

BBC Proms Extras

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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 witty and lively sextet *La revue de cuisine* (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 miniature masterpiece *Piccola musica notturna* is performed in the final Chamber concert by the Britten Sinfonia, directed by oboeist Nicholas Daniel.

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 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 exclusively 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 at 12.15pm 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

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the UK. The series opens with the Chinese-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, Kaija Saariaho, Joby Talbot and Tan Dun 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.