



2021/22 SEASON

STOCKPORT SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

Welcome back

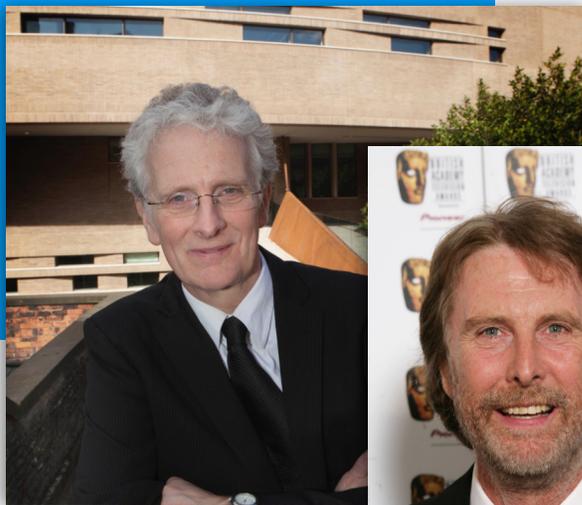
It has been a tough year for everyone and we have been itching to get back to playing. While concerts stopped, one thing which did make some progress was our young musicians competition. It had to go on line, of course, but we now have our three fantastic finalists. And what a final it will be - it would have been hard to have picked three more popular concertos. Competition aside it will be a fantastic night of music.

Elsewhere we have, where possible, brought the soloists and conductors who missed out last season back a year later. It does mean the time-shift has one or two consequences: Beethoven 250 - the celebration of his 250th birthday - now becomes Beethoven 251, for example! On the plus side, he was born very late in 1770 so it's not that far out and means we still get to hear the planned performance of his Triple Concerto - a rare treat in which our own Helen Brackley Jones is joined by two fantastic locally based soloists who are partners both musically and personally .

We think the season opener is pretty special too with an American theme, possibly the world's favourite symphony and a special guest narrator. And talking of narrators we have another treat with our Christmas fairy-tale-themed family concert. You may not have heard of the "Scary Fairy" series - words by Craig Charles (of Red Dwarf fame) set to music by Iain Farrington. Modern classics in the Peter and the Wolf tradition. We promise that you - and any children you bring along - will love hearing the Scary Fairy take on Red Riding Hood.

All that and we haven't even mentioned Mahler 1, Sibelius 5, Tchaikovsky and, and...read on!

Stephen Threlfall



David Threlfall



FROM THE NEW WORLD

9 OCTOBER 2021 7.30 PM

COPLAND Lincoln Portrait
COPLAND Billy the Kid Suite
DVOŘÁK Symphony No 9

Stephen Threlfall, conductor
David Threlfall, narrator

A distinctly American theme to our first concert and also a suitably uplifting feel after such difficult times.

Lincoln Portrait has been performed with many notable narrators including President Obama, Margaret Thatcher and Copland himself. Acting commitments permitting our narrator will be the well-known TV and film actor, David Threlfall who also happens to be the brother of our conductor for this concert.

The symphony scarcely needs introducing. Frequently voted the world's favourite, Dvorak's Symphony 'From the New World' is both an optimistic and nostalgic look at the USA at the turn of the 20th century and this evening with an insight into its creation from contemporary texts.

Philip Ellis



Sveta and Slava



Helen Brackley Jones

Svetlana Mochalova:

"You had the sense that you were listening to the future, and the near future at that." - James R. Oestreich, New York Times

BEETHOVEN 251

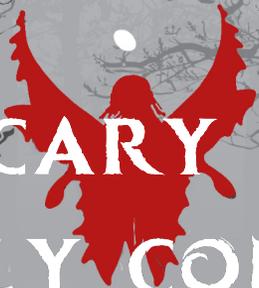
13 NOVEMBER 2021 7.30 PM

BAX Tintagel
BEETHOVEN Triple Concerto
MAHLER Symphony No1 'Titan'

Philip Ellis, conductor
Helen Brackley Jones, violin
Svetlana Mochalova, cello
Slava Sidorenko, piano

Our attempts to celebrate Beethoven 250 were defeated by a global pandemic. Welcome to Beethoven 251! The music is just as good and we couldn't allow our leader, Helen, to miss out on the rare chance to perform Ludwig's too seldom-heard Triple Concerto. Helen is joined by Ukrainian pianist, Slava Sidorenko, a soloist with us previously in the Shostakovich Concerto No 2 and who appears tonight alongside Russian cellist wife, and duet partner, Svetlana Mochalova.

We are delighted to welcome back too, our SIYMC conductor and judge, Philip Ellis, for a regular concert, this season with perhaps Bax's best known work, the tone poem, Tintagel, and Mahler's towering first symphony..



THE SCARY FAIRY FAMILY CONCERT

ROBERT GUY, conductor

12 DECEMBER 2021

3PM MATINEE



FARRINGTON Scary Fairy - Red Riding Hood

HUMPERDINCK Hansel and Gretel

TCHAIKOVSKY Sleeping Beauty

GREGSON Music from The
Lion, the Witch and the
Wardrobe

LOPEZ MUSIC FROM
FROZEN AND
MORE!



An afternoon of fairy tales and magic! Some traditional musical tales, some new. There's something for everyone - from the lovely ballet music of Sleeping Beauty to the modern cinema classic, 'Frozen'.

CBBC and Saturday Mash -Up presenter, Jonny Nelson joins the show and takes the narration for 'Scary Fairy - Red Riding Hood', one of a series of poems which offer a new take on some traditional fairy tales written by 'Red Dwarf' s' Craig Charles.



**PRESENTED AND NARRATED BY
CBC'S JONNY NELSON**

It's full of brilliance, danger, and, of course, humour and features several new characters. The clever, witty orchestral accompaniment by Iain Farrington is more than a match for the text in the musical story-telling tradition of Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf,

Please note that in December there will be some seating at the front reserved for families with children. Come early!

A photograph of violinist Callum Smart playing a violin. He is wearing a dark blue shirt and is looking down at his instrument. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue light. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

ELGAR Violin Concerto

RACHMANINOV Symphony No 3

29 JANUARY 2022 7.30 PM

Robert Guy, conductor

Callum Smart has been developing an international reputation as one of Britain's finest young violinists since, at 13, he won the BBC Young Musician strings category and also became the top European prize-winner at the Menuhin Competition. We are delighted to welcome him to Stockport for the first time for Elgar's beautiful concerto.

Rachmaninov's third and final symphony in the second half is not as well known as his second nor as overtly showy but it's still full of those Rachmaninov tunes and flourishes which make him such a moving and popular composer. When, aged 63, he finished the work it proved he had lost none of his gift for melodic invention and the final movement, an orchestral tour de force, brings the symphony to an exhilarating conclusion.

"The tone is beautiful, the double-stopped demands of the violin writing are handled with ease, and there is a constant blend of freewheeling rhapsody and musical purpose."

Tim Homfray
"The Strad"

Callum Smart



BEETHOVEN Egmont Overture
WALTON Viola Concerto
SIBELIUS Symphony No 5

26 FEBRUARY 2022 7.30 PM

Delyana Lazarova, conductor

Another snippet of Beethoven 251 tonight in the guise of his Egmont Overture. This is followed by the much delayed and equally anticipated return of our SIYMC 2019 winner, Yue Yu. Part of her prize in the competition was the opportunity to perform another concerto with the orchestra but the usual complications have delayed that until now. We can tell you that

everyone who heard her in 2019 can't wait to hear her interpretation of the lovely Walton concerto for viola.

Sibelius 5 - some say it has the greatest finale of all time! Taking his inspiration from a flight of swans, Sibelius' music soars, the brass a golden glow of sunlight across the Finnish landscape until those final six terrifying chords

"Yue Yu was the richly-toned soloist in the Romance for Viola and Orchestra ... and the impact will not easily be forgotten"

Christopher Morley

Yue Yu



Philip Ellis, conductor

THE THIRD
STOCKPORT
INTERNATIONAL
YOUNG MUSICIANS
COMPETITION FINAL

You won't get too many opportunities to hear these fabulous, much-loved concertos all played in one evening! Covid notwithstanding, our 2021 young musicians competition went ahead, in a slightly different format from previous years.

Despite the pandemic - or perhaps because of it? - the standard of playing was higher than ever and the competition produced three stunning players from across the world in the early years of their careers.

Three outstanding talents and three of the world's favourite concertos: this is not one to miss!



TCHAIKOVSKY PIANO CONCERTO NO 1

26 March 7.30pm



SCHUMANN CELLO CONCERTO

Brazilian pianist, **Rafael Ruiz**, 24, has won 20 prizes in piano competitions, including the 'Antena 2' Prize, during the XXII SIPO in Portugal and first prize at the I UFRJ Piano Competition, in Brazil.

Rafael obtained his Bachelor of Music at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro under the guidance of Luiz Senise and in 2019 was awarded an ABRSM Scholarship to study at the Royal College of Music, in London, with professors Ian Jones and Sofya Gulyak for a Master's degree.

Rafael has performed as a soloist with several orchestras, including the Brazilian Symphony Orchestra, Minas Gerais Symphony Orchestra and St. John's Chamber Orchestra.

From his early childhood Greco-German cellist, **Alexander Wollheim**, 20, has been interested in making and composing music. Since October 2017, Alexander has been an undergraduate in cello performance under Prof. Danjulo Ishizaka at the Universität der Künste Berlin and he has also taken up a degree in Historical and Contemporary Compositional Technique at the Hochschule für Musik „Hanns Eisler“ Berlin which he is studying simultaneously.

Alexander has participated in master classes with Prof. Ulrich Voss, Angelos Liakakis, Valentin Radutiu and Prof. Troels Svane, as well as Prof. Wolfgang Schmidt at the Cello Akademie Rutesheim. In 2019 he has become a scholarship holder with Yehudi Menuhin Live Music Now Berlin e.V and was second prize winner at the XIV. Gabrielli-Competition at the Berlin University of the Arts in October that year.

Australian cellist **Rachel Siu** is currently completing her MM degree at The Juilliard School, New York, under the tutelage of Joel Krosnick. She has performed worldwide, including performing with the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra and The Juilliard School orchestra, working with conductors such as Maestro Long Yu, and Thomas Adès.



ELGAR CELLO CONCERTO

Rachel is also a recipient of many awards, most recently the Gold Medal prize at the VIII David Popper International Cello Competition in Hungary. She was the winner of The Juilliard School competition in 2017.

Rachel is also an avid teacher, having taught music since 2012 and is a member of the LGT Young Soloists string orchestra

AN ENGLISH PERSPECTIVE

14 MAY 2020 7.30 PM

BRIDGE The Sea
PROKOFIEV Piano Concerto No 3
VAUGHAN WILLIAMS Symphony No 2
'London'

Lauren Wazynczuk
Leon Frantzen, conductors
Zany Denyer, piano

An evocative English depiction of the sea in its different moods in the first half of this programme conducted by American conductor, Lauren Wazynczuk.

In the second, a conductor from the Netherlands interprets an Englishman's invocation of the sights and sounds of London in the early part of the 20th century.

Sir Simon Rattle described Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3 as a kind of showpiece for the composer to play on the piano. "He'd already written the First and Second Concertos for himself and the Third is very much a mixture of the spirit of Paris in the twenties, and America, and his type of look back at Russia." The piano part is an astonishing tour de force played for us tonight by young pianist Zany Denyer.

Lauren Wazynczuk



Leon Frantzen



Zany Denyer

FINALE

25 JUNE 2021 7.30 PM

BRAHMS Piano Concerto No 1
TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No4

Robert Guy, conductor
Tom Hicks ,piano

We can't think of a better way to finish this season. Brahms' piano concerto is a profound and moving work packed with Brahmsian melodies. Like Tchaikovsky's first, it was not a success on its launch but has since come to be one of the best-loved and most frequently performed piano concertos in the world. We are delighted to welcome Tom Hicks back from the USA to play it.

And the rousing season finale comes in the form of Tchaikovsky's great fourth symphony.. A fitting conclusion to our season, ending, as it began, on an note of optimism and hope.



Tom Hicks

CONDUCTORS

Stephen Threlfall is a cellist, conductor and creative director of numerous artistic projects. He recently retired as Director of Music at Chetham's after 24 years during which the school prospered and developed under his musical guidance and saw the creation of the magnificent new concert space, Stoller Hall.

Stephen has conducted at major venues and festivals in the UK with many international solo artists. Engagements have taken him to the USA, Europe and Scandinavia, and seen him conduct locally the Northern Chamber Orchestra, Manchester Camerata and the BBC Philharmonic. He has conducted concerts on radio for the BBC, Classic FM and Russian Radio and TV. His repertoire includes many world premières, notably High on the Slopes of Terror by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies.



STEPHEN THRELFALL - OCTOBER

Winner of the 1992 Leeds Conductors' Competition, Philip Ellis has been conductor of the Birmingham Royal Ballet since 1990, giving between 40 and 100 ballet performances every season. He is now increasingly in demand as a guest conductor, appearing regularly with The Royal Ballet at Covent Garden, Paris Opera Ballet, La Scala Ballet, Mikhailovsky Ballet, and Australian Ballet.

Philip combines his broad experience and musicality from many years as a concert conductor working at the highest level with orchestras such as the Philharmonia, London Philharmonic, Royal Philharmonic, BBC Philharmonic, and the Hallé.

Mainly in demand for his experience and flair with the classic ballets he is equally at home with new work, contemporary music and dance styles.

Philip has made many CD recordings with the Philharmonia and Royal Philharmonic Orchestras.

DELYANA LAZAROVA- FEBRUARY

Delyana was the 2020 first-prize winner of the Siemens-Hallé International Competition for Conductors and is now Assistant Conductor to Sir Mark Elder at the Hallé, and Music Director of the Hallé Youth Orchestra. Also winner of the NRTA International Conducting Competition in Tirana, in 2019, Delyana has received a Conducting Award at the Aspen Music Festival, and the Bruno Walter Conducting Scholarship at the Cabrillo Festival, California in 2017 and 2018. This season she is assistant conductor of the Orchestra National de France which she takes on tour in January, 2022.



PHILIP ELLIS - NOVEMBER/MARCH



Robert Guy

PRINCIPAL GUEST CONDUCTOR

2021/22

One of those to lose out in last season's disruption, we are delighted that Robert Guy is able to join us this season as principal guest conductor for three programmes.

Robert has established himself as one of the most exciting conductors of his generation. Hailing from North Wales, and shortlisted for the Cadaqués and Besançon International Conducting Competitions, he is Artistic Director of the award-winning NEW Sinfonia, the Orchestra in Residence at North Wales International Music Festival, and a regular guest conductor at Manchester Camerata

"really fine young Welsh conductor, Robert Guy...has the relaxed authority, excellent technique, deep musicality and winning personality that is all too rare."

Raphael Wallfisch

TICKETS

OUR PRICES

- Full price £15
- Concessionary £13 (holders of JSA, OAPs and leisure key)
- Full-time students up to 21 years of age £5

Under 16s are FREE when accompanied by a full price or concessionary adult (excluding Christmas - children's tickets £5).

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE:

- Through our online booking system at www.ticketsource.co.uk/sso (a small booking fee applies)
- By calling the Box Office on 07947 474574
- By post from 26 Bodmin Ave, Macclesfield SK10 3JU (please send SAE and cheque payable to Stockport Symphony Orchestra)
- From the orchestra stand at the back of the hall at concerts

If ticket sales on the door are not possible, online purchases will be available until shortly before the concerts. Please be aware that tickets may be for timed entry slots.

SEASON TICKETS

A ticket for all the concerts of the season can be purchased at the back of the hall at the first concert making your first concert free! And in the event that audience numbers have to be restricted you will have priority though we can not guarantee any particular seat.

GROUP DISCOUNTS

Why not come with a group of friends? Buy 10 tickets, pay for only 9. Contact the Box Office for details.

PATRONS OF SSO:

BE PART OF IT

We believe the SSO is unique amongst non-professional orchestras in staging a season of eight concerts with great professional conductors and international soloists. We are only able to do so with the much appreciated help of our audience, Stockport MBC and our Patrons.

We want to continue to promote our role as part of the cultural bedrock of Stockport. We provide much-needed support and encouragement to young musicians at the early stages of their careers and with initiatives like our Young Musicians Competition, we believe we bring something unique and special to the cultural life of the town.

If you would like a closer involvement with the orchestra and help to maintain our commitment to music in Stockport for the next 40 years, please please consider becoming a Patron and buying a season ticket and make Stockport's orchestra your orchestra :

email sponsorship@stockportsymphony.co.uk
call at the orchestra stand at the back of the hall; or
just speak to a member of the orchestra.

In return you will receive (where permitted by covid regulations) :

- A reserved seat for concerts for which you buy tickets
- Acknowledgement in the programme
- Pre-concert talks on selected concerts
- Invitation to a post-concert drink after two of the concerts with an opportunity to chat to conductor, leader or soloist
- Preferential booking where possible if audience numbers restricted by coronavirus rules

Minimum donation £65 single £115 joint

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION: COVID

Sadly, none of us can predict how the continuing coronavirus pandemic might affect the holding of public events. With that in mind:

We may not be able to sell tickets on the doors so that numbers and flow-through can be properly managed. To avoid disappointment please buy early. There's an added incentive to planning ahead too; if audience numbers have to be cut to fewer than tickets already sold, this will be done on a last bought, first out basis!

All our concerts will be undertaken in accordance with regulations in force at the time and in co-operation with the Town Hall's events team to make our venue as safe as it can be. Your co-operation with any restrictions or special requirements such as proof of vaccination or immunity is greatly appreciated and we will try to give you as much warning as possible.

We hope it will be possible to provide refreshments in the intervals at our concerts but that is dependent on the venue management and evolving legislation may prevent or restrict that. We apologise in advance should that be the case.

Changes in rules, travel restrictions and other circumstances may mean that we have to change programmes and/or performers, at short notice. Where we have your contact details we will try to keep you informed of such changes.

In the event that a concert has to be cancelled or restrictions mean that your seat can no longer be occupied you will receive a refund of your ticket price from Ticketsource if purchased through our online booking system or from us if booked direct.

SEASON AT A GLANCE

9 OCTOBER | 7.30 PM
COPLAND/DVOŘÁK | David and Stephen Threlfall
 Copland, Lincoln Portrait/Billy the Kid
 Dvorák New World Symphony

13 NOVEMBER | 7.30 PM
BEETHOVEN 251 | Helen Brackley Jones | Sveta & Slava
 Philip Ellis
 Tintagel | Triple Concerto | Mahler 1

12 DECEMBER | 3.00 PM SUNDAY MATINÉE
A SCARY FAIRY CHRISTMAS
 Robert Guy and Jonny Nelson

29 JANUARY | 7.30 PM
ELGAR/RACHMANINOV | Callum Smart | Robert Guy
 Elgar Violin Concerto | Rachmaninov 3

26 FEBRUARY | 7.30 PM
SIBELIUS 5 | Yue Yu | Delyana Lazarova
 Egmont | Walton Viola Concerto | Sibelius 5

26 MARCH | 7.30 PM
SIYMC 2021 FINAL | Philip Ellis
 Rafael Ruiz | Rachel Siu | Alexander Wollheim
 Concertos: Elgar/Schumann Cello | Tchaikovsky No 1 Piano

14 MAY | 7.30 PM
AN ENGLISH PERSPECTIVE |
 Lauren Wazynczuk | Leon Frantzen | Zany Denyer
 Bridge, The Sea | Prokofiev Piano 3 | Vaughan Williams 2

25 JUNE | 7.30 PM
TCHAIKOVSKY 4 | Tom Hicks | Robert Guy
 Brahms Piano Concerto | Tchaikovsky Symphony No 4



*“the boldly-beating
 hot-blooded
 cultural heartbeat
 of the town”*