

### 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***

- **Early Music including Machaut's *Messe de nostre dame* and Czech music from Freiburg Baroque Orchestra**

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

# Late Night Proms

one of the major highlights of the season (Prom 21).

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 *Curlew 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 *Sāvitri* 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).