

CLASSIC *f*M

Programme information

Saturday 26th December 2020 to Friday 1st January 2021

WEEK 53



THE ULTIMATE CLASSIC FM HALL OF FAME

Monday 28th December 2020 to Friday 1st January 2021, 10am to 7pm

The Classic FM Hall of Fame is arguably the largest survey of classical music tastes anywhere on the planet. It began in 1996 and has become a staple on Classic FM ever since. A new top 300, made up entirely by listener votes, is revealed every Easter weekend. This year, it was the 25th countdown in the chart's history, so to mark this milestone, Classic FM broadcasts a 'chart-of-charts' over the festive period. This is a top 300 reflecting the last quarter of a century of the UK's classical music tastes, but what will come out on top?

Will it be Vaughan Williams's *The Lark Ascending*, Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No.2 or Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*, which have all been number one in recent years, or something else entirely? Join Bill Turnbull, Margherita Taylor and John Brunning on Classic FM over the next five days for an exciting and engaging countdown of the most-popular classical music ever composed.

Classic FM is available across the UK on 100-102 FM, DAB digital radio and TV, on Global Player on your smart speaker ("play Classic FM"), iOS or Android device and at ClassicFM.com.

WEEK 53

SATURDAY 26TH DECEMBER

4pm to 7pm: SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES with ANDREW COLLINS

In a snow-sprinkled Boxing Day bumper-edition of Saturday Night at the Movies, Andrew Collins plays all the family-favourite film scores that we love to hear at Christmas time. There's plenty of festive cheer with iconic feel-good soundtracks to *The Muppet Christmas Carol* by Paul Williams, *Love Actually* by Craig Armstrong, *The Sound of Music* by Richard Rogers, *E. T.* by John Williams, *Toy Story* by Randy Newman, *Harry Potter* by John Williams and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by Harry Gregson-Williams.

7pm to 9pm: COWAN'S CLASSICS with ROB COWAN

Rob shines the spotlight on some of his personal favourites from his collection this evening, beginning with Rachmaninov's *Variations on a theme of Paganini*, performed by Philippe Entremont with the Philadelphia Orchestra. Haydn also features, with the closing allegro from his second organ concerto taken from the recent album by the organist Iain Quinn, and Lang Lang plays Bach's *Goldberg Variations*.

9pm to 10pm: BEETHOVEN: THE MAN REVEALED with JOHN SUCHET (51 / 52)

In the penultimate episode of John Suchet's year-long series, we find Beethoven at the countryside retreat with his brother and nephew.

Ludwig and his brother Johann didn't get on and, as passers-by witnessed Beethoven's increasingly eccentric appearance and behaviour whilst on his daily walks, it soon became clear that the family were heading for a huge row. John describes the argument which finally led to the composer making the long journey back to Vienna, in freezing conditions, in an open-top milk cart.

He also unveils Beethoven's rare arrangement of the *Grosse Fuge* for piano duet; the manuscript of which was thought lost until only fifteen years ago. Then John plays Beethoven's final late String Quartet No.16; at the top of the final movement, the composer had scribbled a sentence for reasons we still don't fully understand, "the truly difficult decision".

SUNDAY 27TH DECEMBER

4pm to 7pm: JOHN HUMPHRYS

John celebrates the anniversary of a ballet that won Khachaturian the Lenin Prize in 1954; *Spartacus*. He plays the *Adagio of Spartacus and Phrygia*, recorded by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra performing under Kirill Karabits.

Then, John marks an event that happened in this week, back in 1841. A performance in Berlin by Franz Liszt was so well received, the pianist began a series of 21 concerts that lead to so much hysteria by his fans, the German poet Heinrich Heine coined the term "Lizstomania". John plays Lang Lang's recording of Liszt's *Liebstraum No.3*.

7pm to 9pm: SMOOTH CLASSICS AT SEVEN with CHARLOTTE HAWKINS

Charlotte Hawkins features the harpist Cecilia De Maria as her Young Classical Star. Born in the UK to Maltese parents, Cecilia has performed extensively in both countries, as well as Italy, Spain, Portugal and Australia. Charlotte features Cecilia's latest single, Debussy's *The Girl with the Flaxen Hair*, originally composed for piano, reimagined for harp.

9pm to 10pm: BEETHOVEN: THE MAN REVEALED with JOHN SUCHET (52 / 52)

In the final episode of John Suchet's ground-breaking year-long series to mark Beethoven's 250th anniversary year, John tells the story of the great composer's final days; how the freezing cold journey back to Vienna from his brother's retreat worsened his already swiftly declining health, and how Beethoven promised his tenth symphony to the Philharmonic Society of London. It was never completed.

John also reveals Beethoven's final words, uttered in response to a case of German wine that was sent to him by his publisher, and explains which composer, in the final days of his life, Beethoven claimed to be "the greatest who ever lived".

He plays the piece in which Beethoven seems to finally bear his soul - the slow movement of his final major work, his *String Quartet No.16*, along with the short canon that represents the very last notes Beethoven wrote, and the piece that a brass band played as the composer's funeral cortege passed by; his Piano Sonata No 12.

MONDAY 28TH DECEMBER

10am to 7pm: THE ULTIMATE CLASSIC FM HALL OF FAME

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10am to 1pm: THE ULTIMATE CLASSIC FM HALL OF FAME with BILL TURNBULL

1pm to 4pm: THE ULTIMATE CLASSIC FM HALL OF FAME with MARGHERITA TAYLOR

4pm to 7pm: THE ULTIMATE CLASSIC FM HALL OF FAME with JOHN BRUNNING

TUESDAY 29TH DECEMBER

10am to 7pm: THE ULTIMATE CLASSIC FM HALL OF FAME

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Bill Turnbull continues counting down the top 300 most voted for pieces of classical music across a quarter of a century from the Classic FM Hall of Fame, in honour of its 25th anniversary.

From 10am to 7pm all week, Classic FM unveils the music the nation has chosen as its favourites, with that that all-important number one revealed just before 7pm on New Year's Day.

1pm to 4pm: THE ULTIMATE CLASSIC FM HALL OF FAME with MARGHERITA TAYLOR

4pm to 7pm: THE ULTIMATE CLASSIC FM HALL OF FAME with JOHN BRUNNING

WEDNESDAY 30TH DECEMBER

10am to 7pm: THE ULTIMATE CLASSIC FM HALL OF FAME

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4pm to 7pm: THE ULTIMATE CLASSIC FM HALL OF FAME with JOHN BRUNNING

THURSDAY 31ST DECEMBER

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From 10am to 7pm all week, Classic FM unveils the music the nation has chosen as its favourites, with that all-important number one revealed just before 7pm tomorrow evening.

1pm to 4pm: THE ULTIMATE CLASSIC FM HALL OF FAME with MARGHERITA TAYLOR

4pm to 7pm: THE ULTIMATE CLASSIC FM HALL OF FAME with JOHN BRUNNING

7pm to 10pm: MOIRA STUART MEETS... AGAIN

On New Year's Eve, Moira presents a very special compilation of the many highlights from her acclaimed Sunday evening programme **Moira Stuart Meets...**, in which she has spoken to well-known names from the worlds of the arts and entertainment.

There's a selection of best moments, great musical choices and anecdotes from guests including Dawn French, Stephen Fry and John Cleese.

FRIDAY 1ST JANUARY

10am to 7pm: THE ULTIMATE CLASSIC FM HALL OF FAME

10am to 1pm: THE ULTIMATE CLASSIC FM HALL OF FAME with BILL TURNBULL

Bill Turnbull begins the final day revealing Classic FM's chart-of-charts, counting down the top 300 most voted for pieces of classical music across a quarter of a century from the Classic FM Hall of Fame, in honour of its 25th anniversary.

1pm to 4pm: THE ULTIMATE CLASSIC FM HALL OF FAME with MARGHERITA TAYLOR

4pm to 7pm: THE ULTIMATE CLASSIC FM HALL OF FAME with JOHN BRUNNING