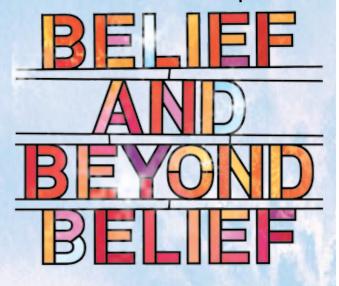
# London Philharmonic Orchestra

# **Concert programme**

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FESTIVALS FOR THE WORLD

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

# London Philharmonic Orchestra

Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor VLADIMIR JUROWSKI supported by the Tsukanov Family Foundation
Principal Guest Conductor ANDRÉS OROZCO-ESTRADA
Leader PIETER SCHOEMAN
supported by Neil Westreich
Composer in Residence MAGNUS LINDBERG
Patron HRH THE DUKE OF KENT KG
Chief Executive and Artistic Director TIMOTHY WALKER AM

#### Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall

Saturday 8 April 2017 | 7.30pm

#### **Tallis**

Spem in alium (10')

#### Mahler

Symphony No. 8 in E flat major (80')

There will be a 20-minute interval between Parts 1 and 2 of the Symphony.

Vladimir Jurowski conductor Melanie Diener soprano Anne Schwanewilms soprano Sofia Fomina soprano Sarah Connolly mezzo-soprano Patricia Bardon mezzo-soprano Torsten Kerl tenor Matthias Goerne baritone Matthew Rose bass

London Philharmonic Choir (Artistic Director: Neville Creed)
London Symphony Chorus (Chorus Director: Simon Halsey)
Choir of Clare College, Cambridge (Musical Director: Graham Ross)
Tiffin Roys' Choir (Director: James Day)

**Tiffin Boys' Choir** (Director: James Day)

Chahine Yavroyan lighting designer

Concert supported by an anonymous donor.

# Free pre-concert event

Our creative cross-arts ensemble, LPO Soundworks, takes to the stage once again, performing brand new soundtracks live alongside short films by talented young filmmakers from BFI Future Film Academy.

6.00-6.45pm | The Clore Ballroom at Royal Festival Hall

The timings shown are not precise and are given only as a guide.

CONCERT PRESENTED BY THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

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RESIDENT AT

# SOUTHBANK CENTRE

The home of classical music

# Orchestra news

#### **Welcome to Southbank Centre**

We hope you enjoy your visit. We have a Duty Manager available at all times. If you have any queries please ask any member of staff for assistance.

Eating, drinking and shopping? Southbank Centre shops and restaurants include Foyles, EAT, Giraffe, Strada, YO! Sushi, wagamama, Le Pain Quotidien, Las Iguanas, ping pong, Canteen, Caffè Vergnano 1882, Skylon, Feng Sushi and Topolski, as well as cafes, restaurants and shops inside Royal Festival Hall.

If you wish to get in touch with us following your visit please contact the Visitor Experience Team at Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX, phone 020 7960 4250, or email customer@southbankcentre.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you again soon.

Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery are closed for essential refurbishment until 2018. During this period, our resident orchestras are performing in venues including St John's Smith Square. Find out more at southbankcentre.co.uk/sjss

#### A few points to note for your comfort and enjoyment:

**PHOTOGRAPHY** is not allowed in the auditorium.

**LATECOMERS** will only be admitted to the auditorium if there is a suitable break in the performance.

**RECORDING** is not permitted in the auditorium without the prior consent of Southbank Centre. Southbank Centre reserves the right to confiscate video or sound equipment and hold it in safekeeping until the performance has ended.

**MOBILES, PAGERS AND WATCHES** should be switched off before the performance begins.

elcome to tonight's LPO concert at Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall, comprising Tallis's Spem in alium and Mahler's spectacular Symphony No. 8. Dubbed the 'Symphony of a Thousand', this epic work will see the Orchestra joined on stage by the London Philharmonic Choir, the London Symphony Chorus, the Choir of Clare College, Cambridge, Tiffin Boys'

Choir, and of course our eight magnificent soloists.

Tonight is a particularly special occasion for the London Philharmonic Choir, which this evening marks its 70th anniversary. Founded in 1947 as the chorus for the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Choir has performed countless times alongside the LPO throughout its distinguished history. We are delighted to mark the occasion with our LPC friends in such fitting style this evening, and wish them many congratulations on this remarkable milestone, as well as looking forward to many more successful collaborations in future! Turn to pages 14–15 to read about the Choir.

We hope you enjoy this evening's concert and that you can join us at the LPO again soon. Turn to page 23 to see details of our final concerts in the 2016/17 season. Our new 2017/18 season is now on sale too: browse and book online at **Ipo.org.uk**, pick up a brochure in the Royal Festival Hall foyer this evening, or call 020 7840 4200 to request a brochure by post.

#### 2017 London Marathon: Support Team LPO!

On Sunday 23 April a team from the wider LPO community will take part in the Virgin Money London Marathon in aid of the Orchestra's schools concerts, BrightSparks. All money raised will help to enable over 12,000 young people to attend one of our live schools concerts, many for the very first time. To find out more about our runners or make a donation, visit uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/LPOLondonMarathon

#### New on the LPO Label: Beethoven's 'Eroica'

Just released on the LPO Label is Beethoven's Symphony No. 3 (Eroica), paired with the *Fidelio* Overture (LPO-0096). Conducted by Vladimir Jurowski and recorded live in concert at Royal Festival Hall, the CD is priced at £9.99. Available from **Ipo.org.uk/recordings**, the LPO Ticket Office (020 7840 4242) and all good CD outlets. Download or stream online via iTunes, Spotify, Amazon and others.

# On stage tonight

#### First Violins

Pieter Schoeman\* Leader Chair supported by Neil Westreich Vesselin Gellev Sub-Leader Ilyoung Chae

Chair supported by the Candide Trust

Katalin Varnagy

Chair supported by Sonja Drexler

Catherine Craig Thomas Eisner Martin Höhmann Geoffrey Lynn Chair supported by Caroline, Jamie & Zander Sharp

Robert Pool Sarah Streatfeild Yang Zhang Tina Gruenberg Grace Lee

Rebecca Shorrock Rasa Zukauskaite Georgina Leo Caroline Frenkel

#### Second Violins

Helena Smart Guest Principal Jeongmin Kim Chair supported by Friends of the Orchestra Tania Mazzetti Kate Birchall Nancy Elan Fiona Higham Chair supported by David & Yi

Buckley Joseph Maher Marie-Anne Mairesse

Ashley Stevens Robin Wilson Sheila Law

Rebecca Dinning **Emma Wragg** Alison Strange John Dickinson

Jamie Hutchinson

#### Violas

David Quiggle Guest Principal Cyrille Mercier Co-Principal Robert Duncan Gregory Aronovich Katharine Leek Susanne Martens

Benedetto Pollani Laura Vallejo Naomi Holt Isabel Pereira Stanislav Popov **Daniel Cornford** 

Kristina Blaumane Principal

#### Cellos

Chair supported by Bianca & Stuart Roden Pei-Jee Ng Co-Principal Francis Bucknall Santiago Carvalho† Chair co-supported by Molly & David Borthwick David Lale Gregory Walmsley Susanna Riddell Tom Roff Sibylle Hentschel Jane Lindsay Philip Taylor lain Ward

#### **Double Basses**

Kevin Rundell\* Principal Sebastian Pennar George Peniston Laurence Lovelle Tom Walley Lowri Morgan Laura Murphy Jakub Cywinski

#### **Flutes**

Juliette Bausor Principal Hannah Grayson Emilia Zakrzewska Amy Yule Marta Santamaria

Stewart McIlwham\* Principal

#### Oboes

Ian Hardwick\* Principal Alice Munday Jennifer Brittlebank Henry Clay

#### Cor Anglais

Sue Böhling\* Principal Chair supported by Dr Barry Grimaldi

#### Clarinets

Anna Hasimoto Guest Principal **Emily Meredith** James Maltby

#### **E flat Clarinets**

Thomas Watmough Principal Charys Green

#### **Bass Clarinet**

Paul Richards Principal

#### Bassoons

Jonathan Davies Principal Gareth Newman **Emma Harding** Gareth Humphreys

#### Contrabassoon

Simon Estell\* Principal

#### Horns

David Pyatt\* Principal Chair supported by Sir Simon John Ryan\* Principal Chair supported by Laurence Watt Martin Hobbs Mark Vines Co-Principal Gareth Mollison Duncan Fuller Meilyr Hughes Jeffrey Bryant Jonathan Lipton

#### **Trumpets**

Paul Beniston\* Principal Anne McAneney\* Chair supported by Geoff & Meg David Hilton Tony Cross Ruth Shaddock

#### Offstage Trumpets

Christopher Deacon Paul Bosworth Darren Moore Catherine Knight

#### **Trombones**

Mark Templeton\* Principal Chair supported by William & Alex de Winton Matthew Knight

#### **Bass Trombones**

Lyndon Meredith Principal Patrick Jackman

#### Offstage Trombones

David Whitehouse **Andrew Connington** Carol Jarvis

#### Tuba

Lee Tsarmaklis\* Principal

Simon Carrington\* Principal Andrew Smith

#### Percussion

Andrew Barclay\* Principal Chair supported by Andrew Davenport Henry Baldwin\* Co-Principal Keith Millar

#### Harps

Rachel Masters Principal Lucy Haslar Tamara Young

#### Piano

Catherine Edwards

#### Celeste

Ian Tindale

#### Organ

James Sherlock

#### Harmonium

John Alley

#### Mandolins

Tom Ellis **Huw Davies** 

#### **Assistant Conductor**

Ralf Sochaczewsky

#### Surtitles

Paula Kennedy

- \* Holds a professorial appointment in London
- † Chevalier of the Brazilian Order of Rio Branco

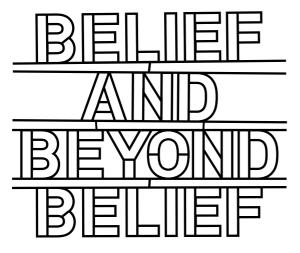


Meet our members: lpo.org.uk/players

The London Philharmonic Orchestra also acknowledges the following chair supporters whose players are not present at this concert: Drs Oliver & Asha Foster • Victoria Robey OBE • Eric Tomsett

# Belief and Beyond Belief

An overview of 2017's year-long festival, by Richard Bratby





n a glass case at Mozart's birthplace in Salzburg is a little wax doll. Its eyes look demurely downwards, it wears a crown four times the size of its head and it's clad in what looks like an embroidered ballgown. This is the Loreto-Kindl (Loreto Child): a replica of an ivory model of the infant Christ housed in

Salzburg's Loreto Church. Believed to have miraculous properties, it was (and is) an object of pilgrimage. The Mozart family revered it. When, in Paris in 1764, the eight-year old Wolfgang fell sick, his father Leopold sent money back to Salzburg for a Mass to be said at the shrine of the Child.

What are we to think of that today? When we hear the procession that opens Mozart's *Requiem* and find our emotions responding to those sighing woodwinds, are we somehow feeling and reacting to the same impulse that once prompted Mozart to kneel before a wax doll? It's a curious thing, the Loreto Child, and oddly touching. To 21st-century minds (and particularly if you're not

Roman Catholic) it seems profoundly strange. But this is what Mozart thought, what he felt: what he believed. And his music speaks to us. There's something irreducible there. As Theodor Adorno once put it, 'When I hear great music, I believe that I know that what this music said cannot be untrue.'

Which is why music has a central role — arguably the central role — in Southbank Centre's year-long 2017 festival Belief and Beyond Belief: a cross-artform investigation of the great questions surrounding our experiences of life, death, religion and spirituality, and the role of religious belief in all its forms in the 21st century. Music, after all, is capable of articulating feelings and ideas that lie beyond words. That gives it a unique scope when dealing with a subject this vast, and this intangible. Belief, says LPO Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor Vladimir Jurowski, is 'probably the most all-encompassing theme we could find.'

'We were looking for something that would concern all people in all times. And of course you can't help but come to all those basic questions of life and death: why are we here, what is the purpose of human existence?' These are questions that — while central to the world's major religions — are also of urgent importance to those who don't follow any one specific faith. 'Spirituality, obviously, is not only about organised religion and faith. It's about the intangible matters, the non-corporeal realm of human existence' says Jurowski. 'As the Dalai Lama put it recently, we can all exist without religion — but we cannot exist without spirituality.'

No question, though: Western classical music's centuries-old relationship with organised Judeo-Christian religion offers a magnificent starting point. Mozart's *Requiem* forms part of the series [performed by the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir on 25 March], as does Tallis's *Spem in alium* [8 April] and Haydn's life-affirming oratorio *The Creation* [4 February] – expressions of belief, grounded in the certainties of a pre-Darwin age. In each of these masterpieces, contemplation of the divine actually intensifies the music's humanity. Belief certainly enriches the experience of hearing these works today, but few would argue that they have nothing meaningful to say to an atheist or agnostic.

Still, as Jurowski explains, 'I didn't want us to limit ourselves to one period of time, one epoch. Working with a modern orchestra is like having a time machine at your disposal. You're free to move in time and space within the duration of one concert.' It'll be thought-provoking but also enormous fun to travel in one evening [28 January] from the divinely ordered exuberance of Jean-Féry Rebel's Les élémens (1737) to Milhaud's La Création du monde (1923) and John Adams's Harmonielehre (1985) - works that don't so much celebrate an established universal order, as grab what they can find to hand and try to throw together a new one. It's hard to feel that Also sprach Zarathustra – Richard Strauss's explicitly post-Christian orchestral romp through Nietzsche [10 February] – sees the death of God as anything but a liberation.

Wagner's Parsifal [28 April; Act III excerpts], however, can be an altogether more troubling experience, as well as a transcendent one. And then there are the works that, in the sunset years of Western civilisation's spiritual consensus, erect massive ramparts against the abyss. Gustav Mahler — a Jewish convert to Catholicism, and the first great composer to undergo analysis with Sigmund Freud — throws gigantic forces and every last ounce of creative muscle into his Eighth Symphony [8 April]. But what of Bruckner's Ninth [22 March], designed by an unshakably devout composer as a final act of homage and praise 'to my beloved God'? As his health failed, Bruckner prayed daily to be allowed time and strength to finish the Symphony. Neither was granted.

And during the 20th century, art and belief have both tended to throw open questions rather than assert answers. Confronted with atrocities such as that commemorated in Martinu's Memorial to Lidice [25 January], the silence that Charles Ives called The Unanswered Question [11 February] may be the only appropriate response. Yet even in atheist dictatorships, composers continued to seek meaning. 'Shostakovich was never a believer' says Jurowski. 'He was afraid of death. He was convinced that with the end of human existence the human spirit also ceases to exist'. Somehow, though, in his fifteenth (and final) symphony [22 February] 'he finds space in there for very loving music [...] You are exposed to someone who has a thing or two to teach us about life.' Edison Denisov's Second Symphony [also 22 February], written during its composer's terminal cancer, is even more

uncompromising. 'He finds no consolation at the end of his journey. It was obviously an act of defiance.'

In a godless world, the very act of asserting religious belief becomes a radical act. In 1966, Krzysztof Penderecki's Bach-inspired St Luke Passion [4 March] outraged Western modernists almost as much as it offended the authorities in communist Poland. The composer made its significance explicit: 'The *Passion* is the suffering and death of Christ, but it is also the suffering and death at Auschwitz, the tragic experience of mankind in the middle of the 20th century'. Penderecki is as devoutly Roman Catholic as Mozart, but the St Luke Passion is designed for all listeners. Religion helps it tell its truths; but those truths are comprehensible even without belief. It's why Jurowski has chosen to open Belief and Beyond Belief tonight not with a sacred work, but a semi-staged opera: a story of tyranny, freedom, courage and – supremely – human love: Beethoven's Fidelio.

'Fidelio celebrates what the German-Jewish philosopher Ernst Bloch called "The Principle of Hope" – one of the cornerstones of the human spiritual existence', says Jurowski. 'Hope is what makes us human, what gives life meaning; hope – when lived actively – has the power to change the world. Fidelio connects and mediates between the religious and humanist approach to life, and thus appears to me to be a perfect start for a celebration of spirituality and the human spirit.' If there's any one motto for this whole, intensely rich and complex journey into music and belief, 'Hope' would probably be it. 'We're not going to turn Southbank Centre into a place of worship', says Jurowski. 'We're not going to turn the concert hall into a temple. We just want to look at all these different pieces of music by different composers, which are all concerned with the same questions'. In other words, to do what music lets us do more intensely than any other art form – explore different ways of simply being human.

Richard Bratby writes about music for The Spectator, Gramophone and the Birmingham Post.



Watch the interview with Vladimir and browse the full festival: **lpo.org.uk/belief** 

# London Philharmonic Orchestra



# Jurowski and the LPO, keyed up to a high level of concentration, delivered [John Adams's *Harmonielehre*] with the shattering force of the Big Bang.

Richard Fairman, Financial Times, 31 January 2017

Recognised today as one of the finest orchestras on the international stage, the London Philharmonic Orchestra balances a long and distinguished history with a reputation as one of the UK's most forward-looking ensembles. As well as its performances in the concert hall, the Orchestra also records film and video game soundtracks, releases CDs on its own record label, and reaches thousands of people every year through activities for families, schools and local communities.

The Orchestra was founded by Sir Thomas Beecham in 1932. It has since been headed by many of the world's greatest conductors including Sir Adrian Boult, Bernard Haitink, Sir Georg Solti, Klaus Tennstedt and Kurt Masur. Vladimir Jurowski is currently the Orchestra's Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor, appointed in 2007. Andrés Orozco-Estrada took up the position of Principal Guest Conductor in September 2015. Magnus Lindberg is the Orchestra's current Composer in Residence.

The Orchestra is resident at Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall in London, where it gives around 40 concerts each season. Throughout 2016 the LPO joined many of the UK's other leading cultural institutions in *Shakespeare400*, celebrating the Bard's legacy 400

years since his death. In 2017 we will collaborate with Southbank Centre on *Belief and Beyond Belief*: a year-long multi-artform festival. Other 2016/17 season highlights include the return of Osmo Vänskä to conduct the Sibelius symphonies alongside major British concertos by Britten, Elgar, Walton and Vaughan Williams; Jurowski's continuation of his Mahler and Brucker symphony cycles; landmark contemporary works by Steve Reich, Philip Glass, John Adams and Gavin Bryars; and premieres of new works by Aaron Jay Kernis and the Orchestra's Composer in Residence Magnus Lindberg.

Outside London, the Orchestra has flourishing residencies in Brighton and Eastbourne, and performs regularly around the UK. Each summer the Orchestra takes up its annual residency at Glyndebourne Festival Opera in the Sussex countryside, where it has been Resident Symphony Orchestra for over 50 years. The Orchestra also tours internationally, performing to sell-out audiences worldwide. In 1956 it became the first British orchestra to appear in Soviet Russia and in 1973 made the first ever visit to China by a Western orchestra. Touring remains a large part of the Orchestra's life: last season included visits to Mexico,

Spain, Germany, the Canary Islands and Russia; and tours in 2016/17 include New York, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Spain, France, Belgium, The Netherlands and Switzerland

The London Philharmonic Orchestra has recorded the soundtracks to numerous blockbuster films, from The Lord of the Rings trilogy to Lawrence of Arabia, East is East, The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey and Thor: The Dark World. It also broadcasts regularly on television and radio, and in 2005 established its own record label. There are now over 90 releases available on CD and to download: recent additions include a disc of Stravinsky works with Vladimir Jurowski, Act 1 of Wagner's Die Walküre with Klaus Tennstedt, and Beethoven's Symphonies Nos. 1 and 4 with Kurt Masur.

In summer 2012 the London Philharmonic Orchestra performed as part of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Pageant on the River Thames, and was also chosen to record all the world's national anthems for the London 2012 Olympics. In 2013 it was the winner of the RPS Music Award for Ensemble.

The London Philharmonic Orchestra is committed to inspiring the next generation of musicians through an energetic programme of activities for young people. Highlights include the BrightSparks schools' concerts and FUNharmonics family concerts; the Young Composers Programme; and the Foyle Future Firsts orchestral training programme for outstanding young players. Its work at the forefront of digital engagement has enabled the Orchestra to reach even more people worldwide: all its recordings are available to download from iTunes and, as well as regular concert streamings and a popular podcast series, the Orchestra has a lively presence on social media.



lpo.org.uk



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# London Philharmonic Orchestra

# New on the LPO Label: Beethoven's 'Eroica'



# Beethoven

Symphony No. 3 (Eroica) Overture, Fidelio

Vladimir Jurowski conductor

£9.99 | LPO-0096

'Jurowski drew on the best of old and new playing styles, pushing the music onwards and concentrating more on texture and harmony than on fleeting details.'

The Guardian concert review, 22 January 2014

Available from **lpo.org.uk/recordings**, the LPO Ticket Office (**020 7840 4242**) and all good CD outlets

Download or stream online via iTunes, Spotify, Amazon and others





# Vladimir Jurowski

conductor



As Jurowski prepares to mark 10 years with the LPO next season, the understanding between them seems in great shape.

Martin Kettle, The Guardian, 29 January 2017

One of today's most sought-after conductors, acclaimed worldwide for his incisive musicianship and adventurous artistic commitment, Vladimir Jurowski was born in Moscow and studied at the Music Academies of Dresden and Berlin. In 1995 he made his international debut at the Wexford Festival conducting Rimsky-Korsakov's May Night, and the same year saw his debut at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, with Nabucco.

Vladimir Jurowski was appointed Principal Guest Conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra in 2003, becoming Principal Conductor in 2007. In October 2015 he was appointed the next Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Rundfunk-sinfonieorchester Berlin, a position he will take up in September 2017. Jurowski also maintains his position as Artistic Director of the State Academic Symphony Orchestra of Russia (Svetlanov Symphony Orchestra). He has previously held the positions of First Kapellmeister of the Komische Oper Berlin (1997–2001), Principal Guest Conductor of the Teatro Comunale di Bologna (2000–03), Principal Guest Conductor of the Russian National Orchestra (2005–09), and Music Director of Glyndebourne Festival Opera (2001–13).

He is a regular guest with many leading orchestras in both Europe and North America, including the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra; the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Rome; the New York Philharmonic; The Philadelphia Orchestra; The Cleveland Orchestra; the Boston, San Francisco and Chicago symphony orchestras; and the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, Leipzig Gewandhausorchester, Mahler Chamber Orchestra, Staatskapelle Dresden and Chamber Orchestra of Europe.

His opera engagements have included Rigoletto, Jenůfa, The Queen of Spades, Hansel and Gretel and Die Frau ohne Schatten at the Metropolitan Opera, New York; Parsifal and Wozzeck at Welsh National Opera; War and Peace at the Opéra National de Paris; Eugene Onegin at the Teatro alla Scala, Milan; Ruslan and Ludmila at the Bolshoi Theatre; Moses und Aron at Komische and Iolanta and Die Teufel von Loudun at Semperoper Dresden, and numerous operas at Glyndebourne including Otello, Macbeth, Falstaff, Tristan und Isolde, Don Giovanni, The Cunning Little Vixen, Peter Eötvös's Love and Other Demons, and Ariadne auf Naxos. In 2015 he returned to the Komische Oper in Berlin for a universally acclaimed new production of Moses und Aron, and made his debut at the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich with Prokofiev's The Fiery Angel.

Future highlights include his Salzburg Festival debut with *Wozzeck*, and his first return to Glyndebourne as a guest conductor, to lead the world premiere production of Brett Dean's *Hamlet*. The Glyndebourne production of Wagner's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, led by Vladimir Jurowski with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Glyndebourne Chorus, won the 2015 *BBC Music Magazine* Opera Award.



Watch a video of Vladimir discussing his highlights of the LPO 2016/17 season: **lpo.org.uk/jurowski1617** 

## Melanie Diener

soprano

# Anne Schwanewilms

soprano



Melanie Diener made her operatic debut in 1996 as Ilia in Idomeneo at Garsington Opera. In 1997 she made her debut in the same role at the Bavarian State Opera in Munich. Her international breakthrough came with the roles of Fiordiligi in Così fan tutte and Donna Elvira in Don

Giovanni in New York, London, Paris and at the Salzburg Festival. She made her debut as Vitellia in La clemenza di Tito with James Levine at New York's Metropolitan Opera, a role she still sings today.

Melanie's successful debut as Elsa in Lohengrin at the Bayreuth Festival was followed by invitations to perform the role at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, and in Munich, Dresden, Tokyo and Zurich. She has also appeared in many operas by Richard Strauss, including the roles of Daphne in Vienna; Ariadne in Garmisch-Partenkirchen; Chrysothemis in Monte Carlo, Vienna and Zurich; and Marschallin in Berlin and Hamburg.

Her wide-ranging repertoire also includes Katja Kabanova (Berlin and Vienna State Opera), Ellen Orford in Peter Grimes (Vienna State Opera), Leonore in Fidelio (Zurich and in concert in Paris and Washington), Sieglinde in *Die Walküre* (Dresden), Weber's Euryanthe in Toulouse and Warsaw, Hindemith's Mathis der Maler in Paris, Marschallin (Strasbourg and Moscow) and Ariadne (Hamburg). In 2013 she made her debut as Isolde at the Canadian Opera Company in Toronto, which was celebrated by the press as well as the audience. Her most recent engagements include Elisabeth in Tannhäuser under Gustavo Dudamel in Bogotá; Isolde in Strasbourg; Marschallin in Moscow, Helsinki and Mannheim; and the world premiere of Philippe Boesmans's Reigen at the Stuttgart Opera. Later this season she will reprise the role of Marschallin at the Bolshoi in Moscow.

As a concert performer, Melanie Diener has appeared with outstanding orchestras all over Europe and in the USA.



German soprano Anne Schwanewilms performs to great acclaim at the world's major opera houses and concert venues. Hailed as one of the foremost interpreters of music by Richard Strauss, she is renowned for her 'unfailing instinct for the finest details of phrasing and timing' (The

Guardian) and vocal 'brilliance, warmth, suppleness and technical mastery' (Osterreich). Her repertoire of operatic heroines extends beyond those of Strauss to include roles such as Elsa (Lohengrin), Elisabeth (Tannhäuser), Madame Lidoine (Dialogues des Carmélites), Marie (Wozzeck) and Desdemona (Otello), among others.

'A true sound painter' (MusicWeb International), Anne Schwanewilms is also considered one of today's finest Lieder recitalists, appearing regularly with Malcolm Martineau, Charles Spencer and Roger Vignoles, both in Europe and abroad.

Anne Schwanewilms's extensive discography includes DVD recordings of Die Frau ohne Schatten (Salzburger Festspiele 2011); Der Rosenkavalier (Sachsiche Staatskapelle Dresden 2007); Dialogues des Carmélites (Hamburgische Staatsoper 2008); an album of Strauss's Four Last Songs and opera excerpts with Markus Stenz and the Gürzenich Orchestra: numerous Lieder CDs including the recently released albums Das himmlische Leben, featuring the music of Liszt and Mahler, and Mondnacht which focusses on the music of Schumann & Wolf; a disc featuring excerpts from Wagner's Tristan und Isolde and Tannhäuser and the Wesendonck Lieder; a disc of Mahler and Schoenberg; and her most recent release, Schöne Welt, featuring songs by Schubert, Schreker and Korngold.

Engagements this season include Marschallin (Der Rosenkavalier) for the Bayersiche Staatsoper, Elisabeth (Tannhäuser) for the Deutsche Staatsoper Berlin, Eva (Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg) at the Bayreuth Festival, and recitals with Malcolm Martineau.

In 2002, Anne Schwanewilms was named Opernwelt's Singer of the Year.

# Sofia Fomina

soprano

# Sarah Connolly

mezzo-soprano



Rising star soprano
Sofia Fomina made a
sensational debut at
the Royal Opera House,
Covent Garden, in 2012
as Isabelle in Laurent
Pelly's new production
of Meyerbeer's Robert
le diable. Shortly
afterwards, she made
debuts with the

Bayerische Staatsoper and Zurich Opernhaus, and was nominated by German magazine *Opernwelt* as Newcomer of the Year, following her role debut as Gilda in *Rigoletto*.

Born in Russia, Sofia's career began at the Novosibirsk Opera Theatre. She later joined the ensemble of the State Theatre of Saarbrucken. From 2013–15 she was a member of Oper Frankfurt, where her engagements included Onoria in a new production of Gluck's Ezio, Nanetta in a new production of Verdi's Falstaff, Queen of the Night, Sophie in Werther, Blondchen in Die Entführung aus dem Serail, Zerbinetta in Ariadne auf Naxos and Musetta in La bohème.

Last season Sofia appeared to great acclaim as Blondchen and Oscar in a new production of *Un ballo in maschera* at the Bayerische Staatsoper. She also sang *Carmina Burana* in a New Year Gala Concert with the Czech Philharmonic and Jakub Hrůša, and made her City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra debut in a concert performance of *Falstaff* conducted by Edward Gardner.

Sofia last appeared with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Vladimir Jurowski in January 2017 as Marzelline in Beethoven's Fidelio. Earlier this season she performed Mahler's Symphony No. 4 with the Orchestra at Royal Festival Hall and on tour to Spain, Germany and New York. Other highlights of the 2016/17 season include her debut with the Orchestra dell' Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in a New Year's Gala performance of Die Fledermaus; a return to the Royal Opera House to sing Olympia in Tales of Hoffmann; and company debuts with the Théâtre du Capitole de Toulouse as Berthe in a new production of Meyerbeer's seldom-performed opera Le Prophète; and with Theater an der Wien as Aquillo in a concert performance of Adriano in Siria



Sarah Connolly studied piano and singing at the Royal College of Music, of which she is now a Fellow. She was made CBE in the 2010 New Year Honours List; in 2011 she was presented with the Distinguished Musician Award by the Incorporated Society of Musicians, and

she was the recipient of the Royal Philharmonic Society's 2012 Singer Award.

Highlights of the 2016/17 season include Geschwitz in *Lulu* (English National Opera) and Gertrude in the world premiere of Brett Dean's *Hamlet* at Glyndebourne Festival Opera. On the concert platform she performs Fricka in *Das Rheingold* (Boston Symphony Orchestra); Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* (Hamburg Symphoniker); and Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* (Chicago Symphony Orchestra). She appears at Wigmore Hall with Malcolm Martineau; in Madrid and Amsterdam with Julius Drake; in Schwarzenberg with Graham Johnson; and in Atlanta, San Francisco and New York with Joseph Middleton.

Sarah is especially regarded for the roles of Octavian, Komponist, Didon, Mozart's Sesto, Brangaene, Fricka and Handel's Ariodante, Serse Ruggiero and Giulio Cesare. Highlights of her operatic career include performances at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden; La Scala, Milan; the Metropolitan Opera, New York; the Bayerische Staatsoper; Paris Opera, Wiener Staatsoper, Festspielhaus Baden-Baden and the Bayreuth, Aix-en-Provence and Glyndebourne festivals.

Concert appearances include the Aldeburgh, Edinburgh, Lucerne, Salzburg, Tanglewood and Three Choirs festivals and the BBC Proms where, in 2009, she was a memorable guest soloist at the Last Night. Much in demand with the world's great orchestras, Sarah is closely associated with conductors such as Ivor Bolton, Riccardo Chailly, Sir Andrew Davis, Sir Mark Elder, Daniel Harding, Philippe Herreweghe, Vladimir Jurowski, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Sir Simon Rattle and the late Sir Colin Davis.

Twice nominated for a Grammy Award, she has recorded prolifically.

# Patricia Bardon

mezzo-soprano

## Torsten Kerl

tenor



Mezzo-soprano Patricia Bardon is the youngest ever prize-winner of the Cardiff Singer of the World Competition, and is in demand for repertoire ranging from the Baroque through to Rossini and Wagner.

Recent operatic highlights

include the title role in Handel's Agrippina at the Theater an der Wien; the title role in Porpora's Germanico in Germania at the Innsbruck Festival; Erda in the Ring Cycle at The Metropolitan Opera; La Nourrice in Dukas's Ariane et Barbe-bleu for Gran Teatre del Liceu; Azucena in *Il trovatore* at Welsh National Opera; the world premiere of Kaija Saariaho's Adriana Mater for Opéra National de Paris; the title role in Carmen for Los Angeles Opera; Maurya in Vaughan Williams's Riders to the Sea and Arsace in Handel's Partenope for English National Opera; and Principessa in Suor Angelica for Opera North. At the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Patricia has appeared in Guillaume Tell, Mefistofele, Rigoletto, Mosè in Egitto, Gloriana and The Rake's Progress (earning a 2009 Olivier Award nomination).

In concert, Patricia Bardon has performed with many of the world's leading orchestras including the New York Philharmonic, BBC Philharmonic, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Orchestra de St Cecilia, Orchestre de Paris, Academy of Ancient Music, The English Concert, Les Arts Florissants, and the Berlin Symphony, St Louis Symphony, RTÉ Symphony, Freiburg Baroque and Hallé orchestras. Her distinguished career has brought numerous opportunities to collaborate in both opera and concert with a wide range of conductors such as James Levine, Zubin Mehta, Bernard Haitink, Sir Antonio Pappano, Sir Mark Elder, Fabio Luisi, Harry Bicket, Ivor Bolton, Christoph Eschenbach, William Christie, Pinchas Zuckerman, Ingo Metzmacher, Sir Charles Mackerras and René Jacobs.

Future highlights of the current season include Mahler's Symphony No. 8 with Opera di Firenze conducted by Fabio Luisi, and Elgar's The Dream of Gerontius with English National Opera at Royal Festival Hall under the direction of Simone Young.



German singer Torsten Kerl is one of the most sought-after Heldentenors in the world. He performs at the great international opera houses and concert halls in Vienna (Staatsoper, Musikverein, Konzerthaus, Volksoper); New York (Metropolitan Opera); Milan (La Scala);

Berlin (Deutsche Oper, Komische Oper, Philharmonie, Konzerthaus); London (Covent Garden); Dresden (Semperoper); Hamburg (Oper, Musikhalle); Munich (Staatsoper); Amsterdam (De Nederlandse Opera, Concertgebouw); Brussels (Opera de Munt); Barcelona (Liceu); Paris (Théâtre du Châtelet, Bastille, Salle Pleyel); Florence (Maggio Musicale); Rome (Accademia di Santa Cecilia); Oslo (Den Norske Opera, Konzerthalle); Zurich (Tonhalle); Lucerne (Kulturzentrum); Geneva (Victoria Hall); Cologne (Oper, Philharmonie); Genoa (Teatro Carlo Felice); Marseille (Opera Municipal); Antwerp (De Vlaamse Opera); Lyon (Opera National); and Tokyo (New National Theatre).

He specialises in the German repertoire, particularly Wagner: he has appeared in the roles of Erik, Parsifal, Lohengrin, Tannhäuser, Loge, Siegmund, Tristan, Rienzi and both Siegfrieds. He has also sung the roles of Max (Der Freischütz), Paul (Korngold's Die tote Stadt), Pedro (d'Albert's Tiefland), as well as Don José (Carmen), Samson (Samson and Delilah), and the title role in Otello.

In December 2016 Torsten Kerl performed at the Teatro alla Scala, Milan, in Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 under Christoph von Dohnányi. In February 2017 he returned to the Staatsoper Hamburg as Aeneas in a revival of Berlioz's Les Troyens under Kent Nagano. Future highlights this season include Schoenberg's Gurrelieder at the Hamburg Philharmonic, also under Nagano, and Hindemith's Mathis der Maler in Bucharest under Lawrence Foster as part of the 2017 Enescu Festival. In future seasons Torsten Kerl will return to the Semperoper Dresden, La Scala and Tokyo, among others.

# **Matthias Goerne**

baritone

# **Matthew Rose**

bass



Matthias Goerne is one of the most internationally sought-after singers and a frequent guest at renowned festivals and concert halls. He has collaborated with the world's leading orchestras, conductors and pianists. Born in Weimar, he studied with Hans-Joachim Beyer

in Leipzig, and with Elisabeth Schwarzkopf and Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau.

Matthias Goerne has appeared on the world's principal opera stages including the Royal Opera House, the Opéra National de Paris and the Metropolitan Opera, New York. In the 2016/17 season he appears as Jochanaan (*Salome*) and Kurwenal (*Tristan und Isolde*) at the Vienna State Opera, and makes his debut as Wanderer in a concert version of Wagner's *Siegfried* with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra. In August 2017 he will sing the title role in Berg's *Wozzeck* at the Salzburg Festival under the baton of Vladimir Jurowski.

Further highlights of the current season include concerts with leading orchestras in the USA and Europe including the Boston, Chicago, Pittsburgh and San Francisco symphony orchestras, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Orchestre de Paris and the Berlin Philharmonic, as well as a series of song recitals with Leif Ove Andsnes, Markus Hinterhäuser and Daniil Trifonov in Dallas, Paris, Brussels, Milan, Madrid, London, Salzburg and Seoul.

Matthias Goerne's artistry has been documented on numerous recordings, many of which have received prestigious honours including four Grammy nominations, an International Classical Music Award, and most recently the Diapason d'Or Arte. Following his legendary recordings with Vladimir Ashkenazy and Alfred Brendel for Universal Music, he has recently completed recording a series of selected Schubert songs on 12 CDs for Harmonia Mundi (The Goerne/Schubert Edition) with eminent pianists. His latest recordings, of Brahms songs with Christoph Eschenbach and Mahler songs with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, have also received rave reviews.



British bass Matthew
Rose studied at the
Curtis Institute of Music
in Philadelphia before
becoming a member of the
Young Artist Programme
at the Royal Opera House,
Covent Garden.

In 2006 he made an acclaimed debut at

Glyndebourne Festival Opera as Bottom in A Midsummer Night's Dream — for which he received the John Christie Award — and he has since sung the role at La Scala, Covent Garden, Opéra National de Lyon, Houston Grand Opera and the Metropolitan Opera, New York. Recent opera engagements include Baron Ochs (Der Rosenkavalier) for the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Raimondo (Lucia di Lammermoor) for the Royal Opera House, and King Marke (Tristan und Isolde) for English National Opera. This season he sings Masetto, Leporello and Frère Laurent at the Met, Baron Ochs at Covent Garden and Bottom at the Aldeburgh Festival.

Past concert engagements include the London Philharmonic Orchestra and The Philadelphia Orchestra with Yannick Nézet-Séguin; the London Symphony Orchestra with Sir Colin Davis, Daniel Harding and Michael Tilson Thomas; the Los Angeles Philharmonic with Gustavo Dudamel; the Dresden Staatskapelle with Sir Charles Mackerras; the BBC Symphony Orchestra with Sir Andrew Davis, Jiří Bělohlávek and Marc Minkowski; the Boston Symphony Orchestra with Charles Dutoit; and the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia with Sir Antonio Pappano. This season's performances include Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with the Budapest Festival Orchestra in the USA, and Schubert's Mass with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin and Kent Nagano.

This season's recital performances include *Winterreise* at Snape Maltings, Aldeburgh and London's Wigmore Hall, and his recital debut at New York's Carnegie Hall.

Recordings include a critically acclaimed *Winterreise* with pianist Gary Matthewman, *Schwanengesang* with Malcolm Martineau (Stone Records) and *Arias for Benucci* with Arcangelo and Jonathan Cohen (Hyperion).

# Pieter Schoeman

Leader, London Philharmonic Orchestra

# **Chahine Yavroyan**

lighting designer



Pieter Schoeman was appointed Leader of the London Philharmonic Orchestra in 2008, having previously been Co-Leader since 2002.

Born in South Africa, Pieter made his solo debut aged 10 with the Cape Town Symphony Orchestra.

Five years later he won the World Youth Concerto Competition in Michigan. Aged 17, he moved to the US to further his studies in Los Angeles and Dallas. In 1991 his talent was spotted by Pinchas Zukerman who, after several consultations, recommended that he move to New York to study with Sylvia Rosenberg.

Pieter has performed worldwide as a soloist and recitalist in such famous halls as the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Moscow's Rachmaninov Hall, Capella Hall in St Petersburg, Staatsbibliothek in Berlin, Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles and Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall in London. As a chamber musician he regularly appears at London's prestigious Wigmore Hall. At the invitation of Yannick Nézet-Séguin he has been part of the 'Yannick and Friends' chamber group, performing at festivals in Dortmund and Rheingau. Pieter has performed several times as a soloist with the LPO, and his live recording of Britten's Double Concerto with Alexander Zemtsov was released on the Orchestra's own label to great critical acclaim. He has also recorded numerous violin solos for film and television, and led the LPO in its soundtrack recordings for The Lord of the Rings trilogy.

In 1995 Pieter became Co-Leader of the Orchestre Philharmonique de Nice. Since then he has appeared frequently as Guest Leader with the Barcelona, Bordeaux, Lyon, Baltimore and BBC symphony orchestras, and the Rotterdam and BBC Philharmonic orchestras. In April 2016 he was Guest Leader with the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra for Kurt Masur's memorial concert. He is a Professor of Violin at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London.

Pieter's chair in the London Philharmonic Orchestra is supported by Neil Westreich.



Chahine Yavroyan's theatre work includes Let The Right One In (National Theatre of Scotland, US tour); Amedee, What Shadows, Cold Calling: The Arctic Project, The Government Inspector, Tartuffe, Khandan, Anita And Me (Birmingham Rep); Monster Raving Loony (The Drum); Anything That Gives

Off Light, Dunsinane, Caledonia, Realism, The Wonderful World of Dissocia (National Theatre of Scotland); Bright Phoenix (Liverpool Everyman); Dancing at Lughnasa, Punk Rock (The Lyric, Belfast); Juvenalia, Tuesdays at Tescos (Assembly Rooms); Road, Unreachable, Hope, The Pass, Narrative, Get Santa, Wig Out!, Relocated (Royal Court Theatre); Hedda Gabler, King Lear, The House, Major Barbara (The Abbey, Dublin); A Soldier In Every Son, Measure for Measure, Marat/Sade, God in Ruins, Little Eagles (Royal Shakespeare Company); Uncle Vanya (Minerva, Chichester); The Lady From The Sea, The Comedy of Errors, Three Sisters (Royal Exchange, Manchester); The Vortex (The Gate, Dublin); Scorched (Old Vic Tunnels); Fuenteovejuna, Punishment Without Revenge, Dr Faustus (Madrid); Jane Eyre, Someone Who'll Watch Over Me (Perth Theatre).

His music work includes collaborations with Jocelyn Pook, Orlando Gough and Diamanda Galás, as well as John Adams's The Death of Klinghoffer with Scottish Opera and Plague Songs at the Barbican.

# London Philharmonic Choir

Patron HRH Princess Alexandra | President Sir Mark Elder | Artistic Director Neville Creed Accompanist Jonathan Beatty | Chairman Ian Frost | Choir Manager Tessa Bartley

Founded in 1947, the London Philharmonic Choir is widely regarded as one of Britain's finest choirs, consistently meeting with great critical acclaim. It has performed under leading international conductors for almost 70 years and made numerous recordings for CD, radio and television.

Enjoying a close relationship with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Choir frequently joins it for concerts in the UK and abroad. Highlights in recent years have included Mahler's Symphony No. 2 under the Orchestra's Principal Guest Conductor, Andrés Orozco-Estrada; Rachmaninoff's The Bells with Vasily Petrenko; Taneyev's St John of Damascus and Szymanowski's Stabat Mater under the Orchestra's Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor, Vladimir Jurowski; Beethoven's Missa Solemnis with the Choir's President, Sir Mark Elder; Haydn's The Creation with Sir Roger Norrington; and Mozart's Requiem under Nathalie Stutzmann. The Choir is delighted to be celebrating its 70th anniversary this evening with two epic works from such different spectrums of choral repertoire.

The Choir appears annually at the BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall, and performances have included the UK premieres of Mark-Anthony Turnage's A Relic of Memory and Goldie's Sine Tempore in the Evolution! Prom. The Choir has been engaged by the BBC for all the Doctor Who Proms and, in recent years, has given performances of works by Beethoven, Elgar, Howells, Liszt, Orff, Vaughan Williams, Verdi and Walton.

A well-travelled choir, it has visited numerous European countries and performed in Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong and Perth, Australia. The Choir has appeared twice at the Touquet International Music Masters Festival, performing Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 and Mozart's Requiem. Last season it travelled to Brussels, performing Szymanowski's Stabat Mater and Zemlinsky's Psalm 23, Op. 14.

The Choir prides itself on achieving first-class performances from its members, who are volunteers from all walks of life. For more information, including details about how to join, please visit lpc.org.uk

#### Sopranos

Annette Argent

Hilary Bandy Chris Banks Tessa Bartley **Hilary Bates** Catherine Boxall Hannah Boyce Vicki Brammall Anisoara Brinzei Laura Buntine Carole Cameron Charlotte Cantrell Ella Cape-Davenhill Olivia Carter Paula Chessell Victoria Church Alana Clark **Emily Clarke** Sally Cottam Sarah Deane-Cutler Victoria Denard Jessica Eucker Kathryn Flood Rachel Gibbon Jane Goddard Jane Hanson Catherine Harris Sally Harrison Mai Kikkawa Jenni Kilvert Elsa Korning Liz Lawrence Joy Lee Clare Lovett Martha MacBean Ros Mann Janey Maxwell Meg McClure Katie Milton Harriett Murray Mariana Nina Linda Park Rosie Philpott Marie Power Danielle Reece-Greenhalgh Rebecca Sheppard Victoria Smith Katie Stuffelbeam Susan Thomas Izzy Timms Rachel Topham Sarah van Staveren Sue Watts Jo Webster Charlotte Wielgut Rochelle Williams

#### Altos

Christine Allison Phye Bell Sally Brien Andrei Caracoti **Noel Chow** Liz Cole Andrea Easey Regina Frank Kath Gilfoy Bethea Hansonlones **Emily Hill** Charlotte Kingston Marissa Landy Andrea Lane Claire Lawrence-Smales Ethel Livermore Lisa MacDonald Laetitia Malan Ian Maxwell Caroline Morris Sophie Morrison Rachel Murray Angela Pascoe Sheila Rowland Carolyn Saunders Rima Sereikine Erica Tomlinson Susi Underwood Jenny Watson Emma Windle

#### Tenors

David Aldred Geir Andreassen Chris Beynon James Clarke Kevin Darnell Robert Geary Alan Glover Peter Goves Josh Haley Iain Handyside David Hoare Steve Hodges Patrick Hughes **Tony Masters** Jaka Skapin Tony Wren Martin Yates

#### Basses

Chris Bacon John Bandy Peter Blamire Gordon Buky-Webster Geoff Clare Bill Cumber John D Morris Phillip Dangerfield Marcus Daniels Thomas Fayle Paul Fincham Halldor Fossa Ian Frost John G Morris Chris Gadd Paul Gittens Chris Harvey Peter Haselden Nicholas Hennell-Folev Mark Hillier Stephen Hines David Hodgson Rylan Holey Yaron Hollander Martin Hudson David Kent Robert Northcott Will Parsons Johan Pieters Jonathan Riley John Salmon Ed Smith Alex Thomas Hin-Yan Wong John Wood

# The London Philharmonic Choir at 70



t's 5.30pm. I'm waiting for the lift to arrive as I leave the office. A colleague, someone I know a little, catches my eye and asks, making small talk, 'So, what are you up to tonight?' A pretty run of the mill question, right? I'm not always sure if people actually want to know the answer: maybe it's just an innocent question asked out of politeness during that awkward moment while we both wait for the lift light to come on. 'Choir practice', I reply with a smile. 'Choir – oh, how lovely, you're a singer. What kind of music do you sing?' 'Classical, big choral works', I say. 'Wow, amazing, can you read music then?' Back and forth the conversation goes until I'm finally, sheepishly, admitting that I sing with the London Philharmonic Choir at Royal Festival Hall.

I've lost track of how many times I've had that conversation, and every time I have the same odd combination of slight embarrassment and great pride. Embarrassment, because I sometimes wonder if my colleague walks away thinking I'm showing off and wishing they'd never asked. Pride, because deep down I know that singing in the London Philharmonic Choir is something worth showing off about!

The conversation often culminates in me explaining how it all works; how the members of the Choir have to pass regular auditions; that we perform as a professional chorus but individually we're not professional singers and we don't get paid; that almost all of us work 'regular jobs' during the day before making our way, sometimes from miles across and around London, to rehearsals and concerts with worldrenowned conductors and orchestras. An analogy I've used a lot is that it's like being a really good amateur golfer who gets to play with Rory McIlroy at Gleneagles every month. I don't know why I use golf as an example (I don't even like golf!) but it seems to get the point across.

So, why am I harping on about all this? Tonight we celebrate the Choir's 70th anniversary – seven decades of volunteers singing as a hobby with more than 70 different orchestras, under 200 conductors, performing works by in excess of 100 composers at more than 100 venues around the world. Not bad for a bunch of amateurs! And to mark this momentous occasion, Maestro Jurowski has challenged us with two epic pieces of choral music written more than 300 years apart. An odd pairing, as many have remarked, but what these works share is an immense contribution from singers; singers who have for decades provided their voices for free, and will continue to do so for years to come for the sheer love of the music and the continuation of the great British choral tradition.

If you are a singer and are interested in joining the Choir, please visit **lpc.org.uk** 

Tessa Bartley, Choir Manager, London Philharmonic Choir

# Choir of Clare College, Cambridge



Since the founding of a mixed voice choir in 1972, the Choir of Clare College has gained an international reputation as one of the world's leading university choirs. In addition to its primary function of leading services three times a week in the College chapel, the Choir keeps an active schedule recording, broadcasting, and performing. Under the direction of Graham Ross, Director of Music since 2010, it has been praised for its consistently 'thrilling' and 'outstanding' performances worldwide. The Choir's 2017 schedule includes tours of Switzerland and the USA. In 2017 the Choir also embarks on a Bach cantata recording and performance project to commemorate 500 years since the Reformation.

The Choir has produced an impressive discography of more than 40 recordings. Its recordings on the Harmonia Mundi label have earned a Le Choix de France Musique and a Diapason d'Or award, as well as a Gramophone Award nomination.

The Choir has toured widely and collaborated with the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, the Australian Chamber Orchestra, the Academy of Ancient Music, the European Union Baroque Orchestra and the Freiburger Barockorchester. The Choir has commissioned and premiered works by many composers.

#### **Graham Ross: Musical Director**

Graham Ross has established an exceptional reputation as a soughtafter composer and conductor of a very broad range of repertoire. As a guest conductor he has worked with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Aalborg Symfoniorkester,

Aurora Orchestra and Salomon Orchestra, making his debuts in 2016/17 with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, London Mozart Players, European Union Baroque Orchestra, Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra and BBC Singers, as well as acting as Assistant Conductor to Vladimir Jurowski. He is co-founder and Principal Conductor of The Dmitri Ensemble, and, since 2010, Fellow and Director of Music at Clare College, Cambridge, where he directs the internationally-renowned Choir.

A passionate believer in the unveiling of both unjustly neglected and newly written works, he has conducted world premieres by composers including James MacMillan, Judith Bingham, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Imogen Holst, Nico Muhly and Brett Dean. Since 2011 he has recorded exclusively for Harmonia Mundi. He studied music at Clare College, Cambridge and conducting at the Royal College of Music, London.

Sopranos Olivia Brett\*, Eleanor Carter (Music), Lydia Allain Chapman (Classics), Ruth Keogh Connelly (Education), Rachel Haworth (Choir Administrator), Holly Holt (Music), Jessica Kinney (Lay Clerk), Matilda Mills (English), Eleanor Smith (Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic), Anna Tindall (Computer Science), Sophie Woodhead\*

Henrietta Box\*, Harriet Caisley (Engineering), Catherine Clark (Earth Sciences), Rhea Gupta (Classics), Joseph Payne (Anglo-Saxon, Altos Norse, and Celtic), Emma Simmons\*, Eva Smith-Leggatt\*

Laurence Booth-Clibborn\*, Harry Castle (Music), Joshua Cleary (Music), Nils Greenhow\*, Jonathan Nicolaides (Music), **Tenors** Alexander Porteous (Natural Sciences), Jackson Riley (Natural Sciences)

Thomas Ashton (English), Gregory Barber\*, Leopold Benedict (Modern and Medieval Languages), Robin Culshaw\*, Laurence Harris\*, Toby Hession (Music), Christopher Holliday (History), Harry Hudson (Classics), Toby Matimong (Music), Nicholas Morris (Assistant Organist), Matthew Nixon (Natural Sciences), Joshua Pacey\*, Leo Popplewell\*, Christopher Preston-Bell\*

Basses

<sup>\*</sup> Choir of Clare College, Cambridge alumni

# **London Symphony Chorus**

President Sir Simon Rattle OM CBE | President Emeritus André Previn KBE | Vice President Michael Tilson Thomas | Patrons Simon Russell Beale CBE and Howard Goodall CBE

Chorus Director Simon Halsey CBE | Associate Directors Neil Ferris and Matthew Hamilton Chorus Accompanist Benjamin Frost | Concert Manager Robert Garbolinski | Chairman Owen Hanmer

The London Symphony Chorus was formed in 1966 to complement the work of the London Symphony Orchestra, and 2016 marked its 50th anniversary. The partnership between the LSC and LSO has continued to develop and was strengthened in 2012 with the appointment of Simon Halsey as joint Chorus Director of the LSC and Choral Director for the LSO. It now plays a major role in furthering the vision of the 'LSO Sing' initiative.

The LSC has also partnered many other major orchestras and has performed nationally and internationally with the Berlin and Vienna Philharmonic orchestras, and the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra. Championing the musicians of tomorrow, it has also worked with both the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain and the European Union Youth Orchestra. The Chorus has toured extensively throughout Europe and has also visited North America, Israel, Australia and South East Asia.

The Chorus has a large catalogue of recordings, which have won nine awards including five Grammys. In 2015 its recording of Sir Peter Maxwell Davies's Symphony No. 10 with the LSO and Sir Antonio Pappano won a prestigious South Bank Sky Arts award in the Classical category.

Highlights from last season include Haydn's The Seasons with Sir Simon Rattle; Elgar's The Dream of Gerontius with Sir Mark Elder; and a new opera commission by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, The Hogboon.

In the 2016/17 season the LSC continues to celebrate its 50th anniversary with performances of Verdi's Requiem with Gianandrea Noseda at the Barbican and at Lincoln Center in New York. Other highlights with the LSO include a semi-staging of Ligeti's Le Grand Macabre with Sir Simon Rattle and Peter Sellars; John Adams's El Nino conducted by the composer; Brahms's Requiem with Fabio Luisi; and Bruckner's Te Deum with Bernard Haitink.

The LSC is always interested in recruiting new members, welcoming applications from singers of all backgrounds. Interested singers are always welcome to attend rehearsals before arranging an audition. For further information, visit Isc.org.uk

Sopranos Anneke Amalie Kerry Baker Faith Baxter Louisa Blankson Glynis Buckmaster Carol Capper\* Elaine Cheng Shelagh Connolly Emma Craven Katharine Elliot Flisa Franzinetti Joanne Gueritz Maureen Hall Isobel Hammond Denise Hoilette Kuan Hon Claire Hussey\* Debbie Jones Ruth Knowles-Clark Winnie Lei Marylyn Lewin Meg Makower Rebecca McKimm Carole Radford Alison Ryan Kaye Seamer Jasmine Spencer Deborah Staunton Winnie Tse Tabitta van Nouhuys Rebecca Vassallo Ros Wade Lizzie Webb Antoinette Wood

#### Altos

Lauren Au Alice Aveson Naomi Baster Hetty Boardman-Weston Gina Broderick Jo Buchan\* Freya Burley Maggie Donnelly Diane Dwyer Linda Evans Amanda Freshwater Malcolm Taylor Joanna Gill Rachel Green Kate Harrison Laura Hulme

Elisabeth Iles Ella Jackson Kristi Jagodin Jill Jones Sarah Kay Vanessa Knapp Gilly Lawson Olivia Lawson Belinda Liao\* Anne Loveluck\* Liz McCaw Jane Muir Dorothy Nesbit Siu-Wai Ng Helen Palmer Lucy Reay Lis Smith Jane Steele Margaret Stephen Sarah Thomson Claire Trocme Kathryn Wells

#### Tenors

Jorge Aguilar

Paul Allatt\*

Robin Anderson Jack Apperley John Aveson Erik Azzopardi Paul Beecham Oliver Burrows Peter Campbell Daniel Coelho John Farrington Matt Fernando Andrew Fuller\* Simon Goldman **Euchar Gravina** Matthew Horne Anthony Madonna Matthew McCabe Ian Mok Malcolm Nightingale Davide Prezzi Chris Riley Brais Romero-Breijo Peter Sedgwick Simon Wales James Warbis Robert Ward\*

Simon Wood

#### Basses

Simon Backhouse\* Roger Blitz Chris Bourne Gavin Buchan John Buckmaster **Ialaith Carter** Steve Chevis Matthew Clarke **Edward Cottell** Ine Dodd Thomas Fea Ian Fletcher Robert Garbolinski\* Daniel Gosselin John Graham Owen Hanmer\* J-C Higgins\* Anthony Howick Alex Kidney Thomas Kohut Andy Langley George Marshall Hugh McLeod Geoff Newman Alan Rochford **Duncan Sims** Gordon Thomson Robin Thurston\* Liam Velez Jez Wareing Tyler Wert

\* LSC Council member

# Tiffin Boys' Choir

James Day director



Since its foundation in 1957, the Tiffin Boys' Choir has been one of the few state school choirs continually at the forefront of the choral music scene in Britain. The Choir has worked with all the London orchestras and performs regularly with the Royal Opera. Recent engagements have included Mahler's Symphony No. 3 (London Symphony Orchestra/Bernard Haitink, Philharmonia/Jakub Hruša, LA Philharmonic/Gustavo Dudamel); Nielsen's Springtime in Funen (BBC Symphony Orchestra/Andrew Litton) at the BBC Proms; Mahler's Symphony No. 8 (Philharmonia/Esa-Pekka Salonen); Boris Godunov (Mariinsky/Valery Gergiev); the UK premiere of Unsuk Chin's Alice in Wonderland; the soundtrack for The Hobbit at Abbey Road Studios; appearing on set in the film *Philomena*; and *Titanic Live!* with James Horner.

With altos, tenors and basses drawn entirely from within the school, the Choir gives frequent concerts in London and tours regularly, including in recent years to Australia, China, the Czech Republic, St Petersburg and Italy.

The Choir has made recordings of most of the orchestral repertoire that includes boys' choir. Notable releases have included Mahler's Symphony No. 8 (EMI/Klaus Tennstedt), which was nominated for a Grammy Award; Puccini's Il trittico, Massenet's Werther and Puccini's Tosca (EMI/Sir Antonio Pappano); Britten's Billy Budd (Chandos/Sir Richard Hickox); Mahler's Symphony No. 3 (Signum Classics/Lorin Maazel, LSO Live/Valery Gergiev, Telarc/Benjamin Zander); and Britten's War Requiem (LPO Label/Kurt Masur). Members of the Choir feature on DVD releases of Carmen, La bohème, Tosca and Hänsel und Gretel from the Royal Opera House.

The Choir's recent release of music by Britten (Ceremony of Carols, The Golden Vanity, Friday Afternoons) is available on the Herald label.

Tiffin School is a state grammar school and specialist Arts College in Kingston-upon-Thames, described by Ofsted as 'exceptional'. The majority of the 1200 boys in the school play a musical instrument, and 100 boys study Music at GCSE and A Level. The Thames Youth Orchestra and Thames Youth Choir originated at the school. Several members of the Choir have gained university choral scholarships on leaving Tiffin: there are ex-Tiffinians currently singing in the choirs of King's, St John's, Trinity, Jesus, Emmanuel and Oueens' Colleges in Cambridge; and Exeter, Magdalen, Queen's, Oriel and St Edmund Hall Colleges in Oxford.

Further performances this year include Mahler's Symphony No. 3 with the LSO under Daniel Harding, and Bernstein's Symphony No. 3 with the LSO under Marin Alsop, as well as a concert tour to Spain.

Tom Armstrong Shervin Bangsajayah Milo Morrod Daniel Blaze Alistair Brendon Nathan Bruins Joshua Dennis Aditya Deshmukh Joe Desmond Brennan Goh Robbie Hancock Nikolai Harin Robin Jiang TaiMin Li

Daniel McCarthy Joe Murphy Will Murphy Sebastian Pereira Rishon Rajkumar Pratik Ramkumar Raul Sheth Shreyan Singh Henry Studholme Sean Tan Conor Tidswell Barney Howard

Joshua Allotey Isaac Hardy Marco Hilmy Jaiveer Johal Colin Kang Raphael Matti Georgiy Lesyuk Dylan Bevan Luis Bullinger Aayush Kumar Francis Gorniak

# **Programme notes**

# **Speedread**

More than three centuries separate Thomas Tallis's Spem in alium from Mahler's Eighth Symphony, his 'Symphony of a Thousand'. Mahler's masterpiece lasts over 80 minutes; Tallis's barely more than eight. Yet both can convey a sense of religious awe, even to non-believers. Brilliantly, Tallis makes his 40 independent voices sound like a multitude standing - or floating - ecstatically before the throne of God, lost in rapt devotion. Mahler's 'Heaven' is more humanistic, a celebration of the creative power of

Eros in the human imagination, and a promise of redemption to all who strive. But the effect is equally transcendent. Both composers use vast forces with stunning skill: voices alone in Tallis; choirs, eight soloists and an immense, colour-enhanced orchestra in the Mahler. Even if the texts, whether from the Catholic liturgy or from Goethe's verse drama Faust, leave the listener unmoved, the seductive, encompassing, oceanic beauty of the music should prove harder to resist.

# Thomas **Tallis**

c.1505-85



Spem in alium (c.1570)

**London Philharmonic Choir** Choir of Clare College, Cambridge

Spem in alium nunquam habui præter in te, Deus Israël, qui irasceris et propitius eris, et omnia peccata hominum in tribulatione dimittis. Domine Deus, Creator cæli et terræ, respice humilitatem nostram.

I have never put my hope in any other but in You, God of Israel, who will be angry and yet become again gracious, and who forgives all the sins of suffering man. Lord God, Creator of Heaven and Earth, be mindful of our lowliness.

Respond for Sunday Matins, History of Judith (after Judith 8:19, 6:15)

Thomas Tallis's motet Spem in alium ('I have never put my hope in any other') is one of the glories of the English choral repertoire. As a technical achievement, its virtuosic use of 40 fully independent vocal parts is stunning, but as a listening experience it is no mere pyrotechnical display; rather something closer to the account by St John in the Biblical book of Revelation of 'a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues', all standing before the throne of God, and singing in ecstatic devotion. Its radiant beauty almost flies in the face of its own text, which ends by imploring God to 'be mindful of our lowliness'. Surely this transcends anything 'lowly'?

Frustratingly little is known about the composition and performance history of *Spem in alium*, but a letter by a law student, Thomas Wateridge, written in 1611, gives a delightful anecdote. During the reign of Elizabeth I, Wateridge tells us, a similarly complex, multi-voiced Italian motet was heard in England, which 'made

# Programme notes continued

a heavenly harmony.' A mysteriously unnamed Duke — thought to be the Duke of Norfolk — challenged the 'very skilful' Tallis to come with something comparable. The result, *Spem in alium*, 'was sung in the Long Gallery at Arundel House, which so far surpassed the other that the Duke, hearing it sung, took a chain of gold from his neck and put it about Tallis his neck and gave it him.' A few scholars have questioned this account; but reading Wateridge's words it's hard not to feel that, in the words of the old saying, if it isn't true, it ought to be.

# Gustav Mahler

1860-1911

# Symphony No. 8 in E flat major ('Symphony of a Thousand')

Part One: Veni, creator spiritus

Interval: 20 minutes

Part Two: Closing scene of Goethe's Faust, Part II

Melanie Diener soprano | Magna Peccatrix
Anne Schwanewilms soprano | Una poenitentium
Sofia Fomina soprano | Mater Gloriosa

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London Philharmonic Choir London Symphony Chorus Choir of Clare College, Cambridge Tiffin Boys' Choir

The world premiere of Mahler's colossal Eighth Symphony, in Munich in September 1910, was the greatest success of his life. Ten years earlier, his thenfuture wife, Alma, had received this blunt verdict from her father, the painter Emil Schindler: 'Mahler? Great conductor. Also composes – but it's no good.' Until 1910, many would have shared Schindler's doubts about Mahler as a composer; but with the premiere of the Eighth Symphony all that changed. Mahler's

PR man, the wily and brilliantly theatrical impresario Emil Gutmann, did a superb job. It was Gutmann who coined the eye-catching nickname 'Symphony of a Thousand', to Mahler's initial horror – though he relented somewhat when he saw how much interest Gutmann had stirred up. Munich's colossal new Music Festival Hall was sold out, twice. (Gutmann insisted on two performances.) The audiences included a dazzling array of A-list names from the musical and

literary worlds, and there were representatives of several European royal houses. The first performance, under Mahler's own direction, was, for once, well prepared, and the response was sensational, from the audience in the hall, and afterwards in the press.

In a sense, however, Mahler had done a lot of Gutmann's work for him. His First Symphony, originally named 'Titan', had proclaimed its composer as a 'Heaven-stormer' – like the hero of the Jean-Paul Richter novel from which Mahler had taken his title. Now, in the Eighth Symphony, Mahler strained beyond even the language of romantic individualism. In Part Two of the Symphony, an almost complete setting of the closing scene of Goethe's verse drama Faust. Part II, Mahler sets one of the most famous utterances in German literature: 'Wer immer strebend sich bemüht. Den können wir erlosen' – 'The man who endlessly strives, him we can redeem.' Those words could stand as the Eighth Symphony's motto.

In fact, the more you look at Mahler's Symphony No. 8, the more the nickname 'Symphony of a Thousand' looks like a cautious understatement. 'The symphony must be like the world, it must embrace everything', Mahler told Jean Sibelius when the two composers met in Helsinki in 1907, the year in which the Eighth Symphony was finished. The timing is telling. In Part One of the Symphony Mahler had painted a thrilling picture of massed humanity pleading for the descent of the Holy Spirit: the sense of scale in this music is awe-inspiring. 'O for a thousand tongues to sing, My great Redeemer's praise', sang Charles Wesley in his famous hymn. 'Only a thousand?' Mahler seems to say. 'I'll show you hundreds of thousands!' Then in Part Two Mahler again places us amid multitudes – suppliant human beings and angelic choirs – nearing the eternal throne. Meanwhile, centre-stage (though silent), the archetypal German striving hero, Faust himself, is presented to no less a person than the Queen of Heaven, the Virgin Mother of God herself. To underscore the immensity of his vision, Mahler employs immense, colour-enhanced forces: eight vocal soloists, expanded choirs, children's choir, huge orchestra, harmonium and offstage brass, as well as organ, piano, celeste, mandolins and plenty of harps.

One thing does need to be stressed here, however. Mahler had at times felt moved by Catholic devotion,

and in 1897 he had converted to Roman Catholicism, though whether there was anything more to that than political opportunism is hard to say – as a Jew, Mahler would have been unable to take up the prestigious post of conductor at the Vienna Court Opera. Understandably some have taken the Eighth Symphony as proof that there was more to Mahler's conversion than a shrewd career move. But this is to misread him entirely. 'Veni, creator spiritus', the text of the Symphony's Part One, is indeed a medieval Catholic hymn, but the inspiration Mahler was invoking (so Alma tells us), was primarily artistic. As for Part Two, Goethe was no Roman Catholic – in fact he made no secret of his distaste for Christianity in general. In Goethe's Paradise there is hardly any mention of God, or of Christ (who is never named). Goethe's central figure, bathed in celestial light, is his 'Queen of Heaven' and, as the literary members of Mahler's audience would have understood, she is really the Ewig-Weibliche, the eternal, ideal feminine. Ideal, but also erotic: she stands for the creative urge in the male mind, a creativity rooted in sexuality but at the same time rising above it – exactly as the philosopher Plato had described it, two-and-half millennia earlier, in his beautiful dialogue The Symposium. This is the real meaning of the Symphony's final words: 'Das Ewig-Weibliche zieht uns hinan', 'The eternal feminine draws us onwards' – not, as it's often translated, 'draws us upwards'. Goethe isn't talking about a Heaven above, but here, now. There can be transcendence, but in this world, not an imaginary hereafter.

That Mahler was keenly aware of Goethe's meaning and adopted it as his own is evident from this letter to Alma – to whom he dedicated the Eighth Symphony – written just before the 1910 premiere. The essence of Goethe's and Plato's teaching, he says, is that:

'all love is founded not only in the body but also in the soul, and that the two together constitute an outlet for this "eros". In the closing scene of Faust this concept is represented symbolically. The surface attraction of [Plato's] Symposium lies in the vitality of its narrative and the dramatic fire of its "story"... only at the very end does one realise what this carefully planned rise in intensity is actually leading to ... Eros as the creator of the world!'

Continues overleaf

# **Programme notes** continued

As a quick summary of Plato's Symposium that's not a bad effort, but as Mahler talks about the 'vitality of its narration and the dramatic fire of its "story", and about the 'carefully planned rise in intensity' leading to final revelation, it is clear that what he is really talking about is his own Eighth Symphony. In one fundamental element at least, Symphony No. 8 is strikingly economical. Most of its 'narrative vitality' and 'dramatic fire' is fuelled by Mahler's use of a handful of striking motifs. At the beginning, the choruses shout out the words 'Veni, veni creator spiritus!', whose melodic shape the trombones immediately distil into a six-note figure. However rich, however overflowing in detail Part One may seem, so much of the music derives from this figure.

At the beginning of Part Two, low strings pick out a theme that is to dominate this much longer section of the Symphony – its last five notes will eventually be identified with the final words 'zieht uns hinan' ('draw us onwards'). When the voices enter for the first time in Part Two, pianissimo, the motif they pick out may seem unpromising, but as Mahler's 'carefully planned rise in intensity' unfolds, this figure grows in stature, until at last it is married to the words 'das Ewig-Wiebliche' ('the eternal feminine'), the inspirer of the male creative urge. Thus we are drawn, in the overwhelming final crescendo, to the climactic image: 'Eros as the creator of the world'; and here all the Symphony's leading motifs at last combine, with the Symphony's very opening motif, the three notes first sung to the words 'Veni, ve-' now straining even higher on offstage trumpets and trombones. Mahler has truly 'embraced everything', and rounded it all off with a masterly symphonic Q.E.D.

Programme notes © Stephen Johnson

## **Recommended recordings**

Tallis: Spem in alium

Tallis Scholars | Peter Phillips (Gimmel)

Mahler: Symphony No. 8

London Philharmonic Orchestra & Choir London Symphony Chorus | Eton College Boys' Choir Klaus Tennstedt (LPO Label LPO-0052: see right)

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