



BBC Proms 2004

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Great traditions, great innovations at the 110th season of BBC Proms Friday 16 July – Saturday 11 September 2004

The 2004 BBC Proms season features the traditional mixture of great music, great artists and great occasions – including this year the biggest ever celebration of Proms in the Park around the United Kingdom on the Last Night. It also introduces new music, new outreach events, new interactive elements and more Proms on television than ever before, creating a renewed commitment to the audience of the future.



Since the very beginning, the Proms has been about making the greatest music available to all; informing, educating and entertaining the widest possible audience, and championing new music, composers and artists. In 2004 the BBC renews all these great traditions, emphasising the great heritage of the Henry Wood Promenade Concerts in their 110th year, while creating a new model of a music festival for the new media of the 21st century.

More Proms on TV than ever before The BBC Proms concerts are available to more people in more ways than ever before in 2004. BBC Four, which has broadcast the first two weeks of the season since its launch, now adds the final week of concerts; BBC One and BBC Two broadcast 10 concerts between them. Thirty of the 74 main evening Proms are televised on BBC One, Two and Four, and all concerts are broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 and streamed via the BBC Proms website.

Increasing interactivity To ensure that audiences have the richest possible experience, advances in the BBC's interactive and digital services are used to the full. People can access informative notes about the music and musicians, wherever and however they are listening or watching, including for the first time on DAB radio and on BBC Radio 3 via Freeview, as well as online. The BBC Proms website provides unprecedented access to the music and information about all aspects of the Proms. This year there will be a special audience vote online as well as by phone for Overtures to be played in The Nation's Favourite Prom. The BBC Proms also launches a text club to keep audiences up to date with news and concert information during the season.

Music for all Ticket prices remain stable, reasonable and accessible to all. There are no price increases this season. For every Prom 1,600 standing places are available on the day at £4. There are over 150,000 places, including seats, available at £10 or under during the Proms season, a price level made possible by the BBC's continuing promotion of the festival as part of its public service mission.

Introduction

The Proms look East The Proms East/West theme brings charismatic cellist Yo-Yo Ma and his Silk Road Ensemble to the Proms for the first time, as well as new music by Eastern composers Tan Dun, Zhou Long and Bright Sheng. Many of the finest works of Western music by composers such as Britten, Debussy, Mahler, Messiaen and Ravel are also heard.

Bohemian Rhapsodies Anniversaries for Dvořák and Janáček have stimulated an exploration of Czech music which goes beyond those composers to Biber (whose anniversary is also marked), Martinů and other Czech masters. There are great classics: Dvořák's last four symphonies under Bernard Haitink, Mariss Jansons, Sir Charles Mackerras and Vassily Sinaisky; Janáček's *Glagolitic Mass*, and Biber's *Missa bruxellensis*. 'Back to Bohemia' also brings rare gems such as Dvořák's little-known opera *Dimitrij* and music by neglected composers which might not otherwise be heard.

The rebirth of English music 'England at the Crossroads: 1934' celebrates the work of the great patriarchs of English music, Elgar, Delius and Holst who all died in 1934, as well as the births of two great Proms names of today, Sir Harrison Birtwistle and Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, both born that year. Popular classics such as Holst's *The Planets* are heard alongside rarer works such as Elgar's elegiac choral masterpiece *The Music Makers* and Delius's Whitman setting *Sea Drift*. Anthony Payne's acclaimed realisation of Elgar's Third Symphony receives a second Proms hearing while there are premieres of new works by Sir Harrison Birtwistle. A first Proms hearing for Sir Peter Maxwell Davies's 'Antarctic' Symphony and a concert on his actual birthday form part of the celebrations for the new Master of the Queen's Music.

Creating the new The BBC Proms has always championed new music. This season there are major commissions for the BBC orchestras from John Casken, Zhou Long and Joby Talbot, a commission from Sir Harrison Birtwistle (as well as the first hearing here of a new co-commission) and new choral works from Judith Bingham and Mark-Anthony Turnage. The Proms also continues to place music by composers of today at the heart of its season with more than 15 other premieres of works by popular composers of our time as diverse as John Adams and Sir John Tavener. There are pieces by around 30 living composers, and nearly 90 works which have never been heard at the Proms before.

Audiences of the future In its ongoing commitment to provide greater access to the riches of the Proms, there are three projects which aim to help build audiences of the future. *BBC Proms: out & about* events with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and BBC Concert Orchestra take high-quality live orchestral music-making to the Hammersmith Town Hall and the Hackney Empire as an upbeat addition to the 2004 season. Building on the success of the event with John Adams at the Carling Brixton Academy in 2003, the aim is to give children from the local communities the chance to experience the vibrancy of an orchestral concert for the first time. In collaboration with the British Library, another project brings together 120 teenage students from the UK's Turkish, Chinese and Asian communities in a series of creative workshops culminating in an event involving Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble. The BBC Proms/*Guardian* Young Composers Competition, now a well-established strand in the Proms' audience development programme, is expecting more entries than ever from 12- to 18-year-olds around the country. Participants in all three projects are invited to attend Proms concerts at the Royal Albert Hall.

There are also major events aimed at attracting younger audiences to the Proms. The Blue Peter Prom has been such a popular fixture in recent years that the BBC Proms is introducing a repeat performance in 2004. Hosted by Blue Peter presenters Simon Thomas and Liz Barker, this year's event picks up the East/West theme as Japanese drums and a Chinese Lion Dance troupe join the BBC Philharmonic under its Chief Conductor, Gianandrea Noseda. The fifth BBC Children's Prom in the Park, which follows the festivities of the Last Night in Hyde Park on Sunday 12 September, introduces the best-loved music of Disney to the Proms with plenty of on-stage action and footage from the classic films relayed on giant screens around the Park.

The organ is back A £1.7 million refurbishment of the Royal Albert Hall organ, which includes money raised by Proms audiences, puts the country's largest instrument at the heart of the 2004 season. It has not been heard by Prommers since 2001 and brings many of the world's leading organists, including Naji Hakim, Martin Neary, Simon Preston, Thomas Trotter and Dame Gillian Weir to the Proms. Solo organ works feature in the 2004 season, from Bach's famous *Tocatta* on the First Night to Barber's *Tocatta festiva* on the Last, and there are many giants of the choral and orchestral repertoire with prominent parts for organ, including Saint-Saëns's 'Organ' Symphony, Janáček's *Glagolitic Mass* and Britten's *War Requiem*.

Great artists From Sir Simon Rattle and the Berliner Philharmoniker to Wynton Marsalis and his Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, and from William Christie and Les Arts Florissants to Pierre Boulez and Ensemble Intercontemporain, the range of top partnerships is unparalleled. Among the other great conductors and orchestras to look out for are Bernard Haitink

and the Dresden Staatskapelle and Mariss Jansons and the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra. Valery Gergiev gives his first Prom with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, while Jiří Bělohlávek brings his Prague Philharmonia for the first time.

Great violinists include the return of Anne-Sophie Mutter (with the Violin Concerto written for her by her husband, André Previn, who conducts it in his first Prom for 17 years), Joshua Bell, Sarah Chang, Leonidas Kavakos, Gidon Kremer, Andrew Manze, Maxim Vengerov and Pinchas Zukerman. Among the host of leading pianists, Alfred Brendel plays his last Prom as he retires from live broadcast concerts, while hotly-tipped newcomers Simon Trpčeski and Llŷr Williams make their Proms debuts.

Top opera Eight complete operas include: Sir Simon Rattle conducting *Das Rheingold*, on period instruments, in the first instalment of a four-year cycle of Wagner's *Ring* by different performers; Britten's *Curlew River* specially staged for the Proms; and Holst's Eastern-influenced chamber opera *Sāvitri* performed by a glittering trio of English singers.

Festive finale BBC Proms in the Park spreads further on the Last Night than ever before with all the fun of the Last Night of the Proms spilling out of the Royal Albert Hall and into big, outdoor events in Belfast, Glasgow, London and Swansea, with Manchester joining the party for the first time. As in previous years, each city will have its own distinctive concert before joining together with big-screen link-ups for the live relay of the famous finale. The concerts are broadcast live across BBC Radio and Television including Radio 2, Radio Wales, Radio Scotland, Radio Ulster and GMR plus highlights of all five events are shown as part of the live coverage of the Last Night of the Proms on BBC One and BBC Two.

Themes and anniversaries

Proms themes and anniversaries

- **East/West** – features Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble; premieres from Tan Dun, Zhou Long and Bright Sheng; plus Eastern-inspired music by John Adams, Britten, Debussy, Mahler, Messiaen and Ravel

- **Back to Bohemia** – celebrates anniversaries for Dvořák, Janáček and Biber, and brings top Czech musicians to the Proms

- **England at the Crossroads: 1934** – marks 70 years since the deaths of Elgar, Holst and Delius, and 70 years since the births of Sir Harrison Birtwistle and Sir Peter Maxwell Davies

- **Diaghilev** – 75 years after his death the Proms brings together the most famous ballet scores

- **Anniversary tributes** – for Charles Ives, Luigi Dallapiccola, Sir John Tavener, Johann Strauss I, Marc-Antoine Charpentier and Engelbert Humperdinck

East/West

Western traders have been bringing back riches from the East for centuries and music from the great Eastern civilisations and trading routes has been influencing Western music for just as long. The 2004 BBC Proms seeks to bring music from the ancient Silk Road routes performed by inspirational cellist Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble, as well as new works by composers from China. East/West also features music by Western composers inspired by Eastern culture and sources such as the mighty Ottoman Empire, Hindu literature, Chinese exoticism, Balinese and Javanese gamelan, the stories of Ancient Egypt, the Noh

plays of Japan and a variety of Eastern folk traditions.

At the heart of the East/West season is a weekend of activity from Yo-Yo Ma (pictured below) and the Silk Road Ensemble in their first UK visit. The Silk Road Project was set up by Yo-Yo Ma to explore cultural exchanges along the old trade routes between China and the Mediterranean. Yo-Yo Ma himself has learned to play some of the ancestors of the cello – the Persian spike fiddle, the Tuvan horse-head fiddle and the Chinese *erhu* – and the project has brought together musicians from the Silk Road lands and the West who perform new commissions as well as traditional music.



Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble begin with the UK premiere of a work by Bright Sheng (born 1955), a composer who grew up

Themes and anniversaries

in China during the Cultural Revolution, worked for years with a folk music troupe in a remote province near Tibet before getting a place at the Shanghai Conservatory and then moving to New York to study with Leonard Bernstein. Bright Sheng's 26-minute *The Song and Dance of Tears* was inspired by a two-month trip to China four years ago in which the composer set out to collect folk music along the route of the ancient Silk Road. It calls for a quartet of *pipa* (a lute-like instrument first brought into China over 2,000 years ago), *sheng* (an ancient Chinese mouth organ), cello and piano. In the same concert is Messiaen's *Turangalila Symphony*, which is full of a variety of Eastern influences from its Sanskrit title, to naming the percussion section 'gamelang'.

The Silk Road weekend continues with a Sunday Matinee (Prom 40) and a Chamber Music Concert (PCM 5), giving UK audiences their first chance to hear a huge variety of the music at the heart of the Silk Road Project – from Armenian folk songs and Iranian composer Kayhan Kalhor's *Blue as the Turquoise Night of Neyshabur* to Debussy's Cello Sonata, which reflects the theme of cross-cultural exchange. The Ensemble also takes part in the Proms' major education project of the year, Silk Road Tales, a series of workshops at the British Library with around 120 teenagers from Asian and Turkish communities in London, in which children create new work for performance at a concert involving Yo-Yo Ma and the musicians of the Silk Road Ensemble.

As well as the UK premiere of Bright Sheng's *The Song and Dance of Tears*, new works by leading Chinese-American composers Tan Dun and Zhou Long are a key component of the East/West theme. Zhou Long's *The Immortal*, the BBC World Service's first commission for the Proms and the first world premiere of the season, is described by Zhou Long as 'a tribute to the Chinese artists and intellectuals of the 20th century'. Zhou Long (born 1953) is

married to Chen Yi, whose Percussion Concerto was played at last year's Proms; like Bright Sheng and Tan Dun, he grew up during the Cultural Revolution in China but is now a US citizen. The 15-minute orchestral work is premiered by the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Leonard Slatkin (Prom 6).

Tan Dun (born 1957), most famous for his memorable score for the film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, has already made a big impact at the Proms, particularly with his 'Hong Kong' Symphony in 1997. He has much in common with Bright Sheng and Zhou Long besides place and time of birth. Like them, he lived through the Cultural Revolution, was sent to work in the fields, absorbed the rural folk traditions around him (though, uniquely, worked at Peking Opera for a time) and went to study further in the USA, where he has since made his home. The BBC Symphony Orchestra give a concert, conducted by the composer himself, featuring the world premiere of a new version of his Concerto for Water percussion and orchestra (with Evelyn Glennie) and his violin work *Out of Peking Opera*, featuring Taiwanese-American violinist Cho-Liang Lin (Prom 24).

The Proms is not just celebrating music of the East, but music of the West inspired by Eastern themes. Although Western music has been absorbing Eastern influences since Marco Polo travelled to China and the Crusades brought new instruments and ideas to Western music, the Proms starts at the time of Beethoven when the mighty Ottoman Empire was dominant. The instruments of the Janissary Bands of the Turkish Army – cymbals, triangle, Turkish Crescent (Jingling Johnny) and bass drum – were being absorbed into many of Europe's own military bands alongside the more traditional wind and brass – both of which can clearly be heard in the finale of Beethoven's 'Choral' Symphony (Prom 67).

Themes and anniversaries

Other pillars of the Western repertoire inspired by Eastern themes at this year's Proms include Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* (The Song of the Earth), based on sixth-century Chinese poetry (Prom 57), Bartók's ballet suite *The Miraculous Mandarin* (Prom 28), Ravel's two works related to the tale of *Shéhérazade* (Proms 29 and 33), excerpts from Puccini's Japanese opera *Madam Butterfly* (Prom 74) and Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado* (Prom 74), and Debussy's great gamelan-tinged piano work *Estampes* (PCM 4), but it is some of the lesser-known works which promise to be Proms highlights in 2004.

Holst and Britten both wrote operas based on Eastern literature. Britten's *Curlew River*, brought to the Proms in a production specially created for the Royal Albert Hall by Graham Vick with his Birmingham Opera Company, is based on a Japanese Noh play about a madwoman desperately looking for her lost son (Prom 17), while Holst's smaller-scale *Sāvitrī* is based on an episode from the Hindu epic, the *Mahabharata* (Prom 54). Holst was frequently inspired by Hindu literature and even taught himself Sanskrit, and this is reflected in his beautiful settings of *Choral Hymns from the Rig Veda* (Prom 48). Eastern influence on Britten also went much further following a tour of Asia in the mid-1950s. He often used gamelan-like sounds to evoke a sense of other-worldliness and actually quotes and imitates Balinese gamelan music in his exotic 1957 ballet *The Prince of the Pagodas* (Prom 62), and the gamelan-inspired sonorities of Ravel's 'Les vallées des cloches' from *Miroirs* are realised in Percy Grainger's extraordinary arrangements in Prom 48.

Other highlights among the Eastern-influenced music promise to be the UK premiere of John Adams's *The Dharma at Big Sur* which draws on Hindu and Buddhist meditative traditions, and Colin McPhee's Pulitzer prize-winning toccata *Tabuh-tabuhan*, inspired by the music of the

gamelan which he studied closely in Bali during the 1930s, both conducted by John Adams (Prom 49). Debussy's little-known but exotic and sensual ballet *Khamma*, in which an ancient Egyptian dancing-girl sacrifices herself to the sun-god Amon Ra in order to save her city, is another one to listen out for when the BBC Symphony Orchestra gives its first Proms performance under Jukka-Pekka Saraste (Prom 58).

Back to Bohemia



In the year that the Czech Republic joins the European Union, and inspired by major anniversaries for some of the greatest names in Czech music – Antonín Dvořák, Leoš Janáček and Heinrich Biber – the BBC Proms celebrates Czech music in 2004.

Themes and anniversaries

It is a century since the death of Dvořák and 150 years since the birth of Janáček. It is also 300 years since the death of Biber, one of the 17th-century's most celebrated composers and violin virtuosos.

The BBC Proms' Bohemian feast does not end with anniversary composers. It also features music of other Czech masters Martinů, Mysliveček, Novák, Smetana, Vejvanovský and Zelenka, and brings to the UK many of the top Czech performing groups including the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, the Prague Philharmonia under its esteemed founder-conductor Jiří Bělohlávek, the Czech Philharmonic Chorus of Brno and the Slovak Philharmonic Choir, as well as top-flight soloists including Magdalena Kožená (pictured left)

Dvořák has long been the best-known among Czech composers and actually conducted at the Royal Albert Hall (his *Stabat mater* in 1884). The BBC Proms marks the centenary of his death with performances of 20 of his best works, ranging from the famous 'New World' Symphony (Prom 70) and Cello Concerto (Prom 29) to rarities such as the opera *Dimitrij*, which picks up the story of Tsarist Russia where Musorgsky's *Boris Godunov* left off (Prom 3).

The BBC Proms is proud to announce that the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, whose founding concert Dvořák himself conducted in 1896, has chosen to mark the composer's birthday, 8 September, at the BBC Proms. Sir Charles Mackerras conducts an all-Dvořák concert which comprises his Scherzo capriccioso, the Violin Concerto (played by Sarah Chang) and the 'New World' Symphony (Prom 70).

Dvořák's last four symphonies are conducted by an impressive line-up of conductors during the season: Vassily Sinaisky conducts Symphony No. 6 (Prom 25); Bernard Haitink Symphony

No. 7 (Prom 66); Mariss Jansons Symphony No. 8 (Prom 19); and Sir Charles Mackerras Symphony No. 9 (Prom 70).

A particular Dvořák highlight promises to be his rarely performed oratorio *The Spectre's Bride*, originally commissioned for the Birmingham Festival, with star Czech soprano Eva Urbanová and the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus under the baton of internationally acclaimed Czech conductor Jiří Bělohlávek (Prom 32). Other Dvořák highlights include: the Cello Concerto with Truls Mørk (Prom 29); the Mass in D major, originally written for organ and orchestrated for a special London performance, here performed by the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus conducted by Sir Andrew Davis (Prom 13); the Czech Suite performed by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra (Prom 15); and a Proms Chamber concert built around a little-known set of folk-inspired duets performed by BBC New Generation sopranos Sally Matthews and Ailish Tynan, accompanied by Iain Burnside (PCM 3).

Leoš Janáček's anniversary is celebrated at the 2004 Proms with the performance of nine of his most important works. The first tribute in the Royal Albert Hall is the mighty *Glagolitic Mass* with the renowned Czech Philharmonic Chorus from Janáček's adopted hometown of Brno, a starry line-up of soloists and the London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Kurt Masur (Prom 16). The programme also includes a rare chance to hear this fine Czech chorus sing Janáček's *Hukvaldy Songs*, six folk song arrangements for unaccompanied choir.

The BBC Symphony Orchestra performs two of the large-scale orchestral works at the centre of Janáček's output in two further concerts: Sir Andrew Davis conducts the rhapsody for orchestra *Taras Bulba* (Prom 18) and Jiří Bělohlávek conducts the Sinfonietta with its huge brass and percussion sections (Prom 32). Much rarer is *The Eternal Gospel*, a fascinating cantata based on the poet

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Vrchlický's retelling of the words of a medieval prophet, which gets its first outing at the Proms in a concert with soprano Gweneth-Ann Jeffers and tenor John Daszak, the London Philharmonic Choir and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Principal Conductor Ilan Volkov (Prom 36).

Janáček's music starts and finishes the Proms Chamber Music concerts. The first String Quartet, 'The Kreutzer Sonata', launches the lunchtime series at the Victoria & Albert Museum, played by the leading Czech Škampa Quartet, and the exquisite Concertino for piano, two violins, viola, clarinet, horn and bassoon, played by Rolf Hind and the Britten Sinfonia is the final concert. The lunchtime chamber series also includes Llyr Williams, a hotly tipped BBC New Generation Artist, with Janáček's most famous piano work, *In the Mists* (PCM 4).

Three hundred years after his birth, Heinrich Biber's anniversary is marked with performances of some of his most celebrated works including the exotic multichoral *Missa bruxellensis* with soloists including Emma Kirkby, Michael Chance and Michael George joining The Academy of Ancient Music Chorus and Orchestra conducted by Paul Goodwin (Prom 35), and the original and colourful *Battalia* which is performed by one of Europe's leading period-instrument ensembles, the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra conducted by Gottfried von der Goltz (Prom 26).

A highlight of the Biber celebrations is a Proms Chamber Music concert in which Andrew Manze, who has built an impeccable reputation for his performances of Biber's notoriously difficult works for violin, plays three of his *Mystery Sonatas*, also known as the *Rosary Sonatas* (PCM 6). In the first, which tells the story of the Annunciation of the birth of Christ, the sober prelude introduces variations of ever-increasing virtuosity. In the sixth and tenth Sonatas, 'The Agony in the Garden' and

'The Crucifixion', the intensity of the works' sound-worlds is enhanced by retuning the violin's strings.

Other key Czech music is celebrated at the 2004 Proms, including excerpts from Smetana's *Má vlast* (Prom 31) performed by the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain conducted by Sir Roger Norrington, and quirky orchestral works by Zelenka from the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra (Prom 26). The elite Prague Philharmonia conducted by its founder-director Jiří Bělohlávek makes its first UK appearance with a treasure trove of Czech works ranging from the 17th-century and 18th-century composers Pavel Vejvanovský and Josef Mysliveček to the work of Dvořák's pupil Vítězslav Novák, and Martinů's Double Concerto of 1951 alongside Mozart's 'Prague' Symphony (Prom 7). Martinů's work features in two other concerts: his miniature symphony *The Frescoes of Piero della Francesca* is played by the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Sir Andrew Davis (Prom 18) and his *La Revue de cuisine* closes the Proms Chamber Music series at the V&A (PCM 8). A leading contemporary figure in Czech music, Petr Eben, is celebrating his 75th birthday in 2004 and the Proms pays tribute with a performance of an organ work (Prom 48).

England at the Crossroads: 1934

The year 1934 was an extraordinary one for English music. Edward Elgar, Gustav Holst and Frederick Delius, the great patriarchs of the English musical renaissance died, and two of the most important and internationally celebrated composers of today, Sir Harrison Birtwistle and Sir Peter Maxwell Davies were born.

The Proms celebrates these great English composers throughout the season, starting on the First Night with Edward Elgar's heartfelt

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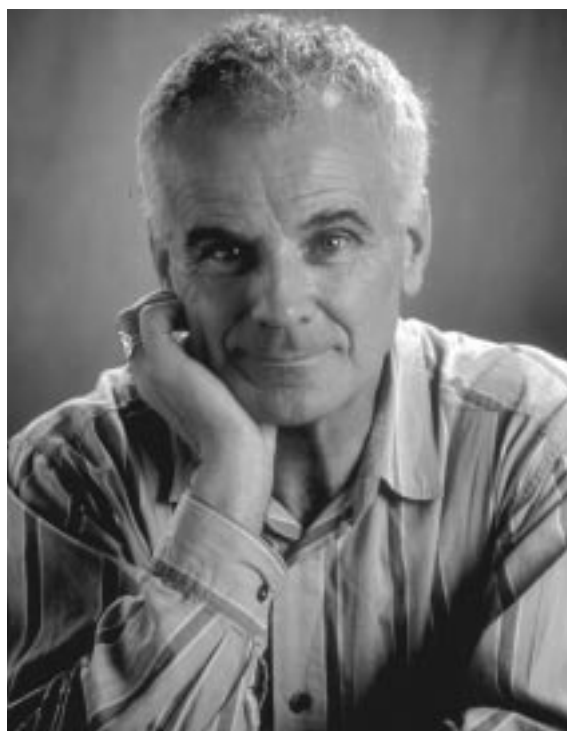
cantata *The Music Makers* with celebrated American mezzo-soprano Lorraine Hunt Lieberson in the solo role. Two of Elgar's most popular works follow a few days later when the BBC National Orchestra of Wales performs his *Cockaigne Overture* and the *Enigma Variations* (Prom 4). Other major Elgar highlights include a performance of the Violin Concerto given by the great virtuoso Pinchas Zukerman (Prom 13) and a revival of Anthony Payne's acclaimed completion of the Third Symphony (Prom 14). Of course, no Proms season would be complete without the Last Night performance of his *Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1* ('Land of Hope and Glory') and 2004 is no exception.

Gustav Holst was only 59 years old when he died in 1934, just a few months after Elgar. *The Planets* is performed on the First Night. It is his most celebrated work and has featured nearly 70 times at the Proms since excerpts were first played in 1921. There are other works by Holst given this season, however, clearly demonstrating that it is time for his 'one-hit wonder' reputation to be dropped. Two key works show Eastern influences: his forward-looking *The Hymn of Jesus* (Prom 4) is becoming recognised as one of the high points of the English choral repertoire, and the highly-original chamber opera *Sāvitrī*, based on Sāvitrī's triumph over death because of her love for her husband and performed by a glittering trio of English singers, Sarah Connolly, John Mark Ainsley, and Christopher Maltman (Prom 54). *Sāvitrī* was a great inspiration to Britten when he began work on his *Curlew River* (Prom 17); and explains why composers of today including Thomas Adès, Sir John Tavener and Sir Harrison Birtwistle have all cited Holst as an important influence on their work.

Frederick Delius's music is regarded as the most quintessentially English of them all and yet he lived in England for just a fraction of his life.

Nevertheless, his exquisite pastoral miniatures have acquired strong associations with the English countryside and many of his works have remained perennial favourites in the repertoire, including his masterpieces *Sea Drift*, based on Walt Whitman's verses of longing and loss, performed by the great American baritone Thomas Hampson (Prom 4), and 'The Walk to the Paradise Garden' from the opera *A Village Romeo and Juliet* (Prom 2).

English music did not die with these three greats in 1934, however. Sir Harrison Birtwistle and Sir Peter Maxwell Davies were born and, though taking quite different directions, have helped to keep English music on the world map well into the 21st century.



Sir Peter Maxwell Davies (pictured above) recently appointed Master of the Queen's Music, celebrates his 70th birthday on 8 September and the Proms pays tribute with a special Late Night Prom given by one of the country's leading contemporary music-theatre ensembles Psappha (Prom 71). It includes his

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extraordinary theatrical parody for narrator and ensemble, *Missa super L'homme armé*, the more recent *Linguae ignis* for cello and ensemble, and *Fantasia and a Ground on Two Pavans, after Purcell*, alongside Stravinsky's miniature *Ragtime* and short theatrical burlesque *Renard*.

Three other Proms feature music by Maxwell Davies. The composer conducts the Proms premiere of his *Antarctic Symphony*, a work he has described as his last symphony and his most recent substantial work (Prom 27); and his first-ever BBC commission from 1962, *First Fantasia on an 'In nomine' of John Taverner*, is heard alongside the 16th-century organ work on which it is based (Prom 14). The Proms also pays tribute to this great English master when his *Ojai Festival Overture*, described by *The Times* as a 'six-minute whistle ... fizzing, bright and cheerful', is performed at the Last Night.

Sir Harrison Birtwistle's first BBC commission came in 1965 and his music has been regularly featured since. The BBC Proms marks his 70th birthday with the world premiere of a BBC commission of three new songs to poems by Alfred Brendel, to add to the one he had already composed, which are performed by William Dazeley in a concert which also features Brendel himself playing Beethoven's 'Emperor' Concerto. Birtwistle celebrations also include the UK premiere of a BBC co-commission, *The Ring Dance of the Nazarene*, written specially with this Prom's soloist, Roderick Williams and the BBC Singers, in mind (Prom 5), and a performance of his highly praised recent work *Theseus Game*, for large ensemble and two conductors, performed by the London Sinfonietta, Martyn Brabbins and Pierre-André Valade, who conducted its world premiere last year (Prom 30).

Other anniversaries

Serge Diaghilev (d 1929) The groundbreaking founder and director of the Ballets Russes from 1909 until his death in 1929, commissioned many of the great ballet scores of the 20th century. To mark the 75th anniversary of his death, the BBC Proms is bringing six of the works most strongly associated with him to the Royal Albert Hall. One of the most notorious was Debussy's *Prélude à L'après-midi d'un faune*. Nijinsky's 1912 choreography emphasised the erotic imagery of the Mallarmé work on which it was based, dividing the audience between mirth and indignation. Diaghilev, seizing the chance of a *succès de scandale*, ordered a repeat performance. André Previn, in a long-awaited welcome return to the Proms, conducts it at the opening of his concert with the Oslo Philharmonic (Prom 60).

The other Diaghilev works featured at the 2004 Proms are all by Stravinsky. Many of them were to help move classical dance and music in a new direction. Stravinsky's first three works for Diaghilev are perhaps his best-known: *The Firebird* (1910), performed complete by the BBC Philharmonic under Gianandrea Noseda (Prom 8); *Petrushka* (1911), given by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Sakari Oramo (Prom 11); and *The Rite of Spring* (1913), which, having caused a riot at its premiere thanks to its modern rhythms and hitherto unheard orchestral effects, is now one of his best-loved works, performed here by the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Valery Gergiev (Prom 42).

Two of Stravinsky's later, smaller-scale works for Diaghilev are also featured this season: *Renard*, a highly theatrical burlesque performed

Themes and anniversaries

by Psappha in its Proms debut (Prom 71), and *Les noces*, described by the composer as 'dance-cantata'. Stravinsky started *Les noces* in 1914, but struggled with the orchestration and did not settle on the version that we know today until 1923, with the vocal parts accompanied by two groups of percussion, one tuned (and containing four grand pianos) and the other untuned. It is performed by the BBC Singers and Ensemble Intercontemporain with soloists Catrin Wyn-Davies, Hilary Summers, Toby Spence and Tigran Martirosian under Pierre Boulez (Prom 65).

Charles Ives (d. 1954) Two of Charles Ives's most original and inspired works, one calling for dramatically diverse performing forces, are performed at the 2004 Proms to mark the 50th anniversary of his death. The Fourth Symphony, whose scale and technical difficulty prevented its premiere until nearly five decades after it was finished, is performed by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Sakari Oramo (Prom 11). In complete contrast, Ives's his piano work, the 'Concord' Sonata (which calls briefly for a flautist in its final bars), is performed by Pierre-Laurent Aimard (and former BBC New Generation Artist Emily Beynon) in the penultimate Proms Chamber Music concert (PCM 7). John Adams conducts his own arrangement of Ives's Songs of Ragtime and Reminiscence in his concert with the BBC Symphony Orchestra (Prom 49).

Sir John Tavener (b. 1944) Sir John Tavener has reworked his epic seven-hour vigil *The Veil of the Temple*, hailed by critics as one of this composer's best works to date at its all-night premiere last year, into a 160-minute concert work specially for the BBC Proms and the vast spaces of the Royal Albert Hall, as part of his 60th birthday celebrations (Prom 23).

Luigi Dallapiccola (b. 1904) Staying with ground-breaking 20th-century composers, the BBC Proms also pays tribute to Italian Luigi Dallapiccola, who would have been 100 this year. His miniature masterpiece *Piccola musica notturna* for flute, oboe, clarinet, harp, celesta and string trio features in the final Proms Chamber Music Concert (PCM 8).

Dallapiccola's 25-minute wartime work *Canti di Prigionia*, which again calls for unusual performing forces including chorus, two pianos, two harps and two percussionists, launches this season's Late Night Proms with the BBC Singers and Endymion, conducted by Stephen Cleobury (Prom 5).

Engelbert Humperdinck (b. 1854), Johann Strauss I (b. 1804) Engelbert Humperdinck was born 150 years ago and the BBC Proms pay tribute with a star-studded performance of his best-known opera, *Hansel and Gretel* with Jennifer Larmore and Rebecca Evans in the title roles, and the BBC Concert Orchestra conducted by Jane Glover (Prom 46). The BBC Concert Orchestra also pay tribute to Johann Strauss I, born 200 years ago, with a gallop, a polka and his most famous work, *The Radetzky March* (Prom 39).

Marc-Antoine Charpentier (d. 1704) Another major anniversary marked by the 2004 Proms is that of Marc-Antoine Charpentier, who died 300 years ago. William Christie and Les Arts Florissants (named after an opera by Charpentier) pay their respects with a concert of his sacred music including the elegiac Requiem *Messe pour les trépassés* (Mass for the Departed) and one of Charpentier's best-known works, the *Te Deum*, the prelude of which has been used as the signature tune for The Eurovision Song Contest for the past 50 years (Prom 72).

New music

New music

- **7 world premieres of new BBC commissions**
- **16 other major world, UK or London premieres**
- **Music by 31 living composers**
- **Nearly 90 works new to the Proms**

The BBC Proms continues its great tradition of championing new music in 2004. The BBC has been the most active patron of new music in the UK since its earliest years and has commissioned many hundreds of hours of new music since it first invited Gustav Holst to write his choral ballet *The Morning of the Year* in 1927. This season there are major commissions for the BBC Orchestras from John Casken, Zhou Long and Joby Talbot as well as two commissions from Sir Harrison Birtwistle and commissions for the BBC Symphony Chorus from Judith Bingham and Mark-Anthony Turnage.

The BBC Proms also continues to place music by composers of today at the heart of its programme with 16 other major premieres of works by composers as diverse as John Adams, Hans Werner Henze and Carl Vine, and performances of music by over 30 living composers. There is also a world premiere of a brief organ piece by Benjamin Britten given by Timothy Bond, and first hearings of major reworkings of music by composers including Sir John Tavener and Tan Dun.

Introducing British audiences to work they might not have the opportunity to hear has

long been a Proms tradition thanks to Sir Henry Wood, who brought a huge range of 'novelties' to Proms audiences from the very beginning. This season there are nearly 90 works new to the Proms by over 60 composers including Britten, Mozart and Dvořák.

World premieres

The first of the world premieres is inspired by the Season's East/West theme. Zhou Long's *The Immortal*, the BBC World Service's first commission for the Proms, is described by its composer as 'a tribute to the Chinese artists and intellectuals of the 20th century'. Zhou Long is married to Chen Yi, whose Percussion Concerto was played at last year's Proms, and he grew up during the Cultural Revolution in China but is now a US citizen. The 15-minute orchestral work is premiered by the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Leonard Slatkin (Prom 6).

Of the seven new BBC commissions, John Casken's Symphony, 'Broken Consort', promises to be the most substantial at around 35 minutes and scored for full orchestra, mandolin, cimbalom, piano accordion and electric violin. It is Casken's latest BBC commission and was written specifically with players of the Manchester-based BBC Philharmonic in mind. As Professor of Music at Manchester University, Casken knows the orchestra well and wanted to pay tribute to certain players' versatility and expertise in non-classical styles of playing. He has taken the Elizabethan term 'broken consort' to suggest the presence of a gypsy ensemble in the orchestral texture (Prom 8).



Joby Talbot (pictured above), perhaps best known for his work with *The Divine Comedy* and his music for television (*The League of Gentlemen*, BBC Young Musician of the Year and Comic Relief's *Robbie the Reindeer*), completes a major orchestral work for the 2004 Proms season. *Sneaker Wave* is named after a dangerous US West Coast phenomenon in which a rare type of wave gathers force by taking on the energy of the smaller ones that it travels through. These waves can strike on calm or stormy days, sneaking forcefully up the beach and even on to dry land and Talbot's 'wave of sound' is a single movement for full orchestra, which gathers its own energy, ideas and intricacies as it travels over 13 minutes (Prom 63).

Sir Harrison Birtwistle, one of the BBC Proms 1934 anniversary composers, has two premieres in this, his 70th birthday Proms season. William Dazeley sings the world premiere of his settings of three poems by his great friend Alfred Brendel to add to the one he completed for the pianist's 70th birthday. Dazeley joins the Philharmonia Orchestra under its Principal Conductor Christoph von Dohnányi for this concert which also has

Brendel play Beethoven's 'Emperor' Concerto (Prom 43).

Birtwistle's *The Ring Dance of the Nazarene*, with a text by *Gawain* librettist David Harsent, was written specially with the BBC Singers and baritone Roderick Williams in mind. It was co-commissioned by BBC Radio 3 and The Netherlands VARA Radio and given its world premiere in Amsterdam in October 2003. The BBC Singers give the UK premiere here with Endymion providing the wind ensemble and Martin Allen playing the solo Iranian Drum (Prom 5).

Judith Bingham wrote *The Secret Garden* especially for the BBC Symphony Chorus (with which she used to sing while still a student in the 1970s), organist Thomas Trotter and the newly-restored Royal Albert Hall organ (Prom 48). In the same concert we hear the world premiere of another work written specially for the BBC Symphony Chorus, Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Calmo*.

Simon Holt's BBC commission receives its world premiere at the last Proms Chamber Music concert of the season with Nicholas Daniel and the Britten Sinfonia. Holt was invited to write a piece which used any or all of the unusual combination of instruments in Dallapiccola's *Piccola musica notturna* programmed for this concert in honour of the composer's centenary. The new work, entitled *The Coroner's Report*, develops the subject of his recent opera, *Who Put Bella in the Wych Elm?*, to create a series of 'exhibits' related to the case (PCM 8).

Other world premieres for the 2004 BBC Proms are first performances of new versions of major existing works. Sir John Tavener has reworked his acclaimed seven-hour *The Veil of the Temple* into a 160-minute concert version for the 2004 BBC Proms (Prom 23). Tavener hopes the new version will capture the

New music

magisterial pacing of the entire vigil. Without staying up all night, the audience will experience the impact of the remarkable seven-hour work in the unique space of the Royal Albert Hall. Tan Dun's *Concerto for water percussion and orchestra*, to be performed by Evelyn Glennie and the BBC Symphony Orchestra, has also undergone major revisions since its 1999 New York premiere (Prom 24).

UK and London premieres

The BBC Proms has a sneak preview of John Adams's new opera *Doctor Atomic*, based on the story of Robert Oppenheimer and the creation of the atom bomb, due to receive its full premiere in San Francisco in 2005. Audra McDonald, who sang at the Last Night in 2002, takes on the role of Kitty Oppenheimer for a 12-minute scene called 'Easter Eve 1945' with the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by the composer himself. The concert also includes the UK premieres of two other new works: *The Dharma at Big Sur*, performed at the opening concert of the new Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles in October 2003 to tremendous acclaim, and new arrangements of songs by anniversary composer Charles Ives (Prom 49).

Four years after the UK premiere of Hans Werner Henze's Ninth Symphony at the Proms, Ingo Metzmacher (the conductor at that event) brings the UK premiere of his Tenth Symphony, inspired by Sir Simon Rattle who gave its world premiere in 2002 (Prom 44). Kaija Saariaho's music also makes a welcome return to the Proms when Jukka-Pekka Saraste and the BBC Symphony Orchestra give the UK premiere of *Orion*, a 25-minute orchestral work which depicts *Orion* as a constellation, mythical hunter and demigod in each of its three sections (Prom 69).

Among the other UK and London premieres to look out for are Alun Hoddinott's Euphonium Concerto, written for BBC Young Musician finalist David Childs (Prom 63), the London premiere of a new work for solo violin by Esa-Pekka Salonen entitled *Laughing Unlearned* (Prom 24), John Corigliano's Clarinet Concerto played by Michael Collins (Prom 62) and Anders Hillborg's substantial orchestral work *Exquisite Corpse*, inspired by an old parlour game adopted as a method of random collaboration by the Surrealists in which each player adds a word or phrase to a poem without seeing the previous contributions (Prom 28).

New to the Proms

Prom 2

Boito Mefistofele – 'Son lo spirito che nega'

Prom 3

Dvořák Dimitrij

Prom 5

Ockeghem, arr. Birtwistle

Ut heremita solus

Prom 7

Vejvanovský Sonata vespertina a 8;
Mysliveček L'Olimpiade – 'Che non mi disse un di!'; **Mozart** 'Alma grande e nobile core', K578; **Novák** Melancholic Songs of Love

Prom 9

George Benjamin Palimpsest I and II

Prom 13

Dvořák Mass in D major

Prom 14

Taverner In nomine

Prom 15

Dvořák Czech Suite

Prom 16

Janáček Hukvaldy Songs

Prom 24

Shostakovich Overture on Russian and Kirghiz Folk Themes; Cage The Seasons; **Tan Dun** Out of Peking Opera

Prom 25

Szymanowski Concert Overture in E major, Op 12

Prom 26

Zelenka Overture a 7 in F major, ZWV 188, Concerto a 8 in G major, ZWV 186

Prom 27

Sir Peter Maxwell Davies 'Antarctic Symphony' (Symphony No. 8)

Prom 28

Alfvén Skogen sover, Op. 28 No. 6; Stenhammar Songs; Sibelius Songs

Prom 29

Takemitsu Twill by Twilight

Prom 30

Sir Harrison Birtwistle Theseus Game

Prom 33

Ravel Shéhérazade – ouverture de féerie

Prom 34

Naji Hakim Ouverture libanaise ; In organo, chordis et choro; **Messiaen** Messe de la Pentecôte – Entrée (Les langues des feu) ; Offrande au Saint-Sacrament

Prom 35

Biber Missa bruxellensis; Muffat Armonico tributo – Sonata V in G major

Prom 36

Janáček The Eternal Gospel

Prom 39

Johann Strauss I Cachucha-Galop; Frederica polka; **Zeller** Der Vogelhändler 'Schenkt man sich Rosen in Tirol'; **Stolz** Im weissen Rössl – 'Meine Liebeslied muss ein Walzer sein'; **Kálmán** Die Csárdásfürstin – 'Heia, in den Bergen ist mein Heimatland'; **Lehár** Operetta arias

Prom 42

Rimsky-Korsakov Mlada – Act 3

Prom 46

Humperdinck Hansel and Gretel

Prom 47

Arne Artaxerxes – three arias

Prom 48

Janáček Our Father; **James MacMillan** Le tombeau de Georges Rouault; **Petr Eben** Sunday Music – Moto ostinato; **Holst** Choral Hymns from the Rig Veda – Group 3

Prom 49

Ravel, orch. Grainger Miroirs – La vallée des cloches

Prom 51

Kraus Symphony in C major, VB 138; **Folke Rabe** Sardine Sarcophagus; **HK Gruber** Three MOB Pieces

Prom 52

Glinka Ruslan and Lyudmila – dances

Prom 53

Dvořák Legend in G minor, Op 59 No. 3

Prom 54

Lambert Eight Poems of Li-Po

Prom 55

Rakhmaninov The Miserly Knight; **Puccini** Gianni Schicchi

New music

Prom 57

Berio Stanze

Prom 58

Debussy, orch. Koechlin Khamma

Prom 60

André Previn Violin Concerto

Prom 65

Pierre Boulez Sur Incises

Prom 71

Sir Peter Maxwell Davies Fantasia and a Ground on Two Pavans' after Purcell; Missa super L'homme armé; Linguae ignis

Prom 72

Charpentier Messe pour plusieurs instruments au lieu des orgues

Prom 73

Puccini La bohème – 'Musetta's Waltz Song'

Prom 74

Vaughan Williams Five Mystical Songs; **Barber** Toccata festiva; **Sir Peter Maxwell Davies** Ojai Festival Overture; **Porter** Kiss Me, Kate – 'Where is the life that late I led?'

PCM 1

Dvořák Piano Quintet in A major, Op 81

PCM 2

Mozart String Quintet in C major, K515; **Schubert** String Trio in B flat major, D471

PCM 3

Britten On This Island; **Dvořák** Moravian Duets – selection; **Strauss** Songs

PCM 4

Debussy Estampes; **Skryabin** Piano Sonata No. 5

PCM 5

Kayhan Kalhor Gallop of a Thousand Horses; **Jia Da Qun** The Prospect of Colored Desert

PCM 6

Biber Mystery (Rosary) Sonatas Nos. 1, 6 & 10; **Froberger** Lamentation 'Ferdinand le troisième' ; Suite in C; **Schmelzer** Sonatae unarum fidium – Sonata No. 4

PCM 7

Ives 'Concord' Sonata; **Messiaen** Le merle noir

Royal Albert Hall organ restored

- **£1.7 million restoration of the largest organ in the UK puts RAH organ at heart of 2004 Proms season**
- **The world's leading organists to play – Naji Hakim, Martin Neary, Simon Preston, Thomas Trotter, Dame Gillian Weir**
- **Two world premieres including a BBC commission and a recently discovered work by Britten**



The newly-restored Royal Albert Hall organ (pictured above) is heard again by Prommers for the first time since 2001 in concerts throughout the 2004 season. It is featured from beginning to end, with Bach's *Tocatta in D minor* on the First Night and Barber's *Toccatina festiva* for organ and orchestra on the Last. Between are many other solo works, three world premieres and many giants of the choral and orchestral repertoire with prominent parts for organ – ranging from Saint-Saëns's 'Organ' Symphony to Janáček's *Glagolitic Mass* – played by the world's leading organists.

The largest instrument in the country (with 9,999 pipes and 147 stops), the Royal Albert Hall's Father Willis organ has a rich history. It was the biggest, most ambitious and expensive instrument in the world on its completion in 1871. A total of £7,500, 4% of the entire budget for the construction of the Hall, was set aside for its creation and some of the pipes were so big they had to be installed before the rest of the building. It has been played by such greats as Marcel Dupré, Anton Bruckner and Camille Saint-Saëns and has been prominent in the Proms since they moved to the Royal Albert Hall in 1941. It has undergone £1.7m of refurbishment in the past few years which should ensure that Prommers of the future will continue to enjoy it for many decades to come, while organists can rest assured that it won't fail them.

Many of the world's leading organists make important contributions to the 2004 Proms season. Martin Neary leads the way with the first piece of the season when he plays Bach's famous *Toccatina in D minor*. Full orchestra takes over for the Fugue in the famous arrangement by Sir Henry Wood first heard by Prommers in 1929.

Dame Gillian Weir makes a welcome return for Saint-Saëns's much-loved *Symphony No. 3* for organ and orchestra. She has given more than 14 Proms since her debut on the First Night in 1965 when, still a student, she played the Poulenc *Concerto* under Sir Malcolm Sargent (Prom 39).

Simon Preston, famous for writing 'Salieri's music' in the film *Amadeus*, is one of the world's most distinguished organists. After a

Organ restored

dozen previous Proms concerts, which have included many of the great organ favourites, he takes centre stage at the Last Night of the Proms for a performance of Barber's formidable *Toccata festiva* for organ and orchestra, with its virtuoso cadenza for pedals (Prom 74).

A particular organ highlight is the world premiere of a specially-commissioned new work by Judith Bingham given by the BBC Symphony Chorus and Thomas Trotter, for whom it was written. Trotter also performs James MacMillan's 14-minute organ piece *Le tombeau de Georges Rouault*, which was also written with him in mind, alongside Janáček's exquisite setting of the Lord's Prayer *Our Father* for choir, solo tenor, harp and organ, and a work by leading Czech organist and composer Petr Eben, in celebration of his 75th birthday (Prom 48).

Other organ highlights include one of the UK's fastest rising young organists, David Goode, in Janáček's monumental *Glagolitic Mass* with the London Philharmonic Orchestra under Kurt Masur (Prom 16). Naji Hakim, Olivier Messiaen's successor as organist at La Trinité in Paris, gives a special Late Night Prom in which he plays two of his own works for solo organ alongside a selection of Messiaen (Prom 34), and Timothy Bond gives the world premiere of the *Voluntary on Tallis's Lamentations* by Benjamin Britten. Britten left this short work in America when he returned to the UK during the war where it remained unnoticed until recently. Bond also plays the organ part in Britten's *War Requiem* (Prom 22). Catherine Ennis plays Taverner's solo organ work *In nomine*, the work on which Sir Peter Maxwell Davies based the *Fantasia* heard in the same concert (Prom 14).

Swing to opera at the Late Night Proms

- **Wynton Marsalis and his Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra return to the Proms**
- **70th birthday concert for new Master of the Queen's Music, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies**
- **Four major premieres at Late Night concerts including new works by Judith Bingham, Sir Harrison Birtwistle, Sir John Tavener and Mark-Anthony Turnage**
- **Operas including Britten's *Curlew River* and Holst's *Sāvitri***

The Late Night Proms are now an integral and popular part of the BBC Proms' main season, attracting diverse audiences to the BBC Proms. In 2004 the 12 concerts include a broad range of repertoire and some of the most exciting and unusual events of the season.

The Late Nights begin with the UK premiere of Birtwistle's *The Ring Dance of the Nazarene* with Roderick Williams, for whom it was written, and the BBC Singers, part of the composer's 70th birthday celebrations at the 2004 Proms. This concert also pays tribute to another anniversary, the centenary of Dallapiccola's birth. His 25-minute *Canti di prigionia* uses a characteristically unusual combination of instruments including two harps, two pianos and a range of percussion (Prom 5). Another major Birtwistle tribute takes place at another Late Night concert when the London Sinfonietta performs his recent orchestral work *Theseus Game* with two conductors, Martyn Brabbins and Pierre-André Valade (Prom 30).

Maxwell Davies's 70th birthday falls on 8 September and is marked by a Late Night Prom given by leading contemporary and music-theatre ensemble Psappha (Prom 71). It includes his theatrical parody for soloist and ensemble, *Missa super L'homme armé*, the more recent *Linguae ignis* for cello and ensemble, and *Fantasia and a Ground on Two Pavans*, after Purcell; alongside Stravinsky's *Ragtime* and *Renard*.



Wynton Marsalis (pictured above) and his Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra make a welcome return following their sell-out 2002 concert. 'Out here to swing!' celebrates the big-band sound of the 1930s and 1940s and is one of the major highlights of the season (Prom 21).

Late Night Proms

Another world leader in its field, but at the opposite end of the spectrum, the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra also return to the Proms with works by Bohemian composers Zelenka and Biber as well as Bach's *Orchestral Suite No. 1* (Prom 26).

There are four important premieres at the Late Night Proms, not least of which is the world premiere of a new 160-minute concert version of Tavener's epic vigil *The Veil of the Temple* (Prom 23). Bingham's substantial new BBC commission for the BBC Symphony Chorus, *The Secret Garden*, also receives its world premiere at a Late Night Prom (Prom 48). This concert also includes the world premiere of a much shorter new work, *Calmo*, from Turnage, also commissioned by the BBC and performed by the BBC Symphony Chorus.

Other major highlights of the Late Nights include a specially semi-staged performance of Britten's *Curlw River* directed by Graham Vick, in which most of the action is to take place in the Arena among the Prommers (Prom 17); Holst's highly original chamber opera *Sāvitrī* performed by a glittering trio of singers, Sarah Connolly, John Mark Ainsley and Christopher Maltman (Prom 54); Naji Hakim, Olivier Messiaen's successor as organist at La Trinité in Paris (Prom 34); and leading contemporary music group, Ensemble Intercontemporain, conducted by its founder Pierre Boulez in one of his most thrilling works, *Sur Incises* (Prom 65).

The nation's favourite Prom

Vote for the nation's favourite overture

• Audiences vote for favourite overtures to be heard in **The Nation's Favourite Prom, Saturday 17 July, 7.00pm**

• Concert includes other favourites: **Mozart arias and Rakhmaninov's Paganini Rhapsody**

The BBC Proms continues to involve its audience as much as possible – not only can audiences have their say on the Proms website and BBC interactive services, they can also vote for what they want to hear in part of a Proms concert. BBC Proms website visitors and readers of the BBC Proms Guide and *Radio Times* are asked to vote from a selection of overtures to be performed by the Hallé Orchestra under Mark Elder at The Nation's Favourite Prom on Saturday 17 July.

For the first time audiences can vote for their favourite works by text message and remind themselves which overture is which by listening to excerpts on the BBC Proms website.

Two of the world's top soloists join the concert for performances of other popular works: Jonathan Lemalu sings arias by Boito, Gounod and Mozart; and Louis Lortie plays Rakhmaninov's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*. The concert's finale is Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*. The Nation's Favourite Prom is broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 and on BBC One on Sunday 18 July at 10.15pm.

The shortlisted overtures are:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Beethoven | <i>Egmont</i> |
| Berlioz | <i>Roman Carnival</i> |
| Glinka | <i>Ruslan and Lyudmila</i> |
| Mendelssohn | <i>Hebrides</i> |
| Mozart | <i>Marriage of Figaro</i> |
| Nicolai | <i>Merry Wives of Windsor</i> |
| Rossini | <i>William Tell</i> |
| Rossini | <i>Thieving Magpie</i> |
| Smetana | <i>Bartered Bride</i> |
| Johann Strauss II | <i>Fledermaus</i> |
| Verdi | <i>Force of Destiny</i> |
| Weber | <i>Freischütz</i> |

There are three ways to vote:

- Online at www.bbc.co.uk/proms (where you can listen to sound-clips)
- By telephone on 09066 800 601 (calls cost 25p a minute)
- By SMS: text PROMS plus the first word of your chosen overture's title (eg 'PROMS EGMONT') to 83111 (messages cost a maximum of 12p).

Voting closes at 12.00 midnight on Monday 21 June.

Full information on voting is available in the *Radio Times*, on the BBC Proms website and in the Proms Guide.

BBC Proms In The Park

BBC Proms In The Park Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 September

- **Biggest Proms in the Park ever with Last Night events in London, Belfast, Glasgow, Swansea and Manchester**
- **Terry Wogan, Evelyn Glennie, Operatunity winners and conductor Carl Davis among the stars in Hyde Park**
- **BBC Children's Prom in the Park features classics from the great Disney films with plenty of action on stage and screen**

Following the huge success of Proms in the Park in all four nations of the United Kingdom for the first time in 2003, the 2004 Last Night celebrations go one further as Manchester joins the party. With events in London, Belfast, Swansea, Glasgow and Manchester, this will be the biggest year yet for Proms in the Park. As in previous years, each city will have its own distinctive concert before joining together with big-screen link-ups for the live relay of the famous finale of the Last Night of the Proms from the Royal Albert Hall.

Bill Morris, Project Director, BBC Live Events, says: 'We thought BBC Proms in the Park couldn't get any bigger than holding events in all four nations of the United Kingdom, but we are delighted to welcome Manchester in 2004, making the biggest Last Night of the Proms celebrations to date.'

In Hyde Park, world-renowned percussionist Evelyn Glennie, winners of the popular TV series *Operatunity* Denise Leigh and Jane Gilchrist, and the Canadian sensation Michel Bubl , who has caused a stir with recordings of such standards as *Come Fly with Me* and

Crazy Little Thing, are among the stars who join the BBC Concert Orchestra to perform some of the nation's best-loved music. The legendary Carl Davis conducts. Terry Wogan once again hosts the evening's entertainment and the Royal Choral Society leads the singing as the 2004 Proms season comes to its rousing conclusion. Celebrations begin in the late afternoon when Radio 2's Ken Bruce presents ABBA tribute stars Bj rn Again, the colourful Scottish/Latin group Salsa Celtica and the Ray Gelato Giants.



The Hyde Park celebrations continue with a family event on Sunday 12 September. This year, the BBC Children's Prom in the Park celebrates Disney's Enchanted Evening. This collaboration between the BBC Proms in the Park and Disney features the music of favourite classic Disney movies such as *The Lion King*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin* and *Mary Poppins*. There will be plenty of action and surprise guests joining the BBC Concert Orchestra on stage, and big screens will carry footage of the featured films. The event will culminate in a giant firework display.

BBC Proms In The Park



The Proms in the Park family grows once more as Manchester joins for the first time for an event using the backdrop of URBIS in the grounds of the Cathedral Gardens and featuring the world-class Hallé Orchestra conducted by John Wilson.

Northern Ireland hosts BBC Proms in the Park for the third time with audiences in the grounds of City Hall in Belfast's Donegal Square joining the Ulster Orchestra for a feast of entertainment. Conducted by Thierry Fischer, songs come courtesy of acclaimed baritone Bruno Caproni and home-grown star, flautist James Galway.

In Swansea, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales is conducted by Grant Llewellyn. National favourite Aled Jones presents the concert and is joined by Welsh tenor Dennis O'Neill, Broadway star Kim Criswell and the all-girl string quartet Celticana, while at Glasgow's Pacific Quay the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra joins the fun for the second year.

BBC Proms in the Park, a regular fixture of the Last Night of the Proms since 1996, is now an established part of the BBC Proms season attracting capacity audiences to London's Hyde

Park and other venues throughout the UK. The concerts are broadcast live across BBC Radio and Television. Radio 2 broadcasts live coverage from Hyde Park, and BBC Radio Wales, Scotland, Ulster and GMR will broadcast their local events. Televised highlights of all five Proms in the Park will be shown as part of BBC One and BBC Two's live coverage of the Last Night of the Proms.

Digital satellite, Freeview and digital cable viewers can press the red button to access an interactive TV service for the Last Night of the Proms on BBC Two and BBC One. The interactive service will enable digital satellite and digital cable viewers to access programme notes for the concert in the Royal Albert Hall and live footage from Proms in the Park concerts across the country. Freeview viewers will be able to access programme notes for the concert in the Royal Albert Hall and live footage from Hyde Park.

The BBC Proms in the Park website also provides full details and booking facilities for each concert at www.bbc.co.uk/proms/pitp



Tickets available as follows:

BBC Proms in the Park, London

(Saturday 11 September)

Hyde Park. Gates open 4.00pm; entertainment on stage from 5.30pm.

Tickets: £19.00 (under-3s free)

Telephone booking: 0870 899 8100

(24 hrs national rate, £2 transaction fee

applicable) and (after 14 June) from the Royal Albert Hall on 020 7589 8212

(9.00am–9.00pm, £2 transaction fee applicable)

or online via www.bbc.co.uk/proms

BBC Proms In The Park

BBC Proms in the Park, Belfast

(Saturday 11 September)

Donegal Square. Admission by FREE ticket.

For information call 0870 333 1918.

BBC Proms in the Park, Swansea

(Saturday 11 September)

Singleton Park. Tickets: £6.50 in advance or £8.00 on the day (under-12s free), from the BBC NOW line on 0870 013 1812 or the Grand Theatre Box Office on 01792 475 715, or in person from the Grand Theatre Box Office, Singleton Street, Swansea SA1 3QJ.

BBC Proms in the Park, Glasgow

(Saturday 11 September)

Pacific Quay. Admission by FREE ticket

(available from 1 July). For information call 08700 100 300.

BBC Proms in the Park, Manchester

(Saturday 11 September)

URBIS, Cathedral Gardens. Admission by FREE ticket (available from 12 June). For information call 08700 100 300.

BBC Children's Prom in the Park

celebrates Disney's Enchanted Evening (Sunday 12 September)

Hyde Park. Gates open 5.00pm; entertainment on stage from 6.30pm. Event ends at 8.30pm

Tickets: £12 (adults) £7.50 (children 3-16; under-3s free)

Telephone booking: 0870 899 8001 (24 hrs national rate, £2 transaction fee applicable) and (after 14 June) from the Royal Albert Hall on 020 7589 8212 (9.00am–9.00pm, £2 transaction fee applicable) or online via www.bbc.co.uk/proms

Proms outreach and education

The Henry Wood Promenade Concerts were founded on the principles of accessibility – informal, cheap concerts providing anybody easy opportunities to hear the best music and music-making in the world. In that sense nothing has changed. The Proms continues to reach out to new and diverse audiences to ensure that future generations of Prommers have a chance to see that the Proms is for them. As well as the large-scale events for children, the Blue Peter Proms and the BBC Children's Prom in the Park (see page 39) the Proms this year are working on three schemes which develop contact with new and younger audiences.

Silk Road Tales

BBC Proms and British Library

- **Silk Road Tales brings together 120 students from diverse communities for event with Yo-Yo Ma.**

Around 120 teenagers from London's Turkish, Chinese and Asian communities are invited to join workshops in music, theatre, creative writing and visual art to create a performance to take place on Saturday 14 August in the Shaw Theatre, alongside a performance by Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble.

This major learning and audience development project, entitled Silk Road Tales, takes its inspiration from the British Library's exhibition *The Silk Road: Trade, Travel, War and Faith* (7 May-12 September 2004) and the work of Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Project, and examines the ancient Silk Road as a source of exchange and

discovery, informing and shaping the ways that cultural traditions developed. The young people and their families will also be invited to attend the British Library's exhibition and the Silk Road Ensemble's Proms concert with Yo-Yo Ma on Sunday 15 August.

The project will consist of four separate strands focused on different art forms. The workshops, run by the British Library and the BBC Proms, will all begin in the exhibition where students will seek out images, narratives and sounds to develop in creative workshops. The projects will be led by top practising artists including composer Alec Roth and visual artist Ming Wong (Pearson Creative Fellow at the British Library).

See page 41 for information about the British Library's exhibition.

Proms: Out & About

Hammersmith Town Hall and Hackney Empire

- **BBC Symphony Orchestra and BBC Concert Orchestra play gigs in Hammersmith Town Hall (6 May) and Hackney Empire (23 June) giving children aged 7-12 a first taste of live orchestral music**

- **Builds on huge success of Carling Brixton Academy gig last year with John Adams**

BBC Proms: out & about events in May and June with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and BBC Concert Orchestra go to venues where they

Proms outreach and education

would not normally go. The concerts aim to give 7-12-year-old youngsters and their families an opportunity to experience live classical music of the highest quality, breaking down the barriers associated with classical concert-going and allowing them to interact with the orchestra and experience the power and vibrancy of an orchestral concert for the first time.

The two events in 2004 build on the enormous success of the BBC Symphony Orchestra's concert with John Adams at the Carling Brixton Academy in 2003 when 1,200 local youngsters and their families turned up, joined in and heard music by Adams, Bartók, Bernstein, Britten, Copland and Stravinsky. More than 300 people subsequently took up an offer to attend particular Proms concerts at the Royal Albert Hall.

The BBC Symphony Orchestra goes to Hammersmith Town Hall on Thursday 6 May and is conducted by Pascal Rophé in a concert which takes The Elements (Earth, Fire, Water, Air) as a theme. Music will include Manuel de Falla's *Ritual Fire Dance*, Alec Roth's *Dolphin Dances* and Benjamin Britten's *Four Sea Interludes*. The BBC Concert Orchestra goes to the Hackney Empire with a programme themed around dance music on Wednesday 23 June. The orchestras will work with local schools, housing estate community centres, youth centres and the like in the build-up to the concerts, when youngsters can get really close to the instruments and musicians.

After the events, the audience will have the chance to buy reduced tickets to specially selected BBC Proms concerts, before each of which there will be activities and a tour of the Royal Albert Hall.

Young composers competition

BBC Proms and The Guardian

- **Opportunity for tomorrow's composers in all genres**
- **Judges include Evelyn Glennie (pictured below), George Benjamin, Tansy Davies and Fraser Trainer**
- **Winners receive Sibelius software and Roland keyboard, and hear their work performed by Endymion**



Young composers aged between 11 and 18 are invited to enter the BBC Proms sixth annual

Proms outreach and education

Young Composers Competition and have their music performed by top musicians and broadcast on BBC Radio 3, and have the opportunity to discuss their work with leading musicians and composers.

In association with *The Guardian* the competition is judged by Evelyn Glennie, the world-famous percussionist who has been spearheading a campaign to improve youngsters' access to music; George Benjamin, one of Britain's leading composers and conductors; Tansy Davies, a composer who was recently included in *The Guardian* survey of 'Top Girls (50 women on their way to the top)' in business, arts and sports; Fraser Trainer, composer and creative director of the London Sinfonietta; Andrew Kurowski, the BBC's Executive Producer for new music; and Peter Kingston of *The Guardian*, who chairs the panel.

Evelyn Glennie says: 'This competition offers young composers an incredible opportunity to demonstrate their abilities at such a high-profile event. I believe also it is essential to recognise and encourage young talent at such an early stage in their career.' Evelyn Glennie performs the world premiere of a specially-written new version of Tan Dun's *Concerto for water percussion and orchestra*, which all entrants are invited to attend.

Everyone who enters is invited to the BBC Proms Young Composers Forum on Monday 2 August, where they have the chance to meet other young composers from around the country, attend talks and workshops, and grill a panel of composers. They will also be able to attend that night's concert which will feature Evelyn Glennie's performance of the Tan Dun premiere. The day will include the third Young Composers Concert at the Victoria & Albert Museum featuring winning pieces performed

by one of the UK's leading ensembles, Endymion. Endymion's performances of the winning pieces are also broadcast during the Proms season on BBC Radio 3's *In Tune* and can be heard on *The Guardian*'s and the BBC Proms' website (www.bbc.co.uk/proms). The three winners in the under-16 category will receive a Roland keyboard, while the three winners of the over-16 category will receive a Sibelius music software package. And in the under-16 category there are also prizes for the winners' schools.

The closing date for entries is Saturday 22 May and results will be announced in *The Guardian* in late June.

BBC Proms Extras

BBC Proms Extras

- **Proms Chamber Music**
- **Composer Portraits**
- **Pre-Prom Talks**
- **Proms Question Time**
- **Audience Forum**

Proms Chamber Music

Mondays, 1.00pm

Lecture Theatre, Victoria & Albert Museum
(Exhibition Road entrance).

Broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 and
repeated the following Saturday lunchtime
at 12.00 noon.

The BBC Proms and the Victoria & Albert Museum continue their popular collaboration presenting the Proms Chamber Music concerts on Monday lunchtimes throughout the Proms season in the Museum's Lecture Theatre. The series provides an extraordinary opportunity to hear such artists as Pinchas Zukerman and Yo-Yo Ma in unusually intimate surroundings, and showcases some of the brightest talent of the future with BBC New Generation Artists. The eight concerts pick up some of the main themes and anniversaries of the season and include a specially commissioned new work from Simon Holt (PCM 8).

The season opens with two pinnacles of the chamber repertoire by the two giants of Czech music celebrating major anniversaries in the 2004 season: Janáček's String Quartet No. 1, 'The Kreutzer Sonata', and Dvořák's Piano

Quintet in A major, Op. 81, performed by the Czech Republic's celebrated Škampa Quartet, who are joined by Itamar Golan for the latter work (PCM 1). More Czech music follows when BBC New Generation sopranos Sally Matthews (pictured below) and Ailish Tynan sing Dvořák's folk-inspired *Moravian Duets* (PCM 3). Janáček's work features in two further concerts when one of Britain's most hotly tipped young pianists, Llŷr Williams, plays Janáček's *In the Mists* (PCM 4) and the Britten Sinfonia with pianist Rolf Hind perform his *Concertino* for piano, two violins, viola, clarinet, horn and bassoon (PCM 8).



The Czech celebrations do not end with Janáček and Dvořák. Virtuoso Baroque violinist Andrew Manze tackles three of the highly

original *Rosary Sonatas* by Heinrich von Biber, who died 300 years ago, which call for the violin to be retuned (PCM 6), and the Britten Sinfonia bring the Chamber Music series to a close with Martinů's *La revue de cuisine* for piano, trumpet, clarinet, violin and cello (PCM 8).

The BBC Proms is paying tribute to Charles Ives in 2004, 50 years after his death, and the inclusion of his extraordinary 'Concord' Sonata played by Pierre-Laurent Aimard in PCM 7 is one of the highlights. This 48-minute piano work is a characteristically original and visionary work, perhaps one of his greatest. Another anniversary composer is Luigi Dallapiccola, one of the most important Italian composers of the 20th century, whose *Piccola musica notturna* for flute, oboe, clarinet, harp, celesta and string trio is performed in the final Chamber concert by the Britten Sinfonia.

Further highlights of the Proms Chamber music series include a concert given by legendary violinist Pinchas Zukerman and members of his National Arts Centre Orchestra from Toronto who play Schubert's String Trio in B flat major and Mozart's String Quintet in C major (PCM 2), and another concert with Yo-Yo Ma and his Silk Road Ensemble which includes Debussy's Cello Sonata as well as non-Western music and musicians from China, Iran and other countries along the ancient trading route.

Performing Art, the popular pre-concert talks, return this year and for the first time can be heard on the BBC Proms website. Each talk, hosted by Christopher Cook, focuses on an item in the V&A's collection of decorative art and sculpture and aims to shed light on the shared worlds of art and music. The talks take place in the Lecture Theatre before each Monday's Proms Chamber Music concert.

Tickets for Proms Chamber Music concerts are £8.00 and available from the Royal Albert Hall Box Office or online at

www.bbc.co.uk/proms, and from the V&A on the day (subject to availability; advance booking is advised).

Proms Composer Portraits

Lecture Theatre, Victoria & Albert Museum (Exhibition Road entrance).
Recorded for broadcast on BBC Radio 3 immediately following the evening's main Prom.

Tuesday 20 July, 6.00pm

Zhou Long
Musicians from the Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Thursday 22 July, 6.00pm

John Casken
Adam Swayne (piano); musicians from the Royal Northern College of Music

Wednesday 4 August, 5.30pm

Sir Peter Maxwell Davies
Artea String Quartet
(from the Royal Academy of Music)

Tuesday 17 August, 6.00pm

Sir Harrison Birtwistle
Contemporary Consort of the Royal College of Music

Proms Composer Portraits feature music for chamber ensemble by four distinguished composers, all of whom have major works being performed at the Proms this year.

During these early-evening events the composers, in conversation with BBC Radio 3's Andrew McGregor, discuss their works being heard in the main evening Prom, and present a different aspect of their creative activities through the smaller-scale pieces performed by young musicians from leading music colleges and conservatoires around the UK. The series opens with the Chinese-

BBC Proms extras

American composer Zhou Long and continues with three leading figures in British contemporary music today: John Casken, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies and Sir Harrison Birtwistle. Each Composer Portrait will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3 later the same evening, immediately following the main evening Prom.

Admission is free but there is limited space. Tickets can be collected from the Proms Information Desk at the V&A from an hour beforehand.

Pre-Prom Talks

Twenty-seven Pre-Prom Talks, aiming to embrace as wide an audience as possible, are a mix of repertoire- or composer-based introductions by leading writers and journalists as well as interviews with artists and composers. Among the many highlights are Sir John Eliot Gardiner on Bach's Mass in B minor, Robert King on Monteverdi's *Vespers* and John Adams, John Corigliano, Joby Talbot and Kaija Saariaho introducing their own work. Pre-Prom Talks take place in the Royal Albert Hall or the Royal College of Music. Admission is free with a ticket for the concert which follows.

Proms Question Time

Broken Sounds? Reinventing the symphony orchestra for the 21st century.

**Friday 13 August, c10.00-10.45pm
(post concert)**

The two pieces in tonight's concert – Bright Sheng's *The Song and Dance of Tears* and Messiaen's *Turangalila Symphony* – present a radical approach to orchestral sound and practice. In this post-concert event, Christopher Cook chairs a debate about the role of the symphony orchestra in a changing

world: How can it remain relevant in an increasingly culturally diverse environment? How does the orchestra maintain its edge in a competitive technological age? Where do musicians, conductors, composers and audiences fit in to the plans? What is the impact of specialist period and new music ensembles on the standard symphony orchestra? And to what extent should we be trying to preserve the historical traditions of the orchestra?

The panel – including Bright Sheng and David Robertson – will be responding to questions from a live audience, and listeners at home can take part via text and e-mail through the BBC Proms website at www.bbc.co.uk/proms

Audience Forum

Monday 6 September, 5.45pm

An opportunity for any members of the audience to put questions about the season to Proms Director Nicholas Kenyon and David Elliott, Chief Executive of the Royal Albert Hall.

Broadcasting the Proms

- **Record number of Proms televised on BBC One, BBC Two and BBC Four – almost half entire season**
- **All Proms broadcast and streamed live on BBC Radio 3 and via the BBC Proms website**
- **Access to live radio broadcasts and audio-on-demand Proms via the BBC Proms website**
- **Enhanced digital services providing detailed information about each broadcast on air and online**

Radio and television audiences are given more opportunity than ever to experience the BBC Proms in 2004 with more Proms being broadcast on television than ever before. Thirty concerts, almost half of the eight-week Proms season, are broadcast across BBC One, BBC Two and BBC Four, making 2004 a record year for TV transmissions. BBC Radio 3 continues to broadcast and web-stream every Prom live via the BBC Proms website.

Twenty live concerts are broadcast on BBC4, including two concerts performed by Sir Simon Rattle and the Berliner Philharmoniker, and two world premiere performances. Last year BBC Four broadcast the first two weeks of Proms concerts, and this season it is taking the final week as well. Expert presenters include regular Radio 3 names Charles Hazlewood (pictured right), Stephanie Hughes, Tommy Pearson and Verity Sharp.

BBC One and BBC Two between them broadcast 10 concerts, including The First Night of the Proms and The Last Night, with



performers including Valery Gergiev, Bernard Haitink and Leonard Slatkin.

All Proms televised on BBC One, BBC Two and BBC Four will allow digital viewers to access programme notes during each performance.

BBC Proms on Radio 3

BBC Radio 3 continues to broadcast each Prom live nationwide and stream each Prom live via the BBC Proms website. Related programming gives listeners the opportunity to explore the musical and cultural context of the season's key events, and regular strands introduce listeners to featured performers and composers. Listeners are given another chance to hear many of the season's concerts during the repeat broadcasts on Radio 3 each weekday afternoon at 2.00pm.

Broadcasting the Proms

BBC Proms on TV

The following Proms concerts will be shown on BBC One:

Prom 2 – The Nation's Favourite Prom is transmitted on Sunday 18 July at 10.15pm. The Hallé Orchestra, conducted by Mark Elder, performs orchestral favourites, including two overtures voted for by audiences (see page 34 for more information about the Nation's Favourite Prom).

Prom 42 – Broadcast date and time tbc: Valery Gergiev conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra in an all-Russian programme including Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*.

Prom 74 – The Last Night of the Proms (Part 2) is broadcast live on Saturday 11 September at 9.10pm. Part 1 of The Last Night is broadcast live on BBC Two from 7.30pm.

The following Proms concerts will be shown on BBC Two:

Prom 1 – broadcast live on Friday 16 July at 7.30pm. Leonard Slatkin conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra in the opening concert of the BBC Proms 2004 with a programme including Holst's *The Planets*.

Prom 20 – broadcast live on Saturday 31 July at 7.00pm. Mariss Jansons conducts the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra in Tchaikovsky's 'Pathétique' Symphony and Shostakovich's First Violin Concerto with soloist Gidon Kremer. (Prom 19, also featuring the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and Mariss Jansons, is broadcast LIVE on Friday 30 July at 7.30pm on BBC Four.)

Prom 31 – broadcast live on Saturday 7 August at 7.00pm. Sir Roger Norrington

conducts the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain in a programme including Mahler's Symphony No. 1.

Prom 47 – broadcast LIVE on Saturday 21 August at 7.00pm. The English Concert, conducted by Andrew Manze, perform a programme including music by Handel, Bach and Vivaldi and featuring soprano Emma Bell in arias by Thomas Arne.

Prom 57 – broadcast on Saturday 28 August at 6.45pm. The Orchestre de Paris conducted by Christoph Eschenbach in a programme of music by Mahler and Berio.

Prom 66 – broadcast live on Saturday 4 September at 7.00pm. The Dresden Staatskapelle, conducted by Bernard Haitink in his 75th birthday year, performs a programme of Haydn, Bartók and Dvořák.

Prom 74 – The Last Night of the Proms 2004. Part 1 of The Last Night of the Proms is broadcast live on BBC Two on Saturday 11 September, starting at 7.30pm. Part 2 of The Last Night of the Proms is shown LIVE on BBC One from 9.10pm.

The following Proms concerts will be shown on BBC Four:

Prom 4 – broadcast on Monday 19 July at 7.30pm. The BBC National Orchestra of Wales is joined by baritone Thomas Hampson and three choirs to perform an all-English programme, conducted by Richard Hickox.

Prom 6 – broadcast live on Tuesday 20 July at 7.30pm. The BBC Symphony Orchestra with conductor Leonard Slatkin and pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet perform a programme of music by Strauss and Liszt, and the world premiere of a BBC World Service commission by Zhou Long.

Broadcasting the Proms

Prom 7 – broadcast live on Wednesday 21 July at 7.30pm. Mezzo-soprano Magdalena Kožená performs with the Prague Philharmonia conducted by Jiří Bělohlávek.

Prom 8 – broadcast live on Thursday 22 July at 7.30pm. The BBC Philharmonic is conducted by Gianandrea Noseda in the world premiere of a new work by John Casken, along with Stravinsky's *The Firebird* and Ravel's Piano Concerto in G major, performed by Pierre-Laurent Aimard.

Prom 9 – broadcast live on Friday 23 July at 7.30pm. The Ensemble Modern is conducted by composer George Benjamin in performances of his own works along with music by his teacher Messiaen.

Prom 11 – broadcast live on Saturday 24 July at 7.30pm. The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Chorus are conducted by Sakari Oramo in music by Bernstein, Ives and Stravinsky.

Prom 13 – broadcast live on Sunday 25 July at 7.30pm. The BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus are conducted by Sir Andrew Davis in Dvořák's Mass in D major and Elgar's Violin Concerto, with soloist Pinchas Zukerman.

Prom 14 – broadcast live on Monday 26 July at 7.30pm. The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra is conducted by Martyn Brabbins in a programme including works by Beethoven, Maxwell Davies and Anthony Payne's celebrated completion of Elgar's Third Symphony.

Prom 15 – broadcast live on Tuesday 27 July at 7.30pm. The Scottish Chamber Orchestra is conducted by Joseph Swensen in music by Dvořák and Schumann, and Simon Trpčeski is the soloist in Saint-Saëns's Second Piano Concerto.

Prom 16 – broadcast on Wednesday 28 July at 7.30pm. Kurt Masur conducts the London Philharmonic Orchestra and the Czech Philharmonic Chorus of Brno in music by Janáček and Schubert.

Prom 17 – a Late Night Prom on Wednesday 28 July, recorded for broadcast on Sunday 1 August (time tbc). The Birmingham Opera Company and Birmingham Contemporary Music Group give a semi-staged performance of Britten's church parable *Curlew River*, with stage direction by Graham Vick.

Prom 18 – broadcast live on Thursday 29 July at 7.30pm. The BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Sir Andrew Davis performs works by Mozart, Martinů, Mahler and Janáček, with pianist Paul Lewis and mezzo-soprano Alice Coote.

Prom 19 – broadcast live on Friday 30 July at 7.30pm. The Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra conducted by Mariss Jansons performs Dvořák's Eighth Symphony and Strauss's *Ein Heldenleben*.

Prom 67 – broadcast on Sunday 5 September at 7.30pm. Sir Simon Rattle conducts the Berliner Philharmoniker and City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus in a performance of Schoenberg's Variations for Orchestra and Beethoven's 'Choral' Symphony.

Prom 68 – broadcast live on Monday 6 September at 7.30pm. The Berliner Philharmoniker and Sir Simon Rattle perform Debussy's *La mer* and Messiaen's *Éclairs sur l'Au-delà...*

Prom 69 – broadcast live on Tuesday 7 September at 7.30pm. The BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Jukka-Pekka Saraste performs Bartók's *Duke Bluebeard's Castle* and

Broadcasting the Proms

gives the UK premiere performance of a new work by Kaija Saariaho.

Prom 70 – broadcast on Wednesday 8 September at 7.30pm. Marking the birthday of anniversary composer Dvořák, Sir Charles Mackerras directs a concert devoted to his music with the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, including the ‘New World’ Symphony, and the Violin Concerto performed by Sarah Chang.

Prom 72 – broadcast live on Thursday 9 September at 7.30pm. Marking 300 years since his death, music by Charpentier is performed by William Christie, the Choir and Orchestra of Les Arts Florissants and a stunning cast of soloists.

Prom 73 – broadcast live on Friday 10 September at 7.30pm. Soprano Anna Netrebko sings arias by Dvořák, Puccini and Bellini, accompanied by the BBC Philharmonic and Principal Conductor Gianandrea Noseda. The programme also includes Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 5.

The Proms on BBC Radio 3

Special Proms-related programming on BBC Radio 3 includes:

Summer Selection (Saturdays 9.00am-12.00 noon). Guest presenters including Simon Russell Beale, Richard Eyre, Jackie Kay and Robert Winston share their selection of forthcoming Proms alongside other choices.

Proms Preview Evening (Monday 12 July, 7.30-10.30pm)
Musical highlights and the inside story on the coming season.

Proms Chamber Music concerts are all broadcast live and repeated the following Saturday at 12.00 noon.

Proms Composer Portraits are broadcast immediately following the main evening Prom. *Twenty Minutes*, broadcast during the intervals of evening Proms, includes features and talks around this year’s Proms themes and anniversaries.

In Tune (weekdays 5.00-7.30pm) features Proms-related interviews, performances and news, and winning works in the BBC Proms/Guardian Young Composers Competition.

Morning On 3 (weekdays 7.00-10.00am, weekends 7.00-9.00am) will carry updates on the season.

Performing Janáček (Saturdays 2.00-3.00pm). Janáček’s dramatic works are in the repertory of opera houses around the world, thanks to their vividly drawn characters, colourful and idiosyncratic scoring and creative challenges. In this series of eight programmes, Ivan Hewett talks to singers, conductors and producers about the unique demands and rewards of performing Janáček.

Proms Sunday Features:

My Country (Sunday 25 July 9.35pm) explores the melting-pot of art and politics in the 19th-century Czech national revival and their continuing resonances today.

East Meets West Meets East (Sunday 1 August 8.15pm) examines the many ways in which artists from Eastern traditions are refashioning and reinventing Western cultural classics.

A Renaissance Man? (Sunday 15 August 9.50pm)
Messiaen’s work is explored in the light of his multifaceted character as Catholic, composer, organist, ornithologist and teacher.
Times subject to change

Broadcasting the Proms

BBC Proms Online

The 2004 Proms website allows exclusive access to Proms audio-on-demand, allowing users to listen again to many Proms concerts for up to seven days after the BBC Radio 3 broadcast. Also exclusive to the website will be the opportunity to listen to the popular *Performing Art* talks, which precede the eight Proms Chamber Music concerts. As in previous years, every Prom will be streamed live on the website.

For the second year running, there will be an online voting system for the public to choose their favourite piece of music (this year an overture) for inclusion in The Nation's Favourite Prom. Additionally, this year the public can text in their choices from their mobile phones.

For further details about the Proms website, see page 38

Digital Proms Service 2004

In 2004 the BBC offers Proms audiences more ways to access programme notes about the concerts, wherever and however they are listening or watching. These notes provide a useful and informative guide to the performances. Audiences can access programme notes while listening to the concerts on television, radio and the web.

Proms on television – An Interactive Television Service

For all televised Proms on BBC One, BBC Two and BBC Four, digital TV viewers (digital satellite, Freeview and digital cable) can press the red button to access programme notes during each performance. These programme

notes provide viewers with an in-depth guide to the music as it is being performed including:

- biographical information about the composer
- the inspiration, origin, influences and status of the work
- contextual references (ie political and cultural events influencing the creation or performance of the work)
- historical information on past performances of the work
- explanation of the structure of the work (eg what is a symphony; why are keys important)
- specific interesting features of the music (eg certain things to listen out for in the score)
- editorial opinion of the work.

On the Last Night of the Proms, digital TV viewers to the programme on BBC Two and BBC One can press their red button and access programme notes for the concert in the Royal Albert Hall and live footage from Proms in the Park concerts around the UK.

Audiences to the interactive television service on digital satellite, digital cable and Freeview will be able to choose from the following:

- The concert in the Royal Albert Hall with programme notes displayed at the bottom of the screen
- Live footage from the Proms in the Park concert at Hyde Park, London
- A mix of live footage from Proms in the Park concerts in Swansea, Belfast and Glasgow (not available on Freeview).

For the first time, audiences listening to the Proms on BBC Radio 3 via Freeview will be able to see programme notes throughout the performance in the LiveText service.

Also, audiences listening to BBC Radio 3 via DAB radio will be able to see programme notes throughout the performance in the LiveText service.

BBC Proms website

BBC Proms website

www.bbc.co.uk/proms

- **Join new Proms Text Club online**
- **Listen to all Radio 3 Proms broadcast live online**
- **Sample repertoire in advance with Listen Online and hear Proms you missed via audio-on-demand**
- **Vote online for the overtures you want to hear in The Nation's Favourite Prom and hear clips**
- **Performing Art talks available exclusively online**

The BBC Proms website is launched at 6.00pm on Thursday 29 April. The website received in excess of 2.1 million hits during the eight weeks of the season in 2003 and it remains the most up-to-date source of information about the BBC Proms. As well as up-to-the-minute news there are complete concert listings, booking information, programme notes for every Prom, a beginner's guide to the season, press reviews of the concerts, a virtual tour of the Royal Albert Hall and the ever-popular Proms message board. The efficient and informative online booking system, which attracted almost a quarter of all ticket purchases in 2003, continues to run alongside the postal form, published in the *BBC Proms Guide*, and telephone booking.

People can listen live online to every Prom (broadcast on BBC Radio 3) and, with audio-on-demand, they can listen to selected Proms at any time they choose in the week following the original broadcast. More than 50,000 people listened to the 2003 Last Night of the

Proms in the week following last year's original broadcast using audio-on-demand. Exclusively this year, website users can listen to the series of *Performing Art* talks which precede the Proms Chamber Music concerts at the Victoria & Albert Museum.

Detailed notes about the music are available online two hours before each concert and the audience can 'have their say' on the BBC Proms' popular online message board. They will also be able to vote for their favourite overtures in The Nation's Favourite Prom (17 July), create their own Fantasy Prom, send in their reviews of the concerts and compare them to those of the critics, enter numerous competitions to win tickets, and join the Proms mailing list.

For the first time the BBC Proms launches a Text Club, enabling Prommers to receive daily concert listings and news updates via their mobiles. Given that most phones can only deal with 150 characters, the BBC Proms website will contain a list of the musical text abbreviations and information about how to join the new club. The first message will go out on the First Night.

Performing Art, the popular talks which focus on items from the Victoria & Albert Museum's collection of decorative art and sculpture, take place in the Lecture Theatre before each Monday's Proms Chamber Music concert and can be heard for the first time on the Proms website this year. The talks, hosted by Christopher Cook, are online the morning after they take place alongside pictures of the objects themselves and links to the relevant and related collections on the V&A website.

Events for children

Blue Peter Prom – Beating Drums, Dancing Lions

Saturday 24 July, 11.00am–c1.00pm
Sunday 25 July, 3.30pm–c5.30pm

Because of the huge demand for tickets in previous years the BBC Proms stages the Blue Peter Prom twice this year, allowing double the number of children and their families to join in the fun.

The Blue Peter Prom conjures up the spectacular sights and sounds of the Far East as two special groups of performers join *Blue Peter* presenters Simon and Liz and the BBC Philharmonic for an exotic and colourful programme inspired by the season's East/West theme. The big Japanese drums of Kagemusha Taiko and the traditional Chinese costumes of the Choy Lee Fut Kung Fu School Lion Dance troupe will be seen at the Proms for the first time. The Royal Albert Hall's organ makes an appearance with Strauss's *Also sprach Zarathustra* (the theme from *2001: A Space Odyssey*) and there's orchestral music by Tchaikovsky, Ravel and Stravinsky. The concert also includes music from *Harry Potter*, and everyone can join in with the orchestra and the City of Birmingham Youth Chorus in a taste of the familiar festivities of the Last Night of the Proms, by singing 'Land of Hope and Glory'. The BBC Philharmonic's Principal Conductor Gianandrea Noseda is assisted by newcomer Jason Lai.

BBC Children's Prom in the Park celebrates Disney's Enchanted Evening

Sunday 12 September, 6.30-8.30pm

The Hyde Park celebrations don't end with the Last Night on Saturday evening! The weekend's music party continues on Sunday for the fifth large-scale event for children and their families staged by the BBC Proms. This year the BBC Concert Orchestra plays some of Disney's best-known tunes. There will be plenty of on-stage action with dancing, singing and storytelling, and footage from the great films relayed on giant screens around the park. It is hoped that Mickey Mouse will conduct some of the great numbers and the evening will end with a spectacular finale.



Gates open at 5pm; entertainment on stage from 6.30pm; events end c8.30pm.
Tickets: £12 (adults), £7.50 (children 3-16; under-3s free)

Telephone booking: 0870 899 8001 (24 hrs national rate, £2 transaction fee applicable) and (after 14 June) from the Royal Albert Hall on 020 7589 8212 (9.00am–9.00pm, £2 transaction fee applicable) or online via www.bbc.co.uk/proms

Proms links

Proms links

- **Warner Classics releases collection of live recordings made at BBC Proms 2003**

- **Faber & Faber add two more to titles to their concise Proms Guides**

- **British Library hosts Silk Road Exhibition complementing East/West theme**

**Warner Classics releases five BBC Proms live CDs
Released 12 July 2004**

Warner Classics releases five CDs of music recorded live at the 2003 BBC Proms season. Featuring artists such as Nikolai Lugansky, Yan Pascal Tortelier, Angela Gheorghiu, Leila Josefowicz, Alexander Lazarev, Sir Andrew Davis and Catherine Wyn-Rogers, these recordings capture the range, richness and vitality of the BBC Proms, including the First and Last Nights and the special Prom for HM

The Queen which celebrated the 50th anniversary of her Coronation in 2003.

The recordings incorporate themes from the 2003 BBC Proms season: two works by Sergey Prokofiev for his anniversary year and works by Paul Dukas (*Polyeucte Overture*) and Igor Stravinsky (*Perséphone*) inspired by Greek mythology, as well as the great events of the season.

Each CD is accompanied by a fully annotated booklet.

- **First Night of the Proms**

Prokofiev Ivan the Terrible
Irina Tchistiyakova (mezzo-soprano); James Rutherford (baritone); BBC Symphony Chorus; BBC Symphony Orchestra/Leonard Slatkin
2564 61549-2

- **Prokofiev** Symphony No. 5 in B flat major; Piano Concerto No. 1 in D flat major*
National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain/Yan Pascal Tortelier
Nikolai Lugansky (piano)*; Royal Scottish National Orchestra/Alexander Lazarev*
2564 61551-2

- **Stravinsky** Perséphone; **Dukas** Polyeucte Overture*
BBC Symphony Orchestra/Sir Andrew Davis/Yan Pascal Tortelier*
2564 61548-2

- **The Royal Prom**
Elgar Sea Pictures; **Walton** Coronation Te Deum; **Britten** Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra; **Bax** November Woods
BBC Symphony Orchestra/Sir Andrew Davis
2564 61550-2

• Last Night of the Proms

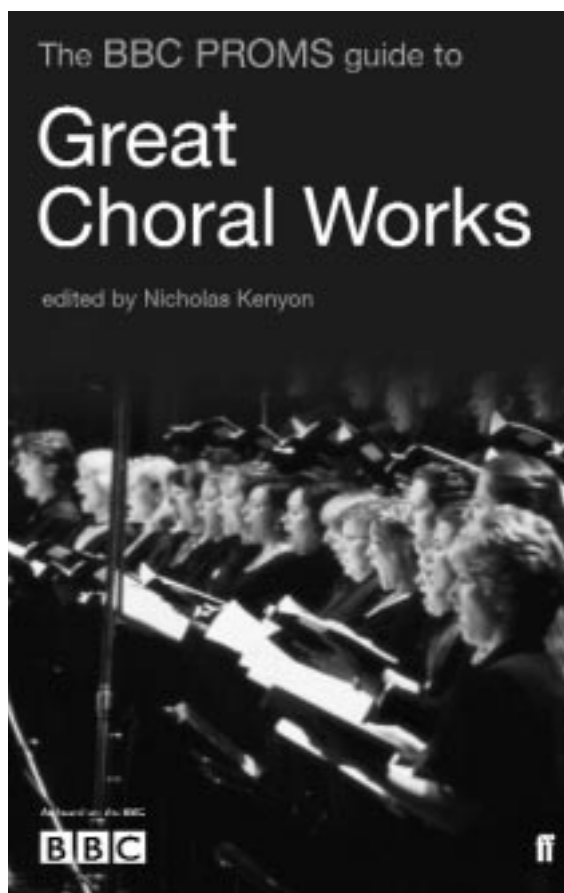
Saint-Saëns Introduction and Rondo capriccioso; **Fauré** Pavane; **Catalani** La Wally – ‘Ebben? Ne andrò lontana’*; **Vaughan Williams** The Wasps – Overture; **Borodin** Prince Igor – Polovtsian Dances; **Massenet** Thaïs – Méditation+; **George Grigoriu** Valurile Dunării – ‘Muzica’*; **Elgar** Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1; **Wood & Grainger, arr. Wilson** Fantasia on British Sea Songs; **Parry orch. Elgar** Jerusalem; The National Anthem; Traditional: Auld Lang Syne
Angela Gheorghiu (soprano)*; Leila Josefowicz (violin)+; BBC Singers; BBC Symphony Chorus; BBC Symphony Orchestra/Leonard Slatkin
2564 61552-2

Proms guides to the great masterpieces of music from Faber

Released 15 April 2004, £8.99 paperbacks

Following the success of the *BBC Proms Guides to Great Symphonies* and *Great Concertos*, Faber has published two more titles in this concise and informative series, edited by Nicholas Kenyon – *The BBC Proms Guide to Great Choral Works* and *The BBC Proms Guide to Great Orchestral Works*. These books collect programme notes written for the nightly concerts at the Royal Albert Hall and make them more widely available.

The first volume examines some of the greatest choral works in the repertory, ranging from Tallis, Handel and Bach to Verdi’s Requiem and innovative 20th-century works by Elgar, Walton and Britten. The second covers an impressive range of popular orchestral music, from Barber’s *Adagio* to Wagner’s operas, and some of the most popular concert works such as Debussy’s *La mer*, Holst’s *The Planets*, Ravel’s *Bolero* and Strauss’s *Don Juan*.



“These are eminently readable and reliable collections, featuring the work of familiar writers we have long since learned to trust.”
Classical Music

Silk Road exhibition at British Library

The Silk Road: Trade, Travel, War and Faith
The British Library in collaboration with the British Museum
Open daily, 7 May – 12 September
Admission free

Exhibition sponsored by the Pidem Fund

The British Library, in collaboration with the British Museum, presents an exhibition of

Proms links

more than 400 manuscripts, artefacts, sounds and artworks from the complex network of trade routes extending over 6,000km, from the shores of the Mediterranean, through the fabled central Asian cities of Bukhara and Samarkand, to the heartland of China for more than 2,000 years.

The exhibition explores the landscape, history and cultures of the Silk Road, as well as the everyday lives of people living along the route. Their concerns are timeless to the human condition. Exhibits range from anti-war poetry, court documents to reclaim land from squatters and prayers to assuage deaths from the plague, down to mousetraps, desert shoes and a letter apologising for getting drunk and behaving badly at a dinner party.



Music was one of the great Silk Road travellers: musicians accompanied armies on the march; travelling bands on camels and carts offered entertainment at the many festivals en route, Silk Road restaurants employed dancing girls and singers, while music was an integral part of Buddhist and other religious services. The origins of the violin and the Chinese pipa (lute) can be traced back to the Central Asian

steppes and itinerant musicians brought with them knowledge of new instruments and unfamiliar musical forms, traditions, songs and dances. Musical exhibits includes 10th-century notation; paintings of orchestras; figurines of dancers and musicians; fragmentary remains of a third-century lute; and over 20 recordings of music, some of which trace their ancestry back to the eighth-century Silk Road.

The exhibition links to the Proms East/West theme and especially to the concerts given by Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble on 13, 15 and 16 August. The BBC Proms is collaborating with the British Library on Silk Road Tales, a series of workshops with teenage students from Chinese, Asian, Turkish, white and other communities in London and elsewhere in the UK. Silk Road Tales takes this exhibition, and the work of Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble, as its inspiration.

See pages 27 for more information about Silk Road Tales.

Artists new to the Proms this year

Conductors

Petr Fiala
Nicholas Kok

Singers

Susan B. Anthony *soprano*
Daniel Auchincloss *tenor*
Jaël Azzaretti *soprano*
Gustáv Beláček *bass*
Richard Berkeley-Steele *tenor*
Jeremy Birchall *bass*
Bertrand Bontoux *bass*
Pavol Breslik *tenor*
Oleg Bryjak *baritone*
Alessandro Corbelli *baritone*
Robert Davies *bass*
Karen England *mezzo-soprano*
Robert Evans *bass*
João Fernandes *bass*
Massimo Giordano *tenor*
Anthony Dean Griffey *tenor*
Thomas Guthrie *baritone*
Manfred Hemm *bass*
Ruthie Henshall *singer* (pictured)



Jared Holt *baritone*
Benjamin Hulett *tenor*
Charles Humphries *countertenor*
Dalibor Jenis *baritone*
Jonas Kaufmann *tenor*
Zdena Kloubová *soprano*
Anna Larsson *contralto*
Topi Lehtipuu *tenor*
Marc Mauillon *tenor*
Maxim Mikhailov *bass*
Nicholas Mulroy *tenor*
Yvonne Naef *mezzo-soprano*
Mary Nelson *soprano*
Rebecca Outram *soprano*
Iain Paterson *baritone*
Adrian Peacock *bass*
Dagmar Pecková *mezzo-soprano*
Olga Pitarch *soprano*
Renata Pokupić *soprano*
Eric Roberts *baritone*
Luigi Roni *bass*
Kate Royal *soprano*
Andrew Rupp *baritone*
Albert Schagidullin *baritone*
Olga Schalaewa *soprano*
Stuart Skelton *tenor*
David Stark *treble*
Krassimira Stoyanova *soprano*
Peter Straka *tenor*
Jeffrey Thompson *tenor*
Ailish Tynan *soprano*
Viateschlav Voinarovski *bass*
Simon Wall *tenor*
Keel Watson *bass*
Matthew White *counter-tenor*
Mark Wilde *tenor*

Groups

Birmingham Opera Company

Debut artists

Choy Lee Fut Kung Fu School
Czech Philharmonic Chorus of Brno
Hamburg Philharmonic Orchestra
Kagemusha Taiko
Lausanne Chamber Orchestra
London Oratory School Chamber Choir
Prague Philharmonia
Psappa
Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra
Silk Road Ensemble
Škampa Quartet
Slovak Philharmonic Choir
Swedish Chamber Orchestra
Temple Church, Choir of the

Pavel Rehberger *timpani*
Rainer Römer *glockenspiel*
Tracy Silverman *electric violin*
Simon Trpčeski *piano* (pictured, left)
James Vivian *organ*
Ueli Wiget *piano*
Llŷr Williams *piano*
Sioned Williams *harp*
Wu Man *pipa*
Wu Tong *sheng/suona*

Instrumentalists



Martin Allen *percussion*
Simon Breyer *horn*
Dirk Campbell *duduk*
Donnie Deacon *violin/viola*
Joel Fan *piano*
Amanda Forsyth *cello*
Itamar Golan *piano*
Marcel Javorček *piano*
Jessica Linnebach *violin*
Jethro Marks *viola*
Rumi Ogawa *xylorimba*
Rachel Podger *violin*

BBC Proms factsheet

What are the BBC Proms?

A series of approximately 70 concerts, mostly orchestral, given nightly every summer between mid-July and mid-September. The BBC Proms are also widely known as the Henry Wood Promenade Concerts.

Where?

The Proms are held at the Royal Albert Hall in London. Until 1941, the Proms took place at the Queen's Hall, which was destroyed during a wartime bombing raid.

Why 'Promenade' Concerts?

Traditionally Proms are concerts at which the atmosphere is informal and where Promenaders stand in the central Arena of the Royal Albert Hall. The Gallery provides another promenade area where there is more room to sit or even lie down and listen to the music.

When did the Proms begin?

The Henry Wood Promenade Concerts began at 8.00pm on Saturday 10 August 1895. Even then, prom concerts were not a new idea: they started in France in the 1830s and were introduced to the UK shortly afterwards.

Whose idea were they?

The Proms were the brainchild of impresario Robert Newman, whose ambition, along with a young conductor named Henry Wood, was to enable people to enjoy 'serious music'. Dr George Cathcart, a London throat specialist, provided the financial support necessary for the new venture to be launched. At that time, concerts were usually expensive, so tickets costing only one shilling meant that large audiences could hear a variety of orchestral music for the first time. Even now, you can

prom for £4 a night, and it's possible, if you buy a season ticket, to attend for less than £2 a night in the Arena or Gallery!

Who was Henry Wood?

The first conductor of the Proms, aged only 26, and the energetic and inspired programme-planner of many Proms seasons. He conducted almost every concert for nearly half a century.

Why the 'Henry Wood Promenade Concerts' and how did the BBC become involved?

The BBC had taken over the running of the Proms in 1927. In 1944, shortly before his death, Sir Henry asked the BBC if it would continue to present the concerts after his retirement, offering the corporation the exclusive right to use the title 'Henry Wood Promenade Concerts' for as long as it continued to promote them.

How can I find out what's on at the Proms?

The BBC Proms 2004 Guide, published on Friday 30 April 2004, contains full details of the complete programme of concerts, along with articles about the music and artists, and a priority booking form. Priced £5.00, it is available from all good bookshops and can be ordered from the BBC Shop, 50 Margaret Street, W1W 8SF; telephone 0870 241 5490. Booking facilities are also available on the BBC Proms website, www.bbc.co.uk/proms, itself a comprehensive source of information and insight into the 2003 Proms season.

Box Office: 020 7589 8212
www.bbc.co.uk/proms