

## NEW MUSIC AT THE PROMS

- Seven BBC commissions and 10 world premieres
- Seventeen UK and London premieres
- Four European premieres
- More than 50 other works new to the Proms

The BBC Proms is more committed than ever to championing new music and this season there are no fewer than 31 premieres by 29 composers. The season includes seven new BBC commissions, and music by 10 composers receiving world premiere performances, 17 works new to London or to the UK and four European premieres. And over 50 other works will be performed at the Proms for the first time, ranging from Mendelssohn motets and Handel's Saul to Prokofiev's Symphonic Song, Ligeti's Violin Concerto and Tippett's King Priam.

### BBC COMMISSIONS AND WORLD PREMIERES

Following **Joe Duddell**'s contribution to the King's Singers' Oriana Collection in last year's Proms, his BBC-commissioned percussion concerto Ruby receives its world premiere (Prom 10, Friday 25 July). The 25-minute concerto was written especially for Duddell's long-time friend and collaborator, the brilliant young percussionist Colin Currie. According to Duddell, the title of the new work refers to a private joke between himself and Currie.

The BBC Symphony Orchestra gives the world premiere of **Joseph Phibbs**'s new work, commissioned by the BBC for the Last Night of the Proms (Prom 73, Saturday 13 September). Winner of the 1996 BBC Young Composers' Forum, Phibbs has previously composed three BBC commissioned works. On being asked to compose a piece for the Last Night of the Proms, Phibbs says that he is delighted and that 'it's a unique chance to communicate to a large and extremely diverse audience within a magnificent setting'.

In partnership with three different performing groups, the BBC has commissioned works by three different composers, all of which receive world premieres in this season's Proms. The Pennsylvania-based Bach Choir of Bethlehem premieres **Libby Larsen**'s cantata I It Am, specially commissioned for the Bach Choir's first visit to the Proms (Prom 16, Tuesday 29 July). I It Am draws its text from the writings of Julian of Norwich and, says Larsen, 'is an exposition of human experience revealed to us through these writings – that within each person light is dark and dark is light'. **John Woolrich** was inspired by Ovid and the story of Mercury, the messenger of the gods, in his 20-minute composition Double Mercury for the Britten Sinfonia (Prom 51, Wednesday 27 August). Woolrich says his latest work is 'about transformation and metamorphosis' and that the title 'refers to the two meanings of "mercury"; Mercury the god who changes from old to young, and the element mercury which is used as an agent in chemical changes'. The Clerks' Group premieres Five Motets, a new work by **Robert Saxton** (Prom 62, Friday 5 September). Setting passages from Genesis in Latin, the outer motets concern journeys made by Abraham and Jacob, while the second and fourth motets set the composer's own commentaries on these journeys. The central motet, taken from the book of Exodus, sets the Israelites' song of deliverance and, says Saxton, is 'a sort of scherzo, a choral dance'.

Commissioned by the BBC specially for the Proms Chamber Music series and BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist mezzo-soprano Alice Coote, *The Voice of Desire* is a new song-cycle by **Judith Weir**. One of Britain's leading composers, Weir's new work sets texts by Bridges, Keats and Hardy, as well as traditional Yoruba poetry (PCM 4, Monday 11 August).

The Academy of St Martin in the Fields premieres Violin Concerto No. 6, 'Old Brass', a new work by star funk-folk fiddler **Mark O'Connor** (Prom 32, Monday 11 August). O'Connor has been increasingly involved in mixing country and classical styles and his music has been described by the New York Times as 'complex, sophisticated early-21st-century classical music, reaching deeply into the refined, then the vernacular, and then knocking them dead with the brown-dirt whine of a Texas fiddle'. The inspiration for his Sixth Violin Concerto was a visit to a South Carolina plantation designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. The composer explains that the title, 'Old Brass', refers to 'a "southern" term relating to a person of both African and Native American heritage'.

## EUROPEAN, UK AND LONDON PREMIERES

A main feature of the 2003 season will be its British and European premieres. A particular highlight is the European premiere of **John Adams**'s Pulitzer Prize-winning *On the Transmigration of Souls*, a work commissioned by the New York Philharmonic to commemorate the first anniversary of September 11 (Prom 13, Sunday 27 July). Also receiving its European premiere is **Chen Yi**'s Percussion Concerto, composed for virtuoso percussionist Evelyn Glennie (Prom 41, Tuesday 19 August). **James MacMillan** conducts the BBC Philharmonic in the European premiere of his BBC/NHK co-commission *Symphony No. 3, 'Silence'* (Prom 9, Thursday 24 July) and the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Oliver Knussen will play **Elliott Carter**'s *Boston Concerto* for the first time in Europe (Prom 35, Thursday 14 August).

**HK Gruber**'s *Dancing in the Dark*, originally composed for the Vienna Philharmonic and Sir Simon Rattle, receives its UK premiere with the composer conducting the BBC Philharmonic (Prom 20, Saturday 2 August). **Judith Weir**'s *The Welcome Arrival of Rain*, an orchestral work inspired by an 18,000-verse Hindi text, the *Bhagavata Purana*, is performed by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra (Prom 26, Thursday 7 August). **Giya Kancheli**'s tribute to Valery Gergiev, *Warzone*, will be performed by the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra and conducted by Gergiev himself (Prom 43, Thursday 21 August).

Among the London premieres are **Oliver Knussen**'s acclaimed new Violin Concerto, which the composer conducts with star violinist Pinchas Zukerman (Prom 35, Thursday 14 August), and **Kalevi Aho**'s *Symphony No. 9*, written for and performed by the extraordinary Swedish trombonist Christian Lindberg (Prom 40, Monday 18 August). As part of the Proms Chamber Music series, **Robert Saxton**'s *Sonata for Solo Cello on a Theme of Sir William Walton* will be performed in London for the first time by cellist Steven Isserlis (PCM 7, Monday 1 September).

## BBC COMMISSIONS - WORLD PREMIERES, unless otherwise stated

Prom 9, Thursday 24 July, 7.30pm

**James MacMillan** (b. 1959) Symphony No. 3, 'Silence'

BBC/NHK co-commission: European premiere

BBC Philharmonic, James MacMillan conductor

Prom 10, Friday 25 July, 7.30pm

**Joe Duddell** (b. 1972) Ruby

Colin Currie percussion, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Marin Alsop conductor

Prom 16 Tuesday 29 July, 10.00pm

**Libby Larsen** (b. 1950) I It Am

BBC/Bach Choir co-commission

The Bach Choir of Bethlehem, The Bach Festival Orchestra, Greg Funfgeld conductor

Prom 51, Wednesday 27 August, 10.00pm

**John Woolrich** (b. 1954) Double Mercury

BBC/Britten Sinfonia co-commission

Britten Sinfonia, Nicholas Cleobury conductor

Prom 62, Friday 5 September, 10.00pm

**Robert Saxton** (b. 1953) Five Motets

The Clerks' Group, Edward Wickham director

Prom 73, Saturday 13 September, 7.45pm

**Joseph Phibbs** (b. 1974) new work

BBC Symphony Orchestra, Leonard Slatkin conductor

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

**Judith Weir** (b. 1954) The Voice of Desire

Alice Coote mezzo-soprano, Julius Drake piano

## OTHER WORLD PREMIERES

Prom 5, Monday 21 July, 10.00pm

**Philip Cashian** (b. 1963) Tableaux

Northern Sinfonia, Thomas Zehetmair director

Prom 32, Monday 11 August, 10.00pm

**Mark O'Connor** (b. 1962) Violin Concerto No. 6, 'Old Brass'

Mark O'Connor violin, Academy of St Martin in the Fields, Kenneth Sillito director

Prom 34, Wednesday 13 August, 7.30pm

**Kevin Volans** (b. 1949) Strip-Weave

world premiere of revised version

Ulster Orchestra, Thierry Fischer conductor

Prom 67, Monday 8 September, 10.00pm

**James Wood** (b. 1953) Tongues of Fire

New London Chamber Choir Amadinda Percussion Ensemble James Wood conductor

## UK, LONDON AND EUROPEAN PREMIERES

Prom 12, Saturday 26 July, 7.30pm

**Colin Matthews** (b. 1946) *Vivo*

London premiere

Hallé Orchestra, Mark Elder conductor

Prom 13, Sunday 27 July, 7.30pm

**John Adams** (b. 1947) *On the Transmigration of Souls*

European premiere

Southend Girls' Choir, Southend Boys' Choir, BBC Symphony Chorus,

BBC Symphony Orchestra, John Adams conductor

Prom 19, Friday 1 August, 7.30pm

**Erkki-Sven Tüür** (b. 1959) *Violin Concerto*

London premiere

Isabelle van Keulen violin, BBC Philharmonic, Paavo Järvi conductor

Prom 20, Saturday 2 August, 6.30pm

**HK Gruber** (b. 1943) *Dancing in the Dark*

UK premiere

BBC Philharmonic, HK Gruber conductor

Prom 25, Wednesday 6 August, 7.30pm

**Sally Beamish** (b. 1956) *Trumpet Concerto*

London premiere

Håkan Hardenberger trumpet, National Youth Orchestra of Scotland, Martyn Brabbins conductor

Prom 26, Thursday 7 August, 7.30pm

**Judith Weir** (b. 1954) *The Welcome Arrival of Rain*

UK premiere

BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Ilan Volkov conductor

Prom 28, Friday 8 August, 10.00pm

**Peter Eötvös** (b. 1944) *Snatches of a Conversation*

UK premiere

Marco Blaauw trumpet, Omar Ebrahim baritone/speaker, London Sinfonietta, Peter Eötvös conductor

Prom 35, Thursday 14 August, 7.00pm

**Frédéric Chopin** (1810–49), arr. **Igor Stravinsky** (1882–1971)

*Nocturne in A flat major, Op. 32 No. 2*

UK premiere

**Oliver Knussen** (b. 1952) *Violin Concerto\**

London premiere

**Elliott Carter** (b. 1908) *Boston Concerto*

European premiere

Pinchas Zukerman violin\*, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Oliver Knussen conductor

Prom 40, Monday 18 August, 7.30pm

**Kalevi Aho** (b. 1949) Symphony No. 9\*

London premiere

**Jean Sibelius** (1865–1957) The Oceanides (Yale version)

UK premiere

Christian Lindberg trombone\*, Lahti Symphony Orchestra, Osmo Vänskä conductor

Prom 41, Tuesday 19 August, 7.30pm

**Chen Yi** (b. 1953) Percussion Concerto

European premiere

Evelyn Glennie percussion, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Leonard Slatkin conductor

Prom 43, Thursday 21 August, 7.30pm

**Giya Kancheli** (b. 1935) Warzone

UK premiere

Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, Valery Gergiev conductor

Prom 56, Monday 1 September, 7.30pm

**Heiner Goebbels** (b. 1952) Aus einem Tagebuch

UK premiere

Berliner Philharmoniker, Sir Simon Rattle conductor

Prom 57, Tuesday 2 September, 7.00pm

**Matthias Pintscher** (b. 1971) 'en sourdine', for violin and orchestra

UK premiere

Frank Peter Zimmermann violin, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Jukka-Pekka Saraste conductor

Prom 59, Wednesday 3 September, 7.30pm

**Esa-Pekka Salonen** (b. 1958) Insomnia

UK premiere

NDR Symphony Orchestra, Hamburg, Christoph Eschenbach conductor

Prom 67, Monday 8 September, 10.00pm

**Iannis Xenakis** (1922–2001) Idmen A & B

UK premiere

New London Chamber Choir, Amadinda Percussion Ensemble, James Wood conductor

Prom 72, Friday 12 September, 7.30pm

**Sir Harrison Birtwistle** (b. 1934) The Shadow of Night

UK premiere

Philharmonia Orchestra, Christoph von Dohnányi conductor

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

**Robert Saxton** (b. 1953) Sonata for Solo Cello on a Theme of Sir William Walton

London premiere

Steven Isserlis cello, Kirill Gerstein piano

## NEW TO THE PROMS

- Johann Sebastian Bach (arr. Busoni)** Chaconne (from Partita, BWV 1004) (PCM 2)
- Ludwig van Beethoven** Piano Sonata in D minor, Op. 31 No. 2, 'The Tempest' (PCM 2)  
String Quartet in F minor, Op. 95, 'Serioso' (PCM 6)
- Michael Berkeley** Secret Garden (Prom 60)
- Hector Berlioz** La mort d'Orphée – Monologue and Larghetto (PCM 8)
- Johannes Brahms** Horn Trio (PCM 3)
- Frank Bridge** Oration – Concerto elegiaco for cello and orchestra (Prom 60)
- Benjamin Britten** Young Apollo (Prom 51)
- Antoine Busnoys** Fortuna desperata (Prom 62)
- William Byrd** In nomine II (Prom 62)  
Quomodo cantabimus (PCM 5)
- Elliott Carter** Clarinet Concerto (Prom 28)
- Frédéric Chopin (arr. Stravinsky)** Waltz in E flat major, Op. 18, 'Grande valse brillante' (Prom 35)
- Cecil Coles** Overture 'A Comedy of Errors' (Prom 25)
- Arcangelo Corelli** Concerto grosso in G minor, Op. 6 No. 8, 'Christmas Concerto' (Prom 6)
- John Corigliano** Fantasia on an Ostinato (PCM 2)
- Franco Donatoni** Prom (Prom 65)
- Ferenc Farkas** Old Hungarian Dances of the 17th Century (PCM 1)
- Detlev Glanert** Secret Room (Prom 28)
- Teodor Grigoriu** Valurile Dunării – 'Muzica' (Prom 73)
- George Frideric Handel** Ariodante – 'Scherza infida'; 'Dopo notte' (Prom 70)  
Saul (Prom 46)
- Heinrich Isaac** Angeli archangeli (Prom 62)
- Josquin des Prez** Missa Fortuna desperata (Prom 62)
- Aram Khachaturian** Spartacus – Suite No. 2 (Prom 2)
- Orlande de Lassus** Timor et tremor (PCM 5)
- Ingvar Lidholm** ... a riveder le stelle (Prom 36)
- György Ligeti** Horn Trio (PCM 3)  
Lux aeterna (Prom 36)  
Ten Pieces (PCM 1)  
Violin Concerto (Prom 55)
- Witold Lutoslawski** String Quartet (PCM 6)
- Felix Mendelssohn** Antigone – incidental music to the tragedy of Sophocles (Prom 8)  
Motet 'Herr, nun lasset du deinem Diener in Frieden fahren' (Prom 16)  
Motet 'Jauchzet dem Herrn alle Welt' (Prom 16)  
Psalm 43 'Richte mich, Gott' (Prom 16)  
Zum Abendsegen 'Herr, sei gnädig unserm Flehn' (Prom 16)
- Olivier Messiaen** Les offrandes oubliées (Prom 29)
- Filippo di Monte** Missa sine nomine (PCM 5)  
O bone Jesu (PCM 5)
- Thea Musgrave** Helios – Concerto for oboe and orchestra (Prom 51)
- Krzysztof Penderecki** Sinfonietta for strings (Prom 32)
- Francis Poulenc** Cello Sonata (PCM 7)  
La voix humaine (Prom 30)
- Sergey Prokofiev** Cello Sonata, Op. 119 (PCM 7)  
Ivan the Terrible – oratorio (arr. Stassevich) (Prom 1)

Symphonic Song (Prom 42)

War and Peace (Prom 63)

**William Schuman** A Song of Orpheus (Prom 7)

**Richard Strauss** An den Baum Daphne (Prom 24)

Die Liebe der Danae – Symphonic Fragment (Prom 24)

**Michael Tippett** King Priam (Prom 3)

**Mark-Anthony Turnage** Momentum (Prom 17)

**Christopher Tye** Three 'In nomine' settings (Prom 62)

**Sándor Veress** Passacaglia concertante for oboe and orchestra (Prom 5)

**Antonio Vivaldi** Concerto in G minor for two cellos, RV 531 (arr. McFerrin) (Prom 64)

**Iannis Xenakis** Nuits (Prom 67)