THE BRIDGEWATER HALL SPRING 2024

Welcome

Welcome to a new year at The Bridgewater Hall. As we move into spring, we have another exciting calendar of events forthcoming, with something for everyone to enjoy.

We are delighted the fabulous Paloma Faith will be returning for two sold out concerts in April, as well as some iconic names from rock and pop including legendary former Yes keyboard virtuoso Rick Wakeman, singer and actress Barbara Dickson, The Pretenders and national treasure Lulu, in a very special 75th birthday celebration concert.

From our International Concert Series, we welcome Britten Sinfonia with the incredible cellist Abel Selaocoe, plus the return of Philharmonia orchestra and the debut of one of China's finest ensembles the Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra. We also have plenty of performances from our very own resident orchestras, the Hallé and BBC Philharmonic throughout this period.

Throw in a little bit of Cotswolds finest Kaleb Cooper, Ireland's favourite voice Nathan Carter, an evening with TV and stage personality Mr. Rob Brydon, and classic funk from Average White Band, and it's shaping up to be a barnstorming start to 2024!

We look forward to welcoming you to The Bridgewater Hall for another year of world class entertainment.

Andrew Bolt Chief Executive Officer The Bridgewater Hall

FOCUS - The Hallé in February

From New York to Verona and Spain, the Hallé's upcoming concerts at The Bridgewater Hall take in everything from classic jazz to radical minimalism – via the greatest love story ever told.

The Hallé begins February with a survey of music by Steve Reich, one of the most original and influential composers of the last 70+ years – in a series of three concerts directed by one of his greatest champions, virtuoso Scottish percussionist Colin Currie.

"When I first heard Colin Currie do Drumming, my jaw dropped," says Reich. "I thought, 'This is wonderful' – and also, 'I wanna kill these guys! You're better than we are!" Reich and Currie have since struck up a close working relationship, capped by Currie's hugely acclaimed recording of Reich's landmark Music for 18 Musicians – and making Currie the perfect choice as conductor for this unmissable Hallé Presents series.

It opens on Thursday 1 February with a concert centred on one of Reich's relatively few works for full orchestra. The Desert Music is a radiant five-part setting of poetry by William Carlos Williams, rooted in what Reich sees as the tension "between what words mean and how they sound when set to music". Before it, we've two very different works from opposite ends of Reich's career: Music for Pieces of Wood, born from the composer's desire to "make music with the simplest possible instruments"; and Music for Ensemble & Orchestra, a magnificent Technicolor tribute to the Baroque era that premiered a month after Reich's 82nd birthday.

Two nights later, on Saturday 3 February, Currie and the Hallé welcome a very special guest to The Bridgewater Hall. Jonny Greenwood of Radiohead will serve as both soloist and orchestra in Electric Counterpoint, written for a dozen electric and bass guitars – all pre-recorded by Greenwood, who then plays the final part live over the top. One of Reich's best-loved works, it's the heart of a programme that ranges across nearly 50 years of the composer's inimitable sound: from the fiendish, irresistible Clapping Music (1972), in which a simple clapped rhythm moves in and out of phase, to Reich/Richter (2019), which takes inspiration from Gerhard Richter's shimmeringly beautiful paintings.

There's more Radiohead at the series' third concert, taking place on Friday 2 February at Hallé St Peter's as part of the Hallé's lunchtime Chamber Series. Radio Rewrite is Reich's unexpected reworking of two Radiohead songs, Jigsaw Falling Into Place and Everything in Its Right Place – and it's presented alongside two earlier works, including Music for Mallet Instruments, Voices and Organ, with Currie once more at the helm. Don't miss this deep dive into the music of perhaps our most important living composer.

It's hard not to get the blues in February, one of the greyest months of the year – so why not get the Blues instead? The Hallé are bringing a swing to The Bridgewater Hall on Thursday 8 February for a fabulous concert celebrating two distinct but related shades of blue.

The first half spotlights a piece that celebrates its centenary in February 2024. George Gershwin's flamboyant Rhapsody in Blue was rapturously received at its New York premiere on 12 February 1924, the highlight of a concert bearing the unpromising title of "An Experiment in Modern Music". And in the last 100 years, it's come to define the decadent essence of the Jazz Age. Gershwin himself was the pianist at the premiere – and for this centenary celebration, the Hallé is joined by the outstanding James Pearson, pianist and Artistic Director at London's legendary Ronnie Scott's.

The second half moves the jazz dial forward 35 years to the bestknown and best-selling jazz record of all time – and, perhaps, the best. Recorded across just two springtime sessions in 1959 (less than a mile from Manhattan's Aeolian Hall, where Rhapsody in Blue had premiered), Miles Davis's Kind of Blue is the focus for the second half of this concert – but this is a blue of a very different kind.

Guy Barker's Symphonic Kind of Blue turns Davis's album on its head, expanding Davis's indelible sextet recordings into an arrangement for big band and orchestra. Barker, a great British trumpeter and arranger who's played and scored for everyone from Quincy Jones to Paloma Faith, knows this music inside out – and he'll be on hand tonight to conduct his orchestrated expansion of the full album. Miles Davis was no stranger to orchestrated jazz thanks to his longstanding collaboration with arranger Gil Evans – and there's a connection here with another upcoming Hallé concert. Sketches of Spain, one of the pair's greatest achievements, was centred on a jazz-inflected version of the adagio from Rodrigo's Concierto de Aranjuez – but you can hear the original at the Hallé's next Rush Hour early-evening concert. España offers five delicious musical tapas conducted by Delyana Lazarova, including Chabrier's titular rhapsody, a suite of music from Bizet's Carmen and Ravel's indelible Boléro. The flight leaves on Thursday 7 March at 6pm – don't be late...

Last but not least, there's more very welcome springtime sunshine a week or so earlier, when the Hallé takes us to Verona, Italy to tell The Musical Story of Romeo and Juliet. Presenter Tom Redmond joins the Hallé and conductor Maxime Pascal at 12pm on Sunday 25 February for a family-friendly retelling of the greatest love story ever told, illustrated with music from Prokofiev's famous Romeo and Juliet ballet.

Tickets are available for all concerts from our website.

Written by Will Fulford-Jones

FEBRUARY

The Hallé The Desert Music Colin Currie conductor Members of the RNCM Chamber Choir Thursday 1 February 7.30pm

Steve Reich Music for Pieces of Wood; Music for Ensemble and Orchestra; The Desert Music

Colin Currie, described by The Spectator as 'The world's finest and most daring percussionist', and Hallé percussionists begin this exciting mini-fest of Steve Reich's music with his celebrated Music for Pieces of Wood. Here Reich aimed to make music with the simplest possible instruments – just five pairs of pitched claves. His Music for Ensemble and Orchestra was envisaged as an 'extension of the Baroque Concerto where there are 20 soloists – all regular members of the orchestra.' The San Francisco Chronicle declared it 'a stunning masterpiece'. For Reich's major choral and orchestral work The Desert Music, members of the RNCM Chamber Choir also take to the stage. Setting words by William Carlos Williams, the work addresses, the composer comments, 'That constant flickering of attention between what words mean and how they sound.'

Tickets £23 to £33

Discounts: OAPs, disabled, under 30s, students, claimants & groups £13 on the day tickets

Tickets for Our Pass holders

The Hallé – Electric Counterpoint with Jonny Greenwood Colin Currie conductor Jonny Greenwood guitar Saturday 3 February 7.30pm

Steve Reich Clapping Music; Runner; Reich/Richter; The Four Sections; Electric Counterpoint

Joining the Hallé, globally-famed Radiohead guitarist and composer, Jonny Greenwood, emulates his Glastonbury performance of Reich's Electric Counterpoint. Reich's iconic Clapping Music, its instrument just human hands, starts this not-to-be-missed event. Runner formed a double premiere at Covent Garden in 2016, when the Royal Ballet danced Wayne McGregor's Multiverse to the score which the New York Times described as 'a calmly luminous orchestral piece.' The Four Sections refers both to the four orchestral families and its four varied movements, Reich creating a contrapuntal web filled with melodic patterns. The recent Reich/ Richter was conceived as a concert work, as well as music for the film Moving Picture (946-3) by visual artist, Gerhard Richter. Reich found his inspiration in the pulsating, colour shifting, glowing stripes of the film's opening sequence.

Tickets £23 to £33 Discounts: OAPs, disabled, under 30s, students, claimants & groups £13 on the day tickets Tickets for Our Pass holders

Wet Wet Wet & Go West The Best of Both Worlds Sunday 4 February 7.30pm

Two of the most iconic bands of their era, Wet Wet Wet and Go West, unite for the first time for a co-headline tour! The Best of Both Worlds will see both bands performing a selection of seminal songs from their combined treasure trove of hits, having entertained fans for the past four decades.

Tickets £37 to £59 | VIP £129

Manchester Mid-day Concerts Society RNCM Opera Gala Monday 5 February 1.10pm

Showcasing five exceptional postgraduate students from the Royal Northern College of Music, expect a fun and varied concert full of favourites, comprising arias and ensemble pieces from the operatic repertoire. Sponsored by The Orchard Trust

Tickets £13 | Concessions £11.50 | Students £8

The Hallé Kind of Blue: 100 Years of Rhapsody in Blue Stephen Bell conductor Guy Barker conductor James Pearson piano Thursday 8 February 7.30pm

Gershwin Strike Up the Band Gershwin Lullaby for string orchestra Gershwin Rhapsody in Blue - 100th anniversary Davis Symphonic Kind of Blue (orchestrated and arranged by Guy Barker)

Miles Davis made many stand-out records in his long career but Kind of Blue from 1959 is arguably his finest; a masterly blend of small band composition and jazz improvisation of the very highest order. Guy Barker's fascination with Miles's music offers a very personal insight into the emotional depth of the original recording. Guy, an artist with a rare command of large- scale instrumental resources, has combined orchestral sweep with swing and a string of fine soloists to re-created an unparalleled arrangement for orchestra and big band. Guy Barker's career has encompassed work with artists such as Paloma Faith, Quincy Jones, Frank Sinatra, Mel Tormé, Sting, Alison Balsom, Anthony Minghella and countless others. He has carved out a niche as one of the most inventive and respected jazz composer/arrangers on the planet.

Pre-concert performance at 6.30pm

Concert sponsored by Towergate Insurance

Tickets £18 to £47

Discounts: OAPs, disabled, under 30s, students, claimants & groups £13 on the day tickets

Tickets for Our Pass holders

The Magic of Motown Friday 9 February 7.30pm

Celebrate the sound of a generation as The Magic of Motown returns, a live band performing the enduring classics that now define the era, including iconic hits from the likes of Marvin Gaye, Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder, The Supremes, The Four Tops and many more.

Tickets £33.50 to £41

BBC Philharmonic Cathedral in Sound John Storgårds conductor Elizabeth Atherton soprano Saturday 10 February 7.30pm

Beethoven Egmont – Overture Saariaho Leino Songs Bruckner Symphony No.3 in D minor

First, a call to arms. Composed during the Napoleonic Wars, revolution was spreading across Europe, and you can hear it in Beethoven's Egmont overture with its growling basses, stormy strings, and heraldic brass. Injustice, heroism, and rebellion against oppression, are condensed into this minidrama of an overture. The might of Beethoven later inspired Bruckner, but his music takes us to a place of contemplation rather than controversy. His symphonies are written to the glory of God, with an architecture to match. John Storgårds has already taken his vision of Bruckner to Vienna and Berlin, and now Manchester, in the first of three instalments in this season. We also pay homage to the late Finnish composer Saariaho, widely regarded as one of the finest of recent years. In Leino Songs, filigree textures and bold colours are influenced by her birthplace Finland, and France, her adopted home. Her highly individual style is transcendental and lingers long in the memory.

Tickets £14.50 to £29 Disabled patrons 50% off Senior & Claimants 20% off U26s & Students £6

The World According to Kaleb Sunday 11 February 7.30pm

Chipping Norton's finest celebrity farmer, Kaleb Cooper – star of Prime Video series, Clarkson's Farm – is embarking on his first ever tour, sharing his views on all sorts, from hairstyles to celebrities to some of the challenges British farmers are facing and how we can better help support them.

Tickets £29.75 to £39.75 Group booking discount available

The Hallé – Brahms's Ein Deutsches Requiem Clemens Schuldt conductor Siobhan Stagg soprano Markus Butter baritone Hallé Choir Matthew Hamilton choral director Thursday 15 February 7.30pm

Strauss Metamorphosen Brahms Ein Deutsches Requiem

The combination of two requiems, one secular, one sacred, creates this fascinating programme, conducted by the 'dynamic presence' (The Times) of Clemens Schuldt. Richard Strauss's elegiac Metamorphosen for 23 solo strings was his response to the destruction of German culture that he witnessed in the final years of World War Two, its opera houses and concerts halls all in ruins. It was the death of Brahms's champion, Schumann, and his mother's passing that spurred Ein Deustches Requiem, setting a text he compiled from the German Lutheran Bible. To perform what's arguably Brahms's most touching and powerful large-scale work are Hallé newcomers with busy international careers: Australian Siobhan Stagg, 'A gleaming soloist' (The Guardian); and Austrian Markus Butter. Pre-concert event at 6.30pm

Thursday Series sponsor: Siemens

Tickets £16 to £46.50 Discounts: OAPs, disabled, under 30s, students, claimants & groups £13 on the day tickets Tickets for Our Pass holders

ABC: The Lexicon of Love Orchestral Tour Friday 16 February Doors 7.00pm SOLD OUT

The Lexicon of Love Orchestral Tour returns, ABC co-founder Martin Fry joined once more by Southbank Sinfonia and conductor Anne Dudley for a celebration of this epochal pop music masterpiece, still delighting fans more than forty years on from its original release.

Tickets £41.50 to £74.00 | VIP £114

BBC Philharmonic Sound and Fury Joshua Weilerstein conductor Zlatomir Fung cello Saturday 17 February 7.30pm

Haydn Symphony No.100 in G major, 'Military' Katherine Balch whisper concerto (BBC co-commission: UK premiere) Mozart Symphony No. 41 in C major, 'Jupiter', K.551

With over 100 to his name, it's little wonder that Haydn is known as the 'Father of the Symphony'. With names like 'Miracle', 'Surprise' and 'Drumroll', his campaign storms to a century with this symphony, the 'Military'. Here the symphony becomes a battlefield with sound effects to match. If Haydn injected the symphony with life, then Mozart strapped a rocket to its back. His 'Jupiter' Symphony was unparalleled in its invention and beauty giving us some of the ripest music of its age. Katherine Balch has been described as 'some kind of musical Thomas Edison' and her whisper concerto captures extraordinary sounds. This music was written especially for cellist Zlatomir Fung who joins the BBC Philharmonic for this UK premiere.

Tickets £14.50 to £29 Disabled patrons 50% off Senior & Claimants 20% off U26s & Students £6

Rick Wakeman Sunday 18 February 7.30pm

Rick Wakeman and his band, the English Rock Ensemble, return to The Bridgewater Hall for an evening of classic prog rock, performing new arrangements of classic YES material, as well as his muchloved solo epic, Journey To The Centre Of The Earth.

Tickets £43.50 to £59 | VIP Package £154

International Concert Series Britten Sinfonia & Abel Selaocoe Abel Selaocoe cello Tuesday 20 February 7.30pm

Beethoven Grosse Fuge Op.133 Bartók Divertimento for String Orchestra Tavener The Protecting Veil

Dazzling cellist Abel Selaocoe teams up with the Britten Sinfonia for a journey from darkness into light. Two years on from his unforgettable Bridgewater Hall debut, Abel is back with the brilliant Britten Sinfonia. And they're kicking off with one of the most controversial works in music: Beethoven's gripping Grosse Fuge, which baffled 19th-century listeners but was later praised by Stravinsky as 'music that will be contemporary forever'.

From here, we're transported to Europe on the cusp of war with Béla Bartók's fevered 1939 Divertimento. But then we're gliding up to heaven with Sir John Tavener's profoundly beautiful modern classic – a spellbinding showcase for this most magnetic of musicians. Tickets £20 to £42 Senior citizens, under 26s and claimants – 10% discount Student Tickets £5 (subject to availability)

The Hallé – Romeo & Juliet Maxime Pascal conductor Tom Borrow piano Wednesday 21 February 2.15pm Thursday 22 February 7.30pm Sunday 25 February 4.00pm

Brahms Tragic Overture Beethoven Piano Concerto No.3 Prokofiev Romeo and Juliet Selection from Suites 1-3

Described as 'a phenomenon, a mover and shaker' by BBC Music Magazine, Maxime Pascal has won plaudits from Hallé audiences in recent years. After Brahms's turbulent Tragic Overture, he's joined by the young Israeli pianist, Tom Borrow, the latest Terence Judd-Hallé Award winner and a BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist. Noted by Gramophone as 'One to Watch', for his Hallé debut he's chosen the brooding Third Piano Concerto of Beethoven. Prokofiev's ballet score Romeo and Juliet captures all the drama of Shakespeare's tragedy in vivid, characterful music, whether it be the ardent emotions of the star-crossed lovers or the haughty personification of their feuding families, the Montagues and Capulets, now known throughout the land as the theme music for television's The Apprentice.

Tickets £16 to £46.50 Discounts: OAPs, disabled, under 30s, students, claimants & groups £13 on the day tickets Tickets for Our Pass holders

Manchester Mid-day Concerts Society Maxim Calver cello Thursday 22 February 1.10pm Debussy Cello Sonata Schumann Fantasiestucke Op.73 Mendelssohn Sonata for cello and piano No.2 in D

Sponsored by The Haworth Trust

Tickets £13 | Concessions £11.50 | Students £8

Dr Michael Mosley & Dr Clare Bailey: Eat (well), Sleep (better), Live (longer)! Friday 23 February 7.30pm

In this informative, entertaining, and interactive live show, husband and wife team, Dr Michael Mosley and Dr Clare Bailey, will share health tips, complete cooking demos and treat fans to a sneak peak behind the scenes of their upcoming TV series.

Tickets £27 to £32

Barbara Dickson Saturday 24 February 7.30pm

Scottish singer, songwriter, musician and actress Barbara Dickson will be heading to the Hall next February as part of her Farewell Tour, joined by her band for an evening full of song, performing hits including Another Suitcase in Another Hall, Caravans, January February, Easy Terms and more.

Tickets £34 to £39

The Hallé – The Musical Story of Romeo & Juliet Maxime Pascal conductor Tom Redmond presenter Sunday 25 February 12.00pm

A perfect family concert for Key Stage 2 and upwards. Step into the seething heat of 14th-century Verona, as Romeo Montague decides to turn up, uninvited, to a ball held by his family's archrivals, the Capulets. As soon as Romeo sets his eyes on Juliet, the two fall

instantly in love, much to their families' anger. The story finishes in tragedy, ending the war between the Montagues and Capulets forever.

Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet is one of the most famous stories ever written and the Hallé, with the help of presenter Tom Redmond, will take you through Prokofiev's exciting Romeo and Juliet Suite. You might even recognise the theme tune to BBC's One's The Apprentice!

Tickets £23 Family Ticket £49.50 | Child Ticket £13

The Pretenders Monday 26 February Doors 7.00pm

Following a sold-out run of club gigs which saw that band's live show described as 'iconic' by the Evening Standard and 'outrageously good' by Louder Than War, we welcome British-American rock band, the Pretenders, to the Hall in celebration of their latest release, Relentless.

Tickets £59 to £64 To be added to the waiting list contact the Box Office at supervisors@bridgewater-hall.co.uk or call 0161 907 9000.

The Hallé – Bruckner's Eighth Sir Mark Elder conductor Hallé Youth Choir Stuart Overington director Thursday 29 February 7.30pm

Bruckner Os justi Bruckner Symphony No.8

Sir Mark turns his energies to exploring Bruckner's 'greatest symphony', the Eighth, for the very first time. Bruckner's deeply held religious faith motivated his music and it's been aptly said that he glorified God through his symphonies. The composer laboured at his Eighth for 16 years and, after its premiere, the composer Hugo Wolf declared that it was 'the work of a giant'. At its core is the sublime slow movement where Bruckner included the rich sonorities of Wagner tubas. Composed five years before Bruckner began the symphony, his rapt motet Os justi, sung by the Hallé Youth Choir, will establish the perfect ambience for the epic symphonic and emotional journey that follows.

Pre-concert event at 6.30pm

Thursday Series sponsor: Siemens Concert sponsor: CMS

Tickets £16 to £46.50 Discounts: OAPs, disabled, under 30s, students, claimants & groups £13 on the day tickets Tickets for Our Pass holders

MARCH

Nathan Carter Friday 1 March 7.30pm

Having established himself as one of the most popular entertainers in Ireland, packing out the country's biggest venues and topping the Irish Album Charts, Nathan Carter returns to The Bridgewater Hall to perform a mix of original material, Irish folk and country classics, including his hugely popular cover of Wagon Wheel.

Tickets £32.50 to £36.50

BBC Philharmonic A Response to Criticism? Anna Rakitina conductor Jess Dandy contralto Saturday 2 March 7.30pm

Smetana Má vlast – 'Vltava' Perry Stabat Mater Shostakovich Symphony No.5 in D minor

Controversy or conundrum? Or both? The centrepiece of this concert is Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony. This music walks a tightrope between artistic integrity and political acceptance from Stalin. The piece wavers between despair and parody – heartrending strings, bleak emotional landscapes, triumphant brass. Compliance or defiance? It's up to you to decide. National pride bursts out of Smetana's tone poem, Vltava. Bohemia's great river gets a cinematic makeover as we travel from its source to the city of Prague, by way of his beloved Czech countryside (passing mermaids bathed in moonlight, a wedding party, and the St John Rapids on the way). Later, we visit the sound of pastoral America with the distinctive voice of Julia Perry, a cosmopolitan composer who fuses the classical style with the sounds of her African American heritage. Contralto Jess Dandy returns to perform one of Perry's most cherished scores, her Stabat Mater.

Tickets £14.50 to £29 Disabled patrons 50% off Senior & Claimants 20% off U26s & Students £6

The Hallé – España (Rush Hour) Delyana Lazarova conductor Craig Ogden guitar Thursday 7 March 6.00pm

Chabrier España – rhapsody for orchestra Bizet Carmen: Suite No.1 Rodrigo Concierto de Aranjuez Piazzolla Libertango Ravel Boléro

Music conjuring Spain, its sights and sounds, with Delyana Lazarova as our guide. Curiously, it's often been French composers who've expressed Spain's essence, as in Chabrier's España, inspired by folk musicians he heard there on holiday. Bizet showed similar flair in his opera, Carmen, the colourful Suite No.1 concluding with the famous Toreadors' March. But to capture the country's soul, turn to a Spaniard: Rodrigo's Concierto de Aranjuez, performed by an always welcome Hallé guest, guitarist Craig Ogden. At its affecting heart is the slow movement's wonderful melody infused with flamenco fire. After a brief visit to Argentina for Piazzolla's exuberant Libertango, the concert culminates in another Frenchman's take on Spain, Ravel's Boléro.

Post-concert foyer entertainment:

Join us for more music with students from the RNCM guitar department.

Tickets £18 to £23

Discounts: OAPs, disabled, under 30s, students, claimants & groups £13 on the day tickets

Tickets for Our Pass holders

International Concert Series Philharmonia Santtu-Matias Rouvali conductor Frank Dupree piano Friday 8 March 7.30pm

Rimsky-Korsakov Capriccio Espagnol Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No.1 Borodin Symphony No.2

The charismatic Santtu-Matias Rouvali brings the Philharmonia to Manchester for the first time since taking their reins – joined by one of today's most exciting young pianists.

Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto is a milestone in romantic music, its heroic opening known and loved far and wide. It's played tonight by Frank Dupree, one of today's most exciting and versatile soloists. It's the centrepiece of a concert bookended by music from two fellow Russian romantics: Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's elegant Iberian travelogue, and Alexander Borodin's proud homage to the heritage of his homeland.

Tickets £20 to £42 Senior citizens, under 26s and claimants – 10% discount Students £5 (subject to availability)

BBC Philharmonic: Stairway to Heaven Anja Bihlmaier conductor Steven Osborne piano Saturday 9 March 7.30pm

Beethoven Piano Concerto No.5 in E flat major, 'Emperor' Bruckner Symphony No.7 in E major

Beethoven wrote his Fifth Piano Concerto, 'Emperor' to the accompaniment of gunfire, as Napoleon and his troops were storming Vienna. You can hear the battle between soloist and orchestra – heroic stuff indeed and audiences had never heard anything like it in terms of scope and grandeur. But then, Beethoven liked shock tactics; they splatter his music. Later we move from the shocking to the sublime, as Beethoven's slow movement is utterly

timeless. Bruckner stops all the clocks with a sound world that's mindful and mysterious. The skies open on the Seventh Symphony as shimmering strings transport us up the celestial ladders of Bruckner's world.

Tickets £14.50 to £29 Disabled patrons 50% off Senior & Claimants 20% off U26s & Students £6

The Musical Box Sunday 10 March Doors 7.00pm

Fifty years on from the time in which Genesis themselves performed their emblematic concerts in support of Selling England By The Pound, Quebec-based band The Musical Box return to The Bridgewater Hall to recreate the live experience, making use of both vintage instruments and the original slides used by the band.

Tickets £38.50 to £58.50

Sasha Velour – The Big Reveal Live Show! Wednesday 13 March 8.00pm

A force in the international drag community long before her scenestealing appearance on season nine of Ru Paul's Drag Race, critically-acclaimed visual artist, speaker and newly-minted author Sasha Velour brings her Big Reveal Live Show to The Bridgewater Hall in support of her memoir of the same name.

Tickets £31.50 to £44

Tony Hadley The Big Swing Tour Thursday 14 March Doors 7.00pm

Alongside the Spandau Ballet favourites that first introduced fans to his voice, The Big Swing Tour will see Tony perform some of the

era's most iconic songs by the likes of Ella Fitzgerald, Tony Bennett and Frank Sinatra, as well as stylish reworkings of his own hits.

Tickets £39 to £54 | VIP £124

International Concert Series China Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra Daye Lin conductor Tamsin Waley-Cohen violin Jiapeng Nie cello Friday 15 March 7.30pm

Tan Dun Excerpts from Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon Chausson Poème Saint-Saëns Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso Respighi Fountains of Rome; Pines of Rome

One of China's finest orchestras makes its Bridgewater Hall debut with an evening of music bridging East and West. The China Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra opens its first Manchester concert with excerpts from a groundbreaking movie soundtrack – Tan Dun's Oscar-winning score to Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, featuring cellist Jiapeng Nie. Conductor Daye Lin then brings us closer to home with the help of the outstanding Tamsin Waley-Cohen, star of not one but two romantic French showcases of the violinist's art – before a trip to the Eternal City with Ottorino Respighi's vivid portraits.

Tickets £20 to £42

Senior citizens, under 26s and claimants – 10% discount on full ticket prices

Students £5 (subject to availability)

The Hallé – Lights, Camera, Action Stephen Bell conductor Saturday 16 March 7.30pm

Including music from: The Mask of Zorro; Black Panther; Captain America; Mission: Impossible; Knight and Day; Top Gun; James

Bond; Pirates of the Caribbean; Raiders of the Lost Ark; Superman; Star Wars; The Incredibles; Saving Private Ryan; Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon; How to Train Your Dragon; Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade and Independence Day.

... and we mean ACTION! Tonight you can hear the themes and music from some of Hollywood's most spectacular hits, live in The Bridgewater Hall. The full forces of one of the world's greatest orchestras come together to celebrate some of the most iconic action movies. Superheroes and spies rub shoulders with aliens and archaeologists for an evening of edge-of- your-seat thrills. Right from the start, as the opening credits roll, this music sets pulses racing. Join us for a night every bit as memorable as the films themselves!

Concert sponsor: Siemens

Tickets £18 to £47 Discounts: OAPs, disabled, under 30s, students, claimants & groups £13 on the day tickets Tickets for Our Pass holders

Rob Brydon A Night of Songs and Laughter Monday 18 March 7.30pm

Back by popular demand, A Night of Songs and Laughter sees Rob Brydon recount his musical journey from South Wales to Hollywood and back again with the help of his nine-piece orchestra, treating audiences to an evening full of anecdotes, impressions and toetapping tunes.

Tickets £46

10cc – Ultimate Greatest Hits Tour Tuesday 19 March Doors 7.00pm

50 years on from the release of their self-titled debut album, soft rock legends 10cc return to The Bridgewater Hall as part of their Ultimate Greatest Hits Tour, performing favourites from across their career,

including their No.1 singles Rubber Bullets, Dreadlock Holiday and I'm Not In Love.

Tickets £36.50 to £46.50 To be added to the waiting list contact the Box Office at supervisors@bridgewater-hall.co.uk or call 0161 907 9000.

The Hallé Sibelius's Symphony No.1 Kristiina Poska conductor Jess Gillam saxophone Wednesday 20 March 2.15pm Thursday 21 March 7.30pm* Sunday 24 March 4.00pm

Britten Peter Grimes: Four Sea Interludes John Harle Briggflatts Sibelius Symphony No.1

Estonian Kristiina Poska begins her second visit to the Hallé with Britten's atmospheric Four Sea Interludes from Peter Grimes. Also returning is superstar saxophonist Jess Gillam, who's been described by composer John Harle as a 'young virtuoso with huge energy, a soaring sound, and an unforgettable presence.' She plays his concerto Briggflatts, conceived for her artistry, the title referring to Basil Bunting's poem steeped in Gilliam's native Cumbria. Its finale, 'RANT!', is an exhilarating romp of toe-tapping Cumbrian folk-tunes guaranteed to bring the house down. Sibelius's First Symphony is virile in spirit and imbued with melodic freshness, the work announced the arrival of one of the all-time great symphonists.

* The Abraham Moss Memorial Concert

Tickets £16 to £46.50 Discounts: OAPs, disabled, under 30s, students, claimants & groups £13 on the day tickets Tickets for Our Pass holders Manchester Mid-day Concerts Society Victor Lim piano Thursday 21 March 1.10pm

Debussy Suite Bergamasque, L.75 Missy Mazzoli Bolts of Loving Thunder Rachmaninoff Piano Sonata No.2 in B flat minor, Op.36 (Revised version)

Sponsored by the Friends of the Manchester Mid-days

Tickets £13 Concessions £11.50 | Students £8

Dirty Dancing In Concert Friday 22 March 7.30pm

Celebrating the soundtrack that defined a generation, Dirty Dancing in Concert brings to life as never before the timeless love story of Baby and Johnny, the film shown in its entirety as a full concert orchestra performs its soundtrack live in time on stage.

Tickets £33.50 to £69.50

BBC Philharmonic Rise and Shine Leslie Suganandarajah conductor Eldbørg Hemsing violin Saturday 23 March 7.30pm

Mozart Symphony No.25 in G minor Bruch Violin Concerto No.1 in G minor Strauss Also sprach Zarathustra

Both Elvis Presley and Stanley Kubrick were partial to a (Richard) Strauss sunrise, and his early morning wake-up call for Zarathustra gives us one of music's most glorious openings ever. The rest of it isn't half bad either. Strauss's take on Nietzsche is philosophy 'lite' but 'full fat' on flair. Gregorian chant, mathematical puzzles and an uplifting Viennese waltz are all whizzed up in a blender to create one of the most sumptuous orchestral pieces ever written. We rewind to the delight of Mozart – the melodies in this symphony are as characterful as anything he wrote in his operas. And taking centre stage is Bruch's First Violin Concerto – rich melodies, dazzling folk rhythms and a glorious slow movement are just some of the reasons why this Romantic giant repeatedly tops the classical charts.

Tickets £14.50 to £29 Disabled patrons 50% off Senior & Claimants 20% off U26s & Students £6

Hallé Youth Showcase Sunday 24 March 7.00pm

Hallé Youth Orchestra | Euan Shields director Hallé Youth Choir | Stuart Overington director Hallé Youth Training Choir | Stuart Overington director Hallé Children's Choir | Shirley Court director

This concert will showcase our wonderful ensembles, including the Hallé Youth Orchestra and Youth Choir, celebrating their 21st birthday. The concert will also feature the Hallé Youth Training Choir and Children's Choir, both of which were born out of a desire to spread the love of music to more young people. A highlight in the Hallé's calendar, it is a chance to experience this explosion of talent in a varied, uplifting and family-friendly performance.

The Hallé is very grateful to the Oglesby Charitable Trust, Siemens Hallé International Conductors Competition, Siemens, Esprit, The Zochonis Charitable Trust, Kirby Laing Foundation, The 29th May 1961 Charity, D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, The Anthony and Elizabeth Mellows Charitable Settlement, The Nugee Foundation, Q Charitable Trust, The Radcliffe Trust, The Thistle Trust and The Victoria Wood Foundation for their continued support of the Hallé Youth Ensembles.

Tickets £13 U30s, claimants and over 60s £10.50 | Students £6 Gipsy Kings Tuesday 26 March 7.30pm SOLD OUT

Since capturing the world's imagination more than 25 years ago with their self-titled debut album – and their breakout hit Bamboléo - the Gipsy Kings have captivated audiences across the globe and will be bringing their unique blend of Western pop and Latin rhythms to The Bridgewater Hall this March.

Tickets £39 to £79

To be added to the waiting list contact the Box Office at supervisors@bridgewater-hall.co.uk or call 0161 907 9000.

BBC Philharmonic St John Passion Nicholas Kraemer conductor Manchester Chamber Choir Benjamin Hulett Evangelist Roderick Williams Christus Hilary Cronin soprano Jess Dandy contralto Laurence Kilsby tenor Benjamin Bevan bass Friday 29 March 2.00pm

Bach St John Passion

Passion – from the Latin verb 'patior' meaning 'to suffer, bear, endure'. Through the eyes of John the Baptist, we relive the story of the arrest, trial, and crucifixion of Christ. We hear the witness accounts of Jesus, Peter, and Pontius Pilate, as well as the judgement of the baying crowd, all within an intensely dramatic orchestral setting. Johann Sebastian Bach's St John Passion is an extraordinary act of worship, the first of five passion settings which he wrote and one of only two which remain. His musical storytelling is breath-taking in its invention and unusually bold. Written for the Good Friday Vespers service of 1724 and 300 years later, almost to the day, Nicholas Kraemer recreates this drama. A story that is radiant and sublime. Tickets £14.50 to £29 Disabled patrons 50% off Senior & Claimants 20% off U26s & Students £6

APRIL

Jonathan Scott Organ Spectacular Thursday 4 April 1.10pm

Grieg Prelude, Holberg Suite Op.40 JS Bach Toccata & Fugue in D minor BWV 565 Mozart Allegro, Divertimento in D Major K.136 Smetana Vltava, The Moldau from Má Vlast Debussy La Cathédrale engloutie (Préludes Book 1) Liszt Hungarian Rhapsody No.2

Associate Artist Jonathan Scott returns with a new season of his popular lunchtime organ concerts! This installment sees him perform a thrilling programme of fantastic music to showcase the The Bridgewater Hall's spectacular organ, including Jonathan's own arrangements of Liszt Hungarian Rhapsody, Smetana's epic Vltava and Bach's famous Toccata & Fugue in D minor.

Tickets £14 | Concessions £12.50 | Students £10

The Hallé – Adès Conducts Tippett Thomas Adès conductor/artist-in-residence Anthony Marwood violin Lawrence Power viola Paul Watkins cello Saturday 6 April 7.30pm

Purcell arr. Barbirolli Suite for Strings, Woodwinds & Horns Tippett Triple Concerto Oliver Leith New Work (Hallé commission) Elgar Sospiri Thomas Adès Tevot

Thomas Adès starts the second concert of his residency by reviving Barbirolli's rarely-performed suite of Purcell's music. Anthony Marwood appears again, with leading soloists Lawrence Power and Paul Watkins for Tippett's Triple Concerto, a late work of intense glowing lyricism. Among younger British composers, Adès admires Oliver Leith's works and, at his request, the Hallé has commissioned a new work from him. After Elgar's haunting Sospiri, Adès conducts his one movement symphony, Tevot.

Pre-concert event at 6.30pm

Hallé new commission sponsor: CMS

Tickets £16 to £46.50 Discounts: OAPs, disabled, under 30s, students, claimants & groups £13 on the day tickets Tickets for Our Pass holders

Raymond Gubbay presents Paddington In Concert Sunday 7 April 3.00pm

STUDIOCANAL and Raymond Gubbay are pleased to present Paddington In Concert, the award-winning 2014 film – based on Michael Bond's much-loved books – screened in full as the London Concert Orchestra play Nick Urata's calypso-infused score live.

Tickets £33.50 to £69.50

Champagne for Lulu Wednesday 10 April Doors 7.00pm

Since storming the charts with her defining hit Shout at just 15 years old, Lulu has established herself as an icon within popular culture. Sixty years on, she's preparing to celebrate her milestone 75th birthday year with fans on her Champagne For Lulu tour!

Tickets £36.50 to £54 | VIP Package £104

Paloma Faith Thursday 11 & Friday 12 April Doors 7.00pm SOLD OUT

British superstar Paloma Faith returns to for two consecutive nights in support of her sixth studio album, The Glorification of Sadness.

Tickets £39 to £63.50 | VIP Package £113 To be added to the waiting list contact the Box Office at supervisors@bridgewater-hall.co.uk or call 0161 907 9000.

BBC Philharmonic Tapas and Some French Bon Bons Juanjo Mena conductor James Ehnes violin Saturday 13 April 7.30pm

Berlioz Overture 'Roman Carnival' Saint-Saëns Violin Concerto No.3 in B minor Ravel Alborada del gracioso Sarasate Carmen Fantasy Falla The Three-Cornered Hat – Suite No.1 Falla The Three-Cornered Hat – Suite No.2

Fiesta season comes early with the welcome return of James Ehnes, one of the world's finest violinists. At the heart of this programme is Saint-Saëns' impassioned Third Violin Concerto. It's a classic, written for the virtuoso Pablo de Sarasate, who wasn't averse to writing the odd tune for his own instrument either. In Sarasate's hands, the violin becomes Carmen, the exotic figure who beguiled toreadors and composers alike. Manuel de Falla keeps things smouldering with The Three-Cornered Hat. It's a tale worthy of

El Dorado (the lost golden city and the BBC soap), infused with Andalusian folk music and the dance rhythms of flamenco and the fandango. On the podium, Juanjo Mena returns to keep things in order in a programme with sun-kissed music by Ravel and Berlioz.

Tickets £14.50 to £29 Disabled patrons 50% off Senior & Claimants 20% off U26s & Students £6

Raymond Gubbay presents Karl Jenkins' 80th Birthday Concert Sunday 14 April 3.00pm Join multi-instrumentalist and composer, Sir Karl Jenkins, as he celebrates his 80th birthday, joined by Manchester Concert Orchestra and the Manchester Chorale to conduct his recordbreaking mass The Armed Man along with other favourite pieces, including Palladio, Adieumus and extracts from his new album, One World.

Tickets £28.50 to £47.50

Manchester Mid-day Concerts Society Paddington Trio Tuulia Hero violin Patrick Moriarty cello Stephanie Tang piano Monday 15 April 1.10pm

Sam Perkin Freakshow for Piano Trio Mendelssohn Piano Trio No.1 in D minor, Op.49

Having started their adventure together at their namesake, Paddington Station, violinist Tuulia Hero, cellist Patrick Moriarty and pianist Stephanie Tang have quickly emerged as a unique and versatile ensemble that seeks to build engaging programmes curated for changing times and audiences.

Sponsored by the Kirckman Concert Society

Tickets £13 | Concessions £11.50 | Students £8

The Hallé – Verdi's Simon Boccanegra Sir Mark Elder conductor Thursday 18 April 7.00pm

Igor Golovatenko baritone | Simon Boccanegra Eleonora Buratto soprano | Amelia Iván Ayón-Rivas tenor | Gabriele Adorno William Thomas bass | Jacopo Fiesco Sergio Vitale baritone | Paolo Albiani David Shipley bass | Pietro Chorus of Opera North Verdi Simon Boccanegra (original version 1857)

The Hallé's opera concert performances with Sir Mark are always eagerly anticipated: a fascinating opportunity to hear Verdi's Simon Boccanegra in its original 1857 version, which is also being recorded in a major collaboration with Opera Rara. Set in medieval Genoa, and with a plot built around love, political intrigue and revenge, at its core is a recurring theme in Verdi's operas, the love between a father and daughter, which brings tragedy in its wake. Heading an internationally stellar cast in this impelling drama is renowned Verdi baritone Igor Golovatenko (Boccanegra), and recent Franco Abbiati Prize winner Eleonora Buratto singing Amelia.

Thursday Series sponsor: Siemens

In collaboration with Opera Rara

Tickets £16 to £46.50 Discounts: OAPs, disabled, under 30s, students, claimants & groups £13 on the day tickets Tickets for Our Pass holders

FastLove Friday 19 April 7.30pm

Direct from London's West End, George Michael celebration FastLove returns to The Bridgewater Hall, boasting a brand-new show for 2024, featuring a selection of George's solo material along with his best-known work with Wham!, including Faith, Freedom, Careless Whisper, Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go and more.

Tickets £34.50 to £42.50

BBC Philharmonic Viennese Whirl Anja Bihlmaier conductor Josef Špaček violin Saturday 20 April 7.30pm Johann Strauss II Emperor Waltz Berg Violin Concerto Johann Strauss II The Blue Danube Beethoven Symphony No. 7 in A major

With a heritage as rich as a Sachertorte, tonight's concert gorges on the finest musical ingredients of Austria's capital. Beethoven's symphonies are cornerstones of the orchestral world – our very own sponge cake base! The Seventh Symphony is a feast of rhythm and dance, although Beethoven came from Spanish stock and maybe this just got the better of him when he cooked it up – expect more barnstorming than boleros. A hundred years on, the music of Berg stirred from the melting pot of 1900s Vienna. His Violin Concerto is, by turn, angelic and angst-ridden, one of the most innovative pieces ever written for the instrument. 'Waltz King' Johann Strauss II provides the icing on the cake with his Emperor Waltz, with a bonus trip down the river Danube, our dance through Vienna is complete.

Tickets £14.50 to £29 Disabled patrons 50% off Senior & Claimants 20% off U26s & Students £6

The Mavericks Monday 22 April Doors 7.00pm

The Mavericks - the eclectic rock and country outfit known for crisscrossing musical boundaries, implementing elements of salsa, ska, norteño, mariachi and more – return to The Bridgewater Hall following the triumphant debut of their first ever all Spanish album, En Español.

Tickets £33.50 to £46.50

The Hallé Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto Daniele Rustioni conductor Francesca Dego violin Wednesday 24 April 2.15pm Thursday 25 April 7.30pm Sunday 28 April 4.00pm

Wagner Die Meistersinger: Prelude to Act 1 Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in E minor Liszt Les preludes Strauss Der Rosenkavalier: Suite

Daniele Rustioni returns to the Hallé having been named 'Best Conductor of the Year' at the 2022 International Opera Awards. Wagner's Prelude to Act One of Die M eistersinger climaxes with a compositional tour-de-force as he effortlessly combines five of its main themes. Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto has been described as 'the dearest, the heart's jewel' of the 19th-century German concertos for the instrument. It's performed by Francesca Dego whose playing has been lauded for its 'crystalline precision' (The Scotsman). Liszt's symphonic poem Les préludes plumbs the mystery of life and what lies beyond it, and Richard Strauss's suite from Der Rosenkavalier encapsulates the opera with its sparkling waltzes, sumptuous orchestration and ravishing love music.

Thursday 25 April sponsored by CMS Sunday 28 April sponsored by Zen Internet

Tickets £16 to £46.50 Discounts: OAPs, disabled, under 30s, students, claimants & groups £13 on the day tickets Tickets for Our Pass holders

Big Magic – An Evening Lecture with Elizabeth Gilbert Wednesday 24 April 7.30pm

Join the worldwide bestselling author of Eat Pray Love, Elizabeth Gilbert, for an evening of Big Magic and be inspired to live the vibrant, fulfilling life you've always dreamed of, the beloved writer digging deep into her own generative process to share her wisdom and unique perspective on creativity and more.

Tickets £51 to £81 | VIP Package £151

Manchester Mid-day Concerts Society Verona Quartet Jonathan Ong violin Dorothy Ro violin Abigail Rojjansky viola Jonathan Dormand cello Hannah Roberts cello Thursday 25 April 1.10pm

Schubert String Quintet in C major, D.956

Tickets £13 | Concessions £11.50 | Students £8

Average White Band Friday 26 April 7.30pm

A fixture within top music venues across the world for over 50 years, Average White Band have announced their farewell tour, marking the last opportunity for fans to experience the musical energy and trademark sound of one of history's truly great soul bands.

Tickets £29 to £54

BBC Philharmonic – Nordic Noir John Storgårds conductor Saturday 27 April 7.30pm

Lotta Wennäkoski Verdigris Sibelius En Saga Bruckner Symphony No.5 in B flat major

A slow musical procession leads us through the gate into one of Bruckner's 'cathedrals of sound', his Fifth Symphony. This music is as spacious and reverential as a place of worship. Sibelius also invites us into his world of Nordic impressionism with En Saga, based on Northern legends and myths. This symphonic poem evokes the rugged beauty and atmosphere of Finland with its sweeping vistas. Lotta Wennäkoski honours this in her own work Verdigris. Composers, she suggests, write new layers on music history, hence she immerses in Sibelius's music in amidst her own, creating a patina, the blue-green verdigris of the title.

Tickets £14.50 to £29 Disabled patrons 50% off Senior & Claimants 20% off U26s & Students £6

Pink Martini Monday 29 April 7.30pm

Pink Martini – the musical sensation led by pianist Thomas Lauderdale, known for their unique blend of Latin, jazz, pop and classical influences – will be celebrating 30 years in the business on their 2024 tour, which begins at The Bridgewater Hall in April.

Tickets £38 to £43

BOOKING INFORMATION

Booking Online

Visit www.bridgewater-hall.co.uk where you have the option to select your own seat or choose the best available. You can also add dining and parking vouchers to your order. If you select your own seat, you can see at a glance which seats are available.

Booking By Phone 0161 907 9000

Booking In Person Box Office, The Bridgewater Hall, Lower Mosley Street, Manchester M2 3WS

Booking By Post To the Box Office at the address above

Box Office Opening Hours Monday to Friday 10.00am—5.00pm Saturday & Sunday (concert nights only) 2.00—5.00pm Counter service until 8.00pm on concert nights As at August 2023.

Please phone the Box Office or visit www.bridgewater-hall.co.uk to check for changes in opening times.

Forms of Payment Accepted

Payment can be made by cash, cheque, Mastercard, Visa or debit card. If paying by cheque, please make your cheque payable to 'The Bridgewater Hall'.

Booking Fees

Prices shown in this brochure include booking fees. A booking fee of $\pounds 3 / \pounds 4$ per ticket applies to telephone and online transactions. No fee applies to tickets bought in person or purchased as part of a fixed or flexible subscription. For details of ticket exchange, group discounts, concessionary and standby tickets, please visit www.bridgewater-hall.co.uk or call the Box Office

Flexible Booking

Save 15% on the full ticket price when you book 5 or more concerts featuring

Parking Discounts

A limited number of prepay discounted spaces are available to patrons attending evening concerts at Q-Park First Street car park (see map) at a rate of £8.10 (from September 2023 £8.85). Spaces must be booked at the time of purchasing your concert tickets, no less than 24 hours before the event. Parking is limited to a maximum stay of 8 hours at the discounted rate.

Q-Park, Anne Horniman St, Manchester M15 4FN

Accessibility

The Bridgewater Hall is fully accessible for disabled patrons. For full information on facilities please visit www.bridgewater-hall.co.uk or call the Box Office on 0161 907 9000.

GETTING HERE

The Hall is in the centre of Manchester, easily accessible by public transport and by road. Metrolink tram passengers should alight at St Peter's Square or Deansgate-Castlefield. The nearest bus stops for major routes into the city centre are St Peter's Square/Portland Street or Deansgate. The nearest rail stations are Deansgate and Oxford Road.

Coaches can drop off and pick up outside the main entrance on Lower Mosley Street.

The nearest car parks are Q-Park First Street, NCP Manchester Central, NCP Great Northern or NCP Oxford Street. You can book Q-Park parking when you buy your concert tickets. If travelling by car, please allow plenty of time for your journey.

The Bridgewater Hall Lower Mosley Street Manchester M2 3WS

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