



Giving our Community a Brighter Future

Birmingham Community Foundation (BCF) and **Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra (BPO)** have been working together now on a series of annual concerts for the past six years and are delighted to announce that the partnership has developed into the creation of a **BPO Grassroots Community Fund** whereby funds donated between now and March 2011 can be **doubled** by a Government Initiative called the **Grassroots Endowment Challenge**; helping to support local disadvantaged communities access to Arts, Music & Culture.

Birmingham Community Foundation promotes and supports local charitable and community activity through a range of effective grant making programmes in areas of poverty and deprivation in Birmingham and the Black Country reaching young and old alike. We would not be able to do this without the support of our donors; both corporate and individual...

For further information please visit: www.bhamfoundation.co.uk

grassroots
grants

Managed by the Community Foundation Foundation
Funded by the Office of the Third Sector

... and until March 2011, the **Grassroots Endowment**

Challenge will provide us with a fantastic opportunity to **double your donation**: for every £10 we receive under the scheme, the Government will match it 100%, so that it is worth £25.64 (with Gift Aid)!



Helping local community projects in your area

You can support the BCF/BPO Grassroots Community Fund by:



- ☐ Donating directly into the **BPO Grassroots Community Fund** – please send me further information
- ☐ Attending the **BCF Christmas Prom** – performed by Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra and conducted by Richard Laing takes place on Tuesday 15th December at 8pm, Town Hall, Birmingham. Tickets £20 (circle) and £15 (stalls) – please send me further information
- ☐ **Birmingham Community Foundation** – please send me further information
- ☐ **Grassroots Endowment Challenge** – please send me further information

Please complete and return to:

Birmingham Community Foundation,
Nechells Baths, Nechells Park Road,
Nechells, Birmingham B7 5PD
Tel: 0121 322 5560 Fax: 0121 322 5579 or
email us at: team@bhamfoundation.co.uk
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birmingham
community

FOUNDATION

targeting communities in need



Music Director Michael Lloyd
Patron Peter Donohoe



Concert Season 2009/10

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



Concerts 2009/10



Foreword

Cllr. Martin Mullaney writes ...

I was absolutely delighted to be asked to contribute to this season's brochure and as Birmingham's Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Culture I would like to add my personal support and endorsement to the superb work and opportunities that the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra provides.

Since taking up this challenging but hugely rewarding position on the City Council Executive I have attended many cultural events and performances and I am very quickly witnessing first hand the diverse range of activity taking place within the cultural sector of our great city, delivered by an equally diverse range of organisations and individuals, a diversity that Birmingham is proud of. The Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra is one of those organisations, a vital component that contributes so much to Birmingham's vibrant and dynamic cultural scene. But it does more than contribute; it provides a wonderful opportunity for talented individuals to become part of a hugely successful orchestra performing a programme of fantastic concerts all over the city and wider region as this brochure clearly demonstrates.

It is no great secret that I am a huge fan of live music and entertainment. Consequently it'll be no great surprise that one of my ambitions during my term of office is to develop a music policy for Birmingham to nurture, support and coordinate all this activity. We can be very proud of what this city already provides musically speaking, but there is scope, capacity and enthusiasm within the sector to build on what exists and create a cohesive and enabling environment we can all be part of.

Finally I would like to wish the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra, its patrons and supporters every success for the forthcoming season, I have no doubt that it will continue to receive the recognition and acclaim that it truly deserves.

M. Mullaney

Our new season ...

Welcome to the 2009-10 season of concerts by the BPO. We are delighted once again to be working with guest conductor Richard Laing, and also with the Birmingham Community Foundation, whose work touches so many people in our city, both directly and indirectly. We will also meet a new guest conductor in Marco Romano. Of course, the BPO never rests on its laurels, and we will be testing ourselves to the utmost with works such as the Rite of Spring, and welcoming violinists Nathaniel Vallois and Kathryn Rutland to perform Britten's and Elgar's concerti respectively. But the highlight of the season must be the first-ever appearance of our Patron, Peter Donohoe with the BPO, as soloist in Ravel's Concerto for the Left Hand. Read on and enjoy ...

(Cover photo - The BPO, with the City of Birmingham Choir and friends, performing Mahler's Resurrection Symphony at Town Hall Birmingham in April 2008. Photo by Catherine Alton)



Visit our Website ...

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?
- Would you like to advertise in our programmes?



We'd like to hear from you!

The Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra

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

T 0121 689 2835
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.

Programme design by Chris Bertram



Concerts 2009/10



Ticket Prices and Booking Details

Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham

Tickets £13 (£10 concessionary, £8 students/children), tel 0121 303 2323,
or book online via www.oxboffice.com*,
or direct from the orchestra (www.bpo.org.uk).

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

St Peter's Church, Sudbury

Tickets £10 reserved and £8 unreserved, tel 01787 881160

Guy Nelson Hall, Warwick School

Tickets £13 (£10 concessionary, £8 students/children), Tel 01926 776438,
or book online via <http://www.bridgehouse theatre.co.uk/content/purchase-tickets>*,

* (£2.50 postage and administration charge for online bookings).

Town Hall Birmingham

Tickets £25 and £20, tel 0121 322 5560,
or email christmasconcert@bhamfoundation.co.uk.
For further information, visit www.bhamfoundation.co.uk/newsfs.html.

Colston Hall, Bristol

Ticket prices on application, tel 0117 92 23686,
or email boxoffice@colstonhall.org.

Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

For tickets and other information contact Bill Stableford, tel 0121 308 4126.

Coventry Cathedral

Tickets £13 (£10 concessionary, £8 students/children), from the Cathedral Shop.
Tel 02476 267 070, or book online via www.oxboffice.com*,
or direct from the orchestra (www.bpo.org.uk).
* (£1 postage and administration charge for online bookings).

Wells Cathedral

Tickets (prices on application) from the Cathedral Bookshop.
Tel 01749 672773, email shop@wells cathedral.ok.net,
Also from Bath Festivals Box Office 01225 463362, online www.bathfestivals.org.uk.

Priory Church, Leominster

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

Tickets for all concerts are usually available direct from the orchestra.
For enquiries, please email tickets@bpo.org.uk.

All programme timings are approximate.
Programme details and ticket prices may be subject to change without notice. E&OE.



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.

His conducting career has covered opera, ballet, symphony concerts and West End musicals (until the end of June 2008 he was music director for "The Sound of Music" at the London Palladium). 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.

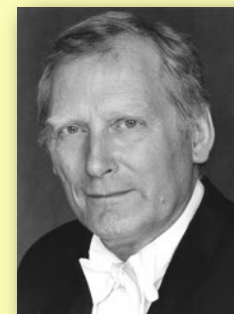


Photo: Sophie Baker

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, including conducting Britten's Turn of the Screw for them in Kiev, the Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow and the Maryinsky Theatre, Leningrad. Since 1994 he has been a regular visitor to New Zealand, where he has conducted opera, ballet and concerts.

Work this year has included Donizetti's Anna Bolena with English Touring Opera, Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet with Royal New Zealand Ballet, Manon with Australian Ballet in Melbourne and Swan Lake, Rite of Spring and Les Préludes (to Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony) with the same company in London and Manchester. Future plans include return visits to Norway and New Zealand.

Michael is also the music director of the Chandos Symphony Orchestra, Malvern.

Who are the BPO? Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra

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. It retained its vigour at the cessation of hostilities and remains one of the country's leading large non-professional symphony orchestras, drawing its members from all walks of life throughout the West Midlands. For most of its members music is a form of relaxation, but for others it is a stepping-stone in their musical careers. The BPO enjoys close links with both the Birmingham Conservatoire and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and is affiliated to Making Music (formerly the National Federation of Music Societies).

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



Concerts 2009/10



Conductors and Soloists

Marco Romano (Conductor)

Marco Romano was originally trained as a clarinetist at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. Whilst at the RSAMD he formed a student repertoire orchestra and, without any kind of tuition and with little experience, he found himself in possession of an outstanding gift and promptly won the Academy's top conducting prize. He spent a number of years as a freelance clarinetist and teacher appearing as a conductor with various amateur and professional ensembles and orchestras throughout the UK.

As a musical entrepreneur, devising and performing popular concerts, he has a brilliant touch, bringing music to large audiences and working with some of the UK's top soloists including Julian Lloyd Webber, Lesley Garrett, John Wallace and Denis O'Neill.



Richard Laing (Conductor)

Richard Laing is one of the most exciting and versatile young conductors in Britain today. He is Music Director of Operamus, The Midland Sinfonia, Lancashire Youth Orchestra, Leamington Chamber Orchestra and Worcestershire Symphony Orchestra, and a frequent guest conductor with Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra, Chandos Symphony Orchestra and professional ensembles around the UK. He is highly sought after as a leader of orchestral and choral workshops across the country, and has conducted in France, Italy, Spain, Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic. Richard studied conducting as Sinfonia ViVa Scholar at the Birmingham Conservatoire, winning the Postgraduate Prize, and at Dartington on a Foyle Foundation award. He now works as a conductor and coach at the Birmingham Conservatoire and has conducted productions with Operamus, Kent Opera, Birmingham Conservatoire Opera and Dartington Festival Opera. He has also lectured on opera and on film at universities in the USA and Australia.



Jason Thornton (Conductor)

Jason Thornton is one of Britain's finest young conductors. As Music Director of Bath's resident professional orchestra Bath Philharmonia, he is artistically responsible for one of the largest and most respected organisations of its type in the South West of England. With this orchestra he became the world's youngest conductor to have performed all Mahler's symphonic output. He has also worked with many of Britain's finest orchestral and choral ensembles including the Royal Philharmonic, City of London Sinfonia, London Mozart Players, Halle Orchestra, English Northern Philharmonia, Royal Academy Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Choir, Philharmonia Chorus and Bournemouth Symphony Chorus. He regularly works with Festivals and venues throughout Britain, including nine performances at the Bath International Music Festival since 1997, Last Night of the Kenwood House Proms with City of London Sinfonia and recently his debut at the Hall for Cornwall with the London Mozart Players and Natalie Clein. Future plans include performances with Tim Hugh, Sarah Connolly, Michael Collins, Peter Donohoe, Jennifer Pike and Nicola Benedetti.



Series 4 Tchaikovsky's "Pathétique"

We open with Wagner's spectacular overture to his tale of redemption by love, and then welcome Nathaniel Vallois for Britten's concerto, and impassioned protest against a looming war. Finally, Tchaikovsky's last word as a symphonist bids farewell better than words ever could.

Wagner: Overture, Tannhäuser (14')

Britten: Violin Concerto (31')

Tchaikovsky: Symphony No 6 in B minor (Pathétique) (45')

Conductor: Michael Lloyd

Solo Violin: Nathaniel Vallois

Coventry Cathedral:

Saturday 17th April, 7.30 pm

Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham:

Sunday 25th April, 7.30 pm

Series 5 Rite of Spring

For some, it is the ultimate challenge for an orchestra, for others, one of the defining moments of twentieth-century music, after which nothing could ever be the same. Stravinsky's revolutionary ballet continues to be a source of controversy nearly 100 years on. Elgar's concerto, written for Fritz Kreisler, also challenges both orchestra and conductor in ways that can be wholly unexpected.

Elgar: Violin Concerto in B minor (50')

Stravinsky: The Rite of Spring (33')

Conductor: Michael Lloyd

Solo Violin: Kathryn Rutland

Priory Church, Leominster:

Sunday 13th June, 7.30 pm

Promoted by the Leominster Festival

Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham:

Sunday 20th June, 7.30 pm



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SUPPORTING & CHAMPIONING VOLUNTARY MUSIC



Concerts 2009/10



The BPO with the South West Festival Chorus

(Chorus Master: Gavin Carr)



Berlioz' Requiem

Berlioz' massive and spectacular mass for the dead.

Berlioz: Grande Messe des Morts (85')

Conductor: Jason Thornton

Solo Tenor: TBA

Colston Hall, Bristol:

Saturday 13th February, 7.30 pm

Belshazzar's Feast

Walton's vibrant and dramatic depiction of the biblical story, together with Tchaikovsky's last word as a symphonist.

Tchaikovsky: Symphony No 6 in B minor (Pathétique) (45')

Walton: Belshazzar's Feast (35')

Conductors: Michael Lloyd, Jason Thornton

Solo Bass-Baritone: Sir Willard White

Wells Cathedral:

Saturday 22nd May, 7.00 pm

Series 3 Left Hand Concerto

A first for the BPO, as our Patron, Peter Donohoe, joins us to perform Ravel's virtuoso concerto, which is by turns dramatic and witty, but has more than a hint of the supernatural about it. Strauss' suite contains the highlights of his most famous opera, and Rachmaninov's final symphony shows that his creativity continued right up to the end.

R Strauss: Der Rosenkavalier - Suite (33')

Ravel: Piano Concerto for the Left Hand (19')

Rachmaninov: Symphony No 3 in A minor (37')

Conductor: Michael Lloyd

Solo Piano: Peter Donohoe

Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham:

Sunday 21st February, 7.30 pm

Guy Nelson Hall, Warwick School:

Sunday 28th February, 7.30 pm

New Year Special: The BPO Concert Band

A programme of band favourites for the New Year.

Conductor: Michael Syrett

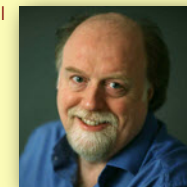
Sutton Coldfield Town Hall:

Sunday 31st January, 7.30 pm

Promoted by Sutton Coldfield Town Hall Users Ltd.

Peter Donohoe (Piano)

Peter Donohoe was born in Manchester in 1953. He studied at Chetham's School of Music for seven years, graduated in music at Leeds University, and went on to study at the Royal Northern College of Music with Derek Wyndham and then in Paris with Olivier Messiaen and Yvonne Loriod. Since his unprecedented success as joint winner of the 1982 International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, he has developed a distinguished career in Europe, the USA, the Far East and Australasia. He is acclaimed as one of the foremost pianists of our time, for his musicianship, stylistic versatility and commanding technique. In 2006 he was invited by the Netherlands to be Ambassador for Music in the Middle East.



Peter Donohoe played with the Berliner Philharmoniker in Sir Simon Rattle's opening concerts as Music Director. He has also recently performed with all the major London Orchestras, Royal Concertgebouw, Leipzig Gewandhaus, Munich Philharmonic, Swedish Radio, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Vienna Symphony and Czech Philharmonic Orchestras. He was an annual visitor to the BBC Proms for seventeen years and has appeared at many other festivals including six consecutive visits to the Edinburgh Festival, La Roque d'Anthéron in France, and at the Ruhr and Schleswig Holstein Festivals in Germany. In the United States, his appearances have included the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Boston, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Detroit Symphony Orchestras. Peter Donohoe has worked with many of the world's greatest conductors including Christoph Eschenbach, Neeme Jarvi, Lorin Maazel, Kurt Masur, Andrew Davis and Yevgeny Svetlanov.

Peter Donohoe maintains a strong artistic link with the area in which he now lives with his wife Elaine. His close association with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra dates back to 1974. He is vice-president of the Birmingham Conservatoire and has been awarded Honorary Doctorates of Music from the Universities of Birmingham, Central England, Warwick, East Anglia, Leicester and The Open University.

Nathaniel Vallois (Violin)

Nathaniel Vallois was born in Paris in 1974 and lives in London. He gave his first solo performance aged nine in Sion, Switzerland. His teachers included Miriam Solovieff, Itzhak Rashkovsky and Ruggiero Ricci, and he has continued to benefit from the advice of Camilla Wicks.



The recipient of many prizes and awards, he gave his British solo debut in 1993, playing Bartok's First Concerto in Canterbury Cathedral, as part of the Festival. Since then he has performed extensively as soloist and chamber musician in the U.K., including many concerto and recital appearances in London's major venues and festivals throughout England.

The Senior Violin Teacher at the Birmingham Conservatoire and on staff at the Purcell School of Music, he is invited to perform, broadcast and give masterclasses abroad, including in France, Germany, Spain, Romania, Turkey, Israel, South Africa and the U.S.A. His recordings include a recital CD of French music entitled "Beau Soir" and a disc of chamber music by the English composer Hugh Wood. He has a great interest in historical artists and recordings, and is a regular contributor to The Strad magazine and a consultant for record companies.



Concerts 2009/10



Kathryn Rutland (Violin)

Kathryn Rutland studied at the Purcell School of Music and the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) where her teachers were Ben Holland and Yossi Zivoni. She graduated with a B Mus (Hons) and later a M Mus (dist). Whilst studying, Kathryn performed with the Hallé Orchestra, the Manchester Camerata and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. She led the RNCM Symphony Orchestra and was invited to lead the Cardiff Bay Chamber Orchestra and Clonter Opera. She is the leader of the Towler String Quartet, with whom she has performed in the Whitworth Art Gallery, the Bridgewater Hall, and at Salford University. In January 2007, Kathryn moved to London to play in the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House. Kathryn plays a fine Ruggieri violin of circa 1700.



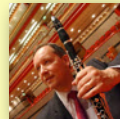
Anne Hagyard (Oboe)

Anne was born in the New Forest in Hampshire and she started playing the oboe at the age of 11. She studied music at the University of York, and then at Birmingham Conservatoire with Jonathan Kelly, George Caird, Karen O'Connor, Jenni Phillips and Peter Walden. Aside from the oboe Anne teaches music and German part time at King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Girls and she has four children. Anne enjoys playing the oboe both semi-professionally and as a member of the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra, the Sinfonia of Birmingham, and the Orianna Wind Quintet.



Alastair Moseley (Clarinet)

Alastair has been principal clarinetist with the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra for 19 years, and has also appeared with them in many concerts as soloist, both as pianist and clarinetist. These have included the Mozart Clarinet Concerto and D Minor and C Major Piano Concertos. Alastair is often invited to give concertos with other orchestras in the UK and these have included the Clarinet Concertos by Weber, Finzi and Copland as well as Beethoven's 1st and 3rd Piano Concertos, Mendelssohn's 1st Piano Concerto and Geršwin's Rhapsody in Blue.



Martyn Jones (Horn)

Martyn Jones has been a member of the BPO since 1978 and the principal Horn since 1997. His personal highlights including a night of Wagner, performing all Mahler symphonies and appearing with the BPO as a vocalist with the renowned group Opus 5. He is very involved in the Birmingham amateur dramatic scene and, when the weather permits, enjoys a round of golf or three.



Michael Syrett (Bassoon and Conductor)

Mike Syrett began his musical studies at the College of Music and Drama in Cardiff, qualifying in June 1961 after only two years study. A number of years were then spent in the armed forces. Mike has worked as a professional and semi-professional Bassoonist for the last 40 years, his activities ranging from working with TV and Radio orchestras, to various other orchestras throughout the country. He has been Principal Bassoon of the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra for over 30 years and combines that role with that of being the Orchestra's Chairman. Mike is also Principal Bassoon of the Sinfonia of Birmingham.



Series 1 Heroic Symphony

A truly revolutionary symphony to open a new season - Beethoven's intended tribute to Napoleon Bonaparte, finally dedicated "to the memory of a great man". Mozart's concertante work shows his love of writing for wind instruments, and Rossini's brilliant overture has all the wit and sparkle that we recognise from this master of opera.

Rossini: Overture, the Silken Ladder (7')

Mozart: Sinfonia Concertante in E flat major for Oboe, Clarinet, Horn and Bassoon (32')

Beethoven: Symphony No 3 in E flat Major (Eroica) (47')

Conductor: Marco Romano

Soloists:

Anne Hagyard (Oboe)

Alastair Moseley (Clarinet)

Martyn Jones (Horn)

Michael Syrett (Bassoon)

St Peter's Church, Sudbury, Suffolk:

Sunday 11th October, 3.00 pm

Promoted by St Peter's Church

Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham:

Sunday 18th October, 7.30 pm

Series 2 Christmas Pantomime

A programme of Christmas favourites for all the family.

Programme to include:

Humperdinck: Overture, "Hansel and Gretel"

Nielsen: "Aladdin" Suite

Tchaikovsky: "Nutcracker" Suite

Tchaikovsky: "Sleeping Beauty" Suite

Conductor: Richard Laing

Guy Nelson Hall, Warwick School:

Sunday 6th December, 7.30 pm

Birmingham Community Foundation Christmas Prom

Town Hall Birmingham:

Tuesday 15th December, 8.00 pm

With the Choir of St Peter's Collegiate

Church, Wolverhampton

Peter Morris, Director

As above, but with carols for all to sing and prom favourites. See back cover for further information.



Friends of the BPO

If you don't play an instrument but are keen to become involved with the work of the BPO, read on. The BPO will be establishing the "Friends of the BPO" to keep our many supporters as closely involved as possible. You will receive advance information about the orchestra's plans, details of offers, and have the chance to help the BPO in many ways. Watch the BPO's website (www.bpo.org.uk) for further details, or contact the orchestra by phone or email (details on page 10) to find out more. We look forward to hearing from you.