

Welcome back!

It's an enormous pleasure to welcome you to our centenary season, as Brighton Philharmonic Orchestra celebrates a hundred years of musicmaking.

Blockbuster concerts mark this milestone, and we open with Stravinsky's explosive, ground-breaking The Rite of Spring.

We've invited world class soloists - including percussionist Evelyn Glennie and saxophone star Jess Gillam – and we'll bask in classical greats like Elgar and Rimsky-Korsakov, as well as Walton's decadent Belshazzar's Feast and Górecki's passionate Symphony of Sorrowful Songs. We'll be raising the roof all season, from Sibelius' Finlandia to Messiaen's Turangalīla Symphony, one of the most glamorous and exciting scores of the 20th century.

BPO's fresh programming reaches out to new and young audiences with our innovative LoveMusic scheme (see page 25). We're celebrating the Blue Note cool of Duke Ellington, the New York groove of Steve Reich, and Bernard Herrmann's eviscerating Psycho. And, to turn the year, Alistair McGowan narrates A Christmas Carol, with music, mince pies and mulled wine.

Brighton Philharmonic Orchestra has been serving audiences in Sussex for the last century, and our concerts are for everyone. Come and join us for this wonderful, partying season of music!

Joanna MacGregor CBE Music Director



Events Diary

Tickets from

brightonphil.org.uk brightondome.org

Brighton Dome Ticket Office 01273 709 709 Church Street Brighton BN1 1UE

Page 2
4
4
6
8
10
12
14
16
18
20
22
24
25



BPO@100 4

Sunday 13 October 2024 2.45pm Brighton Dome

'Jess Gillam is not just one of Britain's most virtuosic instrumentalists, but also an unstuffy, inspiring personality. The Times

Jess Gillam and Symphony of Sorrowful Sonos Sibelius Finlandia Op.26

Glazunov
Concerto for Saxophone Op.109

GóreckiSymphony no.3:
Symphony of Sorrowful Songs Op.36

Alpesh Chauhan conductor

Jess Gillam saxophone

Ruby Hughes soprano

Tickets: £38 / 33 / 27 / 19 / 13 £1 child/teen

'Ruby Hughes' pure tone and sensitivity shine out, her voice at times almost ethereal.' The Observer

The heroism of Finland, a star of the saxophone and the chart-topping Symphony of Sorrowful Songs are brought together in a concert of passion and hope.

A profound unfolding of stillness and rebirth, Henryk Górecki's third symphony - Symphony of Sorrowful Songs - not only topped the classical charts but cracked the British pop charts in 1992, selling over a million copies and rocketing the Polish composer into global fame. Its fascination has not waned over the last thirty years, with multiple recordings and stagings; the Mahlerian beauty and meditation on motherhood, love and loss still speaks to a huge audience. 'Perhaps people find something they need in this music... something, somewhere had been

lost to them,' the composer wrote; 'I instinctively knew what they needed.' We're thrilled to welcome back the soprano Ruby Hughes, whose captivating communication with audiences has led to a vibrant international career.

Before that, superstar saxophonist Jess Gillam shows the soulful side of her instrument in Glazunov's darkhued concerto, full of melodic twists and turns. Hailing from Cumbria, twenty-six year-old Jess is blazing a trail as the first-ever saxophonist signed to Decca Classics, with both her albums reaching no.1 in the classical charts, and her own awardwinning show, This Classical Life. We open with Sibelius' blazing hymn to freedom, the mighty tone poem Finlandia.

J.S. Bach Keyboard concerto in F minor BWV 1056

Alfred Schnittke
Tango in a Madhouse
Concerto for Piano and
String Orchestra

Valentin Silvestrov Silent Music for Strings

Bernard Herrmann Suite from Psycho

Astor Piazzolla arr. MacGregor
Oblivion; Michelangelo
Milonga del Angel; Libertango

Joanna MacGregor conductor/piano

Brighton Philharmonic Strings

Tickets: £30 / 25

'One the most important British musicians of her generation:
Joanna MacGregor's significance rests not just on her rare ability as a pianist, but also her integrity.'
The Sunday Times

Madness/ Lightness of Being

Madness, mayhem and tango entwine in a cinematic concert of light and shade.

Alfred Hitchcock's enduring artistic relationship with the American composer and conductor Bernard Herrmann reached its height with Hitchcock's film Psycho (1960), whose originality caused audiences to faint with horror. Herrmann arranged his unforgettable score – particularly that shower scene – into an orchestral suite, and here it's matched with another composer who wrote over sixty film scores, Alfred Schnittke. Schnittke's brilliantly cinematic piano concerto,

a series of short wild scenes culminating in a massive cadenza, is prefaced by Tango in a Madhouse: bittersweet, written as an allegory of oppression under the Soviet Union.

The psychological darkness of the programme is balanced with Bach's celestial dance, his F minor keyboard concerto, and Ukraine's most famous living composer Valentin Silvestrov, whose Silent Music for Strings breathes with delicate yearning and nostalgia. The dark and dangerous heart of Piazzolla, in Joanna MacGregor's blistering tango arrangements, ends the evening with Buenos Aires panache.



Peter Maxwell Davies

An Orkney Wedding, with Sunrise

James MacMillan

Rimsky-Korsakov Scheherazade Op.35 Evelyn Glennie

percussion

Geoffrey Paterson

Tickets: £38 / 33 / 27 / 19 / 13

£1 child/teen

A true master in joy: Evelyn Glennie's performance was mesmerising and deeply sensitive.'

Limited £12 LoveMusic tickets See page 25 for details

Dame Evelyn Glennie joins Brighton Philharmonic for a dazzling programme, from the Scottish Highlands to fairy tales from Arabia.

We're thrilled that one of Britain's greatest and pioneering musicians, the extraordinary percussionist Evelyn Glennie, will be joining us to perform one of her signature pieces: James MacMillan's Veni, Veni, Emmanuel, written as a tribute to her virtuosic flair and charismatic personality. Taking the Advent plainsong as the basis of the work, this is a tour de force and still packs the punch it had at its BBC Proms premiere twenty years ago.

Now in the pantheon of contemporary classics, it still sounds wonderfully imaginative, rhythmically impulsive and vibrantly colourful, and will be an unforgettable experience.

The young conductor Geoffrey
Paterson takes the helm once more
after his debut with the BPO last
season, starting with Peter Maxwell
Davies' ebullient An Orkney Wedding,
with Sunrise, replete with shouts of glee
and a bagpiper. After the interval, the
ravishingly beautiful Scheherazade
tells the story of A Thousand and One
Nights in Rimsky-Korsakov's most
popular and glittering score.

BPO@100 Saturday 14 December 2024 6pm & 8pm St George's, Kemptown Brighton Charles
Dickens
A Christmas
Carol

'Alastair McGowan's vocal virtuosity is extraordinary: razor-sharp in marrying words to music, and split second timing in transforming from narrator to character.'

Reviewsgate

10

Alistair McGowan

Joanna MacGregor conductor/piano

BPO Brass Quintet

Richard Williams director

Tickets: £20/15 concessions £2.50 child/teen brightonticketshop.com

Christmas arrives early with two festive performances of Charles Dickens' classic A Christmas Carol, with acclaimed actor Alistair McGowan and the BPO Brass Quintet.

We're delighted to welcome back the actor, writer and musician Alistair McGowan to narrate this most Christmassy of tales, after his terrific performance of The Soldier's Tale last season. Directed by Richard Williams, the much-loved story of Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future is for absolutely everyone. Sparkling brass arrangements of Ding Dong Merrily on High, God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In, Coventry Carol, O Come O Come Emmanuel – and many more – support this seasonal tale of redemption and good cheer.

After 170 years, A Christmas Carol continues to be relevant: Dickens created a fable that cut through materialism and rekindled the delight and generosity of Yuletide, along with plum pudding, goose, and roasted chestnuts. We've created our own Christmas tradition – come and join us!

Each performance in Kemptown's beautiful Georgian church lasts 70 minutes. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served.

BPO@100 12

Saturday 25 January 2025 7.30pm Brighton Dome

Blue Notes: Duke Ellingto Wayne Shorter Gwilym Simcock

'Gwilym's an original.

A creative genius.'

Chick Corea

Gwilym Simcock Trio Solo set

Duke Ellington Harlem

Wayne Shorter Causeways; Prometheus Unbound

Gwilym Simcock
Columns; Industrial

Clark Rundell conductor

Gwilym Simcock piano

Conor Chaplin bass

James Maddren drums

Tickets: £38 / 33 / 27 / 19 / 13 £1 child/teen

Limited £12 LoveMusic tickets See page 25 for details

An evening of classic cool from Duke Ellington and Wayne Shorter, led by the UK's foremost jazz musicians.

Moving effortlessly between classical and jazz, with a harmonic sophistication and subtle dovetailing of musical traditions, Gwilym Simcock is one of the most gifted pianists and imaginative composers on the European scene. He joins Brighton Philharmonic Orchestra in an exploration of Duke Ellington's rich symphonic work: from the opening trumpet cry signifying Harlem, Ellington narrates a city within a city, putting its multi-ethnic character, deep spirituality and musical vibrance on full display.

Also included are two of Wayne Shorter's most famous compositions, as well as Gwilym's own powerhouse jazz concerto, aided by James Maddren's driving drums and Conor Chaplin's (Billy Cobham, Jacob Collier) upright bass.

We're delighted to welcome back the American conductor Clark Rundell, who opened BPO's last season with such élan. A world-class leader in contemporary and jazz music, Clark's globetrotting has taken him from Boston Symphony to the Tokyo Philharmonic, from Leonard Bernstein to Brad Mehldau.

BPO@100 Sunday 9 February 2025 2.45pm **Brighton Dome** Belshazzar's Feast Enigma Variations

Elgar Enigma Variations Op.36

Walton Belshazzar's Feast

Brighton Festival Chorus

Cody Quattlebaum

Ben Gernon

conductor

baritone

'Cody Quattlebaum impressed with his virile singing, and magnetic stage presence.' Tickets: £38 / 33 / 27 / 19 / 13 £1 child/teen

Wicked, raucous and outrageously opulent – Brighton Festival Chorus radiate in Walton's roller-coaster score.

Bring together a large orchestra, two brass bands and a double chorus, a commanding baritone... and the Fall of Babylon can begin, in Walton's joyous cantata. The triumph of Belshazzar's Feast is the decadent syncopations; the swooping, full-throttle choir; and clattering percussion, slippery trombones, wah-wah trumpets and grooving saxophone. Our soloist is the young American baritone Cody Quattlebaum, fresh from San Francisco Opera, Royal Danish Theatre and English National Opera, and one of the brightest talents around.

British conductor Ben Gernon is a regular guest of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony and Czech Philharmonic and a frequent performer at the Proms with the BBC Symphony and BBC Philharmonic; he debuted recently with the Vienna Symphony, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic and the Orchestra of St Luke's in New York. He opens our concert with Elgar's evergreen Enigma Variations, whose elegiac and vital portraits of Elgar's friends – including the famous Nimrod – remain at the heart of classical repertoire.

BPO@100

Sunday 23 March 2025 7.30pm Brighton Dome

Reich/ Richter

'Reich's mathematical rigour has the intensity of Bach and produces uplifting, joyously optimistic music: a triumph.' The Guardian Steve Reich

16

Music for Pieces of Wood

Lou Harrison/John Cage

Double Music

Terry Riley

Half-Wolf Dances Mad in Moonlight (Salome Dances for Peace)

Yoko Ono

Pieces for Orchestra

Steve Reich

Runner

Steve Reich Reich/Richter Colin Currie conductor/claves

Joanna MacGregor piano

Tickets: £38 / 33 / 27 / 19 / 13 £1 child/teen

Limited £12 LoveMusic tickets See page 25 for details

A feast for eyes and ears: music by the living legend Steve Reich, whose luminous, colour-shifting Reich/ Richter finds inspiration in the art of Gerhard Richter.

Born in New York in 1936, Steve Reich is a living legend in contemporary music. His subtle, pulsating works abound in wit and light: tonight's concert opens with the famous Music for Pieces of Wood, moves onto his jazzy, perfectly flowing Runner and closes with his elegant collaboration Reich/Richter, mirroring the shimmering lines and gorgeous textures of Richter and Corinna Belz's film Moving Picture (946-3).

Before that, more New York icons. Yoko Ono's playful Pieces for Orchestra delightfully upends our expectations, and Terry Riley's Half-Wolf Dances, written for the Kronos Quartet, reflect his passion for North Indian ragas and Middle Eastern scales. John Cage and Lou Harrison's festive Double Music completes an evening of colour and cool.

Described by Steve Reich as 'one of the greatest musicians in the world today,' Scottish percussionist and conductor Colin Currie champions new music at the highest level. He regularly works with the world's leading orchestras including the London Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, New York Philharmonic and The Cleveland Orchestra, and is the leader of his own ensemble. We're delighted he will both perform with and conduct the Brighton Philharmonic in this spellbinding programme.



Centenary Timeline

1930: the orchestra led by Molly Paley in Brighton Dome, with founder Herbert Menges

1925	Conductor Herbert Menges and his mother Kate found	1974-86	John Carewe becomes Principal Conductor
	The Symphonic String Players in Hove Town Hall. Molly Paley is the first Leader; 75% of the orchestra are women.	1975	New works by HK Gruber, Roberto Gerhard, Howard Goodall and Richard Rodney Bennett
1928	The Symphonic Players move into Brighton Dome, starting an annual season of concerts	1988-2018	John Bradbury appointed Leader for the next thirty years
1932	Thomas Beecham appointed as President	1989-2002	Brighton Dome closes for refurbishment, and BPO returns to Hove Town Hall; John Lill, BPO's President, plays a
1932-44	Szigeti, Rachmaninov, Henry Wood, Adrian Boult, Moura Lympany, Myra Hess and Clifford Curzon are among		series of Mozart concertos at the Theatre Royal
	the many legends to visit legends to visit	1989-2015	Barry Wordsworth becomes Music Director and Principal Conductor
1945	Now called Southern Philharmonic, visiting musicians include Pablo Casals, Dennis Brain, Poulenc and Dohnányi	2002	Brighton Dome reopens; since then, over 250,000 BPO
	· ·		tickets have been sold
1947	Ralph Vaughan Williams appointed President; no.57 Brighton bus named after him	2019	Joanna MacGregor appointed as only the fourth Music Director and Principal Conductor
1950-57	Guest appearances include Malcolm Sargent, Yehudi Menuhin, Rosalyn Tureck, Norman del Mar and William Walton	2020	BPO plays online concerts during Covid; Harriet Walter narrates our first A Christmas Carol
1958	The orchestra is now called Brighton Philharmonic Orchestra	2004	
1960-66	Soloists include Janet Baker, Johnny Dankworth,	2021	Return to the Dome: folk virtuoso Kathryn Tickell, Brahms concertos and Piazzolla tangos
	Vladimir Ashkenazy and Georg Solti	2022	Ruth Rogers is BPO's new Leader. Mahler, sell-out
1967	Benjamin Britten appointed President		Philip Glass and Bach's St Matthew Passion with Brighton Festival Chorus
1968-72	Concerts with Jaqueline Du Pré, Alfred Brendel, André Previn,		
	Brighton Festival Chorus and Rostropovich	2023-24	BPO audiences triple: Wagner and Sibelius, Arvo Pärt and Gershwin
1972	After 47 years and 326 concerts conducting BPO,		
	Herbert Menges dies	2024-25	Centenary celebrations begin: Evelyn Glennie, The Rite of Spring and Messiaen's massive Turangaglîla

Support the BPO in its Centenary Year

Become close to the heart of BPO's music-making: help us create a sustainable future.

The BPO relies heavily on the generosity of its Friends, Patrons and Sponsors. As a registered charity without public funding, the music-making we bring to Brighton is only possible with private donations supplementing our ticket sales.

This Centenary year, we're asking you to help.

Please consider making a vital contribution to our future success. Your support helps us to embark on ambitious programmes, bringing outstanding, world-class musicians and new collaborations to Brighton. It supports our goal to make orchestral music accessible to new audiences who may not otherwise have an opportunity to hear a live music and will enable us to embark on diverse projects within our local community. There are many ways to get involved, details of which can all be found on www.brightonphil.org.uk/support-us.



£100 for 100

Our £100 for 100 campaign is seeking donations in support of our Centenary Gala: Turangalila Symphony in April 2025. As a thank you for supporting this milestone concert, donors will receive an invitation to a VIP pre-concert talk, and a credit within the programme. Donate here:



Join us

Join us as a Friend or Patron

Be part of the BPO family and join our Friend and Patron scheme with pricing from £30 for an individual Friend and £150 for an Individual Patron.

Friends receive priority booking, exclusive free events including talks from our Music Director, regular newsletters, and a complimentary ticket each season to 'bring a friend'. Patrons receive all the Friends' benefits, and in addition receive invitations to post-show drinks receptions and are credited in each concert programme. Both schemes can be offered as a gift to a friend or loved one. Visit www.brightonphil.org. uk/support-us to join today.

Sponsorship

Sponsor an orchestral seat

Sponsor a principal or sub-principal seat within the orchestra, and receive a credit in the programme, as well as invitations to our exclusive post-show receptions where you will have an opportunity to meet members of the orchestra. Pricing from £350 - £1500.

Sponsor a concert

Perfect for local businesses, our concert sponsorship gives you the opportunity to put together a hospitality package for your guests, and advertise your services to our large, engaged audiences at Brighton Dome. Bespoke packages start from £1500.

Sponsor a quest soloist or conductor

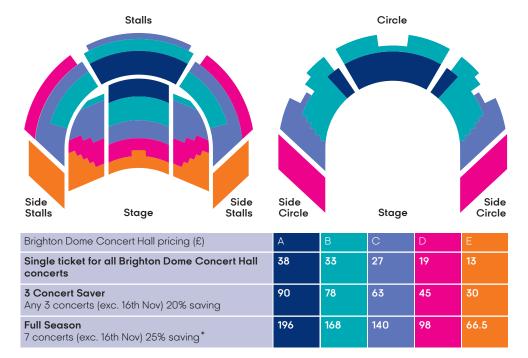
Sponsor a guest soloist or conductor from this season as a one-off donation and receive a pair of complimentary tickets to the concert, access to the rehearsals, a VIP backstage pass and a credit in the concert programme. Pricing from £1500 - £6000.

Legacies

We are extremely grateful to those who have generously donated substantial legacies to the orchestra. This funding will enable us to build an endowment to support professional music in Brighton, and inspire future music-lovers for generations to come.

For more information on all our sponsorships packages, or to arrange a confidential discussion on leaving a legacy, please contact Gill Davies on gill.davies@brightonphil.org.uk.

Booking Information



Tickets are bookable through the Brighton Dome Ticket Office: 01273 709 709 www.brightondome.org

Or book in person at Church Street, Brighton BN1 1UE

There is a £3 charge for bookings made online or by phone; there is no charge for bookings made in person. All tickets are subject to their general terms and conditions.

*Please note the following concerts have different venues, seating and pricing, and will be sold separately:

The Madness/Lightness of Being, 16th November 2024 at Brighton Dome Corn Exchange (p6). £30/£25. Sold via the Brighton Dome Ticket Office.

A Christmas Carol, 14th December 2024 at St George's Kemptown (p10). £20/£15 conc./£2.50 children. Sold through brightonticketshop.com.

If you wish to book all nine concerts this season, please select Full Season and ensure you add these two concerts separately.

Savings and Concessions

Book any three Brighton Dome Concert Hall tickets and receive a 20% saving. Book the full season of seven Brighton Dome Concert Hall tickets and receive a 25% saving.

Family tickets allow up to two children or teens at a charge of £1 each when booked simultaneously with any adult ticket.

Discounts of up to 50% are available to full-time students and those on benefits such as Universal Credit, Pension Credit and Job Seeker's Allowance. Please provide proof if claiming these.

Brighton Dome's Access Scheme ensures that the best seats are selected for those with access requirements, and that complimentary personal assistant tickets are always available. Apply at brightondome/access/access_scheme to join.



The BPO will endeavour to run events as planned during the season, but reserves the right to adapt or even cancel events due to unavailability, illness or changes in public health advice.

A special offer LoveMusic Tickets

Never been to a classical concert or seen the BPO before? Then come and try us out.

We have four great concerts this season where you can benefit from our LoveMusic offer and purchase best available seats for £12, saving up to £26 off the regular cost. These tickets are released two days before the concert, and are available to book on a first come first served basis through the Brighton Dome Ticket Office, quoting discount code 'LoveMusic'.

A limited number of LoveMusic tickets will be available for *The Rite of Spring* on Sunday 22 September 2024, *Evelyn Glennie and Scheherazade* on Sunday 1 December 2024, *Blue Notes: Duke Ellington, Wayne Shorter, Gwilym Simcock* on Saturday 25 January 2025 and *Reich/Richter* on Sunday 23 March 2025.

Photo credits: Alice Arnold, Paul Bergen, Robin Clewley, Pal Hansen, Sarah Hickson, Don Hunstein, Gertrude Käsebier, Yvonne Loriod-Messiaen, Philipp Rathmer, Roger Viollet

Design by Intro: intro-uk.com

brightonphil.org.uk

© @brightonphilharmonic

f @BrightonPhil

X @BPO_orchestra



The beating heart of Brighton