

# CLASSIC *f*M

## Programme information

*Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021*

### WEEK 45



Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra | photo: Benjamin Ealovega

## **THE CLASSIC FM CONCERT with JOHN SUCHET: CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WEEK**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November, 8pm to 10pm**

Across five evenings, John celebrates Classic FM's Orchestra in the Midlands – the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra – with some of its finest recordings from across the years.

The week's celebrations include an exclusive performance of Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance March No.4* – its first radio broadcast – recorded by the orchestra to mark the 2022 Commonwealth Games, which take place in Birmingham. There's also a recently released recording featuring the orchestra's current music director, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla (pictured above).

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## WEEK 45

SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

### **4pm to 7pm: MOIRA STUART'S HALL OF FAME CONCERT**

The day after Guy Fawkes Night, Moira marks the occasion with Handel's own musical fireworks. Written for a firework display in London's Green Park to celebrate the end of the War of the Austrian Succession, the *Music for the Royal Fireworks* was described as a "spectacle of English pride and joy" by none other than Mozart himself.

There's also renaissance-inspired music by Vaughan Williams, a Bizet favourite and one of the greatest guitarists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century – Julian Bream – plays Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez*.

Ralph Vaughan Williams  
Fantasia on a theme of Thomas Tallis  
Pinchas Zukerman conducts the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Georges Bizet  
Pearl Fishers – Duet  
Tenors: Bonaventura Bottone & Willard White  
Carl Davis conducts the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra

George Frederic Handel  
Music for the Royal Fireworks  
Alfredo Bernadini conducts Zefiro

John Barry  
Dances with Wolves – John Dunbar Theme  
Paul Bateman conducts the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Frédéric Chopin  
Ballade No.1 in G minor Opus 23  
Piano: Arturo Benedetti Michaelangeli

Joaquin Rodrigo  
Concierto de Aranjuez  
Guitar: Julian Bream  
Colin Davis conducts the Melos Ensemble

Franz Schubert  
Symphony No.5 in B-flat major D.485  
John Eliot Gardiner conducts the Orchestre Revolutionnaire et Romantique

SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

**4pm to 7pm: JOHN HUMPHRYS**

John features the music of a composer who became the first African-American woman to have a composition played by a major orchestra: Florence Price's Symphony No.3 was written at the height of the Great Depression and John plays a recent recording by the Philadelphia Orchestra under Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

Then, he chooses one of his all time favourite pieces of music – Beethoven's one and only Violin Concerto, performed in sparkling fashion by Classic FM's Artist-in-Residence, Maxim Vengerov.

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

Charlotte showcases the pianist Olga Scheps as her Young Classical Star, following the release of Olga's latest album, *Family*. It features original arrangements of film music by Michael Giacchino, Randy and Thomas Newman, John Williams and James Horner, inspired by music which Olga played for her new-born baby when she was at home in 2020.

**9pm to 10pm: MOIRA STUART MEETS... SHEKU AND ISATA KANNEH-MASON (10 / 16)**

Moira continues the second season of her acclaimed interview series, speaking with some of the most well-known names from the worlds of sport, arts, entertainment and politics. She discusses their career defining moments and memories, as they choose the classical music that is important to them.

Moira meets two members of one of classical music's most talented families; Sheku and Isata Kanneh-Mason. They talk about their upbringing, sharing a house with five other musical siblings and they tell Moira about the pieces that have had the biggest impact on their lives, including Elgar's Cello Concerto, Schubert's 'Trout' Quintet and Mozart's final work, his *Requiem*.

MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

**8pm to 10pm: THE CLASSIC FM CONCERT with JOHN SUCHET**  
**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WEEK – PART 1**

Across the next five evenings, John celebrates Classic FM's Orchestra in the Midlands – the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra – with some of its finest recordings from across the years.

The week's celebrations begin with an exclusive performance of Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance March No.4* – its first radio broadcast – recorded by the orchestra to mark the 2022 Commonwealth Games, which take place in Birmingham.

There's a critically acclaimed recording of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No.2 with Lars Vogt as soloist and directed by Sir Simon Rattle, who raised the profile of the orchestra during his tenure in the 1980s to that of one of the country's leading ensembles.

There's also a moment of calm by Tchaikovsky, and chief conductor from 1998 to 2008, Sakari Oramo, directs the orchestra in Sibelius' moving Symphony No.2.

Edward Elgar  
Pomp and Circumstance No.4 in G major Opus 39  
Alpesh Chauhan conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Ludwig van Beethoven  
Piano Concerto No.2 in B-flat major Opus 19  
Piano: Lars Vogt  
Sir Simon Rattle conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Claude Debussy  
Prelude a l'après-midi d'un faune  
Louis Frémaux conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky  
Meditation Opus 42 No.1  
Violin: Baiba Skride  
Andris Nelsons conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Jean Sibelius  
Symphony No.2 in D major Opus 43  
Sakari Oramo conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

**8pm to 10pm: THE CLASSIC FM CONCERT with JOHN SUCHET:  
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WEEK – PART 2**

John features more of the greatest recordings of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, including another exclusive performance recorded in celebration of the 2022 Commonwealth Games. James Ehnes is the soloist in Sarasate's fiendishly difficult *Zigeunerweisen*.

The centrepiece of the concert is Mendelssohn's 'Scottish' Symphony, released in 2014 as part of the orchestra and Edward Gardner's celebrated 'Mendelssohn in Birmingham' series. Later, there's a whimsical favourite by Dukas.

Rounding off the programme is Coates' *Calling all Workers*. Coates lived in London and the South East for much of his life, but was born in the Midlands a couple of decades before the CBSO was officially founded.

William Walton  
Orb & Sceptre  
Louis Frémaux conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Pablo de Sarasate  
*Zigeunerweisen*  
Violin: James Ehnes  
Alpesh Chauhan conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Felix Mendelssohn  
Symphony No.3 in A minor Opus 56  
(‘Scottish’)  
Edward Gardner conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Paul Dukas  
The Sorcerer's Apprentice  
Louis Frémaux conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

George Gershwin  
Piano Concerto in F  
Piano: Peter Donohoe  
Simon Rattle conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Eric Coates  
Calling all Workers  
Reginald Kilbey conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

**8pm to 10pm: THE CLASSIC FM CONCERT with JOHN SUCHET**  
**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WEEK – PART 3**

Classic FM's showcase of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra continues with an unreleased exclusive performance, as French conductor Fabien Gabel directs Humperdinck's joyful overture to *Hansel & Gretel*.

Later, there is a recently released recording featuring the orchestra's current music director, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla; a fantastic re-mastered performance of Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals* directed by Louis Frémaux, who was chief conductor from 1969, and Stephen Hough plays Dvořák's lesser-known Piano Concerto.

Engelbert Humperdinck  
Hansel & Gretel – Overture  
Fabien Gabel conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Joseph Haydn  
Symphony No.102 in B-flat major  
Simon Rattle conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Edward Elgar  
Sospiri Opus 70  
Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Camille Saint-Saëns  
Carnival of the Animals  
Louis Frémaux conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Antonin Dvořák  
Piano Concerto in G minor Opus 33  
Piano: Stephen Hough  
Andris Nelsons conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

**8pm to 10pm: THE CLASSIC FM CONCERT with JOHN SUCHET**  
**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WEEK – PART 4**

The week-long showcase of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra continues with a round-up of the instruments courtesy of Britten, before an exclusive and unreleased performance of Grieg's *Peer Gynt Suite No. 1*, conducted by Fabien Gabel. After, Edward Gardner steps up to the podium for Schubert's intense and mysterious 'Unfinished' Symphony, of which only two full movements remain.

There's an appearance from the City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus, founded in 1973, which is one of the country's finest amateur choirs. John selects a 1989 recording of Fauré's *Requiem*, with the great Louis Frémaux at the helm.

Benjamin Britten  
The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra – Theme  
Simon Rattle conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Edvard Grieg  
Peer Gynt Suite No.1  
Fabien Gabel conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Franz Schubert  
Symphony No.8 in B minor D.759  
(‘Unfinished’)  
Edward Gardner conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Carl Maria von Weber  
Clarinet Concerto No.2 in E-flat major Opus 57  
Clarinet: Janet Hilton  
Neeme Järvi conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Gabriel Fauré  
Requiem Opus 48  
Louis Frémaux conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra & Chorus

FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

**8pm to 10pm: THE CLASSIC FM CONCERT with JOHN SUCHET**  
**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WEEK – PART 5**

The celebration of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra culminates with music from some of the stars that make the ensemble great today. There's a very special exclusive performance of Ravel's *Une barque sur l'océan* featuring the newly announced chief conductor, starting in 2023, Kazuki Yamada, in his debut recording.

Earlier in the programme, there's another chance to hear music from the acclaimed 'Mendelssohn in Birmingham' series with conductor Edward Gardner. Superstar cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason joins the orchestra under Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla for a beautiful performance of Shostakovich's *Nocturne*.

Mikhail Glinka

Ruslan & Ludmilla – Overture

George Weldon conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Felix Mendelssohn

A Midsummer Night's Dream – Incidental Music

Edward Gardner conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Dmitri Shostakovich

The Gadfly – Nocturne

Cello: Sheku Kanneh-Mason

Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Georges Bizet

Symphony in C major

Louis Frémaux conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Maurice Ravel

Une barque sur l'océan

Kazuki Yamada conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra