

Concert Season Coda 2021 Lighthouse, Poole

Welcome to our final six concerts in the 2020/21 BSO Concert Season

I am immensely proud of everything that has been achieved by the Orchestra in recent months, leading the way in live symphonic performances during lockdown, and bringing hope and joy to audiences across the world.

We are delighted to present this third instalment of concerts, which have all been designed for our specially extended stage and socially distanced orchestral layout. Whilst we aren't yet allowed to have an audience back in the hall, I know that our livestreams mean so much, to so many, and that each week more than a full hall is watching the BSO perform online. I am sure sometimes we can hear you clapping!

Whilst playing in such a distanced layout presents great challenges for our musicians, the way everyone has adjusted to the 'new normal' has been magnificent. There is undoubtedly a special quality to the sound, with all the space – something our brilliant digital team have worked so hard to capture for you.

We have assembled a strong line-up of artists and programmes with music which resonates as we come out of lockdown towards a more positive future. I cannot think of a more appropriate way to finish this extraordinary and unique season than the famously 'socially distanced' final six chords of Sibelius' glorious Fifth Symphony.

Thank you once again for your incredible support during this eventful season; it means so much to us. I hope you enjoy our season 'coda' and we look forward to many more musical adventures in the months and years ahead.

Dougie Scarfe Chief Executive

Series Sponsor

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“This live-streamed evening.... was crisp and intriguing”
The Daily Telegraph, March 2021



Wednesday
14 April
7.30pm

Glorious Melody

Walton
Henry V Suite
Vaughan-Williams
Symphony No.5

Mark Wigglesworth
Conductor

Laurence Olivier's film of *Henry V* broke new ground in several artistic aspects; not least of these was Walton's score, which brilliantly achieved a convincing "period" feel. The movements of the concert suite are arranged in a neat, symmetrical arch, packed with beautiful tunes – rousing, tender and melancholy. For all its warmth, melodic generosity and seeming spaciousness, Vaughan Williams' Fifth Symphony is also an intricate, highly sophisticated work. The tonal ambiguity of its opening is ultimately resolved in radiant orchestral polyphony, recalling the spirit of the Elizabethan choral masters.

Wednesday
21 April
7.30pm

Orchestral Postcards

Mozart
Symphony No.35 'Haffner'
Mendelssohn
The Hebrides Overture
Mendelssohn
Symphony No.4 'Italian'

Andreas Ottensamer
Conductor

Launched by a stirring call to attention Mozart's brilliant *Haffner* Symphony marked a big departure for the period. The finale, which Mozart requested be played "as fast as possible" bubbles over with comic-opera vivaciousness. Mendelssohn's musical Hebridean postcard conjures up the grandeur of Fingal's Cave, the swelling of the sea, the light on the water and the fury of the waves breaking on the cliffs. Mendelssohn's clear joy in evoking the soul of Italy is present throughout his Fourth Symphony. Extroverted from the outset, conjuring up sunny skies and radiant landscapes in a virtually flawless assembly of airy and fiery dances, it never lets the excitement lapse for a moment.

Dedicated with thanks
to our loyal members

Wednesday
28 April
7.30pm

Sublime Beauty

Schoenberg
Verklärte Nacht
Brahms
Symphony No.1

Alexander Soddy
Conductor

Verklärte Nacht (*Transfigured Night*) betrays Schoenberg's love of Brahms in its intricate textures and interwoven lines; it is an ecstatically sensual evocation of new love transcending the burden of old sin. It took Brahms more than twenty years to approach the challenge of his first symphony – it was no "laughing matter" to write a symphony after Beethoven! – incorporating ideas and innovations that moved symphonic writing forward. Opening with dramatic intensity, it gives way to peace and serenity; the finale has been described as "one of the sublimest utterances human ears have heard" – its hymn-like theme commuted into a glorious and magnificent conclusion.

Wednesday
5 May
7.30pm

BSO Artist-in- Residence Recital

Schumann
Kreisleriana
Clara Schumann
Three Romances for
Violin and Piano
Franck
Sonata for Violin and Piano

Benjamin Grosvenor
Piano
Hyeyoon Park
Violin

It was during a time of tormented courtship that Schumann's compositions had become more experimental and complex. His *Kreisleriana* was a product of this fertile, fraught period. The music swings violently and suddenly between agitation and lyrical calm, dread and elation. Romances were one of Clara Schumann's favourite compositional forms, which is perhaps why this particular work is so effective – the three contrasting movements bursting with character. Franck's lone Sonata in A Major remains his best-known chamber work. From its expansive opening to the famous finale, the music flows with melodic fluency and effortless poise.

Wednesday
12 May
7.30pm

The Song of Nature

Beethoven
Symphony No.6 'Pastoral'
Wagner
Die Meistersinger Suite

Mark Wigglesworth
Conductor

Beethoven's love of nature shines through in his Sixth Symphony. The opening *Awakening of Cheerful Feeling upon Arriving in the Country* is followed by the aptly flowing grace of a *Scene by the Brook*, complete with calls of a nightingale, quail and cuckoo. *The Merry Assembly of Country Folk* is interrupted by a violent thunderstorm, but soon a mood of serenity is restored by the final, uplifting *Shepherds' Song of Thanksgiving*. Wagner's comic opera *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* is his most human, with no gods, potions or mythical journeys. Inspired by the real 16th century Master Singer's Guild of Nuremberg and their famous songwriting competitions, the story is a metaphor for Wagner's own musical struggle.

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Wednesday
19 May
7.30pm

Hopes and Dreams

Mendelssohn
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Scriabin
Rêverie
Sibelius
Symphony No.5

Kirill Karabits
Conductor

Light and carefree, Mendelssohn's incidental music depicts the fairy realm of Shakespeare's play with enchanting, perhaps even enchanted, music full of other-worldly yet subtle energy. Scriabin's *Rêverie*, for all its brevity, is packed full of luscious harmonies interwoven to create a swirling dreamscape that ebbs and flows mysteriously. One of the really great, late-Romantic symphonies, Sibelius' Fifth has an epic quality; a sweep and grandeur which triumphs over passing feelings of anxiety to celebrate the heroic, optimistic power of life. The gorgeous opening sunrise is best described by Sibelius himself. "God opens His door for a moment and His orchestra plays." This was no boast!

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BSO Concert Season Coda 2021 Live from Lighthouse, Poole

Digital tickets:

Concert livestream digital ticket
£9 (incl. VAT) per concert

Season digital subscription
£50 (incl. VAT)

As a digital ticket holder you will have automatic access to the premium page where you will find the embedded video link for the concert when you log in to your BSO account at www.bsolive.com. Full details will be sent in due course and you will receive a reminder email, together with viewing link, each Monday prior to the concert date.

Whilst the BSO will endeavour to perform all concerts as listed, given the continuing uncertainty of the current situation, there may be the necessity to change programmes and/or artists due to safety requirements or changes to government guide-lines or travel restrictions. If the concert has to be cancelled in its entirety and an alternative livestream is not possible, all ticket money will be refunded.

Benjamin Grosvenor appears courtesy of Decca Classics

If you cannot watch live for any reason, all performances will be available to view on demand for 30 days after each livestream.

Pre-concert talks:

Online 30-minute talks will be available for each concert. Presented by former BSO Head of Projects, Andrew Burn, and illustrated with musical extracts, they are a valuable insight into the music being performed.

A pdf concert programme for each concert will also be downloadable.



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