



# Free concert programme

# London Philharmonic Orchestra







2025/26 season at the Southbank Centre



SOUTHBANK CENTRE RESIDENT

# London Philharmonic Orchestra

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

# Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall Wednesday 5 November 2025 | 7.30pm

# Brahms's Fourth

# **Brahms**

Tragic Overture (13')

# **Tchaikovsky**

Piano Concerto No. 1 (33')

Interval (20')

# **Brahms**

Symphony No. 4 (40')

### **Edward Gardner**

conductor
Generously supported by Aud Jebsen

# Pavel Kolesnikov

piano

Concert generously supported by Sir Simon & Lady Robey CBE

# **Contents**

- 2 Welcome LPO news
- 3 On stage tonight
- 4 London Philharmonic Orchestra
- 5 Leader: Pieter Schoeman
- 6 Edward Gardner
- 7 Pavel Kolesnikov
- 8 Programme notes
- 12 Next concerts
- 13 Sound Futures donors
- 14 Thank you
- 16 LPO administration





# Welcome

# LPO news

# Welcome to the Southbank Centre

We're the UK's largest centre for the arts and one of the nation's top five visitor attractions, showcasing the world's most exciting artists at our venues in the heart of London. As a charity, we bring millions of people together by opening up the unique art spaces that we care for.

The Southbank Centre is made up of the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room, Hayward Gallery, National Poetry Library and Arts Council Collection. We're one of London's favourite meeting spots, with lots of free events and places to relax, eat and shop next to the Thames.

We hope you enjoy your visit. If you need any information or help, please ask a member of staff. You can also email hello@southbankcentre.co.uk or write to us at Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX.

Subscribers to our email updates are the first to hear about new events, offers and competitions. Just head to our website to sign up.

# LPO Merchandise - on sale tonight

Did you know we've launched a brand new range of LPO merchandise? From handy tote bags and eco-friendly water bottles to sylish stationery and cosy clothing – all featuring the iconic LPO pink star – it's the perfect way to take a little piece of the Orchestra home with you!

With prices from just £2, there's something for every taste and budget. Check out the merch stall tonight next to the Welcome Desk in the Level 2 Foyer.

# 'The Nature Dialogues' Free pre-concert talks this season

As part of our 2025/26 Harmony with Nature theme, some of today's leading scientists and storytellers join us throughout the season for a fascinating series of free pre-concert talks. Exploring topics from wildlife to volcanoes, from stars to storms, guest speakers include Kate Humble and Jeremy Wade, among many other renowned environmentalists, scientists and composers.

The next talk is on Saturday
29 November at 6pm in the Royal
Festival Hall, when astronomer
David Kipping joins composer
Robert Laidlow to explore the cosmic
inspiration behind his new work
Exoplanets, ahead of its world premiere later in the
evening. Find out more and book your free tickets at
lpo.org.uk/harmony-with-nature

# Printed with the planet in mind

The paper used for LPO concert programmes has been sourced from well-managed FSC®-certified forests, recycled materials, and other controlled sources. It is also Carbon Balanced, meaning the carbon impact of its production is offset by the World Land Trust. If you don't want to take your programme home, please use the recycling bins in the Royal Festival Hall foyers.



### Prefer a paper-free option next time?

Scan here for PDF versions of all our programmes to read or download on your phone or tablet.



FSC www.fsc.org MIX Paper | Supporting responsible forestry FSC\* C115465

# On stage tonight

# First Violins

Pieter Schoeman\* Leader Chair supported by Neil Westreich Alice Ivy-Pemberton Co-Leader Vesselin Gelley Sub-Leader

Kate Oswin Chair supported by Eric Tomsett Lasma Taimina

Chair supported by Irina Gofman & Mr Rodrik V. G. Cave

Minn Majoe Chair supported by Dr Alex & Maria

Yang Zhang
Thomas Eisner
Chair supported by Ryze Power
Katalin Varnagy
Martin Höhmann
Nilufar Alimaksumova
Amanda Smith
Rasa Zukauskaite
Ruth Schulten

### Second Violins

Tania Mazzetti Principal Chair supported by The Candide Trust

Emma Oldfield Co-Principal Claudia Tarrant-Matthews Coco Inman Kate Birchall Ashley Stevens

Nancy Elan Sophie Phillips

Chair supported by Friends of the Orchestra

Nynke Hijlkema Marie-Anne Mairesse Joseph Maher Sioni Williams Jessica Coleman Kate Cole

### **Violas**

Fiona Winning
Guest Principal
Guillaume Leroy
Katharine Leek
Lucia Ortiz Sauco
Benedetto Pollani
Laura Vallejo
Martin Wray
Chair supported by David & Bettina
Harden
Alistair Scahill
Michelle Bruil

# Jisu Song Cellos

Kristina Blaumane Principal Chair supported by Bianca & Stuart Roden

Henry Shapard Co-Principal Waynne Kwon

Chair supported by an anonymous donor

David Lale Francis Bucknall Miguel Ángel Villeda Cerón Hee Yeon Cho Sue Sutherley

### **Double Basses**

Kevin Rundell\* Principal Sebastian Pennar\* Co-Principal Hugh Kluger George Peniston Tom Walley Chair supported by William & Alex de Winton

Laura Murphy
Chair supported by Ian Ferguson
& Susan Tranter

### **Flutes**

Juliette Bausor Principal Chair supported by Malcolm & Alison Thwaites Clare Childs

### Piccolo

Stewart Mcllwham\* Principal

### **Oboes**

Ian Hardwick\* Principal Alice Munday Chair supported by David & Yi Buckley

### Clarinets

Benjamin Mellefont\* Principal

Chair supported by Sir Nigel Boardman & Prof. Lynda Gratton Thomas Watmough Chair supported by Roger Greenwood

### **Bassoons**

Jonathan Davies\* Principal Chair supported by Sir Simon Robey Helen Storey\*

# Contrabassoon Simon Estell\* Principal

# Horns

John Ryan\* Principal Annemarie Federle Principal Chair supported by Victoria Robey CBE Martin Hobbs Mark Vines Co-Principal Gareth Mollison

# Trumpets

Paul Beniston\* Principal Chair supported by the Williams family in memory of Grenville Williams

Tom Nielsen\* Principal Anne McAneney\*

### **Trombones**

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

**David Whitehouse** 

# Bass Trombone Lyndon Meredith Principal

### Tuba

Lee Tsarmaklis\* Principal Chair supported by William & Alex de Winton

# Timpani

Simon Carrington\*
Principal
Chair supported by Victoria
Robey CBE

### Percussion

Andrew Barclay\* Principal
Chair supported by Gill & Garf
Collins

# Assistant Conductor Wilson Ng

\*Professor at a London conservatoire

The LPO also acknowledges the following chair supporter whose player is not present at this concert:

Dr Barry Grimaldi

# 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. Our mission is to share wonder with the modern world through the power of orchestral music, which we accomplish through live performances, online, and an extensive education and community programme, cementing our

position as a leading orchestra for the 21st century.

Our home is 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 worldwide. In 2024 we celebrated 60 years as Resident Symphony Orchestra at Glyndebourne Festival Opera, combining the magic of opera with Glyndebourne's glorious setting in the Sussex countryside.

# Soundtrack to key moments

Everyone will have heard the Grammy-nominated London Philharmonic Orchestra, whether it's playing the world's National Anthems for 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*.

# Sharing the wonder worldwide

We're one of the world's most-streamed orchestras, with over 15 million plays of our content each month. In 2023 we were the most successful orchestra worldwide on YouTube, TikTok and Instagram, and in 2024 we featured in a TV documentary series on Sky Arts: 'Backstage with the London Philharmonic Orchestra', which was nominated for a 2025 BAFTA. During 2025/26 we're once again working with Marquee TV to broadcast selected live concerts to enjoy at home.

### Our conductors

Our Principal Conductors have included some of the greatest historic names like Sir Adrian Boult, Bernard Haitink, Klaus Tennstedt and Kurt Masur. In 2021 Edward Gardner became our 13th Principal Conductor, and Vladimir Jurowski became Conductor Emeritus. Karina Canellakis is our current Principal Guest Conductor, and Sir George Benjamin our Composer-in-Residence.

# Next generations

We're committed to nurturing the next generation of musicians and music-lovers: we love seeing the joy of children and families experiencing their first musical moments, and we're passionate about inspiring schools and teachers through dedicated concerts, workshops, resources and training. Reflecting our values of

# Pieter Schoeman Leader

collaboration and inclusivity, our OrchLab and Open Sound Ensemble projects offer music-making opportunities for adults and young people with disabilities and special educational needs.

Today's young instrumentalists are the orchestra members of the future, and we have a number of opportunities to support their progression. Our LPO Junior Artists programme leads 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. We also recently launched the LPO Conducting Fellowship, supporting the development of two outstanding early-career conductors from backgrounds under-represented in the profession.

# 2025/26 season

This season's theme, Harmony with Nature, explores humanity's bond with the natural world through works by Beethoven, Sibelius, Mendelssohn, Elgar and Dvořák; masterpieces of an era that saw nature as a mirror of human emotion. Closer to our own time, we'll hear from composers as diverse as Duke Ellington, John Luther Adams and Anna Thorvaldsdottir, who have all found a source of creative energy in the processes of nature.

Highlights with Principal Conductor Edward Gardner include symphonies by Tchaikovsky, Mahler, Brahms and Rachmaninov; a pair of concerts spotlighting 20th-century Central European composers; an evening dedicated to Elgar; and a performance of Berg's Wozzeck to end the season. We'll also welcome back Karina Canellakis and Vladimir Jurowski, as well as guest conductors including Robin Ticciati, Kirill Karabits, Mark Elder and Elim Chan. Our lineup of soloists this season includes violinists Anne-Sophie Mutter, Alina Ibragimova, James Ehnes and Himari; cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason; and pianists Yefim Bronfman, Alexandre Kantorow and Tomoko Mukaiyama. The season features nine world and UK premieres, including Tan Dun's choral 'Ode to Peace' Nine, and A Tale of God's Will (A Requiem for Katrina) by jazz icon Terence Blanchard.

We're also looking forward to tours to South Korea and across Europe, as well as another season bursting with performances and community events in our Brighton, Eastbourne and Saffron Walden residencies.













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 Amsterdam

Concertgebouw, Moscow's Rachmaninoff Hall, Capella Hall in St Petersburg, Staatsbibliothek in Berlin, Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles, and the Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall. He has also appeared as Guest Leader with many prestigious orchestras across the world. 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 Quevras, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Martin Helmchen and Julia Fischer.

Pieter has performed numerous times as a soloist with the LPO. Highlights have included an appearance as both conductor and soloist in Vivaldi's Four Seasons, the Brahms Double Concerto with Kristina Blaumane, Florence Price's Violin Concerto No. 2. and the Britten Double Concerto with Alexander Zemtsov, which was released on the LPO Label to great critical acclaim.

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

New video series: 'Humans of the Orchestra' Scan the QR code to watch our interview with Pieter



# **Edward Gardner**

# Principal Conductor, London Philharmonic Orchestra



© Jason

Edward Gardner has been Principal Conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra since 2021. He is also Music Director of the Norwegian Opera & Ballet and Honorary Conductor of the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, following his tenure as Chief Conductor from 2015–24.

This season's LPO highlights include symphonies by Tchaikovsky, Mahler, Brahms and Rachmaninov; 'Phoenix Lands': two concerts spotlighting 20th-century Central European composers; an evening dedicated to Elgar; and a concert performance of Berg's opera Wozzeck to end the season. Last month he and the Orchestra embarked on a tour to South Korea, and December sees a tour of major cities in Germany.

Edward opened his second season as Music Director of the Norwegian Opera & Ballet with *Rusalka* and concert performances of Kurtág's *Fin de partie*. In spring 2026 he will conduct *Don Carlos* and Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*. June 2026 sees concert performances of Wagner's *The Ring Without Words*, and next season the opera house will begin its journey towards a complete *Ring* Cycle in the 2028/29 season.

In demand as a guest conductor, this season Edward returns to orchestras in the USA including the Chicago Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Dallas Symphony and National Symphony orchestras, and makes his debut with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. In Europe he conducts the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra, WDR Symphony Orchestra Cologne, Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, Danish National Symphony Orchestra and Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra. In Tokyo he makes his debut with the Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra.

An acclaimed opera conductor, in spring 2025 Edward was re-invited to London's Royal Opera House to conduct the world premiere of Mark-Anthony Turnage's Festen, having made his Covent Garden debut with Káťa Kabanová. In June 2025 he returned to the Bavarian State Opera for Rusalka, following Peter Grimes in 2022 and Verdi's Otello in 2023. Music Director of English National Opera for eight years (2007–15), he has also built a strong relationship with New York's Metropolitan Opera, and has conducted at La Scala, Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Chicago Lyric Opera and the Opéra National de Paris.

Edward Gardner has recorded extensively with the Bergen Philharmonic on the Chandos label, including most recently *Salome*, as well as a Grammy-nominated Janáček *Glagolitic Mass*. Other recent critically acclaimed releases include *Der fliegende Holländer* with Lise Davidsen, Gerald Finley and the Norwegian National Opera for Decca.

In September this year, the LPO Label released Edward's recording of Tippett's *A Child of Our Time* with the London Philharmonic Orchestra & Choir. This was his third Tippett release on the label, following *The Midsummer Marriage* – which won a 2023 Gramophone Award – and the Second Symphony and Piano Concerto with Steven Osborne in 2024. He has also released on the label works by Berlioz, Rachmaninov, Dvořák, Schumann and Britten. Later this month will see the release of Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*, recorded live at the 2022 BBC Proms (see page 7). In 2024 he and the LPO featured in a Sky Arts series: 'Backstage with the London Philharmonic Orchestra', which was nominated for a BAFTA.

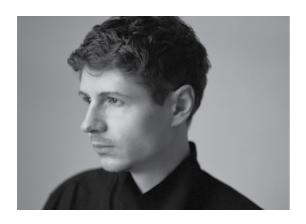
A passionate supporter of young talent, Edward founded the Hallé Youth Orchestra in 2002 and regularly conducts the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. He has a close relationship with the Juilliard School of Music, and with the Royal Academy of Music.

Born in Gloucester in 1974, Edward was educated at the University of Cambridge and the Royal Academy of Music, and gained early recognition as Assistant Conductor of the Hallé and Music Director of Glyndebourne Touring Opera. His many accolades include the Royal Philharmonic Society Conductor of the Year Award (2008), an Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Opera (2009) and an OBE for Services to Music in The Queen's Birthday Honours (2012).

Edward Gardner's position at the LPO is generously supported by Aud Jebsen.

# Pavel Kolesnikov

# piano



Pavel Kolesnikov made his London Philharmonic Orchestra debut in 2014, when he performed Rachmaninov's Third Piano Concerto here at the Royal Festival Hall with conductor Vassily Sinaisky. He returned to the LPO in 2017, performing Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 at Brighton Dome.

This season, Pavel returns to the Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra in Tokyo (again with Edward Gardner), and makes his debuts with the Atlanta Symphony (under Nathalie Stutzmann), Tampere Philharmonic (under Gergely Madaras) and Orchestre Philharmonique Royal de Liège (under Lionel Bringuier). He also gives solo and duo recitals at the Wigmore Hall, New York's 92NY, the Edinburgh International Festival, Piano à Lyon and the Klavier-Festival Ruhr.

Highlights of the previous two seasons include concerto performances with the London Symphony, Danish National Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony, Philharmonia, Royal Philharmonic, Netherlands Philharmonic, Hallé and Bournemouth Symphony orchestras, with conductors Susanna Mälkki, Manfred Honeck, Sir Mark Elder, Alpesh Chauhan, Alexander Bloch and Vasily Petrenko.

Pavel Kolesnikov is known for his curatorial approach and his work across genres. His realisation of Bach's *Goldberg Variations* with dancer Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker has been staged over 50 times across Europe, while his residency at the 2023 Aldeburgh Festival saw collaborations with architect Sophie Hicks and playwright Martin Crimp. In 2025, David Hockney invited Pavel, along with his partner and fellow pianist Samson Tsoy, to curate a series of concerts inspired by the artist's life and work at the Fondation Louis Vuitton.

A former Honens Piano Competition winner and BBC New Generation Artist, Pavel Kolesnikov was Artist-in-Residence at Wigmore Hall during the 2020/21 season. More recently, he has performed at Amsterdam's Concertgebouw and Muziekgebouw, Atlanta's Spivey Hall, London's Southbank Centre, Barbican Centre and at the BBC Proms, BOZAR in Brussels, and Atlanta's Spivey Hall and Severance Music Center as part of the Cleveland Orchestra's Piano Series.

Coming soon on the LPO Label

# **ELGAR: THE DREAM OF GERONTIUS**

Recorded live at the 2022 BBC Proms

London Philharmonic Orchestra | Edward Gardner conductor

Allan Clayton | James Platt | Jamie Barton | London Philharmonic Choir | Hallé Choir

Out Friday 21 November on CD and all major streaming platforms

Sign up for updates at **lpo.org.uk/signup** 

# Johannes Brahms

1833-97

# Tragic Overture, Op. 81

1880

Typically, Brahms provided no clues as to any specific 'tragedy' – literary or personal – that might have inspired his *Tragic Overture*. At the time he wrote this work, 'programme music' – music illustrating a story or depicting a specific mood or moods – was all the rage in the German-speaking countries; but Brahms was careful to distance himself from this sort of thing. For him, music was ultimately music: it should speak for itself, not rely on external props to make its point. Not long before he wrote the Overture in 1880, Brahms had contemplated writing incidental music for a production of Goethe's verse-drama *Faust* at the Vienna Burgtheater. It is possible that ideas for that project found their way into the *Tragic Overture*, but if so, Brahms was in no hurry to point them out.

Fortunately for us, the *Tragic Overture* really does speak for itself. It begins with two stark *fortissimo* chords, which Brahms's biographer Malcolm MacDonald aptly calls 'a veritable hammer-blow of fate'. From then on, the Overture can be enjoyed as a logical but darkly impassioned symphonic demonstration of that 'fate' in action. The unmistakably tragic first theme leads, via a mysterious transition – veiled bustling string figures and hushed bass brass – to a warmly consoling second theme, led by violins.

At the point where we might expect a stormy 'development' section to begin, the tempo halves, and a ghostly processional emerges, based on motifs from earlier in the Overture. Another mysterious transition – all romantic shadows and half-lights – leads to a return of the consoling second theme. But eventually the initial mood of tragic striving returns and intensifies, building at last to a grimly emphatic ending in the minor key. We may not know the identity of Brahms's hero, but we can guess how his story ends.

Programme note © Stephen Johnson



# Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

1840-93

# Piano Concerto No. 1 in B flat minor, Op. 23

1874-75

# Pavel Kolesnikov piano

# 1. Allegro non troppo e molto maestoso – Allegro con spirito 2. Andantino semplice – Prestissimo 3. Allegro con fuoco



Tchaikovsky was always terribly vulnerable to criticism. So one can readily imagine the effect on him when the pianist and composer Nikolai Rubinstein pronounced judgement on his newly-completed First Piano Concerto, From the start, Tchaikovsky had been particularly keen that Rubinstein perform the Concerto in one of his prestigious concerts. But when Tchaikovsky played the first movement to Rubinstein, on Christmas Eve 1874, the response was withering. It turned out that my concerto was worthless and unplayable', Tchaikovsky recalled soon afterwards, 'Passages were so fragmented, so clumsy, so badly written that they were beyond rescue; the work itself was bad, vulgar; in places I had stolen from other composers; only two or three pages were worth preserving; the rest must be thrown away or completely rewritten.'

Fortunately for us, Tchaikovsky didn't follow Rubinstein's advice and destroy the Concerto; instead he recovered his nerve and sent it to the German pianist and conductor Hans von Bülow, whose reaction could hardly have been more different: the Concerto, Bülow replied, was 'so original in thought (yet never affected), so noble, so strong, so interesting in details ... In short, this is a real pearl and you deserve the gratitude of all pianists.' And that, broadly speaking, is how posterity has come to view the First Piano Concerto. Even so, Tchaikovsky did make some revisions after hearing the work in concert. Bülow made a few recommendations, as did the pianist Edward

Dannreuther. Dannreuther's comments in particular must have been made with great tact, because the normally touchy Tchaikovsky thanked him for his 'very sensible and practical suggestions', and took them to heart when he revised the Concerto in 1878 – and possibly when he refined it further in 1888. That is the version most often heard today, although tonight Pavel Kolesnikov has chosen to retain some elements from earlier versions – including the piano chords that open the work, which were originally written as arpeggiated or 'rolled' chords, with the individual notes sounded in quick succession, but later became solid chords.

Bülow's comments about originality and nobility are borne out right from the start. A few bars of dark fanfare, led by the horns, are swept aside by the piano's sonorous major-key chords, then one of Tchaikovsky's grandest and most glorious long melodies surges in on strings. After a period of extended development this theme is dropped, never to return again - to the disappointment of some first-time listeners, yet in fact this tune turns out to contain the seeds of many important themes to come. The long first movement is also striking for the way it dramatises the relationship between piano and orchestra - sometimes an heroic struggle, sometimes closer to a tender or turbulent love affair. After this, the Andantino middle movement offers gentle relief, its faster central section based on a French folk-tune Tchaikovsky used to sing with his brothers Modest and Anatoly: 'One must have fun, dance and sing'. Then the finale is a terrific, exhilarating workout-cum-fireworks-display based on a Ukrainian folksong, with another splendid 'Big Tune', which returns in triumph to end this passionate, stunningly theatrical Concerto.

Programme note @ Stephen Johnson

# Interval - 20 minutes

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

# Love the LPO? Take it home with you!

LPO merchandise on sale next to the Box Office on Level 2















# **Johannes Brahms**

1833-97

# Symphony No. 4 in E minor, Op. 98

1884-85

1. Allegro non troppo

2. Andante moderato

3. Allegro giocoso

4. Allegro energico e passionato

Brahms was well into his forties by the time he completed a symphony; like many 19th-century composers he found the idea of following in the footsteps of Beethoven a daunting one. Yet having laboured on and off for 15 years to produce the First Symphony in 1876, he summoned the next three in only nine years, the expressive and formal inhibitions that had previously dogged him now seemingly cast off. Indeed, by the time he came to compose the Fourth Symphony in 1884–5 he had acquired new freedom and daring, as his friend the conductor and pianist Hans von Bülow noted during preparations for the premiere in Meiningen in October 1885: 'Just back from rehearsal. No. 4 stupendous, quite original, quite new, individual and rock-like. Breathes incomparable energy from start to finish.'

No-one could deny that, though there were others among Brahms's friends – including three of his closest supporters in Clara Schumann, Elisabeth von Herzogenberg and the critic Eduard Hanslick – who were initially baffled and disappointed by the work's unusual nature and form. Bülow, however, had had an insight into its most striking innovation a few years earlier when Brahms showed him a chorus from Bach's church cantata *Nach dir, Herr, verlanget mich* (BWV150), consisting of variations over a repeating, rising bass-line. What would you think of a symphonic movement written on this theme one day? Brahms had asked. 'But it is too heavy, too straightforward. It would have to be chromatically altered in some way.' The result

is there to hear – including that chromatic alteration in the form of a prominent sharpening of the fifth note – in the extraordinary passacaglia finale of this symphony, a movement which, by turning to a formal model from Baroque times, finds a new solution to the problem of how to conclude a big and powerful symphonic work.

But it is not just this granitic statement that makes the Fourth one of the greatest of Romantic symphonies. There is the tightly motivic first movement, whose marking of Allegro non troppo is realised not just in the restless poetic beauty of the first theme but in the way that the second theme, a surging, passionate cello melody heralded by brass fanfares, serves to increase the sense of forward motion rather than (as was more customary) relax it. Perhaps for the same reason, there is no repeat of the exposition, though the central development does start out as if it were one with a clear return to the opening theme. By contrast, the moment of recapitulation is disguised, the opening figure being heard slowed down on woodwind amid a cloud of string flourishes, before the first theme resumes its course as if nothing had happened. A substantial and impassioned coda then drives the movement to a stormy finish.

The elegiac and delicately scored *Andante moderato* gains depth by playing off the emotional distance of a modally inflected main theme against the warmth of a more conventionally major-key second. The reappearance of the latter on full strings in the second half of the movement forms a rich climax, before the

music subsides to the sombre mood of the opening. The third movement, the only one among Brahms's symphonies to qualify as a *scherzo*, is taut and vigorous – powerful enough in its material, it has often been said, to form a finale in itself. Interestingly, it was the last of the Symphony's movements to be composed, which suggests that its terse energy and ebullience (it was not often that Brahms called for a triangle) were precisely calculated to prepare the way for the stern majesty of the finale.

The form and genesis of that finale have already been described, but not its effect. Following the example of Bach's D minor *Chaconne* for solo violin (a work that Brahms admired greatly), the 30 variations over the eight-note bass-line are shepherded into contrasting sections which give the music a broad emotional contour that prevents it from succumbing to repetitiveness. Indeed, the effect is of implacable momentum and controlled strength, so that by the time the variations have been crowned by a vehement coda, we have witnessed a rare spectacle: a 19th-century symphony that ends not in triumph but convincingly in tragedy.

Programme note © Lindsay Kemp

# We'd love to hear from you

We hope you enjoy today's concert. Could you spare a few moments afterwards to complete a short survey about your experience? Your feedback is invaluable to us and will help to shape our future plans.



Just scan the QR code to begin the survey. Thank you!

# Our next Royal Festival Hall concerts



# **Beethoven & John Adams**

Saturday 8 November 2025, 7.30pm

Beethoven Violin Concerto John Adams Harmonium

Edward Gardner conductor James Ehnes violin London Philharmonic Choir BBC Symphony Chorus

# **Romeo and Juliet**

Wednesday 12 November 2025, 7.30pm

Gabriela Lena Frank Contested Eden (UK premiere) Walton Cello Concerto

**Prokofiev** Romeo and Juliet (excerpts) **Elim Chan** conductor

Nicolas Altstaedt cello

# **Edward Gardner conducts Elgar**

Wednesday 26 November 2025, 7.30pm

**Elgar** In the South (Alassio); Sea Pictures; Sospiri; Enigma Variations

**Edward Gardner** conductor **Beth Taylor** mezzo-soprano

With the generous support of the Elgar Society in celebration of its 75th anniversary.

This concert also celebrates The Duke of Kent's 90th birthday and 45 years of His Royal Highness's Patronage of the LPO.

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

RESIDENT

# **Sound Futures donors**

We are grateful to the following donors for their generous contributions to our **Sound Futures** campaign. Thanks to their support, we successfully raised £1 million by 30 April 2015 which has now been matched pound for pound by Arts Council England through a Catalyst Endowment grant. This has enabled us to create a £2 million endowment fund supporting special artistic projects, creative programming and education work with key venue partners including our Southbank Centre home. Supporters listed below donated £500 or over. For a full list of those who have given to this campaign please visit **Ipo.org.uk/soundfutures**.

### Masur Circle

Arts Council England
Dunard Fund
Victoria Robey CBE
Emmanuel & Barrie Roman
The Underwood Trust

### Welser-Möst Circle

William & Alex de Winton John Ireland Charitable Trust The Tsukanov Family Foundation Neil Westreich

# Tennstedt Circle

Valentina & Dmitry Aksenov Richard Buxton The Candide Trust Michael & Elena Kroupeev Kirby Laing Foundation Mr & Mrs Makharinsky Alexey & Anastasia Reznikovich Sir Simon Robey Bianca & Stuart Roden Simon & Vero Turner The late Mr K Twyman

### Solti Patrons

Ageas
John & Manon Antoniazzi
Gabor Beyer, through BTO
Management Consulting AG
Jon Claydon
Mrs Mina Goodman & Miss Suzanne
Goodman
Roddy & April Gow
The Jeniffer & Jonathan Harris
Charitable Trust
Mr James R.D. Korner OBE
Christoph Ladanyi & Dr Sophia
Ladanyi-Czernin
Robert Markwick & Kasia Robinski
The Maurice Marks Charitable Trust

Mr Paris Natar The Rothschild Foundation Tom & Phillis Sharpe The Viney Family

# **Haitink Patrons**

Mark & Flizabeth Adams Dr Christopher Aldren Mrs Pauline Baumgartner Lady Jane Berrill Mr Frederick Brittenden David & Yi Yao Buckley Mr Clive Butler Gill & Garf Collins Mr John H Cook Mr Alistair Corbett Bruno De Kegel Georgy Djaparidze David Ellen Christopher Fraser OBE David & Victoria Graham Fuller Goldman Sachs International Mr Gavin Graham Moya Greene Mrs Dorothy Hambleton Tony & Susie Hayes Malcolm Herring Catherine Høgel & Ben Mardle Mrs Philip Kan Rehmet Kassim-Lakha de Morixe Rose & Dudlev Leigh Lady Roslyn Marion Lyons Miss Jeanette Martin Duncan Matthews KC Diana & Allan Morgenthau Charitable Trust Dr Karen Morton Mr Roger Phillimore Ruth Rattenbury The Reed Foundation The Rind Foundation Sir Bernard Rix David Ross & Line Forestier

Carolina & Martin Schwab Dr Brian Smith Lady Valerie Solti Mr & Mrs G Stein Dr Peter Stephenson Miss Anne Stoddart TFS Loans Limited Marina Vaizey Jenny Watson Guy & Utti Whittaker

### **Pritchard Donors**

Ralph & Elizabeth Aldwinckle Mrs Arlene Beare Mr Patrick & Mrs Joan Benner Mr Conrad Blakey Dr Anthony Buckland Paul Collins Alastair Crawford Mr Derek B. Gray Mr Roger Greenwood The HA.SH Foundation Darren & Jennifer Holmes Honeymead Arts Trust Mr Geoffrey Kirkham Drs Frank & Gek Lim Peter Mace Mr & Mrs David Malpas Dr David McGibney Michael & Patricia McLaren-Turner Mr & Mrs Andrew Neill Mr Christopher Querée The Rosalyn & Nicholas Springer Charitable Trust Timothy Walker CBE AM Christopher Williams Peter Wilson Smith Mr Anthony Yolland

and all other donors who wish to remain anonymous

(Canada)

# Thank you

As a registered charity, we are extremely grateful to all our supporters who have given generously to the LPO over the past year to help maintain the breadth and depth of the LPO's activities, as well as supporting the Orchestra both on and off the concert platform.

### Artistic Director's Circle

The American Friends of the London Philharmonic Orchestra William & Alex de Winton Catherine Høgel & Ben Mardle Aud Jebsen In memory of Paul Morgan In memory of Ponald Pelmear In memory of Rita Reay Sir Simon & Lady Robey CBE In memory of Peter J Watson

### Orchestra Circle

Richard Buxton In memory of Nicola Goodman Mr & Mrs Philip Kan Neil Westreich

### **Principal Associates**

An anonymous donor Steven M. Berzin Irina Gofman & Mr Rodrik V. G Cave George Ramishvilli In memory of Kenneth Shaw The Tsukanov Family

### Associates

Anonymous donors
Sir Nigel Boardman & Prof. Lynda
Gratton
Garf & Gill Collins
Michelle Crowe Hernandez &
Christian Hernandez
lan Ferguson & Susan Tranter
Stuart & Bianca Roden
Malcolm & Alison Thwaites
The Williams Family in memory
of Grenville Williams

### **Gold Patrons**

An anonymous donor David & Yi Buckley Dr Alex & Maria Chan In memory of Allner Mavis Channing In memory of Peter Coe John & Sam Dawson Fiona Espenhahn Mr Roger Greenwood Sally Groves MBE David & Bettina Harden Eugene & Allison Hayes Malcolm Herring Mrs Asli Hodson Mrs Flizabeth Meshkvicheva Julian & Gill Simmonds Eric Tomsett The Viney Family Guy & Utti Whittaker

# Silver Patrons

An anonymous donor
David Burke & Valerie Graham
Mr Luke Gardiner
The Jeniffer and Jonathan Harris
Charitable Trust
Mr & Mrs Andrew Neill
Clandia Wu & Hiu Fung Ng
Simon & Lucy Owen-Johnstone
Andrew & Cindy Peck
Mr Roger Phillimore
Tom & Phillis Sharpe
Laurence Watt
Joanna Williams

### **Bronze Patrons**

Anonymous donors Miram Al Rasheed Michael Allen Gabriela Andino-Benson Irina Bednava Nicholas Berwin Mrs Amna Boheim Dame Colette Bowe Lorna & Christopher Bown Mr Bernard Bradbury Dr Anthony Buckland Desmond & Ruth Cecil Mr John H Cook Cameron & Kathryn Doley Elena & Sergey Dubinets Harron Ellenson & Charles Miller Smith Cristina & Malcolm Fallen Christopher Fraser OBE Charles Fulton Gini & Richard Gabbertas Jenny & Duncan Goldie-Scot Mr Daniel Goldstein David & Jane Gosman Mr Gavin Graham Mrs Dorothy Hambleton Iain & Alicia Hasnip J Douglas Home Mr & Mrs Ralph Kanza Neil & Karen Reynolds Mrs Irina Kiryukhina Rose & Dudley Leigh Wg. Cdr. M T Liddiard OBE JP RAF Drs Frank & Gek Lim Svetlana London Richard & Judy Luddington Mr & Mrs Makharinsky Andrew T Mills John Nickson & Simon Rew Peter & Lucy Noble Mikhail Noskov & Vasilina Bindley Mr Stephen Olton Nigel Phipps & Amanda McDowall Mr Michael Posen

Marie Power Sir Bernard Rix Baroness Shackleton Tim Slorick Joe Topley & Tracey Countryman John & Madeleine Tucker In memory of Doris Tylee Mr & Mrs John & Susi Underwood Sophie Walker Jenny Watson CBE Elena Y, Zenq

# **Principal Supporters**

Anonymous donors Dr M. Arevuo Mrs Carol Ann Bailey Mr John D Barnard Roger & Clare Barron Mr Geoffrey Bateman Mrs A Beare Adam J. Brunk & Madeleine Haddon Simon Burke & Rupert King David & Liz Conway Mr Alistair Corbett **David Devons** Deborah Dolce Sir Timothy Fancourt Jonathan Franklin Professor Erol & Mrs Deniz Steve & Cristina Goldring Prof Emeritus John Gruzelier Sebastian Arun Hansiee Nick Helv-Hutchinson Michael & Christine Henry Mrs Farrah Jamal Bruce & Joanna Jenkyn-Jones Per Jonsson Julian & Annette Armstrong Mr Ian Kapur Gee Lee Dr Peter Mace Mr Nikita Mishin Allison Mollerberg Simon Moore Dr Simon Moore Mrs Terry Neale Mr Matthew Pearson Mr. James Pickford Filippo Poli Sukand Ramachandran Mr Martin Randall Mr Robert Ross Mr Andrea Santacroce & Olivia Veillet-Lavallée Aniruddha Sharma Priscylla Shaw Michael Smith Erika Song Mr & Mrs G Stein

Andrew & Rosemary Tusa Ben Valentin KC Christine Warsaw Mr Rodney Whittaker Christopher Williams

# Supporters

Anonymous donors Ralph & Elizabeth Aldwinckle Alison Clarke & Leo Pilkington Mr Philip Bathard-Smith Mrs Martha Brooke Mr Julien Chilcott-Monk Miss Tessa Cowie St Peter's Composers, Bexhill-on-Sea Dorothy Hobden The Jackman Family Jan Leigh & Jan Rynkiewicz Mr Mack Lindsev Mr David MacFarlane Simon & Fiona Mortimore Dana Mosevics Dame Jane Newell DBE Michael Novce Mr & Mrs Graham & Jean Pugh Emilie Sydney-Smith Ms Caroline Tate Craig Terry Tony & Hilary Vines Dr Ann Turrall Dr June Wakefield Mr John Weekes Mr C D Yates

### Hon. Benefactor

Elliott Bernerd

### Hon. Life Members

Alfonso Aijón Carol Colburn Grigor CBE Robert Hill Keith Millar Victoria Robey CBE Mrs Jackie Rosenfeld OBE Cornelia Schmid Timothy Walker CBE AM Laurence Watt

# Thank you

# Thomas Beecham Group Members

An anonymous donor Sir Nigel Boardman & Prof. Lynda Gratton David & Yi Buckley Dr Alex & Maria Chan Garf & Gill Collins William & Alex de Winton Ian Ferguson & Susan Tranter The Friends of the LPO Irina Gofman & Mr Rodrik V. G. Cave Mr Roger Greenwood Barry Grimaldi David & Bettina Harden Mr & Mrs Philip Kan Mr & Mrs John Kessler Sir Simon Robey Victoria Robey OBE Stuart & Bianca Roden Julian & Gill Simmonds Malcolm & Alison Thwaites Eric Tomsett

### **LPO Corporate Members**

Neil Westreich

Guy & Utti Whittaker

Bloomberg
Carter-Ruck Solicitors
French Chamber of Commerce
German-British Chamber of
Industry & Commerce
Lazard
Natixis Corporate & Investment
Banking
Ryze Power
Virgin Money
Walboole

# **Preferred Partners**

Google Lay & Wheeler Lindt & Sprüngli Mayer Brown Steinway & Sons Welbeck

# **Trusts and Foundations**

ΔR∩ Truct Art Mentor Foundation Lucerne Candide Trust Cockayne - Grants for the Arts David Solomons Charitable Trust **Dunard Fund** Foyle Foundation Garfield Weston Foundation The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund The Boshier-Hinton Foundation The Golsoncott Foundation Jerwood Foundation John Thaw Foundation John Horniman's Children's Trust The Ian Askew Charitable Trust Idlewild Trust Institute Adam Mickiewicz Kirby Laing Foundation The Lennox Hannay Charitable Trust Lord and Lady Lurgan Trust Lucille Graham Trust The Marchus Trust Margaret Killbery Foundation Maria Björnson Memorial Fund The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust PRS Foundation The Radcliffe Trust Rivers Foundation Rothschild Foundation Scops Arts Trust Sir William Boreman's Foundation The John S Cohen Foundation **TIOC Foundation** Vaughan Williams Foundation

The Viney Family

anonymous.

Trust

The Barbara Whatmore Charitable

and others who wish to remain

### Board of the American Friends of the LPO

We are grateful to the Board of the American Friends of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, who assist with fundraising for our activities in the United States of America:

Hannah Young Chair Lora Aroyo Jon Carter Alexandra Jupin Natalie Pray MBE Dr Irene Rosner David Marc Wassermann Catherine Høgel Hon. Director

## **LPO International Board of Governors**

Natasha Tsukanova *Chair* Mrs Irina Andreeva Steven M. Berzin Shashank Bhagat Irina Gofman Olivia Ma George Ramishvili Florian Wunderlich

# London Philharmonic Orchestra Administration

### **Board of Directors**

Dr Catherine C. Høgel Chair Nigel Boardman Vice-Chair Mark Vines\* President Kate Birchall\* Vice-President **Fmily Benn** David Buckley David Burke Simon Burke Simon Carrington\* Michelle Crowe Hernandez Deborah Dolce Simon Estell\* Jesús Herrera Tanva Joseph Minn Majoe\* Tania Mazzetti\* Jamie Njoku-Goodwin OBE Neil Westreich David Whitehouse\* \*Player-Director

# **Advisory Council**

Roger Barron Chairman Christopher Aldren Kate Birchall Amna Boheim Richard Brass Helen Brocklebank YolanDa Brown OBE David Burke Simon Callow CBE Desmond Cecil CMG Jane Coulson Andrew Davenport **Guillaume Descottes** Cameron Doley Lena Fankhauser Christopher Fraser OBE Jenny Goldie-Scot Jonathan Harris CBE FRICS Nick Hely-Hutchinson DL Jesús Herrera Dr Catherine C. Høgel Martin Höhmann Jamie Korner OBE Andrew Neill Nadya Powell Sir Bernard Rix Victoria Robey CBE **Baroness Shackleton** Thomas Sharpe KC Julian Simmonds Daisuke Tsuchiya Mark Vines Chris Viney

Laurence Watt

Elizabeth Winter

### New Generation Board

Ellie Ajao Peter De Souza Vivek Haria Rianna Henriques Zerlina Vulliamy

# General Administration

Jesús Herrera Artistic Director

David Burke
Chief Executive
Alicia Downie
PA to the Executive & Office
Manager

## Concert Management

Roanna Gibson Concerts & Planning Director

Graham Wood Concerts & Recordings Manager

Aimee Walton Tours Manager

Madeleine Ridout Glyndebourne & Projects Manager

Alison Jones Concerts & Artists Co-ordinator

Alice Drury
Tours & Projects Assistant

Matthew Freeman

Recordings Consultant

Andrew Chenery
Orchestra Personnel Manager

Helen Phipps Orchestra & Auditions Manager

Sarah Thomas Martin Sargeson *Librarians* 

Laura Kitson
Stage & Operations Manager

Stephen O'Flaherty Deputy Operations Manager

Benjamin Wakley Deputy Stage Manager

# Finance

Frances Slack Finance Director

Dayse Guilherme Finance Manager

Jean-Paul Ramotar
IT Manager & Finance Officer

# Education & Community

Talia Lash
Education & Community
Director

Eleanor Jones Lowri Thomas Education & Community Project Managers

Ellie Leon Education & Community Co-ordinator

Claudia Clarkson Regional Partnerships Manager

# Development

Laura Willis Development Director (maternity leave)

Olivia Highland Development Director (maternity cover)

Rosie Morden Senior Development Manager

Eleanor Conroy Development Events Manager

Owen Mortimer Corporate Relations Manager

Anna Quillin Trusts & Foundations Manager

Holly Eagles
Al Levin

Development Co-ordinators

Nick Jackman Campaigns & Projects Director Kirstin Peltonen Development Associate

# Marketing & Communications

Kath Trout
Marketing & Communications
Director

Sophie Lonergan Senior Marketing Manager

Georgie Blyth Press & PR Manager (maternity leave)

Said Abubakar, WildKat PR 07983 489 888 Press & PR (maternity cover)

Josh Clark Data, Insights & CRM Manager

Greg Felton
Digital Creative

Alicia Hartley
Digital & Marketing Manager

Maria Ribalaygua Sales & Ticketing Manager

Rachel Williams
Publications Manager

Isobel Jones
Marketing Co-ordinator

### Archives

Philip Stuart
Discographer
Gillian Pole
Recordings Archive

### **Professional Services**

Charles Russell Speechlys Solicitors

Crowe Clark Whitehill LLP Auditors

Dr Barry Grimaldi Honorary Doctor

Mr Chris Aldren Honorary ENT Surgeon

Mr Simon Owen-Johnstone Hon. Orthopaedic Surgeon

### London Philharmonic Orchestra

89 Albert Embankment London SE1 7TP Tel: 020 7840 4200 Box Office: 020 7840 4242 Email: admin@lpo.org.uk lpo.org.uk

2025/26 season design JMG Studio Printer John Good Ltd

# Share in the joy of music. Be a part of the LPO.

As a registered charity, it is thanks to the vital support we receive from our individual supporters, corporate partners, and trusts and foundations that the LPO can present such vibrant and varied concert programmes of world-class quality. Such support also enables the LPO to drive lasting social impact through our industry-leading education and community programme, supporting rising talent, those affected by homelessness, and adults and young people with disabilities – designed to build and diversify the talent pipeline and share the unique joy and power of music more widely.









# **Donate**

Whether you make a checkout donation, give to an appeal, or choose to remember the LPO with a gift in your Will, donations of all sizes make an impact. Your support will help us continue to promote diversity and inclusivity in classical music and nurture the next generation of talent.

# **Join**

Joining one of our membership schemes will not only support the Orchestra and our mission, but will also give you access to a host of exclusive benefits designed to enhance your experience and build a closer relationship with the Orchestra and our family of supporters – from private rehearsals, to members' bars, private events and priority booking. Membership starts at just £6 per month.

# **Partner**

We're virtuosos of creative collaboration, expertly crafting bespoke partnerships that hit the right notes. We tailor each bespoke partnership to your strategic business objectives, combining exceptional experiences that deepen client relationships, forge new connections, elevate your brand, and create buzzworthy content that leaves audiences captivated by a compelling brand story.

We're also passionate about using music and our work to increase social value. By partnering together across a shared purpose and values, we can leave a positive, lasting impact on the communities we engage, deepening your CSR and SDG commitments.

Find out how you can support at **lpo.org.uk/support us** 



# Our supporters

**Principal Partner** 



OrchLab Project Partner

# **Principal Supporters**







Bloomberg Philanthropies



























# WATCH WORLD-CLASS PERFORMANCES ALL YEAR LONG

# MARQUEE TV

Bring the Arts Home



# **GET 50% OFF**

# YOUR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

www.marquee.tv

**REDEEM HERE** 



Code: lpo50off