

Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra

"one of the best non-professional orchestras in the land"

Founded in 1941 to raise money for war charities, the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra received its present title in 1947. Since then the Orchestra has gone on to become the leading non-professional orchestra in the Midlands and has entertained many thousands of music lovers during its 75-year history. It draws its members from all walks of life throughout the West Midlands; for most of the players music is a form of relaxation, but for others it is a stepping stone in their musical careers.

The Orchestra is based in the Elgar Concert Hall at the University of Birmingham, where it rehearses for its regular concerts, given every couple of months at venues in Birmingham and elsewhere across England. The BPO has performed regularly at Symphony Hall and Town Hall Birmingham as well as some of England's great cathedrals, and has been a mainstay of the Leominster Festival since its inception in 1980.

Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra

71 Springfield Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham,
West Midlands B14 7DU

T 07759 186198 E info@bpo.org.uk

W www.bpo.org.uk

If you would like to hire the BPO to perform, or to discuss any aspects of our future plans and programmes, please contact our Concert Manager on the email above

The BPO is registered charity No. 500654



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Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra



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Ticket prices and booking details

Elgar Concert Hall, University of Birmingham

Tickets £15, concessions £12, students and children £5, family ticket (2 adults + up to 2 children) £32, available from Bramall Music Building Box Office www.birmingham.ac.uk/bramall/events, tel 0121 345 0492. Transaction charges apply for online bookings. Also on the door on the day of the concert or from BPO members

St Peter's Church, Sudbury, Suffolk

Tickets £15, concessions £10 available from Compact Music, 20 North Street, Sudbury, the Tourist Information Office in Sudbury Library and a limited number on the door before the concert

St Mary's Church, Cleobury Mortimer

Tickets £15 including interval drink, contact Angela Drennan or Alec Osbaldiston, tel 01299 270636 or 01584 891351

St Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton

Tickets £15, concessions £12, students and children £5, family ticket (2 adults + up to 2 children) £32, available from www.oxboffice.com, tel 0845 680 1926. Transaction charges apply for online bookings. Also from the church, on the door on the day of the concert or from BPO members

Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Tickets £20/£15 (Concessions £16/£12, Students and children £8/£5) plus transaction fee*. Available from THSH box office www.thsh.co.uk, Tel 0121 345 0603. Also on the door on the day of the concert or from BPO members

* A £3 transaction fee will be charged on all bookings except purchases made in person at Town Hall or Symphony Hall Box office. Should you require your tickets to be posted to you, a further charge of £1 will be applied

Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham

Tickets £15, concessions £12, students and children £5, family ticket (2 adults + up to 2 children) £32, available from <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/>. Also on the door on the day of the concert or from BPO members

Priory Church, Leominster

Ticket prices £15/£12, available from www.leominster-festival.co.uk, or from the Tourist Information Centre, 1 Corn Square, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 8LR, tel 01568 616460

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Tickets £18/£15, reductions apply for groups, concessions, students/16 and families, available from the theatre, www.theatresevern.co.uk/shows/whatson/, tel 01743 281281. Transaction charges apply for online bookings.

Tickets for many concerts are available direct from the Orchestra. For enquiries, please email tickets@bpo.org.uk

Programme details and ticket prices may be subject to change without notice. E&OE. Photo courtesy AQAMERA

Music Director and Principal Conductor Michael Lloyd
Patron Peter Donohoe CBE



Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra



Concert Season 2015/16

Featuring events to celebrate the BPO's 75th anniversary -
BPO @ 75

The Midlands' leading non-professional orchestra

Classic and Romantic

Mendelssohn captures the swell of the waves in his picture of Fingal's Cave, whilst Strauss showcases his father's own instrument in his ever-popular concerto. Beethoven evokes the spirit of the dance in his ballet overture and his magnificent seventh symphony.

Beethoven The Creatures of Prometheus - Overture

Mendelssohn Overture, The Hebrides

R Strauss Horn Concerto No 1

Beethoven Symphony No 7 in A major

Michael Lloyd Conductor

Tim Stidwill Horn

St Peter's Church, Sudbury, Suffolk

Sunday 4th October 2015, 3.00 pm

St Mary's Church, Cleobury Mortimer

Sunday 11th October 2015, 7.30 pm

Elgar Concert Hall, University of Birmingham

Sunday 18th October 2015, 3.00 pm

London Symphony

Vaughan Williams would have preferred the title "Symphony by a Londoner", but the sounds of the Westminster chimes and familiar street cries in his attractive symphony mean we could be nowhere else. Nielsen's late concerto is a dramatic exploration of all aspects of the clarinet, and Rossini gives us a sparkling overture to a Babylonian drama.

Rossini Semiramide - Overture

Nielsen Clarinet Concerto

Vaughan Williams A London Symphony

Michael Lloyd Conductor

Peter Cigleris Clarinet

St Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton

Sunday 6th December 2015, 7.30 pm

Elgar Concert Hall, University of Birmingham

Sunday 13th December 2015, 3.00 pm

BPO @ 75 : Music for All

This special programme, modelled after early concerts conducted by our founding director Ernest Powell, shows off the lighter repertoire of our early years, and will also feature music chosen by you, the audience. Look out for details of how to vote. Programme to include:

Sullivan Overture Di Ballo

Gounod Faust - Ballet Music

Ponchielli Dance of the Hours (La Gioconda)

Suppé Light Cavalry Overture

Coates London Suite; The Dam Busters March

Michael Lloyd Conductor

Elgar Concert Hall, University of Birmingham

Sunday 24th January 2016, 3.00 pm

BPO @ 75 : Symphony of a Thousand

We performed Mahler's epic eighth symphony in the Royal Albert Hall in 1981 under Kenneth Page. Now we bring it to Symphony Hall to celebrate our major anniversary with our friends.

Mahler Symphony No 8 in E flat major

Michael Lloyd Conductor

Elisabeth Meister, Stephanie Corley,

Alison Roddy Soprano

Wendy Dawn Thompson, Hannah Pedley

Mezzo-soprano

Jeff Lloyd Roberts Tenor

Morgan Pearse Baritone

TBC Bass

City of Birmingham Choir, University of Birmingham Chorus, Choir of St Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton

Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Sunday 6th March 2016, 3.00 pm

BPO @ 75 : Birmingham Philharmonic Concerto Prize

The BPO accompanies the performances of three of the most promising students from the Birmingham Conservatoire in the final of the competition for this prestigious prize, founded (and originally named) in honour of our former leader and conductor, David Ludlow, and adjudicated by an eminent figure from the world of music.

Former Ludlow Philharmonic Prize winners include today's conductor Michael Seal. Full programme TBA.

Michael Seal Conductor

Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham

Sunday 24th April 2016, 3.00 pm

BPO @ 75 : Nature's Realm

Works inspired by the natural world surrounding their composers; Dvořák's overture, full of the air of the Czech countryside, Bax's symphonic poem drawing on Cornish scenery and Arthurian legend and Strauss's epic depiction of an ascent of the Alpine mountains where he had made his home, in a work once performed by the BPO under former conductor Robin Page.

Dvořák Overture, In Nature's Realm

Bax Tintagel

R Strauss An Alpine Symphony

Richard Laing Conductor

Priory Church, Leominster

Sunday 5th June 2016, 7.30 pm

Elgar Concert Hall, University of Birmingham

Sunday 19th June 2016, 3.00 pm

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Sunday 26th June 2016, 3.00 pm