

WORLD MUSIC MEETS OPERA – THE LATE NIGHT PROMS

- Running until 2.00am, the Late 'Late Junction' Prom celebrates the diversity of world music and jazz
- Highlights of 12 Late Night Proms include Ligeti at 80, Greek Myths with the Britten Sinfonia, Anne Sofie von Otter singing Bach and Handel, Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* and boundary-pushing violinist Mark O'Connor playing his own new concerto

With their mix of opera, choral and new music, this year's Late Night Proms are typically wide-ranging in repertoire. In the vocal concerts, outstanding mezzo-soprano Anne Sofie von Otter joins Marc Minkowski and Les Musiciens du Louvre – Grenoble in Bach and Handel (Prom 70, Wednesday 10 September) while Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* with leading mezzo-soprano Sarah Connolly receives a Late Night Prom from the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment (Prom 58, Tuesday 2 September). Continuing the Greek Myths theme there is a rare chance to hear Mendelssohn's incidental music to Sophocles' *Antigone* (Prom 8, Wednesday 23 July) in a performance by the City of London Sinfonia conducted by Richard Hickox. Works from the 20th and 21st centuries on Greek myths are played by the Britten Sinfonia who bring us Stravinsky's *Orpheus*, Britten's *Young Apollo* and Thea Musgrave's *Helios*. *Double Mercury*, a world premiere from John Woolrich, completes their programme (Prom 51, Wednesday 27 August). György Ligeti, who is 80 this year, is celebrated in two Late Night concerts which include his haunting choral work *Lux aeterna*, familiar to film-goers through its use in *2001: A Space Odyssey* (Prom 36, Thursday 14 August) and *Aventures and Nouvelles aventures* (Prom 28, Friday 8 August). Late Night Proms also bring one of today's most versatile musicians, Mark O'Connor, famous for his mix of country and classical styles (Prom 32, Monday 11 August) to give the premiere of his *Violin Concerto No. 6, 'Old Brass'*.

The Late 'Late Junction' Prom

Saturday 2 August, 10.00pm–c2.00am

The Late 'Late Junction' Prom recreates live on stage the spirit of adventure that drives BBC Radio 3's landmark week-night series. The big-band ska, reggae and blues sounds of BBC Jazz Award-winners the Jazz Jamaica All Stars will be heard alongside the Balkan brass, wind and vocals of Macedonia's Koçani Orkestar. Extraordinary African guitarist Manecas Costa will also star in this four-hour concert, which showcases some of the very best of today's world music. Ellika and Solo – winners in the 'Boundary Crossing' category of the BBC Radio 3 Awards for World Music 2003 – demonstrate a rare transcontinental empathy, with Swedish-born Ellika's violin, deeply resonant of Nordic folk music, fusing seamlessly with mesmeric Mali-inspired melodies from Solo's kora. From Finland, Kimmo Pohjonen adds the familiar folk sounds of the accordion to electronic and acoustic sounds. And Armenian musician Arto Tunçboyacıyan creates a rare rapport with his audiences using a range of percussion, voice and traditional stringed instruments.