RSNO SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL



Since Since

Presented by **Hugh Dennis**

Caird Hall, Dundee Wed 20 Dec 2023 7.30pm SPONSORED BY



RSNO Christmas Concert featuring The Snowman

The RSNO's magical Christmas Concert is packed full of your favourite festive melodies, singalong carols – and the enduringly enchanting film *The Snowman*. Shown on the big screen, it is narrated by special guest star Hugh Dennis and accompanied by the Orchestra, and of course features the wonderful *Walking in the Air*. The RSNO, its Chorus and Chorus Academy welcome you all to this special feast of Christmas cheer!

Neil Ferris Conductor
Hugh Dennis Presenter
Joe Thunder Soloist
RSNO Chorus Academy
Laura McFall Director, RSNO Chorus Academy
RSNO Chorus
Stephen Doughty Director, RSNO Chorus
Royal Scottish National Orchestra



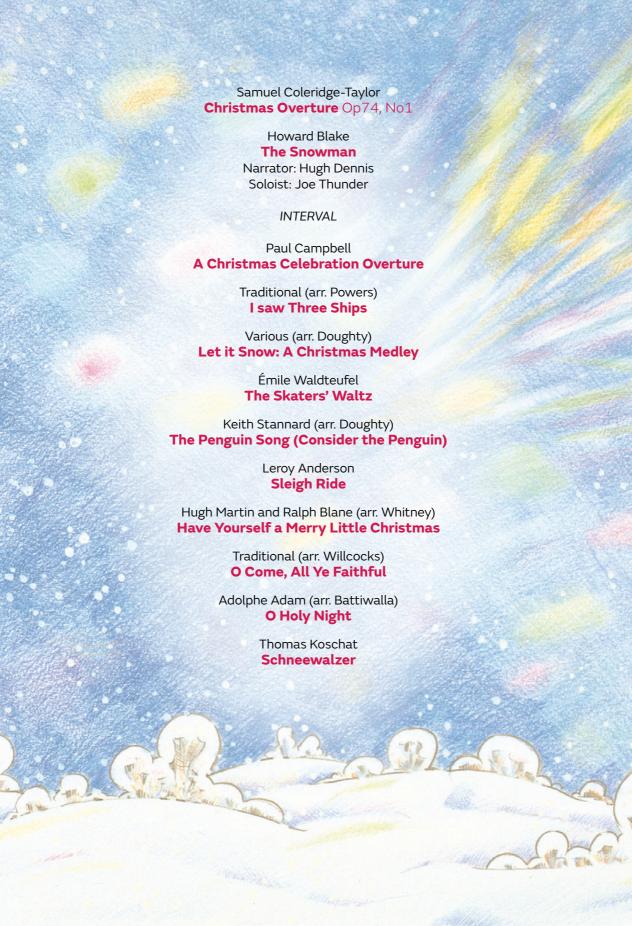
If viewing these notes at the concert, please do so considerately and not during performances. Please silence all mobile telephones and alerts, and refrain from taking photographs, without flash, until the end of each piece.







This concert is kindly supported by the Northwood Charitable Trust, R J Larg Family Trust, Leng Charitable Trust, Tay Charitable Trust and Leisure & Culture Dundee Major Music Award.



O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem: Come and behold him Born the King of Angels:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light, Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb: Very God, Begotten, not created:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above: Glory to God In the highest:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yes, Lord, we greet thee, Born that happy morning, Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!



Hugh Dennis

Presenter



Hugh Dennis is best known for being in BBC2's hit topical panel show Mock the Week and BBC1's hit sitcoms Outnumbered and Not Going Out.

Hugh began his performing career in 1985, as one half of the double act Punt and Dennis, which led to series such as Carrott Confidential for BBC1 and The Mary Whitehouse Experience, which won the Sony Award for Best Comedy before transferring from BBC Radio 1 to BBC2, where it achieved instant success and a cult following.

Hugh is a regular voice on the BBC's radio network, both writing and presenting Radio 4's award-winning comedy *The Now Show*.

Hugh's other recent TV credits include Murder They Hope (UKTV), McDonald and Dodds (ITV), Scrambled Eggs (Sky), Fleabag (BBC), Midsomer Murders (ITV) and Ballot Monkeys (Channel 4). His film credits include Higher Grounds, No Time To Die, Nativity Rocks and All Stars.

He has also had great success as a presenter for The Great British Dig and Hugh's Huge Homes on More4.

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Neil Ferris

Conductor



Neil Ferris is Chorus Director of the BBC Symphony Chorus, Artistic Director of the professional chamber choir Sonoro and Music Director of Wimbledon Choral. He made his BBC Proms conducting debut in 2019, celebrating the 90th Anniversary season of the BBC Symphony Chorus with the premiere of Jonathan Dove's specially commissioned piece We Are One Fire.

With Sonoro, Neil has appeared at the St Magnus International Festival, Wimbledon International Music Festival and at King's Place in London. In demand as a guest conductor at some of the finest choirs in the UK, Neil has worked with the London Symphony Chorus, Choir of the Age of Enlightenment, BBC Singers, National Youth Choir and National Youth Choir of Wales. In his role as a chorus director, he has prepared choirs for conductors including Marin Alsop, Sir Andrew Davis, Sir Mark Elder, Edward Gardner, Valery Gergiev, Bernard Haitink, Sakari Oramo and Sir Simon Rattle.

Orchestras Neil has conducted include the London Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia, RSNO, Welsh National Opera, Ulster Orchestra, City of London Sinfonia, London Mozart Players and Orchestra of the Swan. He made his Royal Opera House conducting debut in a production of Will Tuckett's ballet *The Wind in the Willows*.

Formerly Director of Choral Studies at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Neil is recognised as one of the country's leading teachers of choral conducting and has led masterclasses in the UK, USA, Ireland, Denmark, China and Singapore. In the UK he has been invited to lead masterclasses at the Royal College of Music, Royal Academy of Music and Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

Recordings include an album of the choral music of Jonathan Dove (Naxos), Fauré's Requiem (Convivium) and a regular programme of recordings with Sonoro on the Resonus label. Christmas with Sonoro was Christmas album of choice in BBC Music Magazine, and followed their debut album Passion and Polyphony featuring works by Sir James MacMillan and Frank Martin. Further recordings include two Choral Inspirations projects and an album of the choral music of Martin Bussey. Signum has recently released the world premiere recording of Cecilia McDowall's Da Vinci Requiem with Wimbledon Choral and City of London Sinfonia.

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

Emily Davis
GUEST LEADER
Tamás Fejes
ASSISTANT LEADER
Patrick Curlett
Veronica Marziano
Ursula Heidecker Allen
Caroline Parry
Lorna Rough
Susannah Lowdon
Liam Lynch
Elizabeth Bamping
Alan Manson
Jane Reid

SECOND VIOLIN

Marion Wilson ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL Jacqueline Speirs Anne Bünemann Harriet Hunter Sophie Lang Nigel Mason Emily Nenniger Paul Medd John Robinson Liz Reeves

VIOLA

Tom Dunn PRINCIPAL Felix Tanner Susan Buchan Claire Dunn Beth Woodford Maria Trittinger Lisa Rourke Francesca Hunt

CELLO

Betsy Taylor ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL Kennedy Leitch Rachael Lee Sarah Digger Gunda Baranuaskaitė Bill Paterson

DOUBLE BASS

Nikita Naumov GUEST PRINCIPAL Moray Jones Alexandre dos Santos Ben Burnley

FLUTE

Mark Taylor GUEST PRINCIPAL Adam Richardson Janet Richardson PRINCIPAL PICCOLO

OBOE

Adrian Wilson PRINCIPAL Peter Dykes

CLARINET

Timothy Orpen
PRINCIPAL
Duncan Swindells
PRINCIPAL BASS CLARINET

BASSOON

David Hubbard PRINCIPAL Paolo Dutto PRINCIPAL CONTRABASSOON

HORN

Lauren Reeve-Rawlings GUEST PRINCIPAL Alison Murray Andrew McLean David McClenaghan Martin Murphy

TRUMPET

Christopher Hart PRINCIPAL Ruby Orlowska Marcus Pope

TROMBONE

Dávur Juul Magnussen PRINCIPAL Lance Green Alastair Sinclair PRINCIPAL BASS TROMBONE

TUBA

John Whitener PRINCIPAL

TIMPANI

Paul Philbert PRINCIPAL

PERCUSSION

Simon Lowdon PRINCIPAL John Poulter Stuart Semple

HARP

Pippa Tunnell

PIANO/CELESTE

Lynda Cochrane

RSNO Chorus







The RSNO Chorus performs in around six different programmes in up to 20 concerts across Scotland with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra each year. The RSNO Chorus has also had great success in recording with the Orchestra. Its recordings, among others, of Prokofiev's Alexander Nevsky, conducted by Neeme Järvi, and Holst's The Planets, conducted by David Lloyd-Jones, have both attracted high critical acclaim.

In addition to its commitment to the Orchestra, the RSNO Chorus performs independently and has been invited to perform with orchestras in many parts of the world, establishing an international status and touring to Copenhagen, Hong Kong, Israel, Germany, Belfast, Australia, Trondheim and, most recently, Amsterdam and Prague. In 2018 it performed Britten's War Requiem with the RSNO at the BBC Proms.

The RSNO Chorus evolved from a choir formed in 1843 to sing the first full performance of Handel's Messiah in Scotland. Today it is one of the most successful choruses in the UK. In recent years it has performed practically every work in the standard choral repertoire, along with contemporary works by renowned composers, including John Adams, Magnus Lindberg, Howard Shore and, most recently, the critically acclaimed Scottish Premiere of Sir James MacMillan's Christmas Oratorio.

The RSNO Chorus is directed by Stephen Doughty, who was appointed to the role at the start of the 2022:23 Season.

SOPRANO 1

Alison Blair Charlotte McKechnie Katie Cochrane Seonaid Eadie

SOPRANO 2

Carol McLean
Carol Sym Sayce
Elizabeth Jack
Elspeth Waugh
Helen Hyland
Jennifer Imrie
Jenny Cheung
Kirstie Fairnie
Lizzie Reather
Lorna Robertson
Lynsey Brook
Lynsey Scott
Margaret Mills
Ruby Ginoris

ALTO 1

Angela McDonald
Anne Murphy
Anne Thies
Brenda Williamson
Catriona Eadie
Fiona Taylor
Harriet Skipworth
Janette Morrison
June Thomas
Katharine Oyler
Lauren Hadley
Linda McLauchlan
Ruth Townsend
Uta Engelbrecht

ALTO 2

Alice Bennett
Alison Bryce
Ann Firth
Carol Leddy
Denny Henderson
Elizabeth Scobie
Gillian Downie
Jane Stansfield
Sonja Crossan

TENOR 1

Alex Rankine
Alistair Thom
Andrew Clifford
David Miller
Nathan Dunsmore
Neil Simpson

TENOR 2

Calum Lowe Cosma Gottardi Graham Parsonage Kerr Noble Robert Paterson

BASS 1

Alistair Laird
David MacDonald
George Lloyd
Ian MacKay
Ian Mills
Martin Engelbrecht
Martin Waddell
Robin Watson
Stephen Penman
Toby Reed

BASS 2

Alan Maxwell Chris Morris Graeme Simpson John MacLellan Kenneth Allen Melvyn Davies Stephen Lipton Stewart McMillan Tim Reilly

RSNO CHORUS DIRECTOR

Stephen Doughty

RSNO CHORUS VOCAL COACH

Polly Beck

RSNO CHORUS REHEARSAL PIANIST

Edward Cohen



RSNO Chorus Academy



Formed in 2015, the RSNO Chorus Academy was created to enable singers to build their confidence in all aspects of singing. Under Director Laura McFall, the group explores choral techniques, singing techniques and musicianship, as well as reading a musical score. The RSNO Chorus Academy is open to all, without audition, and meets weekly at The Pyramid at Anderston, 759 Argyle Street, in Glasgow. To sign up, go to: rsno.org.uk/project/rsno-chorus-academy



SOPRANO 1

Andrea Nelson Anne Livingstone Heather Ferguson Jackie McNamara Lynn Kennedy Mary Weeple Ruth French

SOPRANO 2

Elizabeth Irvine Eva Jamieson Lynn Curran Mary-Kate Hannah Nikola March Pauline Buchanan

ALTO 1

Catriona Hunter Lindsey Sanderson Maureen Denham Rosalind Mellon

ALTO 2

Anne-Marie Simpson Biddy Ramsay Debbie Connor Donna Mackenzie Fiona Marshall Julie Morrison Marie McDougall Polly Ewart

TENOR 1

John Harvey

BASS 1

Bob Leslie Robin Ewart

BASS 2

Andrew Winter Niahmat Ullah Peter Stott

DIRECTOR

Laura McFall

REHEARSAL PIANIST

Hebba Benyaghla



Stephen Doughty

Director, RSNO Chorus



Stephen Doughty was appointed Chorus Director of the RSNO Chorus from the start of the 2022:23 Season. Prior to this appointment, during his 12-year tenure as Chorus Master of Belfast Philharmonic Choir the choir gave a number of world premieres, including James Whitbourn's The Seven Heavens and Philip Hammond's Requiem for the Lost Souls of the Titanic (performed exactly 100 years since the liner went down), and the European premieres of both Stuart Scott's Requiem Brevis, which saw the 100-strong choir separated into eight choirs spaced around the audience, and Christopher Marshall's Earthsong.

Stephen particularly enjoys working with amateur singers. He has been Musical Director of Edinburgh Bach Choir since 2017 and of the Garleton Singers since 1994. He was also

Organist and Director of Music of St John's Episcopal Church, Edinburgh for 18 years, directing the 30-voice choir through the full range of sung services, which included large-scale, orchestrally-accompanied services during the Edinburgh Festival. He plays harpsichord/organ continuo and orchestral piano with all the Scottish orchestras, as well as the Ulster Orchestra, and has given frequent organ recitals, including several on the grand Mulholland Organ in the Ulster Hall. Belfast.

Stephen has compiled a large portfolio of arrangements and orchestrations, particularly for young voices, and has received commissions from Children's Classic Concerts, the Ulster Orchestra and the RSNO. In addition, the BBC has commissioned a number of arrangements which have been performed on BBC Alba and at the Last Night of the Proms, and his pieces feature on several recordings. More information about his arrangements, including commissions, can be found at stephendoughty.co.uk

Stephen is an Examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

Laura McFall

Director, RSNO Chorus Academy



In 2019, Laura graduated from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland with a Master's in Music Performance, specialising in Vocal Performance, under the tutelage of Wilma MacDougall. During her time as a student, she was selected as a semi-finalist for the Charles Wood International Song Competition and was one of 20 singers in the UK selected as a semi-finalist for the Mozart Singing Competition in London.

Laura has worked with many of the best singing teachers and coaches in the UK and Europe, and has given recitals through the Live Music Now programme in concert halls across the UK. She is an accomplished Kodály practitioner and choral leader, and holds a Postgraduate Diploma of Education from the RCS.

As a result of her training, Laura has held teaching posts with RCS Juniors and Seniors, the National Youth Choir of Scotland and Northern Ireland, Carlisle Community Choir, Derry International Choral Festival, Queen's University Belfast and Garnock Community Campus. Most recently, she has been appointed Curriculum Leader for General Musicianship and Choral Delivery at Sistema Scotland, Musical Director of the National Youth Choir of Scotland's East Dunbartonshire Boys Choir and the RSNO's Glasgow and Dundee Chorus Academy Music Director. She has had a wonderful first term working with both Chorus Academy groups and is looking forward to the future!



Cirrus Logic is proud to support the RSNO for their 2023-24 season.

Music is ingrained in everything we do at Cirrus Logic, from our culture to our innovative technology. We are delighted to support the arts and give back to the Scottish community by backing the RSNO, a beloved cultural institution that exudes musical excellence in every performance.



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Royal Scottish National Orchestra

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