



**The 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.

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Season 06-07

Music Director Michael Lloyd
Patron Sir Malcolm Arnold



Welcome

to our New Season 06-07

Welcome to the 2006-07 season of concerts by the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra, the jewel in the crown of non-professional music-making in the Midlands. Once again, we have a feast of the finest music from the large orchestral repertoire from the nineteenth-century to the present day, and a sparkling array of conductors and soloists joining us to perform it.

Our very fine Music Director, Michael Lloyd, takes charge at most concerts, but we're also pleased to welcome back Mike Seal, CBSO Assistant Conductor for our fourth series. Our list of soloists is headed by the world-renowned pianist, Piers Lane for our first concerts, and we're also honoured to be joined by the CBSO's principal cello, Eduardo Vassallo for series 2, and by Peter Cigleris, a very fine up-and-coming young clarinettist for series 3. Finally, there's an extra treat in store when the wind, brass and percussion of the BPO, conducted by our Chairman and principal bassoon Michael Syrett, have a show all to themselves as the "BPO Big Band" in October.

To find out more about the musical riches on offer, read on...

Who are the BPO?

Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra

The BPO, founded in the 1940s is one of the country's leading non-professional symphony orchestras, with members from all walks of life throughout the Heart of England. It enjoys close links with both the Birmingham Conservatoire and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

The Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra is a registered charity, number 500654.

Michael Lloyd

Music Director and Conductor

Michael Lloyd first conducted the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra in 1985, and became Music Director and Principal Conductor in 1994.

Photo: Sophie Baker



Born in Worcestershire, he studied at the Birmingham School of Music, the University of East Anglia and the Royal College of Music, concentrating on piano accompaniment. In 1972 he joined Scottish Ballet as company pianist and it was

with this company that he made his professional conducting debut. From 1985 to 2003 he was a member of the music staff at English National Opera, becoming Assistant Music Director and later Senior Resident Conductor. He conducted regularly for the Company, both new productions and revivals in a wide variety of repertoire.

In August 2003 he made his debut with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and has frequently been invited to return to them. He has conducted *Tosca* in Singapore, *Swan Lake*, *Nutcracker*, *Cinderella* and *Sleeping Beauty* with English National Ballet and in January 2005 made his debut with the Ulster Orchestra. In 2005 he also conducted in Macao, New Zealand and Norway and conducted Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore* for Opera Holland Park.

In 2006 he was appointed as an advisor to the Opera Genesis project at the Royal Opera House. Plans for 2007 include return visits to Norway and New Zealand. Michael is also Music Director of Chandos Symphony Orchestra, Malvern.



Michael Seal

Guest Conductor (Series 4)

Michael Seal was born in London in 1970. He started learning the violin at the age of 9, going on to study at the Birmingham Conservatoire and joining the CBSO in September 1992. It was whilst studying at the Birmingham Conservatoire that Michael first started conducting, learning with Jonathan Del Mar.

In 1996, he conducted his first concert with the Birmingham Philharmonic in Walsall. Since then Michael has conducted them in performances including Shostakovich *Symphonies 7 and 10*, Berlioz *Symphonie Fantastique* and Walton *Symphony No. 1*.

In May 2005, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra announced it was to appoint Michael Seal as its Assistant Conductor, the first in its history. During the first year of his three year tenure as Assistant Conductor, Michael has conducted two family concerts, a schools concert and led the CBSO during Artsfest in Centenary Square. He also conducted them in a matinée concert, a Friday night concert featuring the music of Mohammed Rafi and concerts in Aldeburgh and Wolverhampton.

Future engagements include repeat visits to the BPO and Sinfonia of Birmingham, concerts in Sutton Coldfield and Milton Keynes with the CBSO, as well his first subscription concert with the CBSO in March 2007. He will also be making his debut with the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra in June 2007.



Piers Lane

Piano Soloist (Series 1)

London-based Australian pianist Piers Lane has a flourishing international career which has taken him to more than forty countries. Recent and forthcoming highlights include performances of the Grieg *Concerto* with the London Philharmonic & Hallé Orchestras and recitals in Adelaide, Brisbane, Como, Hobart, Munich, Sydney, the Valldemossa Chopin Festival and a nine-concert tour for Chamber Music New Zealand.



Soloist at the BBC Promenade Concerts on five occasions Piers Lane's concerto repertoire, which exceeds 70 works, includes many rarities by European and British composers. His extensive discography includes, on the Hyperion label, much admired

recordings of rare *Romantic Concertos*, the complete *Etudes* and *Preludes* by Scriabin and transcriptions of Bach and Strauss, along with complete collections of *Concert Etudes* by Saint-Saëns, Moscheles, and Henselt, and transcriptions by Grainger. In 2006, Piers Lane will record concertos by Alnæs and Sinding with the Bergen Philharmonic and Andrew Litton and songs by Delius with soprano Yvonne Kenny.

Piers Lane has become well-known on BBC Radio 3, writing and presenting the popular 54-part series *The Piano* and regularly presenting *BBC Legends*. In 1994 he was made an Honorary Member of the Royal Academy of Music, where he has been a professor of piano since 1989. Piers Lane has recently been appointed Artistic Director of the Australian Festival of Chamber Music, held annually in the first fortnight of July.



Eduardo Vassallo

Cello Soloist (Series 2)

Eduardo J. Vassallo was born in the Argentinian capital, Buenos Aires, on 4 November 1961. He studied the cello initially with Nicolas Finoli and chamber music with Ljerco Spiller. By the age of 17, he was already a founder member of the String Quartet of the National Radio, and the principal cello of the National Symphony Orchestra.



Since 1989 Eduardo Vassallo has been principal cello of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, at first under the musical direction of Sir Simon Rattle, and now Sakari Oramo. He is one of the founding directors of the Birmingham Ensemble

(a chamber group drawn from the ranks of the CBSO), and also teaches at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, where he has participated in the last three Cello Festivals hosted by the RNCM.

As a soloist he has given recitals throughout Europe and South America, and has appeared frequently with various orchestras. In Birmingham, he has performed Bloch's *Schelomo*, Shostakovich *1st Cello Concerto*, Haydn *D Major Cello Concerto* and Elgar *Cello Concerto* with the CBSO. He plays a Paolo Testore cello made in Milan in 1710 and a Ferdinando Gagliano cello made in Naples in 1792.

Peter Cigleris

Clarinet Soloist (Series 3)

Peter has enjoyed a wide and varied career since taking up the clarinet at the age of eleven. His first professional recitals were at the age 14 in Plymouth with pianist/composer Clive Jenkins; this partnership still takes Peter around Devon and Cornwall performing in such recital series as the Plymouth International Concert Series. Clive was so impressed by Peter's playing he decided to compose a clarinet concerto for him; this concerto was premiered in 2000 with the Southwest Sinfonia in Plymouth's Guildhall alongside Mozart's *Clarinet Concerto*. In 1997 Peter continued his musical studies at the Birmingham Conservatoire where his professors were Michael Harris and Colin Parr.

Peter is an avid chamber musician and performs for various music clubs and societies alongside pianist Jennie-Helen Moston. This partnership has seen the two perform as far north as Invergordon and as far south as St. James' Piccadilly London. Peter has also performed at various Festivals with the wind group 'Octanphonie' which he co-founded. As a soloist Peter has performed many concertos, including those by Mozart, Weber and Nielsen.

The coming year will see Peter giving performances at the Fairfield Halls Croydon, Windsor Festival and the world premier of the Clarinet Concerto by Andrew Wilson. He is currently principal clarinet with the New Professionals Chamber Orchestra. Peter plays on a pair of Peter Eaton Elite clarinets made for him in November 2001.





Series 1

Rachmaninov Plus...

A feast of music by the twentieth century's arch-romantic pianist-composer. The evergreen *Vocalise* has a gentle, wistful and nostalgic air to it, while the mighty *Piano Concerto No. 3* is a test of the technique, stamina and musicianship of even the finest pianist - and we are lucky to have one of the finest in Piers Lane. The *First Symphony*, after its disastrous first performance under Glazunov, was thought destroyed by its composer. After his death, however, it was rediscovered and soon recognised for the outstanding symphonic début that it is.

At Symphony Hall and Brewwood, we will also be featuring many popular and familiar classics, including those staples of the "Last Night of the Proms", Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1* and Parry's *Jerusalem*.

Programme:

Rachmaninov: *Vocalise*
(Sutton Coldfield, Brewwood)

Rachmaninov: *Symphony No. 1 in D minor*
(Sutton Coldfield, Brewwood)

Rachmaninov: *Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor*
(Sutton Coldfield, Symphony Hall)

The concert at Brewwood will include a selection from the following programme for the Autumn Prom at Symphony Hall.

Arnold: *Overture, Peterloo*

Arnold: *A Grand, Grand Overture*

Williams: *E.T. - Adventures on Earth; Superman March*

Woods: *Barwick Green (Theme from "The Archers")*

Goodwin: *633 Squadron Theme*

Ellis: *Coronation Scot*

Elgar: *Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1*

Parry: *Jerusalem*

Conductor: Michael Lloyd

Solo Piano: Piers Lane (Symphony Hall, Sutton Coldfield)

Compère: Adrian Goldberg (Symphony Hall)

Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Birmingham Foundation Autumn Prom

Wednesday 27th September, 8.00 pm

Promoted by Hyder Consulting in association with the Birmingham Foundation.

Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

Sunday 1st October, 7.30 pm

Promoted by the Royal Sutton Philharmonic Society.

St Dominic's School, Brewood, Staffs

Sunday 8th October, 7.30 pm -

Promoted by the Friends of St Dominic's School.

An Extra Treat

The BPO Big Band Presents...

The wind, brass and percussion of the BPO (plus some guests) strike out on their own! They will entertain you with a selection from stage (*Les Misérables*, *Miss Saigon*) and screen (*E.T.*, *Superman*, *Gladiator*, *Independence Day*), together with other classics from the wind band repertoire.

Conductor: Michael Syrett

Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham

Sunday 15th October, 7.30 pm



Series 2

The Essence of Romanticism

Four pieces representing the height of the Romantic flowering in music. Mendelssohn's storm-tossed journey around *Fingal's Cave* (*The Hebrides*) will surely set the pulse racing, while Bizet's *Carmen Suite No 2* recalls the tragic fate of the flawed heroine of the opera. Saint-Saëns' *Cello Concerto No 1* was almost revolutionary in its day, and it has a rhapsodic impulse to match - Eduardo Vassallo, principal cello of the CBSO, will be honouring us by being our soloist. Finally, the land now known as Ukraine was the inspiration for Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No 2*, the *Little Russian*, with folk-like melodies at every turn.

Programme:

Mendelssohn: Overture, *The Hebrides* (*Fingal's Cave*)

Saint-Saëns: Cello Concerto No. 1 in A minor

Bizet: *Carmen Suite No. 2*

Tchaikovsky: *Symphony No. 2* in C minor
(*Little Russian*)

Conductor: Michael Lloyd

Solo Cello: Eduardo Vassallo

Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham

Sunday 10th December, 7.30 pm

Artrix Theatre, Bromsgrove

Sunday 17th December, 7.30pm

Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

Sunday 21st January, 7.30pm

Promoted by Sutton Coldfield Town Hall Users Ltd.

Walsall Town Hall

Wednesday 24th January, 7.30pm

Promoted by Walsall Council.

Series 3

English Masterpieces

Elgar's *In the South* (*Alassio*) was inspired by a Mediterranean holiday he took with his wife, Alice, in an area he became very fond of, and is an affectionate portrait of the Italian countryside and people. Gerald Finzi is now getting the recognition that his unique twist on the English pastoral style deserves. His *Clarinet Concerto* is rightly familiar, a true virtuoso piece for soloist and strings, which turns from stormy and tragic to witty and triumphant. Peter Cigleris, a fine young clarinettist, will be our soloist. Elgar dedicated his *Symphony No 2* to the memory of King Edward VII - can we, perhaps, in its broad canvas, see the passing of that era and the dawn of modern England?

Programme:

Elgar: *In the South* (*Alassio*)

Finzi: *Clarinet Concerto*

Elgar: *Symphony No. 2* in E flat major

Conductor: Michael Lloyd

Solo Clarinet: Peter Cigleris

Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham

Sunday 18th February, 7.30 pm

Priory Church, Leominster

Sunday 25th February, 2.30 pm

Promoted by the Leominster Festival.



Series 4

A Tale of Five Cities

A world tour in Music! We open with Richard Strauss's *Festmusik der Stadt Wien*, a bright fanfare for the city brass of Vienna, then hop to New York for Bernstein's *Dances from On the Town*, celebrating his native city as only he could. Gershwin's *An American in Paris* looks back from the States to the noisy but cosmopolitan city where he went to study with Ravel. Elgar's *Cockaigne* is a truly astonishing portrait of turn-of-the-century London, with the sound of the crowd all around, but with moments of reflection too, and finally Janáček's *Sinfonietta* is a series of sketches of his home city, Brno, the proud capital of Moravia, with fanfares aplenty to send us on our way.

Programme:

Strauss: Festmusik der Stadt Wien

Bernstein: Dances from "On the Town"

Gershwin: An American in Paris

Elgar: Cockaigne (In London Town)

Janáček: Sinfonietta

Conductor: Michael Seal

All Saints Church, Broseley, Shropshire

Sunday 15th April, 7.30 pm

Promoted by All Saints Church PCC.

Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham

Sunday 22nd April, 7.30 pm

Series 5

German Drama, Russian Fantasy

Two of Richard Strauss's finest orchestral works, plus two Russian showpieces. Strauss's *Death and Transfiguration* is a narrative of the passage from near-death through fever to the vision of Heaven on the other side. *Don Juan* is his take on the tale of the legendary rake who, in this version as in all the others, comes to no good. Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio Espagnol* is a sparkling description of Spain as seen by Russian eyes. His pupil Stravinsky scored an early success with the *Firebird* ballet, in which he conjured up fantastic new colours from the orchestra. The suite of 1919 is the most familiar in the concert hall, and includes all the highlights from the full score.

Programme:

Strauss: Death and Transfiguration

Rimsky-Korsakov: Capriccio Espagnol

Strauss: Don Juan

Stravinsky: Firebird Suite (1919)

Conductor: Michael Lloyd

Priory Church, Leominster

Sunday 10th June, 7.30 pm

Promoted by the Leominster Festival.

Adrian Boulton Hall, Birmingham

Sunday 17th June, 7.30 pm



Ticket Prices and Booking Details

Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham

Tickets: £10 (£8 concessionary, £6 students/children),
Tel 0121 236 5622,
or book online via www.birminghamboxoffice.co.uk,
or direct from the orchestra (www.bpo.org.uk).

Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Tickets: £12, £17 and £20, Tel 0121 780 3333
or book online via
www.necgroup.co.uk/visitor/symphonyhall

Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

October 1st

Tickets: £12.50 (£5 students/children),
Tel 0121 373 1779

January 21st - Ticket prices TBA,
Tel 0121 308 4126 for more information.

St Dominic's School, Brewood

Tickets: £10, Tel 01902 850248, Fax 01902 851154,
Email enquiries@st-dominics-brewood.co.uk,
or write to St Dominic's School, Bargate Street,
Brewood, Staffordshire ST19 9BA

Artrix Theatre, Bromsgrove

Tickets: £10 (£8 concessionary, £6 students/children),
Tel 01527 577330,
or book online via www.artrix.co.uk.

Walsall Town Hall

Tickets: £7 (£5 concessionary), Tel 0845 111 2900

All Saints Church, Broseley

Tickets: £10, Tel 01952 882647.

Priory Church, Leominster

February 25th, Tickets: £10 (£5 under 16),
Tel 01568 613286

June 10th, Tickets: £10 (£5 under 16),
Tel 01568 611190,
or from the Festival Box Office at
12 Buttercross Arcade, Leominster HR6 8BN.



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