

The finest international and Scottish orchestras play Edinburgh's legendary Usher Hall this Autumn

- **The World's finest international orchestras visit Scotland's premier concert hall as part of the Sunday Classics season including the Russian State Symphony Orchestra and Vienna Tonkünstler Orchestra.**
- **Royal Scottish National Orchestra and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra continue Scotland's rich heritage of classical music talent in their new seasons.**
- **Leading soloists will also join the orchestras, including the dazzling talents of Angela Hewitt, Catriona Morison, Barry Douglas, Anne-Sophie Mutter and Vilde Frang.**
- **Tickets available at usherhall.co.uk**



(from top left clockwise – Catriona Morison, Vienna Tonkünstler Orchestra, Barry Douglas, Thomas Søndergård)

Images available to download [here](#)

The home of classical music in Scotland, the Usher Hall welcomes standout orchestras from around the globe this Autumn as well as the country's own world-renowned classical ensembles.

The venue's own **much-loved Sunday Classics season** sees some of the world's finest international orchestras and soloists come to Edinburgh's Usher Hall to take part in the concert series. The season kicks off in October, with a visit from the **Russian State Symphony Orchestra** and pianist **Barry Douglas**, whose interpretations of Russian music are renowned, to perform Shostakovich's *Piano Concerto No.2*, while the **Vienna Tonkünstler Orchestra** also pay Usher Hall a visit with the dazzling **Angela Hewitt** later in the month for Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No.5*.

The final Sunday Classics concert in 2018 is set to be a very special afternoon of music with the **War Horse: The Story in Concert – Centenary Concert**. Narrated by War Horse author **Michael Morpurgo** and performed by the **Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO)**, the concert will commemorate 100 years since the end of the First World War.

The Usher Hall will welcome several of Scotland's own leading orchestras to the stage for a series of very special concerts this Autumn. The RSNO have a busy Autumnal season at the Hall. They welcome their new Musical Director **Thomas Søndergård** in his debut season with the orchestra and he conducts Mahler *Five* and Rachmaninov *One* in October and Poulenc's *Gloria* in November. Scotland's own star mezzo **Catriona Morison** joins the orchestra for Ravel's *Shéhérazade*. Søndergård will also attract new classical music fans to the hall in his special *Guide to the Orchestra* performance on 23 November with starry young American twin pianists **Christina & Michelle Naughton** as part of Scotland's Year of Young People.

Edinburgh's own **Scottish Chamber Orchestra (SCO)** and Norwegian violinist **Vilde Frang** kick start their season with Beethoven's noble *Violin Concerto* in September, while in October, they will also present Haydn's *The Seasons* with the SCO Chorus. It will be conducted by the young Russian **Maxim Emelyanychev**, who will give a taster of things to come when he takes up his position as Principle Conductor of the orchestra next year. They will also welcome the brilliant French pianist **Bertrand Chamayou** for Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No.4* in November.

In September, the **BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra (BBCSSO)** will present George Gershwin's 1924 swinging salute to the city that never sleeps, *Rhapsody in Blue*. Later in November, the BBCSSO return to perform Debussy's *La Mer*, arguably the most poetic seascape ever painted for an orchestra and performed 100 years after the composer's death.

The Usher Hall is committed to supporting new talent, and in a partnership with Live Music Now gifts its stage to some of the most promising young classical musicians

from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in their **Emerging Artists** series. December welcomes **New Antonine Brass** - a brass quintet that will bring a seasonal twist to pieces of music from across the genres.

Monday lunchtimes see the popular series Get Organised, in which Edinburgh's City Organist Dr John Kitchen MBE performs on the Usher Hall's stunning organ built by Norman Beard of London and which dates back to 1913.

The Usher Hall, opened in 1914, is **Scotland's only 5 Star concert hall** and is well loved by performers and audiences all over the world due to its magnificent acoustics. It's the city's key venue for visiting national and international orchestras and has been the main venue for the Edinburgh International Festival since 1947, hosting legendary artists such as composers Benjamin Britten and Dmitri Shostakovich, contralto singer Kathleen Ferrier and cellist Jacqueline Du Pre to name but a few.

Listings

SEPTEMBER

BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra - Gershwin's 'Rhapsody in Blue'

3:00pm, Sunday 23 September 2018

Tickets: £30 , £25 , £20 , £15

Copland - Fanfare for the Common Man

Augusta Read Thomas – Brio

Gershwin - Rhapsody in Blue

Bernstein - Songfest

Nadine Sierra – Soprano

Kelley O'Connor - Mezzo-Soprano

Michèle Losier - Mezzo-Soprano

Paul Appleby – Tenor

Nmon Ford – Baritone

Musa Ngqungwana – Bass

Marc-André Hamelin – Piano

Thomas Dausgaard – Conductor

SCO: Beethoven Violin Concerto

7:30pm, Thursday 27 September 2018

Tickets: £35, £30, £23, £17.50 and £11.50

Nielsen - Helios Overture

Sibelius - Symphony No 3 in C, Op 52

Beethoven - Violin Concerto in D

Enrique Mazzola- Conductor

Vilde Frag– Violin

OCTOBER

RSNO Søndergård Conducts Mahler Five

7:30pm, Friday 05 October 2018

Tickets: £42, £32, £24, £19, £13

Lotta Wennäkoski - Flounce Scottish premiere
Beethoven - Piano Concerto No2
Mahler - Symphony No5
Thomas Søndergård - Conductor
Francesco Piemontesi - Piano
Royal Scottish National Orchestra

SCO: Haydn The Seasons with SCO Chorus

7:30pm, Thursday 11 October 2018
Tickets: £35, £30, £23, £17.50 and £11.50
Haydn - The Seasons (Die Jahreszeiten) Sung in German
Maxim Emelyanychev – Conductor
Lucy Crowe - Soprano
Andrew Staples – Tenor
Neal Davies - Bass Baritone
SCO Chorus
Gregory Batsleer - Chorus Director

RSNO Søndergård Conducts Rachmaninov One

7:30pm, Friday 12 October 2018
Tickets: £42, £32, £24, £19, £13
Grieg - Selected movements from Peer Gynt Suites 1 & 2
Ravel - Shéhérazade
Rachmaninov - Symphony No1
Thomas Søndergård - Conductor
Catriona Morison – Mezzo-Soprano
Royal Scottish National Orchestra

Sunday Classics: Russian State Symphony Orchestra with Barry Douglas

3:00pm, Sunday 14 October 2018
Tickets: £35, £29, £24, £18, £13.50
Tchaikovsky - Swan Lake Suite
Shostakovich - Piano Concerto No. 2
Rachmaninov - Symphony No. 2
Russian State Symphony Orchestra
Valentin Uryupin - Conductor
Barry Douglas - Piano

RSNO The Three-Cornered Hat

7:30pm, Friday 19 October 2018
Tickets: Prices £42, £32, £24, £19, £13
Gabriela Ortiz - Hominum - Suite for Orchestra Scottish premiere
Ravel - Piano Concerto in G major
de Falla - The Three-Cornered Hat (complete ballet score)
Ravel - Boléro
Carlos Miguel Prieto - Conductor
Vanessa Benelli Mosell - Piano
Ana Schwedhelm – Soprano
Royal Scottish National Orchestra

Sunday Classics: Vienna Tonkünstler Orchestra with Angela Hewitt

7:30pm, Sunday 28 October 2018
Tickets: £35, £29, £24, £18, £13.50
Bernstein - Three Dance Episodes from On the Town
Beethoven - Piano Concerto No. 5

Sibelius: -Symphony No. 5
Vienna Tonkünstler Orchestra
Yutaka Sado - Conductor
Angela Hewitt - Piano

NOVEMBER

RSNO Chan Conducts Rachmaninov

7:30pm, Friday 02 November 2018
Tickets: £42, £32, £24, £19, £13
Dukas - The Sorcerer's Apprentice
Chopin - Piano Concerto No2
Rachmaninov - Symphonic Dances
Elim Chan - Conductor
Benjamin Grosvenor – Piano
Royal Scottish National Orchestra

RSNO Søndergård Conducts Poulenc's Gloria

7:30pm, Friday 09 November 2018
Tickets: £42, £32, £24, £19, £13
Prokofiev - Symphony No1 Classical
Tchaikovsky - Piano Concerto No1
Ken Johnston - Three movements from All Those Men Who Marched Away
Poulenc - Gloria
Thomas Søndergård - Conductor
Alexander Gavrylyuk - Piano
Elin Rombo - Soprano
Glasgow Cambiata
Frikki Walker – Director, Glasgow Cambiata
RSNO Chorus
Gregory Batsleer – Chorus Director, RSNO Chorus
Royal Scottish National Orchestra

Sunday Classics: War Horse: The Story in Concert – Centenary Concert

4:00pm, Sunday 18 November 2018
Tickets: £35, £29, £24, £18, £13.50
Michael Morpurgo's emotionally-charged story narrated live by the author, with specially arranged music performed by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra

SCO: Beethoven Piano Concerto No 4

7:30pm, Thursday 22 November 2018
Tickets: £35, £30, £23, £17.50 and £11.50
Mendelssohn - Overture, The Fair Melusina
Beethoven - Piano Concerto No 4 in G
Schumann - Symphony No 4 in D minor (revised version of 1851)
Emmanuel Krivine – Conductor
Bertand Chamayou - Piano

RSNO Søndergård's Guide to the Orchestra

7:30pm, Friday 23 November 2018
Tickets: £42, £32, £24, £19, £13
Britten - The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra
Winner of RSNO Composers' Hub 17:18
New Work (RSNO Commission) World premiere

Poulenc - Concerto for Two Pianos
Gary Carpenter - Ghost Songs (RSNO Commission) World premiere
Saint-Saëns - Carnival of the Animals
Thomas Søndergård - Conductor
Christina & Michelle Naughton - Piano
RSNO Junior Chorus
Royal Scottish National Orchestra

BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra - Debussy's 'La Mer'

3:00pm, Sunday 25 November 2018
Tickets: £30, £25, £20, £15
Debussy - Nocturnes
Ravel - Piano Concerto for the Left Hand
Debussy - Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune
Debussy - La Mer
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland Voices
Joaquín Achúcarro - Piano
Thomas Dausgaard Conductor

RSNO Anne-Sophie Mutter in Concert

7:30pm, Friday 30 November 2018
Tickets: £42, £32, £24, £19, £13
Krzysztof Penderecki - Violin Concerto No2 Metamorphosen
Tchaikovsky - Symphony No5
Krzysztof Penderecki - Conductor
Anne-Sophie Mutter - Violin
Royal Scottish National Orchestra

DECEMBER

Emerging Artists: New Antonine Brass

11:00am, Monday 03 December 2018
Tickets: £3 (free for students and school groups)

RSNO Søndergård Conducts The Nutcracker

7:30pm, Friday 14 December 2018
Tickets: £42, £32, £24, £19, £13
Prokofiev - Winter Bonfire
Tchaikovsky - Variations on a Rococo Theme
Tchaikovsky - Excerpts from The Nutcracker
Thomas Søndergård - Conductor
Johannes Moser – Cello (Artist in residence)
RSNO Junior Chorus
Royal Scottish National Orchestra
/ENDS

Tickets available at:

www.usherhall.co.uk

0131 228 1155

Please note a £1.50 transaction fee applies on the overall booking when purchasing online or over the phone (non-refundable)

Concessions and offers may vary between concerts. For more information please contact the box office or check the Usher Hall website.

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USHER HALL

The Usher Hall is Scotland's only five-star concert hall hosting a range of concerts from rock, pop, classical, jazz, world and folk music. The venue has hosted concerts and events since it opened way back in 1914! A beautiful Edwardian building with a modern twist, which is well loved by performers and audiences all over the world due to its magnificent acoustics.

It is said that Andrew Usher sparked the idea of a 'concert hall for Edinburgh' whilst chatting away over the counter of his jewellers in Rose Street. His 'desire and intention' was that this Hall 'should become and remain a centre and attraction to musical artistes and performers and to the citizens of Edinburgh and others who may desire to hear good music...'

On 23 June 1896 it was formally announced that Andrew Usher had gifted £100,000 to The City of Edinburgh. The purpose of the money was to provide a City Hall, to be used for concerts, recitals, or other entertainments or performances of a musical nature, and for civic functions, or such other performances as the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Council saw fit. Above all it was to be about the music. Edinburgh was very much lacking a hall for such musical and civic purposes, as stated in the Scotsman the following day; 'The necessity for a great hall in Edinburgh under city management has been pressed upon the attention of the public for many years.' Sadly Andrew Usher died before his dream was realised.

Today

Today, **the much-praised acoustics make it one of the best concert halls in Europe with many of the world's finest musicians performing here.** The Usher Hall is the city's key venue for visiting national and international orchestras and has been the main venue for the Edinburgh International Festival since 1947, hosting legendary artists such as composers Benjamin Britten and Dmitri Shostakovich, contralto singer Kathleen Ferrier and cellist Jacqueline Du Pre to name but a few.

The venue is a centre of excellence embracing the widest range of music and events, including rock, pop, jazz, world and blues. It is Edinburgh's go-to venue for today's mid-large scale rock and pop acts, with the likes of Queens of the Stone Age, The National, Radiohead's Thom Yorke, George Ezra and Echo & the Bunnymen having performed on its stage. Usher Hall also hosts a broad spectrum of comedy, talks, school concerts, conferences, sponsorship events, ceremonies, lectures and recording sessions.