

Brighton Philharmonic Orchestra



Concert Season

2023/24

Welcome back!

It's an enormous pleasure to welcome you back, and introduce our exciting 2023-24 season.

We're opening with John Adams' thrilling *Short Ride in a Fast Machine*, and the pizzazz of Leonard Bernstein's *West Side Story Dances*. Throughout the season, you can experience classical greats like Sibelius, Debussy and Britten as well as passionate music by Ligeti, Arvo Pärt and Ryuichi Sakamoto. And don't miss our journey through Wagner's *Ring* cycle, one of the highlights of the season.

BPO's fresh programming reaches out to new and young audiences with our innovative LoveMusic scheme (see page 25).

We're celebrating the New York jazz cool of Moondog; fabulous female

composers in our *Mighty River* concert; an evening inspired by cabaret, with Alistair McGowan in Stravinsky's *Soldier's Tale* – all with outstanding soloists and conductors. Treat yourself to Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* with music, and a Viennese Gala to ring in the New Year.

Brighton Philharmonic Orchestra has been performing in Brighton for 99 years, and our concerts are for everyone. As we gear up for our centenary next year, come and join us for a wonderful 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

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Sunday 8 October 2023
2.45pm
Brighton Dome

2

John Adams
Short Ride in a Fast Machine

Gershwin
Piano Concerto in F

Ives
The Unanswered Question

Bernstein
Symphonic Dances from
West Side Story

Clark Rundell
conductor

Joanna MacGregor
piano

Tickets: £40 / 33.50 / 27.50 / 19.50 / 13

Short Ride in a Fast Machine

Limited £12 LoveMusic tickets
See page 25 for details

Brighton Philharmonic Orchestra's adventurous season starts with a bang! Music Director Joanna MacGregor joins Clark Rundell in a concert of rocket-fuelled American classics – John Adams, George Gershwin and Leonard Bernstein.

Chicago-trained conductor Clark Rundell – a world-class leader in the field of jazz and contemporary music – opens his BPO debut concert with John Adams' exhilarating *Short Ride in a Fast Machine*. No American composer of the last quarter of a century has composed so many significant works, and in *Short Ride* Adams packs an incredible amount of rollercoaster activity into just five minutes. George Gershwin's Broadway-inspired piano concerto, composed a year after the

colossal success of *Rhapsody in Blue*, showed he could do everything in this 1925 masterpiece – enfolding jazz inflections within a virtuosic, large-scale romantic structure. The orchestration is sumptuous too: trumpet and woodwind solos that would later characterize *Porgy and Bess*, pounding MGM timpani, and a cascading toccata finale.

Charles Ives' contemplative *The Unanswered Question* offers a moment of existential stillness before Leonard Bernstein's hot-blooded *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story*. Be prepared to be blown away by the Jets and the Sharks, the mambo and cha-cha, *Maria*, the ultra-cool *Cool and Rumble* – and the gripping conclusion of this Romeo and Juliet tragedy, *Somewhere*.



Sunday 12 November 2023
7.30pm
Brighton Dome

4

Deep River
Music from the Deep South

Moondog
Sidewalk Dances
(arranged MacGregor)

Andy Sheppard
saxophones

Kuljit Bhamra
tablas

Seb Rochford
drums

Matthew Fairclough
sound projection

Joanna MacGregor
conductor/piano

Tickets: £40 / 33.50 / 27.50 / 19.50 / 13

Moondog: Sidewalk Dances

Americana reimaged. Brighton Philharmonic join forces with some of the greatest jazz players on the scene today to explore Moondog, the cult figure whose influence stretches from 1960s New York to DJ Mr Scruff.

The acclaimed saxophonist and ECM artist Andy Sheppard has long been a creative partner of Joanna MacGregor, and the first half of this concert explores their best-selling album *Deep River*, where classic spirituals and Mississippi blues meets electronica. Deep South Americana is poetically reimaged for the 21st century, with music by Nick Cave, Tom Waits and Bob Dylan.

Composer, poet, percussionist, instrument-maker, record producer: Louis Hardin – known as Moondog

– was one of the most influential musicians of the 20th century, influencing the young Steve Reich and Philip Glass. Blind from the age of sixteen, he travelled from Kansas to New York, hanging out with Charlie Parker, Stravinsky, Frank Zappa and Allen Ginsberg, and became a well-known street performer on Sixth Avenue. Dressed strikingly (if briefly) as a Viking, his melodic compositions – *Voices of Spring*, *Bird's Lament*, *Dogtrot* and *Single Foot* – encompass bebop, swing, rumba and Bach-like counterpoint, all captured in Joanna MacGregor's deft and witty 12-movement suite *Sidewalk Dances* for orchestra and jazz musicians, led by Andy Sheppard. She's also joined by the brilliant drummer Seb Rochford (Polar Bear, Kutcha Butcha) and the pioneering tabla player and record producer Kuljit Bhamra.

Limited £12 LoveMusic tickets
See page 25 for details



Sunday 3 December 2023
2.45pm
Brighton Dome

6

Arvo Pärt
Spiegel im Spiegel
Lamentate

Sibelius
Symphony no.2 in D major Op.43

Sian Edwards
conductor

Ruth Rogers
violin

Joanna MacGregor
piano

Tickets: £40 / 33.50 / 27.50 / 19.50 / 13

Winter Solstice

Sibelius and Arvo Pärt: our winter programme brings together two great composers in a concert of meditative, snowy beauty and drama.

Arvo Pärt is one of the most performed living composers in the world; he has enthralled listeners for decades, evoking a haunting spirituality through space and simplicity. The Estonian's music is mesmerising, ranging from sacred choral work to chamber and orchestral landscapes. We begin with the enduringly popular *Spiegel im Spiegel*, a soulful violin and piano duo; then a rare chance to hear *Lamentate*, his mightiest work to date. A dramatic

ritual for piano and large orchestra, it was written in collaboration with Anish Kapoor at the opening of Tate Modern's Turbine Hall in 2002. A powerful lament for the pain of living, Pärt describes the music oscillating between 'brutal-overwhelming and intimate-fragile.'

We continue with Sibelius' blazing, ecstatic second symphony. It was a beacon for Finnish independence as well as personal liberation: 'My second symphony is a confession of the soul,' the composer wrote, and it's become one of Sibelius' most loved works. We're delighted to welcome back the eminent conductor Sian Edwards.

Thursday 14 December 2023
7.30 pm
World Heartbeat, Nine Elms, London

8

Friday 15 December 2023
6pm and 8pm
St George's, Kemptown, Brighton

Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol

Christmas arrives early with two festive performances of Charles Dickens' classic *A Christmas Carol* with acclaimed actor Pip Torrens and the BPO Brass Quintet.

Pip Torrens – known for his leading roles in *The Crown*, *Poldark*, *Preacher* and *Star Wars* – narrates this most Christmassy of tales. 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*

Pip Torrens
narrator

BPO Brass Quintet

Joanna MacGregor
conductor/piano

Richard Williams
director


World Heartbeat, London
Tickets: £27 / 22 / 18 concessions
worldheartbeat.org

St George's, Brighton
Tickets: £25 / 19 concessions / 5 children
brightonticketshop.com

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 lasts 70 minutes. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served.



Sunday 31 December 2023
2.45pm
Brighton Dome

10

Stephen Bell
conductor

Ellie Laugharne
soprano

Tickets: £40 / 33.50 / 27.50 / 19.50 / 13

New Year's Eve Viennese Gala

*'There comes a time in every
woman's life when the only thing that
helps is a glass of champagne.'*

Bette Davis

*'My only regret in life is that I didn't
drink enough champagne.'*

John Maynard Keynes

**Out with the old and in with the new:
what better way to celebrate, than
with the BPO's Viennese concert on
New Year's Eve?**

Conductor Stephen Bell returns for an afternoon of musical fizz and fun, in a concert of favourites from the Strauss family and the wonderful world of Viennese operetta, and Christmas bonbons. He's joined by the young operatic soprano Ellie Laugharne,

fresh from English National Opera and Grange Festival – 'honeyed, warm-spirited and riveting.'

Highlights include polkas by Johann Strauss, arias by L  har and seasonal music by Rimsky-Korsakov and Prokofiev. Together with waltzes from the heady days of 19th century caf   society, it's a perfect opportunity to sip a glass of champagne and welcome in the New Year.

Saturday 27 January 2024
7.30pm
Brighton Dome

12

Ligeti
Atmosphères

Berio
Folk Songs

Wagner
The Ring: An Orchestral Adventure
(arr. Henk de Vlieger)

Geoffrey Paterson
conductor

Dorothea Herbert
soprano

Tickets: £40 / 33.50 / 27.50 / 19.50 / 13

**'Dorothea Herbert: outstanding,
passionate, soaring.'**
The Observer

Wagner's Dream

Limited £12 LoveMusic tickets
See page 25 for details

**Surely one of the most ambitious
concerts ever mounted by BPO!
Vlieger's monumental symphonic
adaptation of Wagner's epic Ring
cycle weaves all the great tunes
from *Das Rheingold* through to
Götterdämmerung in 65 minutes.**

Forget *Game of Thrones*. This is the original heroic epic, Wagner's dream: of Rhinemaidens, The Ride of the Valkyries, gods and giants, fiery dragons and – finally – the immolation of Valhalla. With rarities like four Wagner tubas and multiple anvils, it'll be one of the largest orchestras ever seen on the Dome stage. The charismatic young conductor Geoffrey Paterson – winner of the

Leeds Conducting Competition, a regular guest at the Royal Opera House and assistant to Kirill Petrenko at Bayreuth – guides enormous forces, and our surtitles will steer you through the action.

In a short but spicy first half, we open with György Ligeti's dreamy *Atmosphères* (featured in Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*) and Luciano Berio's witty *Folk Songs*, in the full orchestral version. A showstopper featuring settings from eleven countries, it's performed by the sensational German soprano Dorothea Herbert, recently lauded for Leonora at Glyndebourne and her appearances with Christian Thielemann in Dresden.

Sunday 25 February 2024
7.30pm
Brighton Corn Exchange

14

Stravinsky
Ebony Concerto

Milhaud
La Création du Monde

Kurt Weill
Threepenny Opera Suite

Stravinsky
The Soldier's Tale

Sian Edwards
conductor

Jo Castleton
narrator

Max Keeble
the Soldier

Alistair McGowan
the Devil

Richard Williams
director

Tickets: £30 / 25

The Soldier's Tale



In a tale for our times, Alistair McGowan leads three actors in Stravinsky's 1918 masterpiece, *The Soldier's Tale*. Part anti-war, part Russian fable, it's a satirical story of a soldier, his violin, and the Devil.

A punchy evening of 20th century classics in the intimacy of the Corn Exchange, showcasing juicy cabaret tunes, subversive jazz and politics.

The first half opens with a treat – Stravinsky's stunningly cool *Ebony Concerto*, a homage to 1940s jazz and premiered by Woody Herman's

band. Darius Milhaud's ballet score explores the creation of the world, based on African folk mythology and is emboldened by *le jazz hot* of Josephine Baker's 1920s Paris; while Kurt Weill's boisterous *Threepenny Opera Suite* takes us to Weimar Berlin – with *Mack the Knife*, *Cannon Song*, *Tango Ballad* and more.

In the second half, Alistair McGowan (*The Big Impression*) heads up a performance of Stravinsky's sharply observed, jazzily scored parable *The Soldier's Tale*. Can you take on the Devil and win?

Friday 8 March 2024
7.30pm
Brighton Dome

16

Mighty River: Celebrating Women

Limited £12 LoveMusic tickets
See page 25 for details

Eleanor Alberga
Clouds

Errollyn Wallen
Mighty River

Florence Price
Mississippi River Suite

Joanna MacGregor
conductor

and guests

Tickets: £40 / 33.50 / 27.50 / 19.50 / 13

Errollyn Wallen –
*'Renaissance woman of
contemporary British music.'*
The Observer

Brighton Philharmonic is an orchestra led by women – our Music Director and principal players. We're delighted that, for International Women's Day, Joanna MacGregor's programme showcases exciting music by strong female composers.

British Jamaican composer and pianist Eleanor Alberga is a huge presence in today's music, with commissions from the BBC Proms and the Royal Opera, Covent Garden. Her filigree *Clouds* was commissioned by London Contemporary Dance and matches their scudding, drifting and storming. Belize-born British Errollyn Wallen – award-winning composer, pianist and singer – explores themes of slavery and freedom in her magnificent *Mighty River*, written in 2007 to mark the bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act. Quoting *Amazing*

Grace at the beginning, gathering momentum like a river flowing to the sea, Errollyn writes: 'it is as if the perpetual motion of the music, like water, like time, through its sheer momentum carries with it the cries and echoes of human hearts and voices, that are singing out of suffering, repentance, humility and hope.'

Born in Little Rock, Arkansas the composer, pianist, organist and teacher Florence Price was the first African American female composer to be performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1933. Her powerful and lyrical *Mississippi River Suite* was written the next year, and starts with an evocation of the dawn, before a wonderful weaving of *Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen*, *Stand Still Jordan*, *Go Down*, *Moses* and *Deep River*.

Sunday 7 April 2024
2.45pm
Brighton Dome

18

Sea Songs



Britten
Four Sea Interludes from *Peter Grimes*

Geirr Tveitt
Concerto No. 2 *Three Fjords*

Ryuichi Sakamoto
Bibo non Aozora; Happy End; Still Life

Debussy
La Mer

Adam Hickox
conductor

Ragnhild Hemsing
hardanger fiddle

Joanna MacGregor
piano

Tickets: £40 / 33.50 / 27.50 / 19.50 / 13

Our final orchestral concert is inspired by the sea. Framed by Britten's stormy *Four Sea Interludes* and Debussy's spectacular *La Mer*, we're joined by the violinist Ragnhild Hemsing in a joyful visit to the Norwegian fjords.

The dynamic young conductor Adam Hickox (Rotterdam Philharmonic, Orchestre de Paris) conducts BPO's tremendous season finale, opening with Benjamin Britten's darkly psychological *Four Sea Interludes* from *Peter Grimes*, evoking both the power of the sea and a stifling fishing village. Then to the fjords: we present the first British performance of Geirr Tveitt's ebullient *Three Fjords* concerto for hardanger fiddle, performed by the brilliant young virtuoso Ragnhild

Hemsing. A rare and irresistible gem, Ragnhild has just released a five-star recording of this work with the Bergen Philharmonic.

Joanna MacGregor joins for three short pieces for piano and orchestra by the legendary Japanese film composer, record producer and actor Ryuichi Sakamoto, whose delicate, experimental scores included Bertolucci's *The Last Emperor* and *The Sheltering Sky*. Debussy's love of Japanese art is reflected in his three-movement masterwork of *La Mer*, which is scrupulously wild: he famously selected Hokusai's woodblock *Great Wave off Kanagawa* for the title page. It finishes a vibrant, sometimes tempestuous but always playful concert. Unmissable!

Saturday 13 July 2024
7.30pm
St Mary's Church
Petworth Festival

20

Purcell/Britten
Chacony in G minor

Bach
Concerto in F minor BWV 1056

Arvo Pärt
Fratres

Piazzolla/MacGregor
Three Tangos: Michelangelo 70,
Milonga del Angel, Libertango

Vaughan Williams
Piano Quintet in C minor

Ruth Rogers
violin

Kathy Shave
violin

Caroline Harrison
viola

Peter Adams
cello

Stephen Warner
double bass

Joanna MacGregor
piano

Ancient and Modern

Brighton Philharmonic Orchestra
continues a chamber music
programme with their very talented
principal players, expanding its
musical footprint across Sussex.

We're delighted to visit Petworth
Festival with a programme weaving
together ancient and modern styles.
Britten's beautiful arrangement of

Purcell finds echoes in Arvo Pärt's
virtuosic *Fratres*, while Bach and
Piazzolla's refreshing dance rhythms
complement Vaughan Williams'
passionate Piano Quintet: ploughing
the rich soil of English folk, it's perfect
for a Sussex summer evening.

Tickets on sale in spring 2024;
visit www.petworthfestival.org.uk

BPO's Centenary



BPO celebrates 100 years of performing in
Brighton in 2024-25, and we will be planning
an even more ambitious and exciting
programme to mark this momentous date.

Be part of our history

Be the first to hear about our 100th season launch, exclusive
savings, ambitious campaigns – and most importantly our 100th
birthday party!

Simply scan the QR code to join our mailing list and we'll make sure
you're the first to know.

You can also sign-up for our newsletter at brightonphil.org.uk



Join the BPO Family

22

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

We'd love you to join us as a Friend or Patron. With pricing from £15, it's exceptional value as you'll receive benefits valued at £75.

The BPO is a registered charity and does not receive public funding. Whilst ticket sales have tripled since lockdown ended, and now account for close to half our income, they can't cover the full cost of producing large-scale orchestral performances.

This is where you can help

Our Friends, Patrons and Sponsors make a vital contribution as we strive to make orchestral music accessible to new audiences, and embark on ambitious programming and new collaborations. Join us today as we near our centenary, and look ahead to the next 100 years of music-making.

Join us as a Friend or Patron

Individual Friend	£30
Joint Friend	£50
Student Friend	£15
Individual Patron	£150
Joint Patron	£180
Life Friend	£350

Friends' Benefits

- Priority booking period
- Exclusive free events, featuring introductory talks from our Music Director and musicians
- A free ticket each season under our 'Friend of a Friend' scheme (worth up to £40)
- Regular newsletters and updates

Patrons' Benefits

- As with our Friends, plus:
- Additional Patrons' only events including a Season Preview
- Invitations to post-concert drinks at selected performances
- Two free tickets in each season under our 'Friend of a Friend' scheme (worth up to £80)
- Credits in each concert programme

All our Friends and Patrons become members of the Brighton & Hove Philharmonic Society, and you'll be able to attend our AGM.

Two more ways to help

Sponsor an Orchestral Seat

Each section of the orchestra has a principal player and their deputy, known as the sub-principal. You'll see from our programmes at concerts that individuals and organisations support many of these positions by sponsoring a seat. Prices range from £300 to £2500, depending on the position being sponsored.



Sponsor a Concert

This is suited to company sponsorship but is also ideal for families dedicating a concert to the memory of a loved one. Individual packages can be tailor-made, allowing you to treat your guests in style. Packages are bespoke and start at £3,000.

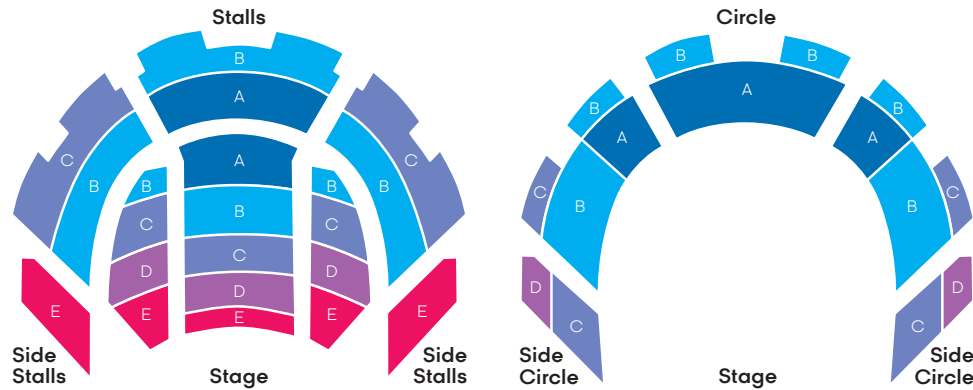
Join us today at www.brightonphil.org.uk, or email mail@brightonphil.org.uk or call us on 01273 234801.



Brighton & Hove Philharmonic Society
(Registered Charity No. 250921).

Ticket prices and season savings

24



Main season at Brighton Dome – all pricing in £					
Single Ticket for all Brighton Dome concerts	A	B	C	D	E
Full Season (6 concerts excluding NYE, 25% discount)	40.00	33.50	27.50	19.50	13.00
3 Concert Saver (any 3 concerts excluding NYE, 20% discount)	180.00	150.00	123.00	87.00	58.00
	96.00	80.40	66.00	46.80	31.20

All Brighton Dome Concert Hall prices are above.

Please note the following concerts have different venues, seating and pricing, and will be sold separately from the Full Season package:

A Christmas Carol 14th December and 15th December 2023 (p8)

The Soldier's Tale 25th February 2024 (p14)

Ancient and Modern 13th July 2024 (p20).

Should you wish to book all ten concerts this season, please book the Full Season

and ensure you add on *A Christmas Carol*, *New Year's Eve*, *The Soldier's Tale* and *Ancient and Modern* individually.

All tickets are sold through Brighton Dome's Ticket Office*, and their general Terms and Conditions will apply. Please visit our website www.brightonphil.org.uk which has booking links for each concert that will take you straight to Brighton Dome Ticket Office to purchase your tickets.

Tickets can also be bought in person from Brighton Dome Ticket Office, Church St, Brighton, BN1 1UE or by calling 01273 709709.

*except *A Christmas Carol* (see p8) and *Ancient and Modern* (see p20)

Discounts and concessions

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

Discounts of up to 50% are available to children under 18, 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.



Our programme, guests and soloists

The BPO will endeavour to run events as planned during our season. But we reserve the right to adapt or even cancel events due to unavailability, illness or changes in public health advice. In circumstances where cancellation is necessary, we aim to treat our friends, ticket holders and musicians as fairly as possible.

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 £28 off the regular cost. These tickets are released the day 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 *Short Ride in a Fast Machine* on Sunday 8 October 2023, *Moondog: Sidewalk Dances* on Sunday 12 November 2023, *Wagner's Dream* on Saturday 27 January 2024 and *Mighty River: Celebrating Women* on Friday 8 March 2024.

Photo credits: Pal Hansen, Jorge Royan, Sara Da Costa, Richard Avedon, Dominic Harris

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The beating heart of Brighton