll himself ...

In the Hall of the Mountain King is just one of the many vivid episodes in Grieg's music for Peer Gynt, alongside the exquisite Morning Mood depicting a sunrise over the Sahara (not the Norwegian fjords, as many assume) and the seductive Anitra's Dance. But it's by far the most memorable: it's so famous in its native country, in fact, that Norwegian schoolkids have naughty words to sing along to it. Even Grieg himself seemed rather shocked at what he'd unleashed, writing later to a friend: 'I came up with something for the Mountain King's hall that I literally can't bear to listen to: it reeks of cowpats, exaggerated Norwegian provincialism and trollish selfishness!'

© David Kettle

Big Noise Raploch



VIOLIN

Aleisha McKnight Billie-Rose McLaughlin **Darcie Mackay** Dominika Nowak **Dvlan McGlone Emilia Connal** Febiya Jismon Hannah McGill **Lara Perfetto** Leyana Kaczorowska **Logan Geddes** Rachel Huang Rachel Liu Sara Cazan **Shaunie Ann Fisher** Souhaila Bouhafs Lefraya

VIOLA

Eilidh Robertson
Jessica Johns
Leah McKenna
Mia McLynn
Rebecca Liu
Robyn McCaskell
Sian Allan
Taylor Innes
Tyler Mailley

CELLO

Ava Connelly Christian Mphande Hannah Blair Jessica Ziolkowska Jia Rui Chen John Thomas Leah Gregory

BASS

Christina Mphande He Feng Huang Imogen Connal Lilia Perfetto

FLUTE

Julia Terol Nicole Mphande

OBOF

Scott Galloway

CLARINET

Ositadinma Andy-Oji

BASSOON

Reece Hussar

TROMBONE

Jason Whytock Lili Peressada Shere Abdalla

TRUMPET

Renars Skesteris

PERCUSSION

Aiden Thomas Andrew Rojan Hannah Davidson Jeevan Thomas Joshua Jijo Matthew Mitchell

Anna Clyne (born 1980)

Stride



FIRST PERFORMANCE

Australian Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Richard Tognetti, Wollongong Town Hall, 12 November 2020

DURATION 12 minutes

Stride draws inspiration from Ludwig van Beethoven's Piano Sonata No8 in C Minor Op13, commonly known as the Sonata Pathétique, which is in three movements:

- I. Grave Allegro di molto e con brio
- II. Adagio cantabile
- III. Rondo: Allegro

I chose a few melodic, rhythmic and harmonic fragments from each movement (exhibited as an appendix to the score) and developed these in the three corresponding sections of *Stride*. The title is derived from the octave leaps that stride in the left hand in the first movement of *Sonata Pathétique*. I was immediately drawn to the driving energy of this bass movement and have used it as a tool to propel *Stride*.

© Anna Clyne

If you like this, why not try:

Icarus by Soviet-born, Austrian-American composer Lera Auerbach in Edinburgh (1 Dec) and Glasgow (2 Dec), alongside Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No1 and Rimsky- Korsakov's Scheherazade.



GRAMMY-nominated Anna Clyne is one of the most in-demand composers today, working with orchestras, choreographers, filmmakers and visual artists around the world. She was named the 8th most-performed contemporary composer in the world and the most performed living female British composer in 2022.

She has been commissioned and presented by, among others, the Barbican, Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, Los Angeles Philharmonic, MoMA, Philharmonie de Paris, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, San Francisco Ballet and Sydney Opera House, and her music has opened such events as the Edinburgh International Festival, The Last Night of the Proms and the New York Philharmonic's season.

Clyne often collaborates on creative projects across the music industry, including Between the Rooms, a film with choreographer Kim Brandstrup and LA Opera, as well as The Nico Project at the Manchester International Festival, a stage work about pop icon Nico's life that featured Clyne's reimagining of The Marble Index for orchestra and voices. Clyne has also reimagined tracks from Thievery Corporation's The Cosmic Game for the electronica duo with orchestra, and her music has been programmed by such artists as Björk. Other recent collaborators include such notable musicians as Jess Gillam, Jeremy Denk, Martin Fröst, Pekka Kuusisto and Yo-Yo Ma.

Clyne's works are frequently choreographed for dance, with recent projects including the world premiere of choreographer Pam Tanowitz's dance set to *Breathing Statues* for the Royal Ballet in London and performances of *DANCE* by the San Francisco Ballet with choreography by Nicolas Blanc. Her fascination with visual art has inspired several projects, including *ATLAS*, inspired by a portfolio of work by Gerhard Richter; *Color Field*, inspired by the artwork of

Mark Rothko; and *Abstractions*, inspired by five contemporary paintings. In addition, Clyne seeks innovation through new technology, developing the Augmented Orchestra with sound designer Jody Elff; the technology expands the sound world of the orchestra through computer-controlled processes, and featured in *Wild Geese* for the 2023 Cabrillo Festival.

In 2023/24 Clyne serves as Composer-in-Residence with the BBC Philharmonic and the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra as part of their Artistic Team, as well as Artist-in-Residence with the Castile and León Symphony Orchestra. Past residencies include the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre National d'Île-de-France, Philharmonia Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Trondheim Symphony Orchestra.

Clyne's music is represented on several labels and her works *Prince of Clouds* and *Night Ferry* were nominated for 2015 GRAMMY Awards. Her cello concerto *DANCE*, recorded by soloist Inbal Segev, the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Marin Alsop, has garnered more than 10 million plays on Spotify.

Clyne's music is published exclusively by Boosey & Hawkes.

Sergei Rachmaninov (1873-1943)

Piano Concerto No2

in C Minor Op18



FIRST PERFORMANCE Moscow, 9 November 1901 **DURATION** 32 minutes

- 1. Moderato
- 2. Adagio sostenuto Più animato Tempo I
- 3. Allegro scherzando

Rachmaninov was a notoriously private man who gave little away regarding his musical inspiration. Every now and then, however, he would let his guard drop and provide a tantalising glimpse into his creative world. 'A composer's music should express the country of his birth,' he once revealed, 'his love affairs, his religion, the books that have influenced him, the pictures he loves. It should be the sum total of a composer's experience.' Nowhere is this more apparent than in the deeply autobiographical pages of his Second Piano Concerto.

The true sources of Rachmaninov's emerging style lie in his early childhood. He was brought up during the 1870s on a large country estate, where the wide open spaces exerted a powerful fascination and found a natural expressive outlet in the expansive melodies of his own music. He was a sensitive child and became deeply affected by the sounds of bells which punctuated his everyday life, both domestically and in religious worship. One aural memory that haunted him in adult life was of the mesmerising chiming of massive iron bells during a funeral service in the Russian city of Novgorod. Rachmaninov discovered the ultimate musical vehicle for their powerful resonances in his choral symphony The Bells, but they haunt the pages of innumerable other scores - most notably the opening piano chords of the Second Piano Concerto, which emulate not only their relentless tolling, but also their colossal swaying motion.

Problems at home meant that the young Rachmaninov spent a considerable amount of time with his maternal grandmother, who attended to his emotional needs, including regular visits to Orthodox Church services in St Petersburg. There he would sit transfixed by the sound of ancient chants echoing around him. These timeless melodies inspired Rachmaninov throughout his career, most overtly in his

unaccompanied choral masterpiece, the All-Night Vigil. So profound is their impact on the Second Piano Concerto's melodies that at times you can almost smell the incense burning.

Perhaps the most astonishing feature of the Second Piano Concerto, however, is its lack of stylistic connection with much of Rachmaninov's music from the previous decade. It was during this period that his feelings for a married woman of Gypsy extraction named Anna Lodizhenskaya gathered in intensity, and his music showed a corresponding tendency towards Gypsy-style melodies and harmonies. Rachmaninov intended his searingly dramatic First Symphony in part as a musical tribute to Anna. The Symphony's failure, at a fiasco of a premiere conducted by a disinterested and inebriated Alexander Glazunov, therefore dealt him not just a severe musical blow but also an incalculable emotional one.

Rachmaninov's reaction to the critical derision of the Symphony was severe: for three years he suffered psychosomatic pains in his arms and legs, and he composed hardly a note. It seemed as though Rachmaninov's creative gift had deserted him until a course of experimental hypnotic treatment with pioneering Moscow physician Nikolai Dahl got him up and running again. 'You will begin to write your concerto,' Dahl intoned during their brief series of sessions together. 'You will work with great facility ... the concerto will be of excellent quality.'

As if to sooth the lacerating wounds inflicted by the First Symphony's catastrophic failure, in the Second Piano Concerto Rachmaninov abandoned the angular, short-breathed gestures of the Symphony for smooth, arch-like melodies of enraptured, soaring eloquence.

The Concerto's success was instantaneous. Its opening chords, suggestive of the slow tolling of bells, and the soulful yet dignified passage that follows, sounding like some ancient Russian

chant, proved irresistible. Not since Tchaikovsky's heyday had audiences been treated to music of such emotional charisma and urgency. Each of the three movements contains at least one unforgettable melody, which in the case of the finale is worked up into a climax of overwhelming intensity before releasing its pent-up energy in an exhilarating closing coda.

The string section is the orchestra's powerhouse in the Concerto, soaring aloft one minute, providing surging depth of tone the next, and in the magical central movement exuding a veiled quality, complementing the mood of aching nostalgia. Yet it is the piano that reigns supreme, its all-engulfing bravado often giving way to moments of exquisite simplicity and reflection. This is music in which every note truly appears to glow with a captivating incandescence.

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Rachmaninov
Piano Concerto No2
Plus Études-tableaux Op33

Soloist Boris Giltburg **Conductor** Carlos Miguel Prieto

More information rsno.org.uk/recordings

Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)

Symphony No8

in G Major Op88



FIRST PERFORMANCE Prague, 2 February 1890 **DURATION** 36 minutes

- 1. Allegro con brio
- 2. Adagio
- 3. Allegretto grazioso Molto vivace
- 4. Allegro ma non troppo

By August 1889, the month that he began work on his Eighth Symphony, Antonín Dvořák was already a well-established figure, celebrated across Europe as a successor to Beethoven and an equal of his friend Johannes Brahms - and a world away from the overlooked provincial musician whom Brahms had championed earlier in his career. Even the impetus for the Symphony's composition – Dvořák's election to the Bohemian Academy of Science, Literature and Arts - speaks of mighty accomplishment and a secure, lofty reputation. In many ways, the composer had little left to prove. And indeed, in stark contrast to the turbulent emotions and high drama of his Seventh Symphony, in his Eighth, Dvořák instead focused on music of contentment, celebrating the joys of life, his deep sense of wonder at nature, and his abiding love of Bohemian and Slavonic folk music.

He wrote the Symphony while staying at his retreat in Vysoká u Příbramě, a state-sponsored resort in rural Bohemia. His biographer Otakar Šourek explained that the location provided Dvořák 'a welcome refuge, bringing him not only peace and fresh vigour of mind, but also happy inspiration for new creative work. In communion with Nature, in the harmony of its voices and the pulsating rhythms of its life, in the beauty of its changing moods and aspects, his thoughts came more freely.'

The Symphony he created in these idyllic surroundings went down a storm at its premiere, in Prague's Rudolfinum on 2 February 1890. Its success quickly travelled, too. Dvořák wrote to a friend of its London premiere on 24 April that same year:

The concert came off wonderfully. After the first movement there was universal applause, after the second it was even louder, after the third it was so thunderous that I had to turn

round several times and thank the audience, but, after the finale, the applause was tempestuous. They all clapped so hard, it was almost unbearable.

It was also the work that Dvořák submitted as obligatory proof of his skills before receiving an honorary doctorate from the University of Cambridge in 1892 – with the result that, for many years, it was known as his 'English' Symphony, despite sounding Bohemian through and through.

But though that may give the impression of a composer resting on his laurels, Dvořák also strove to break new ground in his Eighth Symphony: he even warned his publisher that it would be 'different from the other symphonies, with individual thoughts worked out in a new way'. That 'new way' was in allowing himself greater freedom to conjure evocative atmospheres and moods, to paint overtly pictorial scenes, and to create music of immediate warmth and appeal, rather than adhering to strict academic rules. The result is a fascinating amalgam of symphony and tone poem, one that moulds Dvořák's evident joy into a compelling symphonic whole.

Those contrasts between convention and freedom are evident from the very beginning of the boisterous, outdoorsy opening movement, whose sombre, hymn-like introduction soon gives way to joyful birdsong in the flute – a theme that goes on to provide the movement's main melodic ideas. There's a distinct hint of the Orient, or even of klezmer, in the slithering clarinet duets of the song-like second movement, and the third movement is a wistful, folksy waltz. A fanfare calls us to attention at the start of the finale – though, as Czech conductor Rafael Kubelík was famous for reminding orchestras: 'In Bohemia the trumpets never

call to battle – they always call to the dance!' The ensuing music transforms an unassuming melody first heard in the cellos into a raucous village dance, and then on to something even more heroic and triumphant.

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Listen again to the RSNO

Antonín Dvořák
Symphony No8
Plus The Wood Dove

Conductor Neeme Järvi
More information
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Get a taste of this recording





Please do not listen to this recording during the live performance.

Nelson Goerner

Piano



Nelson Goerner is one of the world's greatest classical pianists. He is praised for his performances of the highest art and poetry, while at the same time possessing exhilarating and masterful conviction.

During the 2023/24 season he performs in recital at the Théâtre des Champs-Elysées and Salle Gaveau, Paris; Het Concertgebouw, Amsterdam; Wigmore Hall, London; Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad; Festival International de Piano de La Roque d'Anthéron; and Teatro della Pergola, Florence.

Goerner has performed with many of the major orchestras, including the London Philharmonic, Orchestre de Paris, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie, Philharmonia, Mariinsky and NHK Symphony, and with leading conductors such as Vladimir Ashkenazy, Sir Mark Elder, Philippe Herreweghe, Neeme Järvi, Paavo Järvi, Jonathan Nott, Fabio Luisi, Vasily Petrenko and Esa-Pekka Salonen. He has appeared at many prestigious festivals, including the Salzburg Festival, Piano aux Jacobins in Toulouse,

La Grange de Meslay, Tsinandali, Edinburgh International Festival, Festival de Verbier, Schleswig-Holstein and the BBC Proms.

In the 2023/24 season, Goerner performs with the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, Stavanger Symphony Orchestra, RSNO and Spanish National Orchestra, as well as giving a complete Rachmaninov Piano Concerto cycle at the Teatro Coliseo in Buenos Aires.

A keen chamber musician, Goerner regularly collaborates with Martha Argerich and Gary Hoffman. The 2023/24 season will see him perform with Argerich, Ning Feng, Tedi Papavrami and Valeriy Sokolov.

Goerner has a strong relationship with the Mozarteum Argentino in Buenos Aires and enjoys a long association with the Chopin Institute in Warsaw.

Goerner records predominantly for Alpha Classics. Accolades include *Gramophone's* Editor's Choice for his Brahms; Diapason d'Or of the Year for his Debussy; and Choc de Classica and Diapason d'Or for his Chopin Preludes album. He has been awarded the Gloria Artis Award, the foremost cultural distinction in Poland, and the Konex Platinum Prize from the Konex Foundation in Buenos Aires

Goerner was born in San Pedro, Argentina in 1969. After studying with Jorge Garrubba, Juan Carlos Arabian and Carmen Scalcione, he was awarded First Prize in the Franz Liszt Competition in Buenos Aires in 1986. This led to a scholarship to work with Maria Tipo at the Geneva Conservatoire, and in 1990 he won First Prize at the Geneva Competition.

Nelson Goerner lives in Switzerland with his wife and son. He is a proud and active supporter of the humanitarian organisation Ammala.

Anja Bihlmaier

Conductor



Anja Bihlmaier's musical intuition, inspiring charisma and ability to combine passion with precision have made her one of the leading conductors of her generation. She has been Chief Conductor of the Residentie Orkest in The Hague since August 2021.

In 2023/24 she debuts with the London Philharmonic, Frankfurt Radio Symphony, Hamburg Staatsorchester (including two concerts at the Elbphilharmonie), Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, RSNO, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, Bergen Philharmonic, Sydney Symphony and Melbourne Symphony orchestras, and returns to the Salzburg Camerata in her debut at the Mozartwoche. In summer 2023 she made her first BBC Proms appearance (with the BBC Philharmonic).

In a wide-ranging repertoire that includes Haydn, Mahler, Strauss, B A Zimmermann, Sibelius, Bartók, Dvořák, Shostakovich, Debussy, Britten, Galina Ustvolskaya and Unsuk Chin, Bihlmaier has recently conducted the SWR Symphony, BBC Symphony, City of Birmingham Symphony, Spanish National, Barcelona Symphony, Finnish Radio Symphony, Danish National, Swedish Radio Symphony and Royal Stockholm Philharmonic orchestras, and returns to many of these in the coming months.

A passionate opera conductor, Bihlmaier gained many years of experience through positions at the Hanover State Opera, Chemnitz Theatre and Kassel State Theatre. More recently she conducted Gounod's Faust at Trondheim Opera, Britten's A Midsummer Night's Dream at Malmö Opera and several productions at the Vienna Volksoper, including Henry Mason's acclaimed production of The Magic Flute in 2020/21. In February 2023 she conducted Wagner's Der fliegende Holländer in Tampere and in September Verdi's La traviata at the Norske Opera in Oslo.

After studying at the Freiburg Hochschule für Musik with Scott Sandmeier, Anja Bihlmaier was awarded a scholarship at the Salzburg Mozarteum and deepened her knowledge with Dennis Russell Davies and Jorge Rotter. She was subsequently accepted into the Deutsche Dirigentenforum and received a scholarship from the Brahmsgesellschaft Baden-Baden.

Royal Scottish National Orchestra



The Royal Scottish National Orchestra 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 RSNO Music Director in 2018.

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 the BBC Proms. The RSNO has made recent tours to the USA, 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. Over 200 releases are available, including Thomas Søndergård conducting Strauss (Ein Heldenleben, Der Rosenkavalier Suite) and Prokofiev

(Symphonies Nos1 and 5); two discs of African American Voices featuring the music of George Walker, William Levi Dawson, Margaret Bonds and more, conducted by Kellen Gray; 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 Engagement strategy, Music for Life, sees the Orchestra work with schools and community groups, connecting its music with the people of Scotland. Since March 2020, the RSNO has created multiple online Engagement programmes and Digital Seasons, ensuring the RSNO continues to bring world-class music to its audiences in Scotland and around the world on stage and on screen.

On Stage

FIRST VIOLIN

Maya Iwabuchi LEADER

Tamás Fejes ASSISTANT LEADER

Patrick Curlett

Caroline Parry

Liam Lynch

Veronica Marziano

Ursula Heidecker Allen Elizabeth Bamping

Lorna Rough

Susannah Lowdon

Alan Manson

Gillian Risi

Helena Rose

Eddy Betancourt

SECOND VIOLIN

Julia Noone

Jacqueline Speirs

Marion Wilson

Robin Wilson

Paul Medd

Emily Nenniger

Harriet Hunter

Nigel Mason

Anne Bünemann

Sophie Lang

Kirstin Drew

John Robinson

VIOLA

Tom Dunn

Felix Tanner

Susan Buchan Lisa Rourke

Claire Dunn

Maria Trittinger

Francesca Hunt

Beth Woodford Elaine Koene

David McCreadie

CELLO

Pei-Jee Ng

Betsy Taylor

Kennedy Leitch

Yuukie Bouterey-Ishido

Rachael Lee

Sarah Digger

Robert Anderson

Sonia Cromarty

DOUBLE BASS

Roberto Carrillo-Garcia

Michael Rae

Moray Jones

Alexandre dos Santos

Tom Berry

Ben Burnley

FLUTE

Katherine Bryan

Oliver Roberts

OBOE

Henry Clay PRINCIPAL COR ANGLAIS

Kirstie Logan

CLARINET

Timothy Orpen

Duncan Swindells
PRINCIPAL BASS CLARINET

BASSOON

Luis Eisen

ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

PRINCIPAL CONTRABASSOON

Paolo Dutto

HORN

Benji Hartnell-Booth

GUEST PRINCIPAL

Alison Murray Andrew McLean

Rachel Brady

Hayley Tonner

TRUMPET

Jack Wilson GUEST PRINCIPAL

Brian McGinley

TROMBONE

Dávur Juul Magnussen

PRINCIPAL

Lance Green Alastair Sinclair

PRINCIPAL BASS TROMBONE

TUBA

John Whitener

TIMPANI

Paul Philbert

PERCUSSION

Simon Lowdon PRINCIPAL

John Poulter





Christmas Oratorio

EDN Fri 24 Nov 2023: 7.30pm **GLW** Sat 25 Nov 2023: 7.30pm

Sir James MacMillan Conductor Rhian Lois Soprano Roderick Williams Baritone RSNO Chorus Stephen Doughty RSNO Chorus Director

In memory of John Mather.

rsno.org.uk

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dunedin-consort.org.uk/messiah









SUNDAY CLASSICS INTERNATIONAL ORCHESTRA SEASON 2023-2024



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Sistema Scotland





Sistema Scotland is the charity that delivers the Big Noise social change and music education programmes, working with over 3,500 children and families to improve lives and strengthen communities across Scotland. Its immersive and long-term Big Noise programmes use music and nurturing relationships to help children and young people fulfil their potential. At Big Noise the symphony orchestra becomes a community which supports young people to gain an invaluable range of life skills. Independent evaluation shows that Big Noise supports children to improve their learning, wellbeing and confidence, bringing communities together and paving the way for positive futures. The programmes are delivered by inspirational staff musicians who act as role models and mentors, and foster supportive, longterm relationships.

Big Noise Raploch was launched in Stirling as Sistema Scotland's first Big Noise programme in 2008 and was joined by a sister programme, Big Noise Fallin, in 2021. These programmes currently engage with more than 600 children and young people. This includes babies and toddlers in Little Noise, and nursery and primary school-aged children at its partner primary schools Our Lady's, Raploch and Castleview. The programme also works with secondary-aged pupils from Wallace and St Modan's High.

Please support Big Noise Raploch by visiting **www.makeabignoise.org.uk** or by scanning the QR code.



Big Noise Raploch is delivered by Sistema Scotland with support from a range of public partners, trusts, foundations and individuals. In addition to Big Noise Raploch & Fallin (Stirling), Sistema Scotland also runs programmes in the targeted communities of Govanhill (Glasgow), Torry (Aberdeen), Douglas (Dundee) and Wester Hailes (Edinburgh).



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.

(Hrans Spadergird

Thomas Søndergård

MUSIC DIRECTOR, RSNO

RSNO Benefactors

RSNO Benefactors are beacons of philanthropic inspiration, providing truly transformative financial support to the Orchestra that enables us to build and deliver long-term strategic plans. Benefactors share the RSNO's vision for orchestral music and work with us to drive

the organisation forward, helping us to realise our future plans and ambitions.

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

Ardgowan Charitable Trust
Geoff and Mary Ball
Stina Bruce Jones
Ian and Evelyn Crombie
Kenneth and Julia Greig
Carol Grigor and the Trustees of Dunard Fund
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We would also like to thank those generous donors who wish to remain anonymous.

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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.

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We would like to acknowledge the great support of the RSNO Chair Patron Programme by Mr Hedley G Wright. We are also grateful to those who give but who wish to remain anonymous.

LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT PATRON

Our range of Learning & Engagement work is huge. From apps for babies to our free National Schools Concert Programme; community orchestras to professional development programmes; digital care packages for care homes and our pioneering Generations projects. The RSNO aims to provide a lifetime of music. Becoming a Patron will bring you closer to the communities we serve across Scotland and provide vital support for this crucial work.

Learning and Engagement Patrons

William Brown, W.S Neil & Nicola Gordon Professor Gillian Mead, FRSE Maurice & Nicola Taylor 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





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:

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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

Our Circle members are a vital part of the RSNO family. You, our community of music-lovers, inspire and support us. To all our existing Circle members, thank you. Your unwavering support allows us to continue bringing the joy of music to all across Scotland.

When you join the RSNO Circle you gain access to exclusive benefits such as priority single ticket booking, our exclusive Inner Circle magazine, the RSNO Circle e-newsletter and invitations to special events such as Open Rehearsals. You also help us to bring music to so many people, from children attending our free schools concerts to people in care homes watching our digital care packages.

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

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Royal Scottish National Orchestra

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