

ANNIVERSARIES AT THE PROMS

- The bicentenary of the birth of Hector Berlioz (1803–69)
The Trojans, Benvenuto Cellini
- The 50th anniversary of the death of Sergey Prokofiev (1891–1953)
War and Peace, Ivan the Terrible
- The 80th birthday year of György Ligeti (b. 1923)
Violin Concerto, Lux aeterna

The international bicentenary celebrations of the music of **Hector Berlioz** reaches an unmissable climax at the BBC Proms this year with a complete performance of *The Trojans* (Proms 47 & 48, Monday 25 August). No conductor is more closely associated with the music of Berlioz than Sir Colin Davis, who leads the London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in the composer's huge operatic masterpiece. An all-star cast of singers includes renowned heroic tenor Ben Heppner as Aeneas, with Michelle DeYoung as Dido and Petra Lang as Cassandra. This will be a great opportunity to hear Davis, who has led the Berlioz revival of recent decades, bring his unique authority to a work with which he is closely associated – his pioneering complete staging of *The Trojans* at Covent Garden and subsequent recording in the late 1960s are landmarks in the history of opera performance.

Other full-scale vocal works by Berlioz include Sir John Eliot Gardiner conducting the Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique and Monteverdi Choir in a period-instrument performance of *The Childhood of Christ* (Prom 14, Monday 28 July) and Sir Roger Norrington and the Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra (SWR) in a rare performance of *Benvenuto Cellini*. Berlioz's early opera on the life and loves of the Renaissance artist has Bruce Ford, Laura Claycomb, Monica Groop and Christopher Maltman leading a fine cast of singers (Prom 39, Sunday 17 August).

Music on an epic scale is also central to the output of **Sergey Prokofiev**. In the 50th anniversary year of his death, English National Opera's critically acclaimed 2001 production of *War and Peace* comes to the Proms. Music director Paul Daniel along with singers Simon Keenlyside, Catrin Wyn-Davies, Catherine Wyn-Rogers and Willard W. White lead this semi-staged performance which reunites many of the original cast (Prom 63, Saturday 6 September). Through Prokofiev's scores for Eisenstein's films *Ivan the Terrible* (Prom 1, Friday 18 July) and *Alexander Nevsky* (Prom 31, Monday 11 August) audiences can experience more of the composer's thrilling writing for large forces.

The Proms also celebrates the 80th birthday of Hungarian composer **György Ligeti**, whose highly original music continues to be fresh and inspiring. A survivor of two of the last century's great disasters – fascism and the fiercely corrupted forms of socialism which followed it – much of his music is intensely emotional, but it is also serenely cryptic and extremely well-crafted. Highlights of this season's retrospective include his 1993 *Violin Concerto* performed by Tasmin Little with the Berliner Philharmoniker conducted by Sir Simon Rattle (Prom 55, Sunday 31 August). Also there is a Late Night Prom performance of arguably Ligeti's best known work, *Lux aeterna*, familiar to film audiences through its use in Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey* (Prom 36, Thursday 14 August).

Other anniversaries celebrated at the Proms include Corelli's 350th for which a huge baroque orchestra has been specially assembled. The centenary anniversaries of Lennox Berkeley and Hugo Wolf are also marked.

HECTOR BERLIOZ (1803–69)

Berlioz at the Proms

Prom 2, Saturday 19 July, 7.00pm

The Nation's Favourite Prom

The Damnation of Faust – Hungarian March

BBC Concert Orchestra, Barry Wordsworth conductor

Prom 12, Saturday 26 July, 7.30pm

Les nuits d'été

Alice Coote mezzo-soprano, Hallé Orchestra, Mark Elder conductor

Prom 14, Monday 28 July, 7.30pm

The Childhood of Christ

Bernarda Fink Mary, James Gilchrist Narrator, Gilles Cachemaille Joseph, Jeremy White Herod/Father of the Family, Monteverdi Choir, Choir of Clare College, Cambridge, Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique, Sir John Eliot Gardiner conductor

Prom 29, Saturday 9 August, 7.00pm

Harold in Italy

Lawrence Power viola, National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, Yan Pascal Tortelier conductor

Prom 39, Sunday 17 August, 7.00pm

Benvenuto Cellini

Bruce Ford Benvenuto Cellini, Laura Claycomb Teresa, Monica Groop Ascanio, Christopher Maltman Fieramosca, Franz Hawlata Giacomo Balducci, Ralf Lukas Pope Clement VII, Johannes Chum Francesco, Reinhard Mayr Bernardino, Choir of MDR Leipzig, Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra (SWR), Sir Roger Norrington conductor

Prom 42, Wednesday 20 August, 7.30pm

La mort de Cléopâtre

Olga Borodina mezzo-soprano, Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, Valery Gergiev conductor

Prom 43, Thursday 21 August, 7.30pm

Symphonie fantastique

Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, Valery Gergiev conductor

Prom 47, Monday 25 August, 3.00pm

The Trojans – Part 1 'The Capture of Troy'

Petra Lang Cassandra, Ben Heppner Aeneas, Tigran Martirosian Panthus, Clive Bayley Priam, Pamela Helen Stephen Ascanius, Jonathan Lemalu Ghost of Hector, Anna Burford Hecuba, Mark Stone A Greek Captain, Leigh Melrose A Trojan Soldier, Bülent Bezdüz Helenus, London Symphony Chorus, London Symphony Orchestra, Sir Colin Davis conductor

Prom 48, Monday 25 August, 7.00pm

The Trojans – Part 2 'The Trojans at Carthage'

Michelle DeYoung Dido, Ben Heppner Aeneas, Sara Mingardo Anna, Robert Lloyd Narbal, Kenneth Tarver Iopas, Toby Spence Hylas, Tigran Martirosian Panthus, Pamela Helen Stephen Ascanius, Darren Jeffery Trojan Sentry 1, Roderick Earle Trojan Sentry 2, Petra Lang Ghost of Cassandra, Jonathan Lemalu Ghost of Hector, Clive Bayley Ghost of Priam, Leigh Melrose Mercury, London Symphony Chorus, London Symphony Orchestra, Sir Colin Davis conductor

Prom 73, Saturday 13 September, 7.45pm

Overture 'Roman Carnival'

BBC Symphony Orchestra, Leonard Slatkin conductor

PCM 8, Monday 8 September, 1.00pm, Victoria and Albert Museum

La mort d'Orphée – Monologue and Larghetto

The Damnation of Faust excerpts

Romeo and Juliet – excerpts

Françoise Masset soprano, Ensemble Carapé Diem

SERGEY PROKOFIEV (1891–1953)

Prokofiev at the Proms

Prom 1, Friday 18 July, 7.30pm

Ivan the Terrible – oratorio (arr. Stassevich)

Irina Tchistyakova mezzo-soprano, James Rutherford baritone, BBC Symphony Chorus, BBC National Chorus of Wales, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Leonard Slatkin conductor

Prom 2, Saturday 19 July, 7.00pm

The Nation's Favourite Prom

Peter and the Wolf

Sir David Attenborough narrator, BBC Concert Orchestra, Barry Wordsworth conductor

Prom 19, Friday 1 August, 7.30pm

Symphony No. 6 in E flat minor

BBC Philharmonic, Paavo Järvi conductor

Prom 20, Saturday 2 August, 6.30pm

Piano Concerto No. 3 in C major

Nelson Goerner piano, BBC Philharmonic, Vassily Sinaisky conductor

Prom 29, Saturday 9 August, 7.00pm

Symphony No. 5 in B flat major

National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, Yan Pascal Tortelier conductor

Prom 31, Monday 11 August, 7.00pm

Alexander Nevsky – cantata

Ekaterina Gubanova mezzo-soprano, London Philharmonic Choir, Crouch End Festival Chorus, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Daniele Gatti conductor

Prom 34, Wednesday 13 August, 7.30pm

Cello Concerto

Li-Wei cello, Ulster Orchestra, Thierry Fischer conductor

Prom 42, Wednesday 20 August, 7.30pm

Symphonic Song

Scythian Suite

Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, Valery Gergiev conductor

Prom 45, Saturday 23 August, 8.00pm

Romeo and Juliet – excerpts

BBC Symphony Orchestra, Leonard Slatkin conductor

Prom 63, Saturday 6 September, 6.30pm

War and Peace

Cast includes: Simon Keenlyside Andrey, Catrin Wyn-Davies Natasha, John Daszak Pierre, Willard W. White Kutuzov, Peter Sidhom Napoleon, Catherine Wyn-Rogers Akhrosimova, Andrew Shore Denisov, Gwynne Howell Bolkonsky, John Graham-Hall Anatole, Clive Bayley Dolokhov, Chorus and Orchestra of English National Opera, Paul Daniel conductor

Prom 64, Sunday 7 September, 4.30pm

Symphony No. 1 in D major, 'Classical'

Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, Bobby McFerrin conductor

Prom 66, Monday 8 September, 7.00pm

Piano Concerto No. 1 in D flat major

Nikolai Lugansky piano, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Alexander Lazarev conductor

Prom 69, Wednesday 10 September, 7.00pm

The Stone Flower – excerpts

BBC Philharmonic, Gianandrea Noseda conductor

PCM 7, Monday 1 September, 1.00pm, Victoria & Albert Museum

Cello Sonata, Op. 119

Steven Isserlis cello, Kirill Gerstein piano

GYÖRGY LIGETI (born 1923)

Ligeti at the Proms

Prom 18, Thursday 31 July, 7.00pm

Lontano

BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Christian Gansch conductor

Prom 27, Friday 8 August, 7.00pm

San Francisco Polyphony

BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Ilan Volkov conductor

Prom 28, Friday 8 August, 10.00pm

Aventures; Nouvelles aventures

London Sinfonietta, Peter Eötvös conductor

Prom 36, Thursday 14 August, 10.00pm

Lux aeterna

Swedish Radio Choir, Eric Ericson Chamber Choir, Stefan Parkman conductor

Prom 55, Sunday 31 August, 7.30pm

Violin Concerto

Tasmin Little violin, Berliner Philharmoniker, Sir Simon Rattle conductor

PCM 1, Monday 21 July, 1.00pm, Victoria & Albert Museum

Six Bagatelles; Ten Pieces

Galliard Ensemble

PCM 3, Monday 4 August, 1.00pm, Victoria & Albert Museum

Horn Trio

David Pyatt horn, Gordan Nikolitch violin, Leon McCawley piano

OTHER COMPOSER ANNIVERSARIES AT THE PROMS

We also mark the anniversaries of nine other composers who were born or died between 50 and 350 years ago, including the centenaries of the death of Hugo Wolf and the birth of Lennox Berkeley.

Arcangelo Corelli (1653–1713)

Prom 6, Tuesday 22 July, 7.30pm

Concerto grosso in D major, Op. 6 No. 4

Concerto grosso in G minor, Op. 6 No. 8, 'Christmas Concerto'

The English Concert, The Academy of Ancient Music, Musicians from the Royal Academy of Music, Andrew Manze director/violin

Hugo Wolf (1860–1903)

PCM 4, Monday 11 August, 1.00pm, Victoria & Albert Museum

Songs

Alice Coote mezzo-soprano, Julius Drake piano

PCM 6, Monday 25 August, 1.00pm, Victoria & Albert Museum

Italian Serenade

Karol Szymanowski Quartet

Lennox Berkeley (1903–89)

Prom 61, Friday 5 September, 7.00pm

Magnificat, Op. 71

St Paul's Cathedral Choir, Westminster Abbey Choir, Westminster Cathedral Choir, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Richard Hickox conductor

Aram Khachaturian (1903–78)

Prom 2, Saturday 19 July, 7.00pm

The Nation's Favourite Prom

Spartacus – Suite No. 2

BBC Concert Orchestra, Barry Wordsworth conductor

Elliott Carter (born 1908)

Prom 28, Friday 8 August, 10.00pm

Clarinet Concerto

Michael Collins clarinet, London Sinfonietta, Peter Eötvös conductor

Prom 35, Thursday 14 August, 7.00pm

Boston Concerto European premiere

BBC Symphony Orchestra, Oliver Knussen conductor

Thea Musgrave (born 1928)

Prom 51, Wednesday 27 August, 10.00pm

Helios – Concerto for oboe and orchestra

Nicholas Daniel oboe, Britten Sinfonia, Nicholas Cleobury conductor

Krzysztof Penderecki (born 1933)

Prom 32, Monday 11 August, 10.00pm

Sinfonietta for strings

Academy of St Martin in the Fields, Kenneth Sillito director

Arnold Bax (1883–1953)

Prom 17, Wednesday 30 July, 7.30pm

November Woods

BBC Symphony Orchestra, Sir Andrew Davis conductor

Prom 38, Saturday 16 August, 7.00pm

Great British Film Music

Oliver Twist – selections

BBC Concert Orchestra, Rumon Gamba conductor

Robert Saxton (born 1953)

Prom 62, Friday 5 September, 10.00pm

Five Motets BBC commission: world premiere

The Clerks' Group, Edward Wickham director

PCM 7, Monday 1 September, 1.00pm, Victoria & Albert Museum

Sonata for Solo Cello on a Theme of Sir William Walton London premiere

Steven Isserlis cello, Kirill Gerstein piano