HALLÉ
WINTER SEASON
2020/21
MUSIC DIRECTOR SIR MARK ELDER CH CBE

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

SIEMENS
Welcome.

Never has a welcome to a new season been so heartfelt! Welcome to the Hallé’s Winter Season, packed with world premieres, Manchester originals, the familiar and the new.

After what seems like an eternity, the Hallé will once again take to the stage of both The Bridgewater Hall and Hallé St Peter’s. Each of our concerts will be shown online and will include interviews with conductors, artists, members of the orchestra and others, offering some fascinating insights, as well as magnificent music. There will even be a free digital programme.

I will conduct five of the nine concerts, and we will open our season as we should, with a fanfare. Created specially for us by Huw Watkins, it will herald Wagner’s glorious Suite from Die Meistersinger and Brahms’s First Symphony. Our second concert features one of this country’s finest baritones, Roderick Williams, who will sing Butterworth’s Six Songs from A Shropshire Lad in his own orchestration. Also on the programme is Richard Strauss’s Metamorphosen – a great work that we haven’t performed for 12 years.

We begin 2021 by welcoming back to our stage Jonathon Heyward, alongside one of the world’s foremost saxophonists, Jess Gillam and the Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage. Later highlights include piano prodigy, Isata Kanneh-Mason and Sibelius’s magnificent Third Symphony. The Hallé’s newly-appointed Artist in Residence, Henning Kraggerud, will both direct and perform a programme of the repertoire’s most beautiful string music, including the UK premiere of his own arrangement of Grieg’s delightful Third Violin Sonata. The 2020 winner of the Siemens-Hallé International Conductors Competition, Delyana Lazarova, our new Assistant Conductor, will lead a programme including Copland’s Appalachian Spring and Shostakovich’s First Symphony.

Stephen Bell will celebrate classical music on the silver screen, with a concert of Movie Classics that includes – amongst many others – Elgar’s Nimrod, the Intermezzo from Cavalleria rusticana, Verdi’s The Force of Destiny Overture and Offenbach’s raucous Can-Can.

Stravinsky’s The Soldier’s Tale is a remarkable work that I have wanted to programme for years. It will be ‘read, played and danced’ as the composer instructed, and tells the story of a soldier who sells his fiddle to the Devil for undreamed of wealth!

Finally we will glimpse Debussy’s evergreen Faun and enjoy Boris Giltburg performing Rachmaninov’s Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini. And we end as we began, with a Huw Watkins world premiere, his Second Symphony. After the instantaneous success of his First Symphony, we couldn’t wait to commission him to write another one. It promises to be every bit the critical and audience success of his First.

I said in the introduction to our original season that ‘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 give us hope.’ Now we have the chance to let you hear our music again and help bring light into the darkness once more.

Sir Mark Elder
A warm welcome back to our loyal audience, and to music-making by the Hallé with Sir Mark at the helm, in this first concert of the orchestra’s Winter Season. And to launch it, a celebratory Fanfare for the Hallé specially composed for the occasion by Huw Watkins. Continuing the optimistic mood, Wagner’s Suite from his comic opera Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg rings out with a blaze of sonorous sound. Brahms’s First Symphony only emerged after 20 years of struggle as he wrestled with composing a symphony worthy of Beethoven – ‘that giant whose steps I always hear behind me.’ By the symphony’s conclusion, Brahms proved himself a true successor, nowhere more so than in the finale with its radiant horn tune (transcribed from Swiss alpine horns) and main theme, daringly referencing the Master’s ‘Ode to Joy’ from the Ninth Symphony. Appropriately for a season of firsts, this will be the first time that Sir Mark has conducted this Brahms symphony with the Hallé.
EPISODE 2
FROM THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER
RODERICK WILLIAMS SINGS BUTTERWORTH
BROADCAST FROM HALLÉ ST PETER’S, MANCHESTER

BRITTEN Russian Funeral 6
ARVO PÄRT Cantus in memory of Benjamin Britten 6
BUTTERWORTH Six Songs from A Shropshire Lad

ORCH. RODERICK WILLIAMS WORLD PREMIERE 16
R. STRAUSS Metamorphosen 26

Sir Mark Elder conductor • Roderick Williams baritone

In works reflecting the poignancy and fragility of human life, this concert begins with Britten’s Russian Funeral for brass and percussion, followed by Arvo Part’s memorial threnody to Britten himself – an elegiac masterwork of disarming simplicity. Roderick Williams (named ‘our greatest baritone’ by The Daily Telegraph) sings Butterworth’s Six Songs from A Shropshire Lad, in the world premiere of his new orchestration of these bitter-sweet settings which searingly penetrate to the heart of Housman’s poems. Richard Strauss’s Metamorphosen for 23 solo strings is a huge favourite of Sir Mark’s, who wanted to perform it again with a new generation of Hallé strings. He feels it is ‘one of Strauss’s most deeply felt works’, the composer’s reflection on the destruction of Germany, its people and culture following the tyranny of Nazism.

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FROM THURSDAY 14 JANUARY

THE EVENT HORIZON

BROADCAST FROM HALLÉ ST PETER’S, MANCHESTER

SIMON ARMITAGE the event horizon 2'
COPLAND Quiet City 9'
HANNAH KENDALL Where is the chariot of fire? WORLD PREMIERE 8'
GLAZUNOV Concerto for Alto Saxophone 13'
RAVEL Mother Goose Suite 16'

Jonathon Heyward CONDUCTOR
Simon Armitage POET LAUREATE • Jess Gillam SAXOPHONE

Former Hallé Assistant Conductor Jonathon Heyward returns to recall a memorable occasion – the 2019 opening of the Oglesby Centre at Hallé St Peters – beginning, as then, with the Poet Laureate Simon Armitage reading ‘the event horizon’, his poem set in steel at the entrance to the auditorium. Thereafter, orchestral colours are to the fore: Copland’s haunting portrait of urban solitude, Quiet City, features the Hallé’s own Thomas Davey and Gareth Small, playing the cor anglais and trumpet solos. Following the world premiere of Hannah Kendall’s new work, based on Lemn Sissay’s ‘Godsell’, virtuoso saxophonist Jess Gillam, whose infectious playing thrilled all at her Hallé debut last season, performs Glazunov’s late-Romantic Saxophone Concerto. Ravel’s masterly fairy-tale suite, Mother Goose, including evocations of Tom Thumb and Sleeping Beauty, ends the evening in the most magical of enchanted gardens.

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Putting the spotlight on the Hallé’s winds and horns, Richard Strauss’s Serenade, written when he was just 17, announced a composer with a precocious command of instrumental writing. A keenly-awaited Hallé debut follows: Isata Kanneh-Mason is the eldest of the outstanding seven young musicians of Britain’s most remarkable musical family. She’s been described by BBC Music Magazine as ‘a pianist who makes lines sing beautifully and virtuosic passages dance’, as doubtless will be heard in Beethoven’s Third Piano Concerto.

Sibelius is a composer embedded in the DNA of the Hallé, its players, conductors and audience, in a tradition that stretches back to Richter, continuing through Harty and Barbirolli to Sir Mark today. Sibelius’s Third Symphony banishes all late-Romantic echoes of his first two symphonies creating a beautifully proportioned, concise and classically poised work.
EPISODE 5

FROM THURSDAY 11 FEBRUARY

HENNING KRAFFERUD: ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

BROADCAST FROM HALLÉ ST PETER’S, MANCHESTER

BULL La Mélancholie ARR. HENNING KRAFFERUD
GRIEG Violin Sonata No.3 ARR. HENNING KRAFFERUD AND BERNT SIMEN LUND UK PREMIERE
BULL/SVENDSEN The Herd-girls’ Sunday
HALVORSEN Maiden’s Song
HENNING KRAFFERUD Equinox: Postludes
BRAHMS String Sextet No.1, Andante, ma moderato

Henning Kraggerud ARTIST IN RESIDENCE VIOLIN/DIRECTOR

Hallé Artist in Residence Henning Kraggerud curates a beguiling programme of works mainly by Norwegian compatriots, including his adaptation of Grieg’s Third Violin Sonata to a concerto with small orchestra which receives its UK premiere. Described as an ‘artist of versatility and passion’, Henning is also a composer, as heard in movements from his Equinox: four violin concertos, in 24 keys, evoking 24 hours in 24 time zones, which was composed as a musical counterpoint to a story by the celebrated Norwegian author, Jostein Gaarder. The resulting kaleidoscopic tour of the globe was described by BBC Music Magazine as ‘entering a magical world’.

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FROM THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY

SHOSTAKOVICH’S DAZZLING FIRST

BROADCAST FROM THE BRIDGEWATER HALL, MANCHESTER

BACEWICZ Overture 6'
COPLAND Appalachian Spring: Suite 23'
SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony No.1 28'

Delyana Lazarova conductor

Awarded First Prize in the 2020 Siemens-Hallé International Conductors Competition, Bulgarian-born Delyana Lazarova is an exceptional young talent and the Hallé’s new Assistant Conductor. She is a passionate enthusiast of the music of Grazyna Bacewicz, the first Polish female composer to achieve an international reputation. Her Overture, composed in a time of fear during Second World War, blazes with defiance and courage, and secretly incorporated the morse code’s V for ‘victory’ rhythm. In his greatest ballet score, Appalachian Spring, Copland totally absorbed the spirit of American hymnody, as exemplified by the Shaker hymn, ‘Simple Gifts’. Shostakovich’s First Symphony was given its UK premiere by the Hallé under Sir Hamilton Harty in 1932. The work dazzles with compositional brilliance, whether displaying sardonic humour, plunging emotional depths or indulging in a sheer sense of fun.

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FROM THURSDAY 11 MARCH

MOVIE CLASSICS

BROADCAST FROM THE BRIDG Water HALL, MANCHESTER

VERDI Overture: The Force of Destiny • Jean de Florette/Manon des Sources

DVORÁK Rusalka: Song to the Moon • Driving Miss Daisy/Departure

TCHAIKOVSKY Sleeping Beauty: Waltz • A.I/Sleeping Beauty

HANDEL Arrival of the Queen of Sheba • Four Weddings and a Funeral

PONCHIELLI Dance of the Hours • Fantasia

MOZART Clarinet Concerto: slow movement • Out of Africa

J. STRAUSS On the Beautiful Blue Danube • 2001: A Space Odyssey

PUCCINI O mio babbino caro • Captain Corelli’s Mandolin

ELGAR Enigma Variations: Nimrod • Dunkirk

VERDI La traviata: Sempre libera • The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert/ Pretty Woman

OFFENBACH Overture: Orpheus in the Underworld • Peter’s Friends/ Moulin Rouge

Stephen Bell CONDUCTOR • Petroc Trelawny PRESENTER

Sergio Castelló-López CLARINET • Nardus Williams SOPRANO

From pirouetting hippos and the high-kicking chorus line of can-can dancers to the sweeping plains of Africa and the devastation on the beaches of Dunkirk … the music of Ponchielli, Offenbach, Mozart and Elgar accompany these memorable cinematic moments. The full forces of the Hallé reveal these, and many more, sensational soundtracks in this concert. BBC presenter Petroc Trelawny, who makes a welcome return to the Hallé, joins conductor Stephen Bell and two superb soloists in Movie Classics.
FROM THURSDAY 18 MARCH

STRAVINSKY’S
THE SOLDIER’S TALE

BROADCAST FROM HALLÉ ST PETER’S, MANCHESTER

STRAVINSKY The Soldier’s Tale

Sir Mark Elder conductor • Annabel Arden director

A highlight of the season, Sir Mark conducts a staged performance of Stravinsky’s 1918 masterpiece which is directed by Olivier Award winner, Annabel Arden, celebrated internationally for her insightful operatic productions. With the backdrop of Hallé St Peter’s, *The Soldier’s Tale* will be performed as it was conceived to ‘be read, played, and danced’ by three actors, a dancer and seven instrumentalists. Stravinsky here broke new ground establishing music-theatre as a genre. The small group of performers was necessitated by the 1918 Spanish flu and ultimately the work was prevented from touring by the pandemic. Its vivid music, rhythmic and lyrical by turns, incorporates jazz and popular dances, like tango and ragtime. The story explores the archetypal Faustian myth: a soldier, on his way home from the battlefields, is persuaded to sell his precious violin to an old man in exchange for a book in which he’ll find the secret of making untold wealth. Little does the soldier know that the buyer is the Devil and that he has sold his soul …
FROM THURSDAY 25 MARCH
TRAIL-BLAZING HALLÉ
BROADCAST FROM THE BRIDG Water HALL, MANCHESTER

DEBUSSY Prélude à l’apres-midi d’un faune
RACHMANINOV Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini
HUW WATKINS Symphony No.2 WORLD PREMIERE

Sir Mark Elder CONDUCTOR • Boris Giltburg PIANO

After Debussy’s languid, sensuous evocation of a Faun’s dreams and desires, the Hallé’s trail-blazing advocacy of new music is reflected in the concert’s other works. In 1935, the Hallé, with Rachmaninov himself as soloist, gave the UK premiere of his Paganini Rhapsody, renowned for the lush romanticism of its 18th variation. Now, it’s the turn of Boris Giltburg, described by the Gramophone as ‘a truly remarkable Rachmaninov interpreter’, to offer his insight into this evergreen masterpiece, on his third visit to the Hallé. After the first performance of Huw Watkins’s Symphony in 2017, its immediacy made such a strong impression on Sir Mark and Hallé musicians and audiences alike, that a recording followed as well as a further commission. In the wake of such enthusiasm Watkins has composed his Second Symphony, which receives its world premiere performance here.

EPISODE 9
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HOW TO WATCH OUR CONCERTS

All nine concerts in the season will be streamed on Vimeo, the world’s leading professional video platform, at thehalle.vhx.tv

How to book
Visit www.halle.co.uk/winter-season-2020 for details of the whole season, including subscription and individual ticket prices.

If you would like to book a subscription of nine concerts, click on ‘Buy a subscription for all 9 concerts’. The entire season costs £96 (including fees*) and is best value for money.

You can also book individual concerts for £14 (including fees*).

Discounted tickets are available for individual concerts to those on Government benefits, those in full-time education and to NHS workers at £5 (including fees*).

Every concert comes with a free digital programme, which will be available closer to each concert’s broadcast date.

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Given these difficult times, it may be necessary to cancel or alter programmes depending on changes to artist availability or government regulations. The health and safety of everyone who works for the Hallé is paramount. In the event of concerts being cancelled, you will be refunded automatically.

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The sound and vision quality of modern laptops and PCs is excellent, and you should be able to enjoy all of these concerts on your favourite device.

* Please note, Vimeo lists prices without tax until checkout.
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Arts Council England, the Greater Manchester Authorities and the City of Manchester have all been steadfast in their support and have our sincerest thanks.

The Hallé is deeply grateful to our partners in The Bridgewater Hall, without whose collaboration these streamed concerts would not be possible.

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