

RSNO

SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL
ORCHESTRA



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Welcome to the RSNO's Digital Season 2020:21

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Royal Scottish National Orchestra's first ever Digital Season. Over the coming months we will share ten performances which will be filmed live for you in the RSNO's studio. These ten concerts are a reimagining of our 2020:21 Season featuring many of the guest artists and music originally programmed, alongside some surprises for you to enjoy, safe in the comfort of your own home.

Beethoven once said, 'There is nothing more beautiful than distributing happiness to many people.' As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of his birth this Season, it's our belief that these concerts will bring you both joy and solace as we all continue to adapt and find our way through the Coronavirus pandemic.

Music Director Thomas Søndergård returns to Scotland for five special concerts with our musicians. He opens the Season with RSNO Leader Maya Iwabuchi in the spotlight performing Chevalier de Saint-Georges' Violin Concerto No1 alongside Beethoven's majestic *Eroica*

Symphony. We're thrilled to welcome world-renowned violinist Midori as our Artist in Residence. She joins with Thomas to perform Beethoven's Violin Concerto before returning later on in the Season for the world premiere of German composer Detlev Glanert's Second Violin Concerto under the baton of Ryan Bancroft. Principal Guest Conductor Elim Chan joins forces with clarinettist Jörg Widmann for Mozart's beautiful Clarinet Concerto and we're delighted to welcome back pianists Paul Lewis and Boris Giltburg, violinist Francesca Dego and mezzo-soprano Karen Cargill, who joins us to perform Wagner's sensuous *Wesendonck-Lieder*.

In these uncertain times, the one thing we do know is that music has the power to bring us together. Music is the universal language that speaks to us all. So, whilst we may still be socially distanced, it is my belief that we will remain emotionally connected through these unmissable online performances.

Alistair Mackie
Chief Executive



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Søndergård Conducts BEETHOVEN'S EROICA

Fri 9 Oct 2020: 7.30pm

Haydn

Symphony No82 *The Bear*

Chevalier de Saint-Georges

Violin Concerto No1

Beethoven

Symphony No3 *Eroica*

Thomas Søndergård Conductor

Maya Iwabuchi Violin

Beethoven's *Eroica* Symphony begins with a controlled explosion – and two centuries later, music is still reeling from the aftershock. This is music which was written in unprecedented times, energising and defiant – the ideal choice for our return to the stage with Music Director Thomas Søndergård. We pair it with music by two 18th century geniuses with powerful tales to tell: Haydn's spirited symphony, and a joyous concerto by Joseph Boulogne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges. Precisely the music we need, right here, right now.

**Dedicated to the
RSNO Conductors' Circle**



Midori Performs BEETHOVEN'S VIOLIN CONCERTO

Fri 23 Oct 2020: 7.30pm

Beethoven

Symphony No1

Beethoven

Violin Concerto

Thomas Søndergård Conductor

Midori Violin

When the young Ludwig van Beethoven began his first symphony, no-one knew quite what to expect. They just knew that they were hearing a dazzling young artist going for broke, with wit, style and the sort of energy that can still knock you backwards. You'll want to cool down after all that, so sit back and enjoy Beethoven's beautiful Violin Concerto performed by superstar violinist Midori with the RSNO: pure serenity, created by artists who simply love this music.

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Maya Iwabuchi
Leader

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Elim Chan
Principal Guest Conductor



Giltburg Performs BEETHOVEN

Fri 6 Nov 2020: 7.30pm

Ginastera

Variaciones concertantes

Beethoven

Piano Concerto No3

Carlos Miguel Prieto Conductor

Boris Giltburg Piano

Alberto Ginastera took his inspiration from the skies, the soil and – above all – the soul of his native Argentina. His *Variaciones concertantes* captures that vast landscape, before cutting loose in fabulous, foot-stamping dance: sheer celebration, and a thrilling showcase for our Mexican guest conductor Carlos Miguel Prieto. And then RSNO favourite Boris Giltburg makes a very welcome return in Beethoven's Third Piano Concerto. It's a dark, deeply personal masterpiece: perfect for a pianist who's been described as 'a true Romantic'.



Widmann Performs MOZART'S CLARINET CONCERTO

Fri 20 Nov 2020: 7.30pm

Jessie Montgomery

Strum

Mozart

Clarinet Concerto K622

Stravinsky

Suite from *Pulcinella*

Elim Chan Conductor

Jörg Widmann Clarinet

Everything old is new again! Stravinsky's *Pulcinella* takes baroque music, sprinkles it with satire and drops it headfirst into the Roaring Twenties. Jessie Montgomery's *Strum* puts a classical string orchestra on the streets of Manhattan's Lower East Side: the results are both poetic and inspiringly modern. Mozart's hugely popular Clarinet Concerto, meanwhile, is one of those pieces that never gets old – especially when played by clarinetist extraordinaire Jörg Widmann with the RSNO's dynamic Principal Guest Conductor Elim Chan at the helm.

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Søndergård Conducts BEETHOVEN'S PASTORAL

Fri 4 Dec 2020: 7.30pm

Penderecki

Adagio for Strings

Wagner (orch Henze)

Wesendonck-Lieder

Beethoven

Symphony No6 Pastoral

Thomas Søndergård Conductor

Karen Cargill Mezzo-soprano

Beethoven knew that nature can heal the spirit, and from cheerful opening to serene finish, there's no music more life-affirming than his lovely *Pastoral* Symphony. Hear it for the thunderstorms and shepherds, or simply enjoy the sound of Ludwig letting his hair down – either way, it'll refresh your soul in these unprecedented times. Thomas Søndergård begins with a deep, dark vision from the late Krzysztof Penderecki, and he's got another treat in store too, as international star Karen Cargill lends her extraordinary voice to Wagner's sensuous love songs.

This concert is supported by the Adam Mickiewicz Institute as part of the international cultural programme marking the centenary of Poland's regained independence. Financed by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland as part of the multi-annual NIEPODLEGŁA programme 2017-2022.



Søndergård Conducts BEETHOVEN SEVEN

Fri 18 Dec 2020: 7.30pm

Mozart

Overture to *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* K384

Mozart

Violin Concerto No5 *Turkish* K219

Beethoven

Symphony No7

Thomas Søndergård Conductor

Francesca Dego Violin

'There are and have been many princes. But there is only one Beethoven!' Ludwig van Beethoven was a visionary, a hero, an iconoclast and a superstar. But above all, he was a revolutionary – and when you hear his Seventh Symphony in full, headlong flight, you might feel like punching the air. Thomas Søndergård unleashes it in this spectacular performance. First, though, comes an operatic drama of slavery and freedom before the superb Italian violinist Francesca Dego takes the spotlight in Mozart's feistiest violin concerto.

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Paul Philbert
Principal Timpani

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Thomas Søndergård
Music Director



Midori Performs GLANERT

Fri 15 Jan 2021: 7.30pm

Errollyn Wallen

Mighty River

Detlev Glanert

Violin Concerto No2 *To the Immortal Beloved* WORLD PREMIERE

Ryan Bancroft Conductor

Midori Violin

Errollyn Wallen's *Mighty River* is dedicated to her great-great-great-great-great-grandmother, a slave. 'It is an innate human instinct to be free,' she says, 'just as it is a law of nature that the river should rush headlong to the sea.' This gripping orchestral work from one of Britain's most original living composers makes an unforgettable impact. What better piece to accompany it than a stunning new violin concerto inspired by the tragic love-story of Ludwig van Beethoven – music's great champion of freedom – and performed by acclaimed violinist Midori.



Helsing Conducts DVOŘÁK EIGHT

Fri 29 Jan 2021: 7.30pm

Richard Thompson

Suite from *The Mask in the Mirror*

WORLD PREMIERE

Dvořák

Romance for Violin

Price

Violin Concerto No2

Dvořák

Symphony No8

Anna-Maria Helsing Conductor

Stefan Jackiw Violin

Anna-Maria Helsing and the RSNO tell timeless stories from the old world and uncover unheard tales from the new. In the American Midwest, Florence Price's radiant Second Violin Concerto lay forgotten for decades, but now the voice of its pioneering composer is being heard again. Richard Thompson evokes the times and tragedy of a neglected African-American poet. And amid the hills and forests of Central Europe, Antonín Dvořák weaves quiet fairy tales and a symphony that dances for joy. Glowing colours, burning emotions and melodies that demand to be heard.





Lewis Plays **GRIEG**

Fri 12 Feb 2021: 7.30pm

Grieg

Peer Gynt Suite No1

Grieg

Piano Concerto

Grieg

Peer Gynt Suite No2

Cornelius Meister Conductor

Paul Lewis Piano

Paul Lewis has been called 'the finest British pianist for generations'. He joins forces with the RSNO and conductor Cornelius Meister for a performance of Grieg's unabashedly romantic Piano Concerto, which dances and dazzles with hints of Norwegian melodies. It's bookended by Grieg's stunning music for *Peer Gynt* – from the sunlit vistas of *Morning* to the blood-crazed trolls of *In the Hall of the Mountain King*, enjoy these stirring melodies magically brought to life by the RSNO.

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Søndergård Conducts **BEETHOVEN FIVE**

Fri 26 Feb 2021: 7.30pm

Walker

Lyric for Strings

Britten

Les Illuminations

Beethoven

Symphony No5

Thomas Søndergård Conductor

Edgaras Montvidas Tenor

With Beethoven, four notes are enough to start a revolution. 'This is how Fate knocks at the door!' he said, and everyone knows the electrifying opening of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. But if that's all you know, you're in for the musical adventure of a lifetime – a headlong ride through tragedy, tranquility and blazing triumph. Thomas Søndergård conducts, Edgaras Montvidas sings Britten's dreamlike songs, and we start with the haunting *Lyric for Strings* by George Walker: a true American original.

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Katherine Bryan
Principal Flute

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Digital Season Subscription £90

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£90

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Household Ticket £20

If you would like to watch the concert on the same screen with family or friends, please consider clubbing together to buy a household ticket, if you are able. The RSNO is a registered charity and all ticket purchases will go towards supporting our musicians, as well as community projects that we deliver year-round.

£20

Single Ticket £10

Enjoy the concert you want to watch, when you want to watch it, from the comfort of your own home.

£10

Concession Ticket £3

Our concession ticket is available for full-time students and young people under the age of 26, patrons who are unemployed and patrons with disabilities.

£3

All concerts will feature a socially distanced orchestra of around 50 musicians. Please note, due to the ongoing uncertainty of the current Coronavirus pandemic, the RSNO may have to change programmes and/or artists at short notice or delay a broadcast date. If a concert has to be cancelled in its entirety and an alternative concert is not possible, all ticket money will be refunded.



Thank You

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The RSNO is deeply grateful for the generosity of its individual supporters.
Our Conductors' Circle, Patrons and Circle members are a vital part of our annual
fundraising. We would like to thank all those who have made donations to the
RSNO Covid Appeal. The generosity of all our supporters at this time is
deeply appreciated.

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