

Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra

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

Founded in the early years of the Second World War to raise money for war charities, the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra received its present title in 1941. 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 70-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

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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 a registered charity, No. 500654



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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 Orchestra members

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 Church, Sudbury, Suffolk

Tickets £13, concessions £10, from Compact Music, 20 North Street, Sudbury and the Tourist Information Office, in Sudbury Library. To pre-book email Frank Wright at f_wright1@sky.com

St Mary's Church, Banbury

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 Tourist Information Office, on the door on the day of the concert or from Orchestra members

Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

Ticket prices TBA, for these and other information contact Bill Stableford, tel 0121 308 4126

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury

Tickets £18 and £15, reductions apply for groups, concessions, students/U16 and families, available from the theatre, www.theatresevern.co.uk/shows/whatson/, tel 01743 281281

Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham

Ticket prices TBA, available from www.birmingham-box.co.uk, tel 0121 245 4455. Tickets also available from Orchestra members

Derngate, Northampton

Ticket prices £25, £22 and £20, available from the theatre www.royalandderngate.co.uk/whatson/, tel 01604 624811

Priory Church, Leominster

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

Evesham Arts Centre

Tickets £18, available from www.eveshamartscentre.co.uk, tel 01386 446944

Tickets for all concerts are usually 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

Music Director and Principal Conductor Michael Lloyd
Patron Peter Donohoe CBE



Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra



Concert Season 2014/15

The Midlands' leading non-professional orchestra

Romantic Favourites

Dvořák's late symphonic poem tells the folk tale of the fate of a naughty child at the hands of an unwelcome visitor. Elgar's evergreen concerto reflects the passing of an era, after the First World War. Tchaikovsky hints at unspoken tragedy in his powerful symphony, and Rachmaninov's most popular piano concerto is brimful of Romantic longing and deeply Russian nostalgia.

Dvořák The Noonday Witch
Elgar Cello Concerto in E minor *
Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No 2 †
Tchaikovsky Symphony No 4 in F minor

Richard Jenkinson Cello *
Mark Bebbington Piano †
Richard Laing Conductor

St Mary's Church, Cleobury Mortimer *
 Sunday 28th September 2014, 7.30 pm
St Peter Church, Sudbury, Suffolk *
 Sunday 12th October 2014, 3.00 pm
Elgar Concert Hall, University of Birmingham †
 Sunday 19th October 2014, 3.00 pm

First and Last

Mahler's dramatic first symphony traces a journey from a spring-like naïveté to thunderous triumph. Strauss' last work is his final glorious tribute to the soprano voice. Butterworth's very English rhapsody leaves us regretting his death in the Great War.

Butterworth Rhapsody, A Shropshire Lad
Strauss Four Last Songs
Mahler Symphony No 1 in D major

Alison Roddy Soprano
Michael Lloyd Conductor

St Mary's Church, Banbury
 Saturday 6th December 2014, 7.30 pm
Elgar Concert Hall, University of Birmingham
 Sunday 14th December 2014, 3.00 pm

Opera Gala Night

An evening of favourites from the world of opera, featuring items from French and Italian opera and Viennese operetta.

J Strauss II Overture, *Die Fledermaus*
Léhar Meine Lippen sie küssen so heiß (*Giuditta*)
Mascagni Intermezzo (*Cavalleria Rusticana*)
Puccini Doretta's Dream (*La Rondine*)
Puccini Intermezzo (*Suor Angelica*)
Puccini O mio babbino caro (*Gianni Schicchi*)
Rossini Overture, *William Tell*
Offenbach Overture, *Orpheus in the Underworld*
Gounod The Jewel Song (*Faust*)
Massenet Méditation (*Thaïs*)
Bizet Carmen Suites (excerpts)

Claire Prewer Soprano
Richard Jenkinson Conductor

Sutton Coldfield Town Hall
 Sunday 25th January 2015, 7.30 pm

Holst's Planets

Brahms' last concerto was for him a work of reconciliation with violin virtuoso Joachim. Here we feature the leader and principal cello of the renowned CBSO. Holst's epic suite reveals his deep interest in astrology and displays the full breadth of his expression, from the all-out war of the opening to the mysterious evanescence of the final bars.

Brahms Concerto for Violin and Violoncello
Holst The Planets

Laurence Jackson Violin
Eduardo Vassallo Cello
Michael Seal Conductor

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury
 Sunday 8th March 2015, 3.00 pm
Elgar Concert Hall, University of Birmingham
 Sunday 15th March 2015, 3.00 pm

Birmingham Philharmonic Concerto Prize

We accompany the performances of students from the Birmingham Conservatoire in the final of the competition for this prestigious prize.

Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham
 Sunday 19th April 2015, 3.00 pm

Russian Classics

Three Russian favourites - Borodin's haunting and evocative picture of life in the Caucasus, Tchaikovsky's sparkling concerto, so strangely rejected by its intended dedicatee, and Rimsky-Korsakov's colourful suite drawing on the tales from the *Arabian Nights*.

Borodin In the Steppes of Central Asia
Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto in D major
Rimsky-Korsakov Scheherazade

Magdalena Filipczak Violin
Michael Lloyd Conductor

Priory Church, Leominster
 Sunday 7th June 2015, 7.30 pm
Elgar Concert Hall, University of Birmingham
 Sunday 14th June 2015, 3.00 pm

Special Events

Cynthia Spencer Hospice Prom

In aid of the Cynthia Spencer Hospice, featuring favourites from the world of opera and the Proms, with soprano **Alison Roddy**.

Derngate, Northampton
 Sunday 10th May 2015, 7.30 pm

Evesham Festival of Music

The final gala concert of the Festival.

Evesham Arts Centre
 Saturday 27th June 2015, 7.30 pm