

London Philharmonic Orchestra

Principal Conductor Edward Gardner supported by Aud Jebsen
Principal Guest Conductor Karina Canellakis
Conductor Emeritus Vladimir Jurowski Patron HRH The Duke of Kent KG
Artistic Director Elena Dubinets Chief Executive David Burke
Leader Pieter Schoeman supported by Neil Westreich

Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall Wednesday 30 November 2022 7.30pm

Bruckner's Ninth

Vaughan Williams

Five Mystical Songs (17')

Interval (20')

Bruckner

Symphony No. 9 in D minor (82') including the fourth movement

Robin Ticciati conductor

Simon Keenlyside

baritone



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Welcome

LPO news

Welcome to the Southbank Centre

We hope you enjoy your visit. We have a Duty Manager available at all times. If you need any information or help, please ask a member of staff.

Eating, drinking and shopping? Take in the views over food and drinks at the Riverside Terrace Cafe, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Visit our shops for products inspired by our great cultural experiences, iconic buildings and central London location. Explore across the site with Beany Green, Côte Brasserie, Foyles, Giraffe, Honest Burger, Las Iguanas, Le Pain Quotidien, Ping Pong, Pret, Strada, Skylon, Spiritland, Topolski, wagamama and Wahaca.

If you would like to get in touch with us following your visit, please write to: Visitor Contact Team, Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX, or email hello@southbankcentre.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you again soon.

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 the Southbank Centre. The Southbank Centre reserves the right to confiscate video or sound equipment and hold it in safekeeping until the performance has ended.

Mobiles and watches should be switched off before the performance begins.

OrchLab Festival Day

Earlier today we welcomed nearly 100 guests to our Royal Festival Hall home to join us for OrchLab Festival Day, our annual celebration of music-making with disabled adults.

OrchLab is a music project founded on collaboration and inclusivity. Run by the London Philharmonic Orchestra, in partnership with Drake Music, experts in music, technology and disability, OrchLab offers music-making opportunities for disabled adults, through workshops, specially-created accessible instruments and bespoke web activities through its dedicated website, www.orchlab.org

OrchLab is generously supported by JTI.

Carols at Waterloo - Friday 9 December

After a two-year Covid hiatus, on Friday 9 December we're bringing back one of our favourite LPO traditions – Christmas carols at Waterloo railway station. Members of our brass section and friends, plus singers from the London Philharmonic Choir, will be spreading some festive cheer on the main concourse from 5pm onwards, raising money for Save the Children. If you're passing, please do join us for a carol or two, and please give generously!

New on the LPO Label James MacMillan: Christmas Oratorio



New this month on the LPO Label is James MacMillan's *Christmas Oratorio*, recorded live at the work's UK premiere in December 2021. Conducted by Mark Elder, it features the London Philharmonic Choir, soprano Lucy Crowe and baritone Roderick Williams.

Composed in 2019, the *Christmas Oratorio* embraces a Scots Gaelic Iullaby, English poetry and Bible passages, all recounting the Nativity. MacMillan deftly weaves together these strands in his trademark expressive and immediate language, reflecting both his Scottish roots and his deeply-held Catholic faith. It is available to stream or download via all major platforms, and on sale to buy as a double CD. To listen or find out more, visit Ink.to/Ipochristmasoratorio

On stage tonight

First Violins

Pieter Schoeman* Leader Chair supported by Neil Westreich Alice Ivy-Pemberton Kate Oswin Lasma Taimina Chair supported by Irina Gofman & Mr Rodrik V. G. Cave Minn Maioe Thomas Eisner Cassi Hamilton Katalin Varnagy Chair supported by Sonja Drexler Nilufar Alimaksumova Martin Höhmann Yang Zhang Chair supported by Eric Tomsett Alice Apreda Howell Ronald Long Chu-Yu Yang Rasa Zukauskaite Ricky Gore

Second Violins

Tania Mazzetti Principal Chair supported by Countess Dominique Loredan Emma Oldfield Co-Principal Helena Smart Fiona Higham Chair supported by David & Yi Buckley Kate Birchall Joseph Maher Nancy Elan Sioni Williams Nynke Hijlkema Lyrit Milgram Jessica Coleman Jamie Hutchinson Alison Strange

Violas

Rachel Roberts
Guest Principal
Ting-Ru Lai
Katharine Leek
Raquel López Bolívar
Martin Wray
Lucia Ortiz
Toby Warr
James Heron
Daniel Cornford
Michelle Bruil
Laura Vallejo
Richard Cookson

Cellos

Chair supported by Bianca & Stuart Roden
Pei-Jee Ng Co-Principal
Chair supported by The Candide Trust
Francis Bucknall
Tom Roff
Helen Thomas
George Hoult
Sibylle Hentschel
Iain Ward
Tamaki Sugimoto
Julia Morneweg

Kristina Blaumane Principal

Double Basses

Kevin Rundell* Principal Sebastian Pennar Co-Principal George Peniston Laura Murphy Lowri Morgan Adam Wynter Elen Roberts David Johnson

Flutes

Juliette Bausor Principal Clare Childs Imogen Royce

Oboes

lan Hardwick* Principal Alice Munday Emily Stephens

Clarinets

Benjamin Mellefont Principal Thomas Watmough Chair supported by Roger Greenwood Paul Richards*

Bassoons

Simon Estell Principal Emma Harding Catriona McDermid

Horns

John Ryan* Principal Martin Hobbs Duncan Fuller Gareth Mollison Mark Vines Co-Principal Oliver Johnson Zoe Tweed Jonathan Lipton Andrew Budden

Wagner Tubas

Mark Vines Oliver Johnson Zoe Tweed Jonathan Lipton

Trumpets

Paul Beniston* Principal Anne McAneney* Erika Curbelo

Trombones

Mark Templeton* Principal Chair supported by William & Alex de Winton David Whitehouse Tom Berry

Bass Trombone

Lyndon Meredith Principal

Tuba

Lee Tsarmaklis* Principal Chair supported by Friends of the Orchestra

Timpani

Simon Carrington* Principal Chair supported by Victoria Robey OBE

Harp

Sue Blair Guest Principal

* Holds a professorial appointment in London

The LPO also acknowledges the following chair supporters whose players are not present at this concert:
Garf & Gill Collins

Dr Barry Grimaldi Sir Simon Robey Caroline, Jamie & Zander Sharp

London Philharmonic Orchestra



Uniquely groundbreaking and exhilarating to watch and hear, the London Philharmonic Orchestra has been celebrated as one of the world's great orchestras since Sir Thomas Beecham founded it in 1932. With every performance we aim to bring wonder to the modern world and cement our position as a leading orchestra for the 21st century.

Our home is here at the Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall, where we're at the beating heart of London's cultural life. You'll also find us at our resident venues in Brighton, Eastbourne and Saffron Walden, and on tour throughout the UK and internationally, performing to sell-out audiences worldwide. Each summer we're resident at Glyndebourne Festival Opera, combining the magic of opera with Glyndebourne's glorious setting in the Sussex countryside.

Sharing the wonder

We're always at the forefront of technology, finding new ways to share our music globally. You'll find us online, on streaming platforms, on social media and through our broadcast partnership with Marquee TV. During the pandemic period we launched 'LPOnline': over 100 videos of performances, insights and introductions to playlists, which led to us being named runner-up in the Digital Classical Music Awards 2020. During 2022/23 we'll be working once again with Marquee TV to broadcast selected live concerts, so you can share or relive the wonder from your own living room.

Our conductors

Our Principal Conductors have included some of the greatest historic names like Sir Adrian Boult, Bernard Haitink, Sir Georg Solti, Klaus Tennstedt and Kurt Masur. In 2021 Edward Gardner became our 13th Principal Conductor, taking the Orchestra into its tenth decade. Vladimir Jurowski became Conductor Emeritus in recognition of his impact as Principal Conductor from 2007–21. Karina Canellakis is our current Principal Guest Conductor and Brett Dean our Composer-in-Residence.

Soundtrack to key moments

Everyone will have heard the London Philharmonic Orchestra, whether it's playing the world's National Anthems at every medal ceremony of the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, our iconic recording with Pavarotti that made *Nessun Dorma* a global football anthem, or closing the flotilla at The Queen's Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant. And you'll almost certainly have heard us on the soundtracks for major films including *The Lord of the Rings*.

We also release live, studio and archive recordings on our own label, and are the world's most-streamed orchestra, with over 15 million plays of our content each month. Recent releases include the first volume of a Stravinsky series with Vladimir Jurowski; Tippett's complete opera *The Midsummer Marriage* under Edward Gardner, captured in his first concert as

Pieter Schoeman Leader

LPO Principal Conductor in September 2021; and James MacMillan's Christmas Oratorio, recorded at the work's UK premiere performance in December 2021 (see page 14).

Next generations

We're committed to inspiring the next generation of musicians and music-lovers: there's nothing we love more than seeing the joy of children and families enjoying their first musical moments, and we're passionate about equipping schools and teachers through schools' concerts, resources and training. Reflecting our values of collaboration and inclusivity, our OrchLab and Open Sound Ensemble projects offer music-making opportunities for adults and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

Today's young instrumentalists are the orchestral members of the future, so we're committed to offering them opportunities to progress. Our LPO Junior Artists programme is leading the way in creating pathways into the profession for young artists from under-represented communities, and our LPO Young Composers and Foyle Future Firsts schemes support the next generation of professional musicians, bridging the transition from education to professional careers.

2022/23 and beyond

We believe in the relevance of our music, and that our programmes must reflect the narratives of modern times. This season we're exploring themes of belonging and displacement in our series 'A place to call home', delving into music by composers including Austrians Erich Korngold and Paul Hindemith, Hungarian Béla Bartók, Cuban Tania León, Ukrainian Victoria Vita Polevá and Syrian Kinan Azmeh. As we celebrate our 90th anniversary we perform works premiered by the Orchestra during its illustrious history. This season also marks Vaughan Williams's 150th anniversary and we'll be celebrating with four of his works, as well as both symphonies by Elgar and music by Tippett and Thomas Adès. Our commitment to everything new and creative includes premieres by Brett Dean and Heiner Goebbels, as well as new commissions from composers from around the world including Agata Zubel, Elena Langer and Vijay Iyer.













Pieter Schoeman was appointed Leader of the London Philharmonic Orchestra in 2008, having previously been Co-Leader since 2002. He is also a Professor of Violin at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance.

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 London's Royal Festival Hall. As a chamber musician he regularly appears at London's prestigious Wigmore Hall. His chamber music partners have included Anne-Sophie Mutter, Veronika Eberle, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Boris Garlitsky, Jean-Guihen Queyras, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Martin Helmchen and Julia Fischer.

Pieter has performed numerous times as a soloist with the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Highlights have included an appearance as both conductor and soloist in Vivaldi's Four Seasons at the Royal Festival Hall, the Brahms Double Concerto with Kristina Blaumane, and the Britten Double Concerto with Alexander Zemtsov. which was recorded and released on the LPO Label to great critical acclaim.

Pieter has appeared as Guest Leader with the BBC, Barcelona, Bordeaux, Lyon and Baltimore symphony orchestras; the Rotterdam and BBC Philharmonic orchestras; and the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra.

Pieter's chair in the LPO is generously supported by Neil Westreich.

Robin Ticciati

conductor



Robin Ticciati OBE has been Music Director of the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin since 2017 and Music Director of Glyndebourne Festival Opera since 2014. He was Principal Conductor of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra from 2009-18.

Robin is a regular guest conductor with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, both on the concert stage and at Glyndebourne: in summer 2022 at Glyndebourne he conducted the Orchestra in a Poulenc double-bill and Ethel Smyth's The Wreckers, the latter of which was reprised in a Glyndebourne Prom at the Royal Albert Hall. He is also a regular guest with the London Symphony Orchestra, Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, Budapest Festival Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra of Europe. Guest-conducting highlights in recent years have included the Vienna Philharmonic. Czech Philharmonic, Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Orchestre National de France, Philadelphia Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Gewandhausorchester Leipzig and Staatskapelle Dresden.

Since becoming Music Director at Glyndebourne, Robin has conducted new productions of *La damnation de Faust*, *Pelléas et Mélisande*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* and *La clemenza di Tito*. Highlights as a guest opera conductor include *Peter Grimes* at La Scala, *Le nozze di Figaro* at the Salzburg Festival, and *Eugene Onegin* at both the Royal Opera House and the Metropolitan Opera.

Robin Ticciati's highly acclaimed discography includes Berlioz with the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra; Haydn, Schumann, Berlioz and Brahms with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra; Dvořák, Bruckner and Brahms with the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra; and Debussy, Duruflé, Duparc, Fauré, Ravel and Bruckner with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin.

Born in London, Robin Ticciati is a violinist, pianist and percussionist by training. He was a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain when, aged 15, he turned to conducting under the guidance of Sir Colin Davis and Sir Simon Rattle. He holds the position of 'Sir Colin Davis Fellow of Conducting' at the Royal Academy of Music. Robin was awarded an OBE for services to music in The Queen's Birthday Honours 2019.

The 2022/23 season sees Robin embark on tours with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Vienna Symphony and Deutsche Symphonieorchester Berlin, and he will return to conduct the Budapest Festival Orchestra. Debuts this season include the Munich Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony and Pittsburgh Symphony orchestras. He returns to Glyndebourne in 2023 to conduct Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress* and Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmélites*, both with the LPO.

Simon Keenlyside

baritone



Revered British baritone Simon Keenlyside was born in London. He appears at the world's most celebrated opera houses and has particularly close associations with the Metropolitan Opera, New York; the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden; the Bavarian State Opera; and the Vienna State Opera. His roles have included Prospero (*The Tempest*), Posa (*Don Carlo*), Père Germont (*La traviata*), Papageno (*The Magic Flute*), Pelléas/Golaud (*Pelléas et Mélisande*), Count Almaviva, and the title roles in *Don Giovanni*, Eugene Onegin, Wozzeck, Billy Budd, Hamlet, Macbeth and Rigoletto.

Recent highlights include Golaud at the Liceu in Barcelona, Ezio in Verdi's *Atilla* at Covent Garden, and Macbeth at the Bavarian State Opera and Covent Garden. The 2022/23 season sees him in *Rigoletto* and *Macbeth* at the Vienna State Opera, and *Peter Grimes* at the Opéra national de Paris.

A renowned recitalist, Simon appears regularly at such major international recital venues as Wigmore Hall, the Palau de les Arts in Valencia, La Monnaie in Brussels, the Konzerthaus and the Musikverein in Vienna, the Opernhaus Zurich, and many more. He also enjoys extensive concert work and has sung under the batons of the world's leading conductors, appearing with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe; the City of Birmingham, London Symphony, Philharmonia and Cleveland orchestras; and the Czech, Vienna and Berlin Philharmonic orchestras. His most recent appearance with the LPO was in October 2018, when he was a soloist in Orff's Carmina Burana under Jérémie Rhorer.

Simon's extensive discography includes a disc of Schumann Lieder with Graham Johnson and four recital discs with Malcolm Martineau - Schubert, Strauss, Brahms, and an English song disc, 'Songs of War', which won the Solo Vocal Award at the 2012 Gramophone Awards. He has also recorded Britten's War Requiem with the London Symphony Orchestra under Gianandrea Noseda, Mendelssohn's Elijah under Paul McCreesh, Mahler's Des Knaben Wunderhorn under Simon Rattle, the title role in Macbeth under Edward Gardner, the title role in Don Giovanni under Claudio Abbado, Carmina Burana under Christian Thielemann. Marcello in La bohème under Riccardo Chailly, the title role in Billy Budd under Richard Hickox, Papageno in The Magic Flute under Charles Mackerras, Count Almaviva in the Grammy award-winning Le nozze di Figaro under René Jacobs, and Prospero in Thomas Adès's The Tempest, which won Best Opera Recording (Grammy Awards 2013) and Music DVD Recording of the Year (Echo Klassik Awards 2014).

Simon was made a CBE in 2003, and received a knighthood in The Queen's Birthday Honours 2018. In 2017 he was awarded the title of Austrian Kammersänger at the Vienna State Opera. He won the 2006 Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Opera, and in 2007 received the Echo Klassik award for Male Singer of the Year.

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Five Mystical Songs

Simon Keenlyside baritone

1 Easter 2 I Got Me Flowers 3 Love Bade Me Welcome 4 The Call 5 Antiphon



Tonight is the third LPO concert this autumn celebrating the music of Ralph Vaughan Williams, whose 150th anniversary we mark this year. The LPO was privileged to work with 'RVW' on many occasions, premiering several of his works and building a relationship with the music of this most individual and beloved of British composers that flourishes to this day.

Vaughan Williams's attitude to religious faith fluctuated during his long life. As a student at Cambridge he proudly proclaimed himself an 'atheist', but hearing sung church services in nearby Ely Cathedral challenged him: was there something transcendent behind it after all? The trauma of serving as a medical orderly in the trenches in the First World War posed another, very different challenge; but much later Vaughan Williams is said to have been pleased when his friend, the tenor Steuart Wilson, described him as a 'Christian agnostic.' Perhaps the closest approximation to his position could be found in the words from Plato, on the nature of the afterlife, that Vaughan Williams had printed in the score of his Sancta Civitas ('The Holy City', 1925):

Five Mystical Songs *Texts*

'A man of sense will not insist that things are as I have described them. But I think he will believe that something of the kind is true... and that it is worthwhile to stake everything on this belief.'

One thing is certain: throughout his career Vaughan Williams was drawn repeatedly to religious texts - the pantheistic mysticism of Walt Whitman, the King James Bible, Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, the poetry of William Blake and, in the case of this glorious cycle, the English 'Metaphysical' poet George Herbert (1593–1633). The visionary intensity, artful simplicity and inner calm of Herbert's verse has inspired many - so much so that the philosopher and mystic Simone Weil cited one poem, Love (set in the third of these songs) as central to her conversion experience. It isn't hard to intuit the appeal for Vaughan Williams: a radiant, life-transforming encounter with transcendent love, which neatly dodges dogmatic specifics (neither 'God' nor 'Jesus' are actually named), but which speaks of a knowledge far deeper than the 'certainties' of fanatics and fundamentalists.

It is guite clear, however, that the language, however, with its immediate power to suggest vocal intonations, spoke deeply to the composer. Even when one already knows the poetry, after hearing Vaughan Williams's setting of the opening line, 'Rise heart; thy Lord is risen', it's difficult to read the words without feeling that wonderful warm wave of music rising heavenward in one's mind and body. 'I Got Me Flowers', 'The Call' and 'Antiphon' ('Let all the world') recall the most memorable of Vaughan Williams's own folk-hymnic contributions to The English Hymnal: ardent, immediately appealing and free from conventional religiosity. But the centrepiece emotionally and well as structurally - is 'Love Bade Me Welcome'. In the words of a modern mystical poet, T S Eliot, 'We must be still and still moving into another intensity.' At the heart of the poem, as Love speaks the words 'You must sit down ... and taste my meat', the chorus wordlessly intone the old communion chant 'O Sacrum convivium'. The rational mind may protest. but this is music that speaks directly to the heart.

Programme note © Stephen Johnson

1 Easter

From Herbert's 'Easter'

Rise heart; thy Lord is risen.
Sing his praise without delayes,
Who takes thee by the hand,
that thou likewise with him may'st rise;
That, as his death calcined thee to dust,
His life may make thee gold, and much more, just.

Awake, my lute, and struggle for thy part with all thy art. The crosse taught all wood to resound his name, who bore the same.

His stretched sinews taught all strings, what key Is the best to celebrate this most high day.

Consort both heart and lute, and twist a song pleasant and long;

Or since all musick is but three parts vied and multiplied.

O let thy blessed Spirit bear a part, And make up our defects with his sweet art.

2 I Got Me Flowers

From the second part of Herbert's 'Easter'

I got me flowers to strew thy way; I got me boughs off many a tree: But thou wast up by break of day, And brought'st thy sweets along with thee.

The Sunne arising in the East.
Though he give light, and th'East perfume;
If they should offer to contest
With thy arising, they presume.

Can there be any day but this, Though many sunnes to shine endeavour? We count three hundred, but we misse: There is but one, and that one ever.

Five Mystical Songs

Texts continued

3 Love Bade Me Welcome

From Herbert's 'Love (III)'

Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back. Guiltie of dust and sinne.
But quick-ey'd Love, observing me grow slack From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning If I lack'd anything.

A guest, I answer'd, worthy to be here: Love said, You shall be he. I the unkinde, ungrateful? Ah, my deare, I cannot look on thee. Love took my hand, and smiling did reply, Who made the eyes but I?

Truth Lord, but I have marr'd them: let my shame Go where it doth deserve. And know you not, sayes Love, who bore the blame? My deare, then I will serve. You must sit down, sayes Love, and taste my meat: So I did sit and eat.

5 Antiphon

From Herbert's 'Antiphon (I)'

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing: My God and King. The heavens are not too high, His praise may thither flie; The earth is not too low, His praises there may grow.

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing: My God and King. The Church with psalms must shout, No doore can keep them out; But above all, the heart Must bear the longest part.

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing: My God and King.

4 The Call

From Herbert's 'The Call'

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: Such a Way, as gives us breath: Such a Truth, as ends all strife: Such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: Such a Light, as shows a feast: Such a Feast, as mends in length: Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: Such a Joy, as none can move: Such a Love, as none can part: Such a Heart, as joyes in love.

Interval - 20 minutes

An announcement will be made five minutes before the end of the interval.

Anton Bruckner

1824-96

Symphony No. 9 in D minor, WAB 109

1887–96, unfinished 'Dem lieben Gott' | To the dear Lord |

1 Feierlich, misterioso [Solemn, mysterious]
2 Scherzo: Bewegt, lebhaft [Allegro, lively]; Trio: Schnell [Fast]
3 Adagio: Langsam, feierlich [Slow, solemn]
4 Finale: Misterioso, nicht schnell [Mysterious, not fast]

Nowak Edition of movements 1–3. Performing version of the Finale 1983–2012 by Nicola Samale, John A Phillips, Benjamin-Gunnar Cohrs and Giuseppe Mazzuca; revision John A Phillips 2021–22 (first performance).

Bruckner's Ninth is traditionally performed in the three movements Bruckner had completed by 1894. But the last 18 months of his life were spent working assiduously on its Finale; that the Symphony *not* conclude with its *Adagio* was so important to him that he directed, should he not complete the work, that his *Te Deum* be performed after the *Adagio*.

Among the 450 pages of manuscripts that survive for the Finale, Bruckner left an orchestral score intended as no less definitive than the scores of the first three movements. The orchestration of about the first third was complete, some of the fully scored bifolios (fourpage double leaves, most of them 16 bars long) even noted as 'finished'. The rest of the movement, no less definitive, was left in complete string score, in ink, the main wind entries in ink or pencil. Consider also: the Finale had been emerging in Bruckner's mind for almost a decade before its detailed working out. His originality, clarity of conception, contrapuntal skill and theoretical insight undiminished, the Ninth and its Finale were to be Bruckner's masterwork, his opus summum musices.

Tragically, a number of bifolios of this score, among other manuscripts, were appropriated by souvenir-hunters following Bruckner's death. At the 1903

premiere of the Ninth, its first three movements were presented in a reorchestrated arrangement, conductor Ferdinand Löwe outright lying about the existence of a Finale. (The myth that Bruckner left only indecipherable 'sketches' is still in currency today.) The manuscripts were published in 1934 in the Bruckner Complete Edition, but errors in their transcription led to further misunderstandings. In 1963 British musicologist Hans Ferdinand Redlich justly wrote of the Ninth: 'Rarely has the posthumous work of a great composer been treated by posterity with such persistent unfairness.'

Begun in 1983, efforts to reconstruct the Finale by the editorial team of Nicola Samale, John Phillips, Benjamin-Gunnar Cohrs and Giuseppe Mazzuca (hence, 'SPCM') led to the publication of Phillips's reconstruction of Bruckner's autograph (1994, 1999) and facsimile edition of the original manuscripts (1996) in the Bruckner Complete Edition: they brought about a revolution in informed musicological opinion. Phillips and Cohrs went on to independently write doctoral theses on the Ninth.

While nothing can alter the fact that some of its pages were lost, far more survives for the Finale than previously believed, including drafts for virtually the entire coda (now included in their entirety). The work's

essential motivic and harmonic continuity is apparent from the surviving bifolios; most of the gaps can be reconstructed from the particello or short-score sketches that preceded and accompanied its composition. Bruckner, who taught harmony and counterpoint, was a profoundly methodical and theoretically insightful composer; his artistic decisions followed a frequently construable compositional logic, making the reconstruction of compositional continuity and orchestration far less subjective than they might seem.

The 'SPCM' Finale has been progressively refined throughout its history. At 649 bars, the current revision, which has the wholehearted approval of Maestro Samale, is four bars shorter than in 2012 (the version recorded so successfully by Simon Rattle and the Berlin Philharmonic on EMI) but even more solidly based on the original materials. 440 bars represent the continuity of the surviving score bifolios (68%), a further 122 were reconstructed from the sketches or continuity drafts (19%). Only 87 bars (13%, nine bars fewer than in 2012), required more 'forensic' restoration.

Expressly conceived as his last symphony and musical testament, the Ninth was dedicated, with Bruckner's characteristic simplicity, to 'the dear Lord'; he also referred to it as 'Homage to Divine Majesty'. That, like Beethoven's Ninth, it was to be in D minor was itself a homage to that celebrated work. Although begun only days after Bruckner completed his Eighth in August 1887, work on the Ninth was delayed for years by Bruckner's retrospective revisions of several previous symphonies, designed to bring his major works to the same exacting level of compositional craftmanship.

Like Bruckner's Fifth, his Ninth was orientated around a Finale of great weight and emotional power, intended to end not in resigned beatitude but triumphant glory. Bruckner marshals up all the numinous, 'gothic' elements of the key of D minor he found prefigured in Beethoven, raising them to even greater levels of mystery, solemnity, rapture and, at times, sheer terror. As in his Seventh and Eighth symphonies, Bruckner enriched his orchestral palette with the darkly mysterious sound of four Wagner tubas, according them important roles in the last two movements. Harmonically the work is rich beyond belief: Striking dissonances such as the opening of the Scherzo or climax of the Adagio, not to mention many dissonant passages in the Finale, strikingly foreshadow 20th-century developments.



Bruckner at the piano, 1895

The work's formal design is clear. First and last movements use Bruckner's characteristic sonata form: an exposition with three theme groups, freely developed, then reprised, followed by a coda. The ominous opening of the first movement builds into the violent outburst of its intimidating main theme; the second subject brings rapturous spiritual calm, the third a sterner sense of tragedy. Bruckner fuses development and reprise, creating a much-expanded counterstatement to the exposition that rises to overwhelming climaxes. The coda is monumental, but intentionally concise.

Within this context, the *Scherzo*, usually a lighter movement, seems demonically supercharged, a veritable *Totentanz* (dance of death). It is cast in monothematic sonata form, its unearthly Trio unlike anything else written by Bruckner.

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The Adagio, a deeply moving retrospective that rises to visionary heights, has two broad theme groups, each restated. Bruckner designated the sorrowful theme in the Wagner tubas, which emerges just after the first climax, his 'Farewell to Life'; it recurs later as an impassioned chorale in the strings, but will return in the Finale as its monumental chorale theme. The Adagio ascends to a climax of fearful power, perhaps the confrontation with death itself; its coda, a web of allusions, quotes one of Bruckner's masses and prefigures the opening of the Finale, achieving a profound sense of peace.

If the Adagio was a farewell to life, the Finale is a Dantesque journey through Purgatory, but ending in Glory. This explains much about the movement. Its form is abundantly clear: The compulsive, dottedrhythm motif with which it begins builds ominously into the overwhelming principal theme; it will dominate the movement. Initially desolate, the second group later seems to recall happier memories. The third group is the glorious chorale prefigured in the Adagio; the ensuing development is dominated by the four-note motif Bruckner borrowed from his Te Deum. The principal theme returns as a fugue, followed by a chase-like crescendo culminating in a new theme in the horns, but this breaks off in an echoing void. The reprise of the second group makes two pointed musical allusions: first, to the chorale, and second, to the melody of the ancient liturgical song 'Christ is risen', a favourite of the composer (the text of which repeats the word 'Alleluja'); it returns us to D minor. Then - in one of the great passages in all Bruckner - the chorale returns, reunited with the Te Deum motif: we are coming home at last. It segues into the triumphant horn theme, only to suddenly confront us again with the forbidding main theme from the first movement.

We can now reconstruct the coda even more accurately. A mysteriously circling ascent led into the final chorale statement for which we have both the allusion in the reprise as well as a late sketch. Three remarkable drafts, dated May 1896, for the rest of the coda are now included in their entirety, the restored passage allowing the themes of first movement and Finale to combine in symbolic demonstration of the underlying unity of the whole work. This culminates in a terrifyingly dissonant passage before conclusively cadencing into the 'Glory' of D major: Salvation.

Bruckner stated that he would introduce here 'with great power' a theme prefigured in an earlier movement, an 'Alleluja [...], in order that the symphony end with a hymn

of praise to the dear Lord'. This can be convincingly identified as the D major entry of the trumpets at bar 5 of the *Adagio*; numerous clues suggest how Bruckner would have transformed it into his concluding 'hymn of praise'.

Programme note © Dr John A Phillips, Sydney 2022



A page from Bruckner's autograph of the Finale: entry of the chorale

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