



## Our Guest Conductors

### Richard Laing

Since winning the sinfonia VIVA Conducting Scholarship in 2001, Richard has established a reputation as one of the most exciting and versatile young conductors in Britain. He is Music Director of the critically-acclaimed Birmingham-based professional opera company Operamus, Music Director of the Worcestershire Symphony Orchestra, the Leamington Chamber Orchestra, the Leicester Bach Choir, and the Midlands Chorale, and a regular guest conductor with Queen's Park Sinfonia, Midlands Sinfonia, Hallam Sinfonia and Chandos Symphony Orchestra. Richard is in demand as a coach at festivals and summer schools and as a leader of orchestral and choral workshops around the UK. He has premiered many new works and plays the violin for the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Orchestra of the Swan.



### Anthony Bradbury



Anthony Bradbury was born in Worcestershire and attended King Edward VI College, Stourbridge, where he played clarinet, piano and percussion with numerous orchestras and ensembles. He continued his education at Brasenose College, Oxford University, studying Orchestration and Electro-Acoustic music with the composer Robert Sherlaw Johnson, and graduated with an MA in Music. Anthony is now a freelance conductor who works with a number of Midlands-based organisations. He is Principal Conductor of the Central England Ensemble (CEE), an orchestra whose remit is to support the work of contemporary composers from the Midlands, and he is a guest conductor of the Sinfonia of Birmingham. Although this is Anthony's first concert series engagement with the BPO, he has directed the orchestra in two previous concerts with BFCS, the second being a performance of Dvorak's Requiem - a work premiered by BFCS in 1891 in Birmingham Town Hall - to commemorate the centenary of the composer's death.

### Jonathan Tilbrook

Jonathan Tilbrook is an exciting and versatile conductor whose career has included performances at major venues throughout the UK as well as in East and West Europe, Scandinavia, New Zealand and the Far East. Recent seasons have brought his debut at Symphony Hall, Birmingham (with the Birmingham Philharmonic), a highly successful Barbican Hall debut with the English Chamber Orchestra (which was followed by a further invitation to conduct the orchestra at the Bromsgrove Festival); Walton's Façade at the Albert Hall, Nottingham with Lady Susanna Walton and musicians from Sinfonia Viva, and appearances with the contemporary music ensemble 'One Voice' in Edinburgh. Jonathan presently holds the position of Head of Postgraduate Studies at Trinity College of Music and the Sir Charles Mackerras Conducting Fellowship at Nottingham University where he has conducted a wide range of nineteenth and twentieth century repertoire.



## Concert Season 2007/08

**Music Director** Michael Lloyd  
**Patron** Peter Donohoe



# Welcome

## to our New Season 07-08

Welcome to the 2007-08 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.

Music Director Michael Lloyd conducts two programmes, in February and April - the latter our celebration of Mahler in Town Hall Birmingham and Tewkesbury Abbey. We also welcome back Jonathan Tilbrook to conduct a programme of Slavonic music in June, and Anthony Bradbury to conduct our Christmas programme. Making his concert debut with the BPO in October is Richard Laing. Joining us as concerto soloists are young Belgian violinist Leonard Schreiber, making his third appearance with the BPO, and hornist Alison Bach, winner of the Ludlow Philharmonic Prize at the Birmingham Conservatoire. Finally, the BPO Concert Band makes a return by popular demand in January, with a programme of popular items from the wind band repertoire.

To find out more, read on...

## Who are the BPO?

### Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra

The BPO, founded in the 1940's, 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.

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. Michael moved to Stuttgart to continue his operatic conducting, also working regularly as Associate Chorus Master for the Stuttgart Philharmonic Vocal Ensemble, South German Madrigal Choir and South German Radio Chorus.

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 addition to teaching regularly at the Opera Schools of the Royal College of Music and the Guildhall School of Music, he has conducted at all the major venues in London, Symphony Hall, Birmingham, and also in Japan and Korea. Since 1994 he has been a regular visitor to New Zealand, where he has conducted opera, ballet and concerts.

In 2006 he was appointed advisor to the Opera Genesis project at the Royal Opera House. From November 2006 he has been conducting most of the performances of the new production of *The Sound of Music* at the London Palladium. Plans for 2007 include return visits to Norway and New Zealand and performances of *Nutcracker* with Australian Ballet at the end of the year.



Photo: Sophie Baker





## Series 4 Resurrection Symphony

A single work forms this programme - Mahler's second symphony, with its journey from the graveside in the opening movement to the resurrection to eternal life of the close, a truly life-affirming experience.

**Mahler:**  
Symphony No 2 in C minor  
(Resurrection)

**Conductor:**  
Michael Lloyd  
**Solo Soprano:**  
Amanda Winfield  
**Solo Mezzo-soprano:**  
Emma Selway  
City of Birmingham Choir plus guests

**Tewkesbury Abbey:**  
Saturday 12th April, 7.30 pm

**Town Hall, Birmingham:**  
Sunday 20th April, 7.30 pm

## Series 5 Slavonic Rhapsody

A festival of music from Russia and Bohemia. Liadov's colourful descriptive pieces lead us to the joyful atmosphere of Dvorák's overture. Smetana's narrative poem of the river he knew so well is justly famous. Finally, Shostakovich presented, in his 5th symphony, "A Soviet artist's reply to just criticism" - or did he? In the post-Soviet era, nothing is quite as simple as it seems ...

**Liadov:**  
The Enchanted Lake; Kikimora  
**Dvorák:**  
Carnival Overture  
**Smetana:**  
Vltava  
**Shostakovich:**  
Symphony No 5 in D minor

**Conductor:**  
Jonathan Tilbrook

**Priory Church, Leominster:**  
Sunday 8th June, 7.30 pm  
*Promoted by the Leominster Festival*

**Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham:**  
Sunday 15th June, 7.30 pm

## Our Soloists

### Leonard Schreiber (Violin)

Leonard Schreiber was born in 1984 in Antwerp, Belgium. He began his violin studies at the age of six and made his concerto debut with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of Flanders a year later. In 1995 he won the Herman Krebbers International Violin Competition in Maastricht, Netherlands, which gave him the opportunity to perform more concertos with orchestra. He participates in various masterclasses with teachers such as Dr. Felix Andrievsky, Herman Krebbers and Boris Kuschner, and soloists Shlomo Mintz and Maxim Vengerov.



### Alison Bach (Horn)



Alison Bach graduated with First Class Honours from Birmingham Conservatoire in 2007. While at the Conservatoire, Alison won the Ludlow Philharmonic Concerto Prize, the Musician's Union and Bill Warman Award for the Most Promising Instrumentalist, the Rollason Music Award and the Birmingham Conservatoire Brass Prize. As a soloist, Alison gave her concerto debut in 2007 with the Birmingham Conservatoire Symphony Orchestra performing the Knussen Horn Concerto. Future engagements include Strauss Horn Concerto No.1 with the Worthing Philharmonic Orchestra and Britten Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings with the Queen's Park Sinfonia.

### Amanda Winfield (Soprano)

Amanda Winfield was raised and trained in New Zealand, making her professional debut in 1998 singing Emilia and covering the role of Desdemona in Otello for New Zealand National Opera. In 1999 Amanda moved to New York and whilst in the USA appeared in over 20 productions with Manhattan's Dicapo Opera Theatre. Among the notable directors and conductors Amanda has worked with are Michael Lloyd (ENO), Karen Keltner (San Diego Opera), John Hoopes (Nashville Opera), Anton Coppola and Louis Salemno.



### Emma Selway (Mezzo-soprano)



Emma Selway studied at the Royal Academy of Music from 1989 to 1992 and the National Opera Studio. She won a number of prizes at the RAM including the Opera Prize, the Isabella Lucas Prize and the Tom Hammond Prize. Amici di Verdi supported her study at the NOS. She was a finalist in the 1991 Kathleen Ferrier Memorial Competition. She now studies with Mollie Petrie. Emma Selway made her operatic debut at English National Opera as Kate Pinkerton in Madama Butterfly, and future performances include her Royal Opera debut as Hippolyta in A Midsummer Night's Dream in 2008.



## Series 1 Romantic Classics

A programme of favourites from the Romantic era, including two gems from the solo violin repertoire, with Leonard Schreiber making a welcome return as our soloist. Also featuring the BPO début of conductor Richard Laing.

**Mendelssohn:**

Overture, The Fair Melusine

**Bruch:**

Violin Concerto No 1 in G minor

**Kreisler:**

Liebesleid

**Sarasate:**

Zigeunerweisen

**Mendelssohn:**

Symphony No 3 in A minor (Scottish)

**Conductor:**

Richard Laing

**Solo Violin:**

Leonard Schreiber

**All Saints Church, Broseley:**

Sunday 7th October, 7.30 pm

Promoted by All Saints Church PCC

**Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham:**

Sunday 14th October, 7.30 pm

## Series 2 Christmas Celebration

Music to evoke the atmosphere of winter and the spirit of Christmas for all the family. Features the BPO début of conductor Anthony Bradbury, and also, as a soloist, of Ludlow Philharmonic Prize winner Alison Bach in Oliver Knussen's exciting concerto.

**Delius:**

Sleigh Ride

**Prokofiev:**

Winter Bonfire Suite

**Anderson:**

Sleigh Ride

**At Town Hall, Birmingham:**

**Prokofiev:**

Troika (Lieutenant Kijé)

**Blake:**

The Snowman

A selection of carols for all to sing

**At Artrix, Bromsgrove:**

**Prokofiev:**

Suite: Lieutenant Kijé

**Knussen:**

Horn Concerto

**Elgar:**

Wand of Youth Suite No 2

**Arnold:**

The Sound Barrier

**Conductor:** Anthony Bradbury

**Compère:** Adrian Goldberg (Birmingham)

**Solo Horn:** Alison Bach (Bromsgrove)

**The Choir of St Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton.** Director: Peter Morris

**Town Hall, Birmingham:**

Saturday 1st December, 7.30 pm

Promoted by Hyder Consulting in association with Birmingham Foundation.

**Artrix, Bromsgrove:**

Sunday 9th December, 7.30 pm

## New Year Special The BPO Concert Band

The wind, brass and percussion of the BPO (plus some guests) present a programme of classics from the concert band repertoire, plus favourites from stage and screen to brighten up the darkest days of the New Year. Conducted by the BPO's principal bassoonist and chairman, Mike Syrett.

Programme to include:

**Holst:**

Suite No 1 for Military Band

**Vaughan Williams:**

English Folk Song Suite

**Walton:**

Crown Imperial

**John Williams:**

"Jurassic Park" Suite; "Harry Potter" Suite

*Plus other items including a selection of the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber*

**Conductor:**

Michael Syrett

**Sutton Coldfield Town Hall:**

Sunday 20th January, 7.30 pm

Promoted by Sutton Coldfield Town Hall Users Ltd.

**Walsall Town Hall:**

Wednesday 23rd January, 7.30pm

Promoted by Walsall Council

## Series 3 Song, Dance and Symphony

A programme with a strong valedictory flavour. Britten said farewell to his parents with his symphony, which is also a savage protest against war. Strauss's songs are his last gift to the human voice, and also his last work. Rachmaninov's Symphonic Dances are also his final completed composition, and see the composer reflecting on a long career.

**Britten:**

Sinfonia da Requiem

**Strauss:**

Four Last Songs

**Rachmaninov:**

Vocalise

**Rachmaninov:**

Symphonic Dances

**Conductor:**

Michael Lloyd

**Solo Soprano:**

Amanda Winfield

**Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham:**

Sunday 17th February, 7.30 pm

**Priory Church, Leominster:**

Sunday 24th February, 2.00 pm

Promoted by the Leominster Festival



### The Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra

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

T 0121 689 2835

E [info@bpo.org.uk](mailto:info@bpo.org.uk)

W [www.bpo.org.uk](http://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.*



## 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](http://www.birminghamboxoffice.co.uk)\*,  
or direct from the orchestra ([www.bpo.org.uk](http://www.bpo.org.uk)).

\* (£1 postage and administration charge for online bookings).

### All Saints Church, Broseley

Tickets £10, Tel 01952 882647.

### Town Hall, Birmingham

December 1st only - Tickets £17 and £15, tel 0870 000 3007,  
or email [birminghamchristmasconcert@hyderconsulting.com](mailto:birminghamchristmasconcert@hyderconsulting.com).

April 20th only - Tickets £20, £15 £10 and £6.50, Tel 0121 780 3333

or book online via [www.necgroup.co.uk/visitor/symphonyhall](http://www.necgroup.co.uk/visitor/symphonyhall)\*,  
or direct from the orchestra ([www.bpo.org.uk](http://www.bpo.org.uk)) or choir ([www.citychoir.org.uk](http://www.citychoir.org.uk)).

\* (£1 postage and administration charge for online bookings).

### Arrix, Bromsgrove

Tickets £10 (£8 concessionary, £6 students/children), Tel 01527 577330,  
or book online via [www.arrix.co.uk](http://www.arrix.co.uk)\*,

\* (£1.50 postage and administration charge for online bookings).

### Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

Ticket prices £11 (£10 concessionary).

Box Office: Contact Bill Stableford, Tel 0121 313 0344.

### Walsall Town Hall

Ticket prices £7 (£5 concessionary), Tel 0845 111 2900

### Priory Church, Leominster

February 24th only - Tickets £10 (£5 under 16), Tel 01568 611553.

Not available from the Festival Box Office.

June 8th only - Tickets £10 (£5 under 16), Tel 01568 611190,

or from the Festival Box Office at 12 Buttercross Arcade, Leominster HR6 8BN.

### Tewkesbury Abbey

Tickets £10 (£8 concessionary, £6 students/children), from the Abbey Shop.  
Tel 01684 276655.

**Tickets for all concerts are usually available direct from the orchestra.**

**For enquiries, please email [info@bpo.org.uk](mailto:info@bpo.org.uk).**

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



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

**Visit our website - [www.bpo.org.uk](http://www.bpo.org.uk)**





Visit our Website ...

[www.bpo.org.uk](http://www.bpo.org.uk)

... for news, reviews, concert dates and ticket information, profiles, photos, and much more - now including a blog where you can get in touch with your views.

- What did you think of our last concert?
- What would you like us to play next season?
- Are you interested in joining the orchestra?
- Would you like to sponsor or support the orchestra?



We'd like to hear from you!



The Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra is affiliated to Making Music which represents and supports amateur vocal, instrumental and promoting societies throughout the United Kingdom.

More information about Making Music can be obtained from [www.makingmusic.org.uk](http://www.makingmusic.org.uk) or from Rod Grealish, Regional Secretary, 14 Brunswick Terrace, Stafford ST16 1BB.

The Birmingham Foundation would like to thank the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra for its generous support of our cause over the past three years.

For more information please contact:

Birmingham Foundation,  
Suite 2A, St Georges Court,  
1 Albion Street,

Birmingham B1 3AH

tel 0121 214 2080

fax 0121 214 2099

email

[team@bhamfoundation.co.uk](mailto:team@bhamfoundation.co.uk)

web

[www.bhamfoundation.co.uk](http://www.bhamfoundation.co.uk)

Registered charity number: 1048162  
Company registration number: 3083289

Giving our Community  
a brighter future

