HALLÉ
2020–21 SEASON
CONCERTS AT THE BRIDGEWATER HALL, MANCHESTER
MUSIC DIRECTOR SIR MARK ELDER
A MESSAGE FROM SIR MARK ELDER

Music has the power to enrich and enlighten; to excite and entrance. It can make us think, help us relax, and even raise a smile. Music can help light up the dark, and show us hope. These last few months have tested us all in ways most of us could never imagine. I want to thank all of you for your extraordinary support and generosity. Our audiences, and many others, have lifted us up and helped us when we needed it most. We will never forget.

So what can we offer in return? Here is our new season. Though you cannot yet book tickets, we hope that we can come together soon to share something that unites us all; the beauty, the power and the hope of music. Sibelius has always felt, with the Hallé, like a home-coming. In May we offer an exploration of his symphonies alongside pieces such as his evocative tone-poem Night Ride and Sunrise (first played in this country by the Hallé under Hamilton Harty in 1930).

We will perform some of the greatest – and for our players the most challenging – pieces in the orchestral repertoire, including Strauss’s heroic Ein Heldenleben, Bartók’s Concerto for Orchestra, Janáček’s thrilling Sinfonietta with its massed battery of brass fanfares, not to mention great symphonies by Schubert and Mahler.

Debussy’s La mer and Holst’s The Planets are in the hands of Tabita Berglund, one of the brilliant women conductors currently making waves on the scene, several of whom visit the Hallé this season. Among them is Gemma New, with Copland’s iconic Third Symphony (original home of ‘Fanfare for the Common Man’), and Delyana Lazarova, our chosen winner of the inaugural Siemens Hallé International Conductors Competition held in February. Delyana begins her term as the Hallé’s Assistant Conductor with Dvořák’s ‘New World’ Symphony. The runner-up, Rodolfo Barráez, will conduct Saint-Saëns’ colourful and always-popular ‘Organ’ Symphony.

I will conduct the Hallé Choir in Brahms’s German Requiem, alongside Strauss’s poignant Metamorphosen for 23 solo strings. I am also looking forward to the Hallé choirs repeating a triumphant BBC Proms performance of Vaughan Williams’s Sancta Civitas, one of his most moving works, never performed in Manchester.

Huw Watkins’ first Symphony was such a success in 2017 that we immediately commissioned another; I will enjoy conducting the world premiere in January. Ryan Wigglesworth also continues his association with the Hallé and its Choir, and unveils his major new choral work, set to texts by Ted Hughes.

We cannot wait to start, and above all look out from the platform to see you all together enjoying these wonderful shared experiences.

Mark Elder
Booking for the Hallé’s 2020-21 season is not yet open.

As soon as tickets are available, we will contact you with full details including prices, discounts and subscription deals.

Please do not contact the Box Office until we announce booking is open.

SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER, 7.30pm
CLASSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA

Shostakovich Festive Overture and The Gadfly Romanza
Verdi Aida: Grand March
Butterworth The Banks of Green Willow
Rimsky-Korsakov Capriccio Espagnol
Copland Fanfare for the Common Man
Rossini Overture: William Tell
Elgar Pomp and Circumstance March No.4
Fauré Pavane
Tchaikovsky 1812 Overture

Stephen Bell CONDUCTOR

Stephen Bell, Associate Hallé Pops Conductor, and the Hallé open the new season with an extravaganza of a concert. Packed full of popular classics, including favourites from film and opera and a breathtaking finale, this concert is a fantastic showcase for the orchestra and guarantees you'll be whistling the tunes all the way home.

WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER, 2.15pm
THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER, 7.30pm
SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER, 4pm
SAINT-SAËNS’ ‘ORGAN’ SYMPHONY

Rossini Overture: The Thieving Magpie 11’
Paganini Violin Concerto No.1 25’
Saint-Saëns Symphony No.3, ‘Organ’ 37’

Rodolfo Barráez CONDUCTOR • Ning Feng VIOLIN • Darius Battiwalla ORGAN

The opening drum-rolls of Rossini’s sparkling overture, The Thieving Magpie, create a perfect upbeat to the season’s Opus One concerts. Making his Hallé debut is the hugely talented Rodolfo Barráez, second prize-winner of the inaugural Siemens Hallé International Conductors Competition. Also making his first Bridgewater Hall appearance is Ning Feng, International Tutor at the RNCM and winner of the 2006 Paganini Competition. Appropriately, he plays Paganini’s fiendish First Concerto, a fitting vehicle for his legendary virtuosity. Saint-Saëns’ magnificent and ever-popular ‘Organ’ Symphony gained its nickname through the prominence of what he described as ‘this magical instrument’ with its ‘formidable and terrifying power’.

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THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER, 7.30pm

THE PLANETS

Debussy La mer (Three symphonic sketches) 23’
Holst The Planets 50’

Tabita Berglund CONDUCTOR • Ladies of the Hallé Choir

A natural communicator, the gifted young Norwegian, Tabita Berglund, impressed the Hallé audiences on her first visit to the orchestra last season. She returns to conduct two enduring early 20th-century masterpieces. The impetus for Debussy’s impressionistic three symphonic sketches, La mer, were the seascapes of Turner and the art of the Japanese painter Hokusai. It wasn’t astronomy that was the wellspring of Holst’s The Planets, but astrology, which he explored through a suite of deftly imagined movements including: an apocalyptic vision of Mars, ‘The God of War’; the bluff humour of Jupiter, ‘The Bringer of Jollity’; Uranus, ‘the Magician’ and the dust and ashes of Saturn, ‘the Bringer of Old Age.’

THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER, 7.30pm

RACHMANINOV’S PIANO CONCERTO NO.4

Dukas The Sorcerer’s Apprentice 12’
Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No.4 24’
Suk Fantastic Scherzo 14’
Janáček Sinfonietta 25’

Sir Mark Elder CONDUCTOR • Vadym Kholodenko PIANO

After the disastrous chaos wrought by Dukas’s hapless Sorcerer’s Apprentice, order is restored with Rachmaninov’s final piano concerto. Remarkably, for such a popular composer, it hasn’t been played by the Hallé for 20 years; however, its fiendish technical demands require a remarkable pianist. Gold Medal winner of the Van Cliburn Piano Competition, the ‘mesmerising’ young Ukrainian Vadym Kholodenko, making his Hallé debut, certainly is. In a second half of Czech music, where Sir Mark is always at home, Suk’s Fantastic Scherzo takes a beguiling Bohemian waltz as a vehicle for the composer’s melodic gifts, while Janáček’s Sinfonietta boasts no less than 25 brass players, including nine trumpets whose blazing fanfares will ring round The Bridgewater Hall.
SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER, 7.30PM

**MAGNIFICENT MASTERPIECES**

**Mendelssohn** Hebrides Overture (Fingal’s Cave)  
**Tchaikovsky** Violin Concerto  
**Beethoven** Symphony No.7

Ben Palmer **CONDUCTOR** • Kristine Balanas **VIOLIN**

A regular guest conductor with the Hallé, Ben Palmer opens this concert of classical greats with Mendelssohn’s evocative Hebrides Overture; inspired by the composer’s memorable visit to Fingal’s Cave, it conjures up the sights and sounds of Scotland. Award-winning Latvian violinist Kristine Balanas performs one of the greatest works written for the violin, Tchaikovsky’s striking Violin Concerto. Beethoven’s Seventh Symphony draws this programme to a close. Beginning in sombre mood, the work gives way to a surprising lightness and its unbounded finale is filled with unrestrained joy.


WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER, 2.15PM
THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER, 7.30PM
SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER, 4PM

**MAHLER’S FOURTH SYMPHONY**

**Weber** Overture: Oberon  
**Grieg** Orchestral Songs  
**Sibelius** Orchestral songs  
**Mahler** Symphony No.4

Sir Mark Elder **CONDUCTOR** • Elizabeth Watts **SOPRANO**

Sir Mark conducts Weber’s overture to his final opera, Oberon, the scene set with the rising notes of the Elf King’s magic horn. Elizabeth Watts, a firm favourite with the Hallé, sings a group of Nordic songs, including Grieg’s famous Solveig’s Song from Peer Gynt. Supernatural horns return in Mahler’s Fourth Symphony inspired by the collection of German folk poems, Des Knaben Wunderhorn (The boy’s magic horn). The symphony includes an extraordinary Scherzo, with a skeletal violinist leading a macabre dance of death, as well as an incandescent Adagio which leads to the magical Finale where the soprano evokes a child’s vision of Heaven.
SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER, 4PM
BRAHMS’S FOURTH SYMPHONY

Wagner Overture: Tannhäuser
Mozart Flute Concerto No.1, K.313
Brahms Symphony No.4

Kahchun Wong CONDUCTOR • Amy Yule FLUTE

Two further exciting Hallé debuts. Kahchun Wong won the 2016 International Gustav Mahler Conducting Competition, while the Hallé’s own Amy Yule is making her first concerto appearance with the orchestra. She plays Mozart’s first flute concerto, which combines Classical elegance with nimble virtuosity. Wagner’s ‘Great Romantic Opera’, Tannhäuser, explores the tensions between love, sacred and profane, personified by the music of the Pilgrims and the Venusberg, citadel of the goddess. Brahms’s last symphony, his fourth, demonstrates a master wholly in command of his craft. The music critic Eduard Hanslick, commented: ‘It is rather like a deep well, the longer we look into it, the more brightly the stars shine back.’

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER, 7.30PM
THE HALLÉ GOES TO NASHVILLE

Including: The Devil Went Down to Georgia; Crazy; Take Me Home, Country Roads; Wichita Lineman; Rhinestone Cowboy; Stand by Your Man; Heartache Tonight; Ring of Fire; Need You Now; Friday Night; Islands in the Stream; Jolene; 9 to 5; I Will Always Love You and many more!

Stephen Bell CONDUCTOR
Annie Skates, Zoe Nicholas, Stephen Weller and Lance Ellington VOCALISTS

Grab your Stetson and take a trip to Tennessee for this rhinestone-studded concert featuring fifty years of legendary Country and Western hits. A full symphony orchestra and rocking rhythm section, complete with pedal steel guitar, will be joined by four of Britain’s leading guest vocalists for timeless classics from the likes of Glenn Campbell, Dolly Parton, The Shires, Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Shania Twain, Lady Antebellum and The Eagles. This is the very best of Country so saddle up and ride on over for an epic evening!
THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER, 7.30PM

A GERMAN REQUIEM

**R. Strauss** Metamorphosen
26'
**Brahms** Ein deutsches Requiem
68'

*Sir Mark Elder* CONDUCTOR
*Natalya Romaniw* SOPRANO • *Nicholas Lester* BARITONE • Hallé Choir

A fascinating pairing of very different requiems. Richard Strauss’s *Metamorphosen* for 23 solo strings is a special piece for Sir Mark, who wished to perform it again with a new gifted generation of Hallé string players. Described by him as ‘one of Strauss’s most deeply felt works’, it is a threnody on the destruction of Germany’s people and culture, following the tyranny of Nazism. The death of Brahms’s mother spurred his *Ein deutsches Requiem* (A German Requiem), perhaps his most touching and powerful large scale work, sung on this occasion in the original German. This performance features Natalya Romaniw, returning to the Hallé for the sixth time, and Nicholas Lester joining the ‘magnificent’ Hallé Choir, as it was described by *The Times* in February 2020.

WEDNESDAY 2 DECEMBER, 2.15PM
THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER, 7.30PM
SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER, 4PM

THE NEW WORLD SYMPHONY

**Borodin** Prince Igor: Polovtsian Dances
34'
**Copland** Appalachian Spring: Suite
23'
**Dvořák** Symphony No.9, ‘From the New World’
42'

*Delyana Lazarova* CONDUCTOR

Delyana Lazarova, winner of the first Siemens Hallé International Conductors Competition, begins her tenure with the Hallé with an original programme exploring the old world and the new. After Borodin’s colourful *Polovtsian Dances*, America becomes the focus, with Copland’s outstanding ballet score *Appalachian Spring*, in which he totally absorbed the spirit of American hymns, famously quoting one traditional Shaker tune, ‘Simple Gifts’. Dvořák composed his Ninth Symphony when based in New York, his aim being to convey ‘impressions and greetings from the New World’. The symphony abounds with resonances of American music, as in the slow movement, with its haunting, spiritual-like cor anglais theme.
SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER, 11AM
CHRISTMAS FAMILY CONCERT
MY CHRISTMAS ORCHESTRAL ADVENTURE™

Oh no! Father Christmas went on a practice run for his special deliveries but lost his map. The Hallé has found it, but we need your help to return it to him ahead of the ‘big day’. With the full symphony orchestra we’ll be zipping around the world on a great orchestral adventure to track him down: skating on frozen lakes, enjoying a sleigh ride and having a white Christmas, all without leaving The Bridgewater Hall! Join Chief Adventurer, Tom, and Master of Ceremonies, Timothy, for this amazing Sunday morning fun-filled festive frolic.

Packed full of sing-alongs, jingle-alongs, dancing, surprises and laughter, and a visit from someone very special, this is the perfect way for the whole family to start the Christmas countdown. There will also be plenty to entertain you in the foyers and don’t forget your sleigh bells and fancy dress ... all Santa hats and Christmas jumpers welcome!

Tom Redmond CHIEF ADVENTURER • Timothy Redmond MASTER OF CEREMONIES
A Royal Albert Hall Production • My Christmas Orchestral Adventure™

SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER, 6PM
MESSIAH

Handel Messiah

Matthew Hamilton CONDUCTOR
Anna Dennis SOPRANO • Katie Bray MEZZO-SOPRANO
Ben Johnson TENOR • Matthew Brook BASS
Hallé Choir

Following the acclaim that greeted his iconic oratorio, Messiah, Handel attained the status of what we’d call today a national treasure. With arias like ‘The trumpet shall sound’, and ‘I know that my Redeemer liveth’, the orchestral pastorale heralding the shepherds, and choruses, such as ‘Lift up your heads, O ye gates’, and, of course ‘Hallelujah’, the work teems with musical greatness and is a cornerstone of the Hallé’s Christmas celebrations. Matthew Hamilton, the Hallé’s Choral Director, has been building a national reputation, but this is the first time that he conducts Messiah with the choir he’s been successfully training for five years. Joining him and the Hallé Choir is a starry line-up of British soloists at the top of their game.

THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER, 7.30PM
FINLANDIA

Sibelius Finlandia
Grieg Piano Concerto
Alfvén Swedish Rhapsody No.1, ‘Midsommarvaka’
Sibelius Valse triste
Grieg Peer Gynt Suite: selection

Stephen Bell CONDUCTOR • Joseph Moog PIANO

This inspirational concert, perfect for winter, celebrates the patriotic music written by three Scandinavian composers. Two of the most famous pieces by Norwegian Edvard Grieg feature: his musical tableaux for the quintessentially Scandinavian play, Peer Gynt; and his stunning Piano Concerto, with its beautiful central Adagio, which will be performed by Grammy-nominated pianist Joseph Moog. Swedish composer Hugo Alfvén contributes his cheerful and light-hearted Midsummer Vigil, a symphonic rhapsody that gets right to the heart of his homeland’s folk music, whilst Finnish composer Jean Sibelius is represented by his haunting and melancholy Valse triste and his stirring tribute to his homeland, Finlandia.

FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER, 7.30PM
HALLÉ CHRISTMAS CRACKER

Including: It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas; It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year; Let It Snow; Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas; Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire; White Christmas; Believe from Polar Express; The Man with the Bag; Panis Angelicus; O Holy Night; Troika; excerpts from The Nutcracker and many more!

The big day is only a week away so why not get your celebrations started with this cracker of a concert! Conductor Stephen Bell will help you get into the Christmas spirit with songs and music performed by the award-winning Hallé, two impressive vocal ensembles and an exceptionally versatile singer-actor, baritone Quirijn de Lang.

Stephen Bell CONDUCTOR • Quirijn de Lang BARITONE
Winners of the Hallé Workplace Choir Competition
Hallé Christmas Chorus
SATURDAY 19 DECEMBER, 3PM
SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER, 3PM AND 7.30PM
HALÉ CAROL CONCERTS

The programme includes:

Good King Wenceslas; It Came Upon the Midnight Clear;
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen; Hark! The Herald Angels Sing;
the Halé Children’s Choir performing Sparklejollytwinklejingley
from Elf; See Amid the Winter’s Snow; Silent Night;
I Saw Three Ships; In the Bleak Midwinter; The Skater’s Waltz
and much more.

Stephen Bell conductor • Hallé Choir • Hallé Youth Choir • Hallé Children’s Choir

‘Tis the weekend before Christmas and all through the Hallé, everyone was singing
and making music merrily! Come and join in with some traditional favourites and
hear the Orchestra and three Hallé Choirs, including the brilliant Children’s Choir,
performing even more.

SATURDAY 19 DECEMBER, 7.30PM
HALÉ YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Delyana Lazarova, the first winner of the
Siemens Hallé International Conductors Competition
and Hallé Youth Orchestra Music Director, takes to the
podium in an evening of fantastic music from the
Youth Orchestra.

There are more opportunities to hear the Hallé Youth Ensembles in 2021:

SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY, 7.30PM
HALÉ YOUTH ORCHESTRA
Delyana Lazarova conductor

SUNDAY 28 MARCH 7.30PM
HALÉ YOUTH CHOIRS AND
HALÉ CHILDREN’S CHOIR
Shirley Court and Stuart Overington conductors

Find out more about our young singers and musicians and Hallé Connect on page 40.

MONDAY 21 DECEMBER, 1.30PM AND 4PM
TUESDAY 22 DECEMBER, 11AM AND 1.30PM
THE SNOWMAN

Three short stories for narrator and orchestra (Hairy Maclary from Donaldson’s Dairy; Slinky Malinki’s Christmas Crackers and Hairy Maclary’s Showbusiness)
words and illustrations by Lynley Dodd, music by Timothy Redmond
The Snowman (SCREENING WITH LIVE ORCHESTRA)

Ben Palmer conductor • Tom Redmond presenter

Christmas wouldn’t be Christmas without settling down in front of Raymond
Briggs’s classic animated film, The Snowman. Bring everyone to watch whilst the
Hallé performs Howard Blake’s magical score live, including a chorister singing
‘Walking in the Air’.

In the first half, join Hairy Maclary from Donaldson’s Dairy as he goes ‘out of the
gate and off for a walk!’ The lovable canine rogue meets the orchestra in these
brilliant new settings, bringing together music, rhyme and Lynley Dodd’s captivating
illustrations. This is truly an unmissable family treat.
TUESDAY 29 DECEMBER, 7PM
DOWN T O N ABBEY – L I V E I N C O N C E R T

One of the biggest hits in recent television history, Downton Abbey has enthralled audiences around the world. Downton Abbey – Live In Concert celebrates favourite characters and the goings on from across all six seasons.

Mrs Hughes, Downton’s prestigious Housekeeper, played by Phyllis Logan, will recall significant events in the house and beyond, each time introducing a rich collection of clips and montages that illustrate the lives, loves and losses, with musical accompaniment. Composer John Lunn will join the Hallé at the piano to vividly bring to life his own beautiful soundtrack, all performed under the expert guidance of Alastair King. Songs from the series, including ‘I’ll Count The Days’ and ‘If You Were The Only Girl In The World’, will be performed by guest singers.

Downton Abbey – Live In Concert is the unique celebration of an iconic series. Join Mrs Hughes for a luxurious evening of music and memories for fans, both old and new.

Downton Abbey Live In Concert is produced by Big Screen Live in association with Live Nation, NBCUniversal and Carnival Films.

Alastair King CONDUCTOR • Phyllis Logan MRS HUGHES (PRESENTER) • John Lunn PIANO

WEDNESDAY 30 DECEMBER, 7.30PM
’80s BIG NIGHT OUT

Welcome to the ‘80s! A decade of power dressing, spiral perms, neon leg warmers, YUPPIES and the biggest and best tunes, including:

What a Feeling; Fame Irene Cara
Ain’t Nobody Chaka Khan
The Time of My Life Medley/Warnes
It’s Raining Men Weather Girls
Livin’ on a Prayer Bon Jovi
9 to 5 Dolly Parton
Total Eclipse of the Heart Bonnie Tyler
I Wanna Dance with Somebody Whitney Houston

Stephen Bell CONDUCTOR • Alison Jiear and Oliver Tompsett VOCALISTS

SATURDAY 2 JANUARY, 3PM
NEW YEAR IN VIENNA

Suppé Morning Noon and Night in Vienna
Lehár Giuditta: Meine Lippen, sie küssen so Heiß
Eduard Strauss Mit Dampf Polka
J. Strauss II Die Fledermaus: Czardas (Rosalinde’s Aria)
J. Strauss II Roses from the South
J. Strauss II Gypsy Baron March
Kálmán Kaiserin Josephine: Mein Traum, mein Traum
J. Strauss II Vienna Bonbons
Millöcker Die Dubarry: Ich schenk mein Herz
Gershwin By Strauss
J. Strauss II Tritsch-Tratsch Polka
J. Strauss II On the Beautiful Blue Danube

Stephen Bell CONDUCTOR • Sky Ingram SOPRANO

Join Stephen Bell, Sky Ingram and the Hallé as they take you on a Viennese whirl round ballrooms and opera houses in this traditional start to the New Year.
THURSDAY 14 JANUARY, 7.30PM
WORLD PREMIERE BY HUW WATKINS

Debussy orch. Colin Matthews Three Orchestral Preludes 10'
Huw Watkins Symphony No.2 WORLD PREMIERE 30'
Prokofiev Violin Concerto No.1 22'
Tchaikovsky Fantasy Overture: Romeo and Juliet 22'

Sir Mark Elder CONDUCTOR • Alexander Sitkovetsky VIOLIN

Alexander Sitkovetsky, born in Russia into a distinguished musical family, studied at the Menuhin School, where he was mentored by the great violinist. It’s a pleasure for the Hallé to invite him back to play Prokofiev’s lyrical, wistful First Violin Concerto. When Huw Watkins’ Symphony was first performed in 2017, it made such a strong impression on Sir Mark, the orchestra and audiences, that it was soon followed by a recording, as well as this commission to write a new work, his Second Symphony, which receives its world premiere tonight. Topping and tailing the programme are a selection of Debussy’s piano preludes skilfully transformed into orchestral hues by Colin Matthews, and Tchaikovsky’s dramatic and passionate overture conjuring Shakespeare’s ill-fated lovers.

WEDNESDAY 27 JANUARY, 2.15PM
THURSDAY 28 JANUARY, 7.30PM
THE ABRAHAM MOSS MEMORIAL CONCERT
SUNDAY 31 JANUARY, 4PM

MENDELSSOHN’S ITALIAN SYMPHONY

R. Strauss Don Juan 39'
Saint-Saëns Piano Concerto No.2 25'
Mendelssohn Symphony No.4, ‘Italian’ 30'

Ken-David Masur CONDUCTOR • Pavel Kolesnikov PIANO

Having impressed Hallé audiences in 2019, Pavel Kolesnikov returns to play Saint-Saëns’ most popular concerto, his second, of which it was once said that ‘it begins with Bach and ends up with Offenbach’. Joining him is the conductor Ken-David Masur, Music Director of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. Richard Strauss’s tone poem Don Juan is a dazzling display of orchestral brilliance, as witnessed by the oboe’s captivating love music. Mendelssohn commented about the symphony he’d begun when visiting Italy, ‘It will be the jolliest piece I have done’, and indeed it does enshrine the sights and sounds of the country from its joyous, spring-like opening to its fiery, dancing conclusion.

SATURDAY 23 JANUARY, 7.30PM
COMEDY CLASSICS
WITH JASON MANFORD

Award-winning comedian and singer, Jason Manford, will join the Hallé and conductor Stephen Bell to present and perform in this hilarious concert. The programme is packed with music from side-splitting comedy classics such as The Simpsons, Wallace and Gromit, Love Actually, Four Weddings and a Funeral, The Ladykillers, Breakfast at Tiffany’s, The Blues Brothers, Yesterday, Charlie Chaplin, Monty Python, The Producers and Sleepless in Seattle. No comedy night would be complete without the rollicking strokes of genius that created Austin Powers, Bridget Jones and, of course, the Carry On series. This is a witty way to start the new year!

Stephen Bell CONDUCTOR • Jason Manford PRESENTER AND VOCALIST

THURSDAY 4 FEBRUARY, 7.30PM

SCHUBERT’S GREAT SYMPHONY

Mozart Piano Concerto No.20, K.466 32'
Schubert Symphony No.9, ‘The Great’ 52'

Ainārs Rubikšis CONDUCTOR • Louis Lortie PIANO

The Latvian, Ainārs Rubikšis, Music Director of the Komische Oper, Berlin, makes his first visit to the Hallé: his credentials include winning the 2010 Gustav Mahler Conducting Competition. Mozart’s D minor Piano Concerto hasn’t been heard in a Hallé concert for two decades. It journeys from tense foreboding to lightness and good humour, features that will be captured by one of today’s exceptional pianists and old friend of the orchestra, Louis Lortie. Schubert’s Ninth Symphony, known as ‘The Great’ C major, famously praised by Schumann for its ‘heavenly length’, and one of the glories of early Romanticism, concludes the concert.
SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY, 7.30PM
VALENTINES’ OPERA NIGHT

Verdi La forza del destino: Overture
Lehár The Merry Widow: Lippen schweigen
Puccini La bohème: Che gelida manina; Si, mi chiamano Mimi; O soave fanciulla
Saint-Saëns Samson and Delilah: Bacchanale
Lerner and Loewe My Fair Lady: On the Street Where You Live; I Could Have Danced All Night
Rodgers South Pacific: Some Enchanted Evening
Mendelssohn A Midsummer Night’s Dream: Wedding March
Verdi La traviata: Sempre libera; Lunge da lei; Prelude to Act 1
Lehár Giuditta: Meine Lippen, sie küssen so heiß

Eduardo Strauss conductor • Jonathan James presenter
Lauren Fagan soprano • Zwakele Tshabalala tenor

From passionate overtures to tender arias, starry-eyed lovers and amorous dreamers, come and celebrate the most romantic day of the year with this enchanting concert.

THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY, 7.30PM
BARTÓK’S CONCERTO FOR ORCHESTRA

Brahms Hungarian Dances 20’
Liszt Piano Concerto No.1 39’
Bartók Concerto for Orchestra 40’

Elim Chan conductor • Bertrand Chamayou piano

Both conductor and soloist are Hallé debut artists. From Hong Kong, Elim Chan is going places fast; she’s the first female winner of the Donatella Flick Competition, Principal Guest Conductor of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, and newly appointed Chief Conductor of the Antwerp Symphony Orchestra. French pianist, Bertrand Chamayou, winner of the prestigious 2019 Gramophone ‘Recording of the Year’, has been described in The Guardian as ‘a remarkable musician, no question.’ Together they bring a vibrant Hungarian themed programme beginning with Brahms’s dances brimful of gypsy verve. Liszt’s First Piano Concerto has all the dazzle expected from the pianist-composer who held audiences spellbound, and folk music also pervades Bartók’s final masterpiece, the virtuosic Concerto for Orchestra in which every section takes a bow.

THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY, 7.30PM
BEETHOVEN’S EROICA

Berlioz Overture: Le carnaval romain 8’
Schumann Cello Concerto 26’
Beethoven Symphony No.3, ‘Eroica’ 53’

Kristiina Poska conductor • Nicholas Trygstad cello

There’s more Italian ambience in this concert with Berlioz’s overture, Roman Carnival, incorporating themes from his opera Benvenuto Cellini. It is conducted by Kristiina Poska, with the Hallé for the first time. In Schumann’s romantically lyrical Cello Concerto, she is joined by Nicholas Trygstad, the Hallé’s Principal Cellist. Then, Beethoven’s revolutionary Third Symphony, its original dedication to Napoleon angrily withdrawn after his hero declared himself Emperor. Its subsequent title, ‘Eroica’, nevertheless reflects the character of a work that in its daring and ambition changed the course of music history.

THURSDAY 4 MARCH, 7.30PM
RUSSIAN EXTRAVAGANZA

Tchaikovsky Fantasy Overture: Romeo and Juliet
Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No.2
Tchaikovsky Eugene Onegin: Polonaise
Khachaturian Spartacus: Adagio
Tchaikovsky 1812 Overture

Stephen Bell conductor • Natasha Paremski piano

From the delicate opening of Tchaikovsky’s Fantasy Overture to Romeo and Juliet and the brilliant fanfares of his Polonaise from Eugene Onegin, through to the heart-rending Adagio from Khachaturian’s ballet Spartacus and the flamboyant finale of Tchaikovsky’s climactic 1812 Overture, this concert overflows with vibrancy and sheer excitement. Russian-American pianist, Natasha Paremski, is the perfect soloist for Rachmaninov’s lyrical Second Piano Concerto; this musical masterpiece is a divine dialogue between orchestra and soloist with each memorable phrase, glorious melody and weighty piano chord beautifully placed.
THURSDAY 11 MARCH, 7.30PM
MAHLER’S FIFTH SYMPHONY

Ravel Piano Concerto in D for the Left Hand
Mahler Symphony No.5

Sir Mark Elder conductor • Nelson Goerner piano

Sir Mark greatly enjoys collaborating with the Argentinian pianist Nelson Goerner, who has been a long-time favourite with Bridgewater Hall audiences. An artist ‘of a very high order ... Goerner purveys poetry as natural as breathing.' (BBC Music Magazine) He plays Ravel’s Concerto for the Left Hand, born out of the roaring twenties, showing all of Ravel’s characteristic genius with spiky jazz rhythms and piquant harmonies. In the same way that Ravel absorbed popular music of the day into his concerto, so Mahler embraced folk song, military, Jewish and popular music in his symphonies, as in the Fifth. The symphony’s most well-known movement, the other-worldly Adagietto for strings and harp, secured the work’s popularity through its use in Visconti’s film of Thomas Mann’s Death in Venice.

WEDNESDAY 24 MARCH, 2.15PM
THURSDAY 25 MARCH, 7.30PM
SUNDAY 28 MARCH, 4PM

SHOSTAKOVICH’S TENTH SYMPHONY

Liadov The Enchanted Lake
Bruch Violin Concerto No.1
Shostakovich Symphony No.10

Sir Mark Elder conductor • Sophia Jaffé violin

The Hallé is thrilled to welcome back Sophia Jaffé to play Bruch’s evergreen G minor concerto, referred to by the great virtuoso Joachim as the ‘richest, the most seductive’ of the great German Romantic violin concertos. Liadov was a miniaturist par excellence, as heard in the exquisite colours of his ‘fairy tale picture’, The Enchanted Lake. Sir Mark views Shostakovich’s Tenth Symphony as ‘a deeply bold work, full of compassion for his fellow human beings’ who lived through the Stalin era. Laced with sadness and personal allusions, even the thrilling ending doesn’t banish sorrow entirely, while the Scherzo, full of ferocious nastiness, a ‘fusillade of rifles’ and music of ‘intense power’ is a spine-chilling portrait of the dictator himself.
BRAHMS’S FIRST SYMPHONY

Ryan Wigglesworth New work for mezzo-soprano, tenor, chorus and orchestra 30'
Brahms Symphony No.1 45'

Ryan Wigglesworth conductor (associate artist)
Anna Stéphany mezzo-soprano • Robert Murray tenor • Hallé Choir

Undoubtedly one of the season’s highlights, the UK premiere of Ryan Wigglesworth’s new large-scale choral work brings the Hallé Choir centre-stage. Formerly the orchestra’s Principal Guest Conductor, this multi-talented composer-conductor continues his relationship with the orchestra as one of its Artists in Association. A co-commission with the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, the text is drawn from Ted Hughes’s Tales from Ovid, and calls for two soloists, both familiar to Hallé audiences, the mezzo-soprano Anna Stéphany and tenor Robert Murray. Wigglesworth’s new work is complemented by Brahms’s First Symphony, which emerged triumphantly after 14 years of struggle as he tried to compose a symphony worthy of following Beethoven – ‘that giant whose steps I always hear behind me.’

TCHAIKOVSKY’S FIFTH SYMPHONY

Verdi Overture: Sicilian Vespers 8'
Shostakovich Concerto No.1 for Piano, Trumpet and Strings 21'
Tchaikovsky Symphony No.5 47'

Daniele Rustioni conductor • Heejae Kim piano • Gareth Small trumpet

Opera is in Daniele Rustioni’s bloodstream, as will doubtless be evident in Verdi’s dramatic curtain-raiser to his Sicilian Vespers. Heejae Kim, holder of the 2015 Terence Judd-Hallé Orchestra Prize, is a wonderful musician, whose visits are eagerly anticipated. She’s heard, together with the Hallé’s own Gareth Small, in Shostakovich’s exciting First Piano Concerto, whose energetic Finale always brings the house down. Tchaikovsky’s Fifth Symphony is haunted by a recurring theme synonymous with Fate; among its inspired gems is the slow movement’s glorious main tune, renowned as among the great moments for solo horn in the repertoire.
THURSDAY 6 MAY, 7.30PM
STRAUSS’S EIN HELDENLEBEN

Vaughan Williams
Sancta Civitas: The Holy City (1925)

R. Strauss
Ein Heldenleben

Sir Mark Elder CONDUCTOR
Roderick Williams BARITONE • Ben Johnson TENOR
Hallé Choir • London Philharmonic Choir • Hallé Youth Choir • Hallé Children’s Choir

Vaughan Williams’s *Sancta Civitas*, his vision of the Holy City, was his favourite among his choral works. It’s heard all too rarely, and ever since the amazing impact of its BBC Proms debut in 2015 with the Hallé, plans were laid to bring it to Manchester. Roderick Williams, named ‘our greatest baritone’ by *The Daily Telegraph*, and former Kathleen Ferrier Award winner, tenor Ben Johnson, are the soloists, and the London Philharmonic Choir, who also participated in the Prom, team up with the Hallé’s wonderful choirs. Strauss’s *Ein Heldenleben* (A Hero’s Life) is a work Sir Mark relishes, having conducted this supreme orchestral showpiece all over the world. Very much a Hallé party-piece, it’s full of solos, especially for violin and horn, that players and audiences adore.
SATURDAY 15 MAY, 7.30pm
MOTOWN’S GREATEST HITS

Including:
Respect Aretha Franklyn
Stop! In the Name of Love The Supremes
I Heard It Through the Grapevine Marvin Gaye
Signed, Sealed, Delivered I’m Yours Stevie Wonder
Ain’t No Mountain High Enough Tammi Terrell and Marvin Gaye
Dancing in the Street Martha and The Vandellas
What Becomes of the Brokenhearted Jimmy Ruffin
I Want You Back The Jackson 5

Alfonso Casado Trigo CONDUCTOR
Marisha Wallace and Trevor Dion Nicholas VOCALISTS

Star of the smash-hit show Dreamgirls and Disney’s big screen blockbuster Aladdin, Marisha Wallace is joined by Trevor Dion Nicholas, star of the West End production of Hamilton, award-winning Musical Director Alfonso Casado Trigo and the Hallé in an evening dedicated to the timeless soul classics that capture love, heartbreak and the desire to dance like no one is watching!

WEDNESDAY 19 MAY, 2.15pm
THURSDAY 20 MAY, 7.30pm
SUNDAY 23 MAY, 4pm
MENDELSSOHN’S VIOLIN CONCERTO

Prokofiev Symphony No.1, ‘Classical’ 35’
Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in E minor 26’
Schumann Symphony No.1, ‘Spring’ 32’

Tomáš Hanuš CONDUCTOR • Eldbjørg Hemsing VIOLIN

Tomáš Hanuš, Welsh National Opera’s Music Director, returns to the Hallé with Prokofiev’s ‘Classical’ Symphony, his witty and affectionate ‘take’ on Haydn’s symphonies, heard through 20th-century ears. A household name in her native Norway, Eldbjørg Hemsing made her concerto debut aged only 11. She plays Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto, its popularity assured through an instantly memorable, impassioned opening, which, according to the composer, constantly ran through his head and gave him no peace until he’d completed it. It was Mendelssohn who conducted the premiere of Schumann’s First Symphony, whose sunny personality arose from the ‘longing for spring’ which inspired its creation early in the year.

27 MAY – 5 JUNE 2021
NIGHT RIDE AND SUNRISE
THE JOURNEY OF JEAN SIBELIUS

The music of Sibelius has been part of the Hallé’s fabric since 1905, when Hans Richter conducted the Second Symphony in Manchester, the first time any of his symphonies had been heard in this country. In the past two decades, his music has featured in no fewer than 150 Hallé performances. It continues to strike a chord with British listeners, with stirring melodies, the wealth of its associations, images of landscape, Finnish folklore (the Kalevala, central to his art) coming to life in his tone-poems, the simple heart-on-sleeve virtuosity of the Violin Concerto, or in the more abstract beauty of the symphonies. They are all here in our festival.

This is Sir Mark’s second complete Sibelius cycle with the Hallé, now also complete in recordings. Each of the seven symphonies occupies its own world, expressed with clarity and integrity, and few other symphonic cycles by any composer, Beethoven apart, chart such a distinctive course through a creative life.

As time went on, Sibelius resolutely mastered the art of removing anything that was not central to his purpose. The result was that the symphonies became more concise, powerful and, heard alongside other evocative orchestral masterpieces, life-affirming.

THURSDAY 27 MAY, 7.30PM
SIBELIUS: SYMPHONY NO.1

Sir Mark considers Sibelius a singularly important composer for British music-lovers. His music is embedded in the Hallé’s history with Barbirolli, Beecham, Harty and Richter all advocates; Sibelius himself conducted the orchestra in 1931. In the Hallé’s and Sir Mark’s second Sibelius cycle, join them as they explore all the symphonies one by one, alongside magnificent tone poems, and works for violin and orchestra. Their fellow collaborator is one of the Hallé’s Associate Artists, Henning Kraggerud, who plays the Violin Concerto with its poignant, unforgettable opening. The Hallé gave the UK premiere of Night Ride and Sunrise, which arose from Sibelius’s exhilaration when riding through nocturnal forests, then witnessing dawn. The dramatic First Symphony, already a totally individual statement from the 33-year old composer, initiates the symphonic journey.

SATURDAY 29 MAY, 7.30PM
SIBELIUS: SYMPHONY NO.2 AND 3

Sibelius found in the Finnish national epic, the Kalevala, a rich source of inspiration for his tone poems, as in Pohjola’s Daughter, where the tale of how the hero Väinämöinen fails to win the love of a stony-hearted maiden is vividly brought to life by the music. The Hallé, conducted by Richter in 1905, also gave the Second Symphony’s British premiere (the first time any of his symphonies was heard in this country). Its character, mellow and sunny, was a legacy of a visit to Italy, the work extending the composer’s powers as a symphonist in its rigorous approach to organic unity. By contrast, the Third Symphony banishes all late-Romantic echoes, creating a beautifully proportioned, concise and classically poised, yet exhilarating work.
SATURDAY 5 JUNE, 7.30PM
SIBELIUS: SYMPHONY NO.6 AND 7

Sibelius
The Oceanides 11'
Symphony No.6 28'
Tapiola 18'
Symphony No.7 21'

Sir Mark Elder conductor

The Festival’s culmination starts with The Oceanides, a tone poem depicting the daughters of Neptune luring sailors to their doom. Its ending, Sir Mark says, ‘is terrifying, a huge tsunami welling up through the orchestra.’ Sibelius felt that ‘Nature has truly been the book of books for me’, which is for all to hear in his greatest tone poem, Tapiola, portraying the land of the mysterious God of the Northern forests. For Sir Mark, Sibelius’s last symphonies reflect a ‘ruthless musical voice’, as he became increasingly concise, never more so than in the refinement of the one movement Seventh Symphony: after its glorious closing bars, Sibelius had no more to say.
SATURDAY 19 JUNE, 7.30PM
... AND ALL THAT JAZZ

Including:
Chicago All That Jazz
Funny Girl Don’t Rain on My Parade
Cabaret Maybe This Time
Company Being Alive
Oliver! Who Will Buy?
Wicked For Good
La Cage aux Folles I Am What I Am
Sweeney Todd The Ballad of Sweeney Todd
West Side Story Cool
Gypsy Some People
Annie Get Your Gun Anything You Can Do
and more!

Roderick Dunk CONDUCTOR • Emma Kershaw and Katie Birtill VOCALISTS

Adding a fresh, jazzy twist to this symphonic Broadway and West End celebration, the Hallé and Roderick Dunk will be joined by two of Britain’s truly versatile vocalists.

Booking for the Hallé’s 2020-21 season is not yet open.

As soon as tickets are available, we will contact you with full details including prices, discounts and subscription deals.

Please do not contact the Box Office until we announce booking is open.

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HALLÉ ST PETER’S

Hallé St Peter’s is a restored, de-consecrated church in the Ancoats area of Manchester. The building, with its three-storey extension, The Oglesby Centre, provides a home for the Hallé’s rehearsals and recordings, its choirs and Youth Orchestra. It also provides a centre for Hallé Connect – all of our activity away from the concert platform, including community outreach.

Hallé Kitchen, the café restaurant and bar in The Oglesby Centre is normally open to the general public seven days a week.

Hallé St Peter’s is a fully licensed, multi room venue and provides a perfect setting for intimate performances, company meetings and special family gatherings. If you wish to hold an event at Hallé St Peter’s please contact the weddings, conferences and events team on 0161 806 0260 or hallestpeters@halle.co.uk

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MAKING MUSIC IN MANCHESTER AND BEYOND SINCE 1858

Charles Hallé was a visionary. In 1858 he created an orchestra that Manchester immediately took to its heart, making world-class music accessible to everyone. In the 21st century our aim is to continue what our founder started and build on his legacy.

Through the support of individuals, companies and trusts we are able to achieve the following:

- 250,000 concert-goers each year
- 40,000 young people engaged in our pioneering education programme
- 10,000 school children in attendance at our annual ‘Hallé for Youth’ concerts
- 21,000 participants in the ‘Come and Play with the Hallé’ project
- 1,500 young people taking part in our flagship ‘Adopt-a-Player’ and ‘Meet-a-Musician’ schemes
- 250 young musicians receiving weekly, top class music tuition through our youth ensembles
- 160 years of making music in Manchester
- 65+ annual education projects
- 4 associated choirs and youth orchestras
- 1 world-class orchestra

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The Hallé Concerts Society is a Registered Charity No. 223882
Hallé Connect brings together all of our activity away from the formal concert platform.

The Hallé’s education programme directly reaches over 65,000 people each year, of which 40,000 are children and young people, working across the whole community from schools to universities, care homes to prisons, bringing music in its broadest terms to those who may not attend the concert hall. Hallé musicians work in various settings across Greater Manchester and beyond, releasing creativity and raising aspirations through very accessible and practical projects.

The Hallé’s family of choirs welcomes over 600 people aged 8 upwards to sing with inspirational choral leaders. Our youth choirs are open to all by audition, and free to join. Our adult choirs range from the world-renowned Hallé Choir (auditioned symphony chorus) to a range of workplace choirs and the friendly welcome of the Choral Academy and Ancoats Community Choir.

The Hallé Youth Orchestra is free and open to any talented young instrumentalists aged 13-19 years, by audition.

Find out about Youth Ensemble concerts on page 16.

The Choral Leadership Network choralleadership.net is a Hallé-led partnership with organisations involved in choral singing and training.

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