

# Orchestral Season 2008/09

With the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

## Wed 24 September

Best Of British

Conductor Leonard Slatkin  
Violin Clio Gould

Elgar *Pomp and Circumstance*  
*March No. 1*

Walton  
*Henry V Suite: Two Pieces*  
Vaughan Williams  
*The Lark Ascending*

Britten *Young Person's Guide*  
*To The Orchestra*

Elgar *'Enigma' Variations*

## Sun 19 October

Conductor Josep Caballé-  
Domenech  
Violin Lara St. John

Arnold *Scottish Dances*  
Mendelssohn  
Violin Concerto in E minor  
Sibelius Symphony No. 5

## Thurs 4 December

A Christmas Celebration

Conductor Paul Bateman  
Vocalist Mary Carewe

Including *Shepherd's Pipe Carol*,  
*Let It Snow!* and *Bugler's Holiday*

## Sun 18 January

Conductor Christopher Warren-Green  
Piano Peter Donohoe

Vaughan Williams  
*The Wasps Overture*  
Rachmaninov  
Piano Concerto No. 2  
Beethoven Symphony No. 5

## Tues 10 February

Conductor Valery Poliansky  
Cello Julian Lloyd Webber

Tchaikovsky *Francesca da Rimini*  
Elgar Cello Concerto  
Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 6

## Sun 22 February

With Northampton Bach Choir &  
Daventry Choral Society

Conductor Owain Arwel Hughes  
Soprano Miriam Murphy  
Mezzo-Soprano Andrea Baker  
Tenor Robert Chafin  
Bass-Baritone Pauls Putninš

Verdi *La Forza del Destino*:  
*Overture*  
Verdi *Requiem*

## Fri 27 March

Conductor Stephen Bell  
Violin Jack Liebeck  
Trumpet Brian Thomson

Elgar *Serenade For Strings*  
Haydn Trumpet Concerto  
Saint-Saëns *Introduction and*  
*Rondo Capriccioso*

Sarasate *Zigeunerweisen*  
Mendelssohn  
Symphony No. 3 'Scottish'

## Thurs 9 April

Conductor Nicolae Moldoveanu  
Organ Dr John Birch

Saint-Saëns  
Symphony No. 3 'Organ'  
Mussorgsky orch. Ravel  
*Pictures at an Exhibition*

## Thurs 28 May

Conductor Dirk Joeres  
Piano Freddy Kempf

Grieg *Peer Gynt Suite No. 1*  
Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 3  
Brahms Symphony No. 4

## Subscriptions

If you would like to book for four or more concerts in the new orchestral season, you can save money! To find out more, please call the Box Office on 01604 624811 or visit our website.

Subscription bookings only will be processed from Monday 14 July to Sunday 3 August. Tickets go on general sale on Monday 4 August.

## Sun 7 June

American Classics

Conductor Michael Seal  
Piano Benjamin Grosvenor

Featuring pieces including  
*Rhapsody In Blue*, *An American*  
*in Paris* and *West Side Story*:  
*Symphonic Dances*

## Sat 18 & Sun 19 October The Arnold Festival 2008

As the premiere concert venue in Malcolm Arnold's place of birth, we are delighted to present a weekend of events to celebrate his magnificent work and remarkable life. Details of the full programme of performances, talks and screenings are available from our website.

Arnold Festival Weekend  
Ticket £12.00

## Tickets

Individual concerts: £30.00 £27.50 £25.00 £23.00 £19.00 £13.00  
(Concessions available)

Box Office 01604 624811

www.royalanderngate.co.uk

## MONDAY 14TH JULY

### *The Gadfly Suite, Op.97a*

Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975)

Dmitri Shostakovich graduated from the St Petersburg Conservatory as a brilliant pianist and composer, his First Symphony winning immediate favour, but his subsequent career in Russia varied with the political climate. In 1955 he wrote one of his most popular and accessible film scores for 'The Gadfly', made inside the Soviet Union, a sugary and entertaining costume drama based on a once very popular historical novel by the English writer Ethel Voynich. The hero is a swashbuckling revolutionary in Risorgimento Italy and the early 19th century Italian setting gives the composer a chance for delicious pastiches in the style of Bellini and Verdi, as well as pseudo-Neapolitan songs and folk-tunes. Most famous are the catchy Galop and the syrupy Romance, which has become popular as the theme music for the mini-series 'Reilly, Ace of Spies'.

## Interval

### *Vocalise, Op.34*

Sergei Rachmaninov (1873-1943)

'Vocalise' was the last of a set of fourteen songs written by Rachmaninov in 1912 for voice and piano. Uniquely, it is wordless – a pure melody, unfolding at rapturous length over gently shifting harmonies. It has been transcribed for every imaginable solo instrument and is a wonderful reminder of just what a gifted miniaturist Rachmaninov was, aside from his epic symphonies and concertos, and how expressively he could shape a long melody. A haunting, indefinable mixture of radiant contentment and aching melancholy, 'Vocalise' is a song in which words would truly be superfluous.

### *'Berceuse' from the Firebird Suite*

Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)

'The Firebird' was the first of the three great ballets that Stravinsky wrote for impresario Serge Diaghilev and his Paris-based Russian Ballet company in the years just before the First World War, the other two being 'Petrouchka' and 'The Rite of Spring'. The story is an ancient Russian folk myth of human and supernatural forces and concerns a green-clawed ogre, Kashchei, who has a magic garden where he ensnares women and turns men to stone. Straying into the garden, Prince Ivan falls in love with one of the princesses ensnared by Kashchei. The Firebird tells Ivan how he can destroy Kashchei's power by smashing an egg hidden in a casket, which is really Kashchei's soul. Ivan duly smashes the egg, the monster dies, the captives are released, and everyone lives happily ever after.

### *Serenade for Strings*

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

**Second Movement:** *Valse: Moderato; Tempo di valse*

**Finale (Tema russo):** *Andante; Allegro con spirito*

The Valse of the second movement is Tchaikovsky's answer to the minuets of Mozart's serenades. Each string section takes a turn carrying the dancing melody in counterpart to rhythmic lines from the other sections. The Finale includes two Russian folk tunes: the first, a slow tune sung by Volga draymen, and the second an animated dance, which Tchaikovsky scores with some quickly pulsing, balalaika-like pizzicato in octaves.

Gerard Le Feuvre was born in Jersey in the Channel Islands in 1962. As a teenager he won scholarships to the Royal Academy of Music, the Banff School of Performing Arts in Canada and the Sibelius Academy in Finland. Over the last 20 years Gerard has given over 500 recitals mostly with the distinguished British pianist Nigel Clayton. He has had several works written for him and is an active composer himself, writing both for the cello and for his bassoonist wife Sarah. He was for seven years the cellist of the internationally renowned English String Quartet and is principal cellist of the Milton Keynes City Orchestra. As a freelancer, Gerard plays principal cello with the English Chamber Orchestra, the English Sinfonia, the Royal Ballet Sinfonia and the New Queen's Hall Orchestra. In 2000, the Royal Academy of Music awarded Gerard the title of Associate in honour of his outstanding achievements in the music profession.

Formed in 1985 by cellist Gerard Le Feuvre, the **King's Chamber Orchestra** is renowned as much for its humour and its pioneering improvisations as for its conventional repertoire. The KCO's members are distinguished musicians and friends whom Gerard has gathered together while freelancing with some of the finest orchestras in the country, and who share an interest in breaking down traditional barriers in order to reach a new generation.

**Refreshments available before the concert and during the interval.**

The concert ends at approximately 9.15pm.

Sponsors: Friends of the Festival

