

International Concert Series 24-25

Welcome to the 28th International Concert Series, which once more brings some of the world's leading musicians to The Bridgewater Hall and Manchester.

We kick off with a welcome return from The Sixteen (30 September 2024), Harry Christophers will this year be directing a rare complete performance of Monteverdi's dazzling Vespers of 1610.

There's more for fans of early and baroque music with two concerts dedicated to Johann Sebastian Bach. The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment are presenting a real treat: the complete set of Bach's six Brandenburg Concertos (5 November 2024). In January, we'll be joined by pianist Pierre-Laurent Aimard to perform Book II of Bach's towering Well-Tempered Clavier (30 January 2025).

Two excellent German orchestras will be joining us for two very different concerts. Jonathan Darlington will be conducting the Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra for Grieg's ever-popular Piano Concerto, performed by Federico Colli (18 November 2024). Wayne Marshall, meanwhile, will be joining the German Youth National Orchestra as both conductor and pianist for Gershwin's rip-roaring Rhapsody in Blue (17 January 2025).

The new year brings two great Fifth Symphonies. The Prague Symphony Orchestra tackle Shostakovich's extraordinary Fifth, the symphony that may have saved the composer's life (14 February 2024). Robin Ticciati and the outstanding London Philharmonic Orchestra take on Mahler's epic Fifth – including, of course, the legendary Adagietto (17 March 2025).

April 2025 brings two very different concerts: the first visit in years from the remarkable Katia and Marielle Labèque (8 April 2025), followed by a new collaboration between Manchester Collective and electronic musician Clark (25 April 2025). Finally we end the series with a bang courtesy of the Buenos Aires Symphony Orchestra of Colón Opera, offering everything from classic Astor Piazzolla to Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake.

This brochure contains full listings, ticketing and visitor information. We hope you can join us for what promises to be a wonderful series.

Andrew Bolt - CEO, The Bridgewater Hall

International Concert Series 24-25

Season at a Glance

Visiting Orchestras

Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra

Monday 18 November 2024

German Youth National Orchestra

Friday 17 January 2025

Prague Symphony Orchestra

Friday 14 February 2025

London Philharmonic Orchestra

Monday 17 March 2025

Buenos Aires Symphony Orchestra (of Colón Opera)

Monday 19 May 2025

Chamber Orchestras

Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

Tuesday 5 November 2024

Manchester Collective

Friday 25 April 2025

Piano Recitals

Pierre-Laurent Aimard

Thursday 30 January 2025

Katia & Marielle Labèque

Tuesday 8 April 2025

Choral

The Sixteen

Monday 30 September 2024

International Concert Series 24-25

The Sixteen

Monteverdi's Vespers

Harry Christophers conductor

Monday 30 September 2024 7.30pm

Monteverdi Vespers

The Sixteen open the Series with one of the most important, influential and thrilling works ever written. Claudio Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610 is a landmark in music history – as conductor Harry Christophers puts it, 'one of the most significant collections of sacred music ever written, mixing profound expression with unfailing musical beauty'.

The Sixteen have made Monteverdi's masterpiece a cornerstone of their repertoire. Five years after they last performed it at The Bridgewater Hall, they're returning for an encore – a fittingly bold opening to this season's International Concert Series.

£45 | £38 | £31 | £23

Students £8 (Stalls only) | Concessions available

International Concert Series 24-25

Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment
Tuesday 5 November 2024 7.30pm

Bach Brandenburg Concertos Nos.1–6

The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, one of the country's leading period instrument ensembles, brings JS Bach's sparkling box set to The Bridgewater Hall for one night only.

The concerti dedicated by Johann Sebastian Bach to the Margrave of Brandenburg in 1721 are truly six of the best. Each written for a different group of instruments, from the technicolor majesty of No.1 to the small-scale sparkle of No.6, they're individually remarkable and collectively peerless. No single work better captures the genius of the greatest composer to ever put pen to paper.

The OAE can't choose their favourite – so they're bringing the full set of six Brandenburgs to The Bridgewater Hall for this special concert on Bonfire Night. Expect fireworks!

£40 | £31 | £25 | £18

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International Concert Series 24-25

Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra
Jonathan Darlington conductor
Federico Colli piano
Monday 18 November 2024 7.30pm

Weber Der Freischütz: Overture
Grieg Piano Concerto
Brahms Symphony No.4

A rare UK visit from this top-tier German orchestra with a trio of Romantic masterpieces.

This concert's centrepiece needs little introduction: Grieg's Piano Concerto, a perennial favourite before and after it was immortalised by Morecambe, Wise and André Previn. Federico Colli will be playing all the right notes in the right order, as befits a recent winner of the Leeds International Piano Competition.

To open, the radiant overture from Weber's 1821 operatic masterpiece. And to close, one of the greatest of all symphonies: Brahms' tumultuous Fourth.

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International Concert Series 24-25

German Youth National Orchestra
Official partner of the Berlin Philharmonic
Wayne Marshall conductor/piano
German-British Choir Academy
Friday 17 January 2025 7.30pm

Britten The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra
Gershwin, orch. Grofé Rhapsody in Blue
Holst The Planets

The remarkable Wayne Marshall doubles up as conductor and pianist in the work that invented American classical music: George Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue.

From the opening clarinet wail to the rousing climax, Gershwin's timeless Rhapsody is one of the few truly iconic works in the canon. It's joined by two much-loved works from our side of the Atlantic: Britten's delightful journey through the orchestra, from flutes to percussion, and Holst's interstellar voyage through the galaxy, from magnificent Mars to mystical Neptune. Prepare for lift-off...

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Pierre-Laurent Aimard piano
Thursday 30 January 2025 7.30pm

JS Bach The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book II (complete)

Pierre-Laurent Aimard, one of the world's greatest living pianists, climbs the Everest of solo keyboard repertoire: Book II of Johann Sebastian Bach's towering tour de force.

Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier consists of two sets of 24 preludes and fugues in every key, an epic journey made one semi-tone at a time. Put like that, 'The 48' sounds like a mere academic exercise. But this is music of vivid brilliance and staggering imagination – and there's no better guide than French master Pierre-Laurent Aimard.

Bach neither intended nor expected The Well-Tempered Clavier to be played as a single work, and every concert performance is a landmark event. Aimard has lived with this music for a lifetime – and a decade on from his recording of Book I, he's now bringing Book II to The Bridgewater Hall. Unmissable.

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International Concert Series 24-25

Prague Symphony Orchestra
Tomáš Brauner conductor
Alexander Sitkovetsky violin
Friday 14 February 2025 7.30pm

Dvořák The Noon Witch
Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto
Shostakovich Symphony No.5

From Tchaikovsky's soaring brilliance to Shostakovich's life-saving masterpiece, a gripping programme from Tomáš Brauner and the ever-versatile Prague Symphony.

Dmitri Shostakovich feared for his life. His latest opera had been slammed in Pravda, many believed the criticism came direct from Joseph Stalin, who had just begun the Great Purge that would hollow out Soviet society. His very existence under threat, Shostakovich responded with his staggering Fifth Symphony, which won a 45-minute standing ovation at its 1937 premiere – and, perhaps, saved the composer's life.

Before it, Alexander Sitkovetsky brings a little romance to this Valentine's Day concert with Tchaikovsky's spellbinding Violin Concerto. The programme wouldn't be complete without something from the orchestra's Czech homeland, supplied by Antonin Dvořák's musical portrait of the mythical child-snatching demon.

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London Philharmonic Orchestra
Robin Ticciati conductor
Francesco Piemontesi piano
Monday 17 March 2025 7.30pm

Schumann Piano Concerto
Mahler Symphony No.5

Robin Ticciati directs the resurgent London Philharmonic Orchestra in Gustav Mahler's epic journey from darkness to light.

'What is the public to make of this chaos?' asked Mahler after the first rehearsal of his Fifth Symphony. 'What are they to say to this primeval music? This foaming, roaring, raging sea of sound?' Some 120 years later, the verdict is in – and everyone from Leonard Bernstein to Lydia Tár has come to treasure Mahler's mighty masterpiece. From the opening funeral march via the tender Adagietto to the closing explosion of joy, this is an emotional odyssey like no other in music.

Robin Ticciati and the LPO precede it with another much-loved classic, Robert Schumann's enchanting Piano Concerto. It's performed tonight by one of its leading contemporary advocates: former BBC New Generation Artist, Francesco Piemontesi.

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International Concert Series 24-25

Katia & Marielle Labèque piano

Tuesday 8 April 2025 7.30pm

Debussy Six épigraphes antiques (original version for piano duo)

Ravel Ma mère l'Oye (original version for piano four hands)

Philip Glass, arr. Michael Riesman La Belle et la Bête (version for piano duo)

Five decades after launching their twin careers, the magnificent Labèque sisters are continuing to break new ground – as we'll see on their long-overdue return to Manchester.

The sisters start the evening in Belle Époque Paris with a pair of suites written four years apart: Debussy's ethereally beautiful *Épigraphes*; and Ravel's fairytale homage to Mother Goose.

Then, in true Labèque style, it's time for something completely different: a two-piano version of Philip Glass's opera, created especially for the siblings. 'Great performers and great interpreters,' says Glass of the duo.

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International Concert Series 24-25

Manchester Collective x Clark

Refractions

Friday 25 April 2025 7.30pm

Refractions brings together two leading forces in contemporary music: Manchester Collective, one of the country's most exciting music ensembles, and electronic artist Chris Clark (Clark), whose 2023 albums *Sus Dog* and *Cave Dog* both feature the Collective's Artistic Director Rakhi Singh. The pair's collaboration continues, bringing together repertoire drawn from across the last 1,000 years with newly created compositions, layered into a sonic tapestry that shows how music resonates, reflects and refracts across the ages. Don't miss it.

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International Concert Series 24-25

Buenos Aires Symphony Orchestra of Colón Opera

Mariano Chiaccharini conductor

Pablo Mainetti bandoneon

Monday 19 May 2025 7.30pm

Piazzolla Libertango; Concerto for Bandoneón and Orchestra,
'Aconcagua'

Wagner Tristan and Isolde: Prelude and Liebestod

Bizet Carmen Suite No.1

Tchaikovsky Swan Lake (suite)

The resident orchestra at Latin America's finest opera house makes its UK debut. The Buenos Aires Symphony are bringing a taste of their homeland to Manchester through two works by Astor Piazzolla: Libertango, practically the alternative national anthem, and his concerto for the bandoneón, the accordion that gives the tango its sound and soul. But we're also in for some European classics: Wagner's legendary Tristan and Isolde Prelude, a suite of treats from Bizet's Carmen, and music from Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake, a sparkling end to what's sure to be a fabulous concert.

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International Concert Series 24-25

Booking Information

Booking for all tickets is open from Thursday 2 May 2024 online, by phone, by post or in person.

Booking Online

Visit bridgewater-hall.co.uk where you have the option to select your own seat.

Booking by Phone

Tel: 0161 907 9000

Booking by Post

Request a booking form from the Box Office (or download one from the website) and return via FREEPOST to: Box Office, The Bridgewater Hall, FREEPOST RTLJ-GRKG-GGYS, Manchester M2 3WS.

Booking Fees

Prices shown in this brochure include booking fees which apply to most transactions. A booking fee of £3 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.

Box Office Opening Hours*

Monday to Friday 10.00am—5.00pm

Saturday & Sunday (concert nights only) 2.00pm—5.00pm

Counter service until 8pm concert nights

* As at April 2024. Please phone 0161 907 9000 or visit www.bridgewater-hall.co.uk to check for changes in opening times.

Flexible Series Booking – Save up to 25%

Receive discounts on the full ticket price when you book for 5 or more concerts from the Hall's 2024|25 classical seasons** — all events are flexible booking unless otherwise stated.

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Save 15% — Choose any 5 or more concerts

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If you spend £350 or more, you can pay in 5 interest-free monthly instalments from September 2024 (bookings via the Box Office only). Forms must be received by 7 July 2024. Please note that Fixed and Flexible Booking Ticket Packages will be paper tickets only.

** Included are the International Concert Series, plus the Hallé and BBC Philharmonic. Check online for full season listings at www.bridgewater-hall.co.uk, or phone the Box Office for brochures.

Concessions

Unless otherwise stated in the performance listing, senior citizens, under 26s and claimants are entitled to a 10% discount off ticket prices in this brochure. This offer is only valid for bookings made more than one month before the date of the concert.

£8 Student Tickets

A limited number of student tickets (Stalls only) are available for International Concert Series performances on production of valid student ID, bookable online £8 including fee, or £5 if bought in person from the Box Office.

Group Discounts

Contact our Group Sales Office on 0161 907 9010 to make a group booking

10% discount for groups of 10-29

15% discount for groups of 30-49

25% discount for groups of 50+

Access

The Bridgewater Hall welcomes disabled patrons. Please see our website for disabled parking and access information, or contact the Box Office on 0161 907 9000, email supervisors@bridgewater-hall.co.uk. For individual

International Concert Series 24-25

access requirements, including seating advice, please book via the Box Office.

There is a drop-off point for wheelchair users on Lower Mosley Street, directly outside The Bridgewater Hall. Please note that parking is not permitted here at any time.

Parking Discounts

A limited number of pre-pay discounted spaces are available to patrons attending evening concerts at Q-Park First Street car park (see map p18). 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 First Street, M15 4FN (access via Anne Horniman Street)

Getting Here

The Bridgewater Hall, Lower Mosley Street, Manchester M2 3WS
Box Office: 0161 907 9000 www.bridgewater-hall.co.uk

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.

International Concert Series 24-25

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

Eating & Drinking

The Charles Hallé Restaurant

The Charles Hallé Restaurant is open for all international Concert Series shows, offering seasonal menus that change regularly, £25.95 for 2 courses & £31.50 for 3 courses. Booking is essential and can be done through the Box Office on 0161 907 9000 or online when buying your tickets.

Please note a £5 per person deposit is required for reservations; this is non-refundable in the event of cancellation with less than 3 days' notice.

A-List

You can now enhance your concert experience by upgrading to A-List at the Members' Bar. For just £15 per person, concert ticket holders can enjoy access to the Members' Bar on Choir Circle Level including one complimentary drink.

Available on selected concerts – book online with your tickets or contact the Box Office on 0161 907 9000.

International Concert Series 24-25

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