

Programme information

Saturday 12th March to Friday 18th March 2022

WEEK 11



THE CLASSIC FM CONCERT with SIR TREVOR MCDONALD: A ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

Thursday 17th March, 8pm to 10pm

All this week (Monday to Friday), the legendary news presenter and broadcaster Sir Trevor McDonald (above) hosts the Classic FM Concert.

Sir Trevor marks St Patrick's Day with an all-Irish programme of music, celebrating the many talents from the Emerald Isle. To begin, a beautiful rendition of one of the most instantly recognisable traditional Irish melodies, *Danny Boy*.

It wouldn't be a celebration of Irish talent without an appearance from flautist James Galway, before a suite of music from one of Ireland's most successful musical exports, *Riverdance*, and a beautiful Piano Concerto by John Field.

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WEEK 11

SATURDAY 12TH MARCH

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

Moira celebrates two works, which their composers didn't enjoy when they wrote them, but have since gone on to become celebrated staples of their repertoire.

Alfred Brendel is joined by the London Symphony Orchestra and Claudio Abbado in Robert Schumann's Piano Concerto, which was the composer's fourth attempt at the genre and only came to be with the guidance and support of his wife, Clara.

Later, the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra under Mariss Jansons plays Tchaikovsky's Symphony No.5. After the premiere, Tchaikovsky said, "I have come to the conclusion that it is a failure".

Elsewhere in the programme, there's a contemporary concerto by Richard Harvey, and patriotic music by Sibelius.

Aaron Copland Fanfare for the Common Man Carl Davis conducts the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Eine Kleine Nachtmusik Andrew Manze conducts The English Concert

Robert Schumann Piano Concerto in A minor Opus 54 Piano: Alfred Brendel Claudio Abbado conducts the London Symphony Orchestra

John Barry The Beyondness of Things English Chamber Orchestra

Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky Symphony No.5 in E minor Opus 64 Mariss Jansons conducts the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra

Jean Sibelius Karelia Suite Opus 11 Andrew Davis conducts the Berge Philharmonic Orchestra

Richard Harvey Concerto Antico Guitar: John Williams Paul Daniel conducts the London Symphony Orchestra

Arturo Marquez Danzon No.2 Gustavo Dudamel conducts the Simon Bolivar Orchestra of Venezuela

SATURDAY 12TH MARCH

7pm to 9pm: SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES with ANDREW COLLINS

Spring is approaching and Andrew digs out his favourite films illustrating the change of season, to welcome better weather. The uplifting tunes from *The Sound of Music* by Richard Rodgers feature; the latest remake of *The Secret Garden* scored by Dario Marianelli; *Notting Hill* composed by Trevor Jones and Isobel Waller-Bridge's music to *Emma* are also included.

9pm to 10pm: DAVID MELLOR'S MELODIES

David focuses on music from the Emerald Isle to celebrate St.Patrick's Day, which falls this Thursday. There's a performance from the great Irish flautist James Galway and a fantastic medley of traditional tunes performed by the Boston Pops and their conductor Arthur Fielder.

SUNDAY 13TH MARCH

4pm to 7pm: JOHN HUMPHRYS

On this day in 1845, violinist Ferdinand David took to the stage in Leipzig to give the first performance of Felix Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto – the final concerto he was to write. John marks the anniversary with a recording by the British violinist Jennifer Pike, alongside the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

Then, John features a new recording from the Voices of Classic FM, The Sixteen. Their new album, *There is an Old Belief,* is centred around some of the final works of Hubert Parry – his emotional and heartfelt *Songs of Farewell.*

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

The pianist Martin James Bartlett is Charlotte's Young Classical Star. Born in 1996, he began his musical studies at the age of six, first with the piano and then two years later with bassoon and recorder. Martin signed a recording contract with Warner Classics in 2019 and his debut album, *Love and Death*, featured the works of Prokofiev, Bach, Liszt, Schumann, Wagner and Granados. In the same year he was awarded the Queen Mother Rosebowl by Prince Charles and made his debut performance at Classic FM Live at the Royal Albert Hall. He has recently released a new album, *Rhapsody*, which features the works of Rachmaninov and Gershwin.

<u>9pm to 10pm: FROM COUCH TO OPERA HOUSE (IN 7 WEEKS)</u> with JENNIFER SAUNDERS

Classic FM welcomes Jennifer Saunders to host a landmark new Sunday series, in which she introduces listeners to the world of opera, in all of its wonder.

From Couch to Opera House (in 7 weeks), in association with the English National Opera, is the latest in a series of specially commissioned programming to celebrate Classic FM's 30th year.

Across seven programmes, the aim of the series is to demystify the genre to novice opera-goers – taking listeners by the hand from the moment they enter through the virtual opera house doors, through the foyer to finally settling in the Grand Circle for the anticipated performance.

In the second programme, Jennifer takes on the theme of 'heartbreakers' – or opera's greatest love stories.

She features the couples that make operas, from Mimi and Rodolfo *in La Boheme*, Alfredo and Violetta from *La Traviata* and a certain pair of star-crossed lovers in Gounod's musical re-telling of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

The recordings are from some of the opera world's biggest stars. Joseph Calleja sheds a tear over Donezetti's heroine; there's a heartwrenching duet from Puccini's *Tosca*, sung by Anna Netrebko and Piotr Beczala and there's an appearance from one of opera's biggest divas: Maria Callas.

MONDAY 14TH MARCH

8pm to 10pm: THE CLASSIC FM CONCERT with SIR TREVOR MCDONALD

All this week, the legendary news presenter and broadcaster Sir Trevor McDonald hosts The Classic FM Concert.

To start the week, Trevor celebrates one of the most exciting young talents in classical music, 29 year old Austrian-Iranian cellist Kian Soltani. A protégé of conducting titan Daniel Barenboim, Kian held the position of principal cellist in the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra and has since released a series of albums on Deutsche-Grammophon. Trevor selects his performance of Dvořák's beautiful Cello Concerto, which the composer wrote during his spell in New York.

Elsewhere, there's another display of young talent in a fantastic recording of Beethoven's Symphony No.7 from the Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela and there's a setting of traditional Welsh tunes by Grace Williams.

Gioachino Rossini The Silken Ladder – Overture Yehudi Menuhin conducts Sinfonia Varsovia

Antonin Dvořák Cello Concerto in B minor Opus 104 Cello: Kian Soltani Daniel Barenboim conducts the Staatskapelle Berlin

Anon Shenandoah John Williams conducts the Boston Pops Orchestra

Ludwig van Beethoven Symphony No.7 in A major Opus 92 Gustavo Dudamel conducts the Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela

Jules Massenet Les Erinnyes – Ent'racte to Act III Richard Bonynge conducts the London Symphony Orchestra

Frédéric Chopin Fantaisie-Impromptu in C-sharp minor Opus 66 Piano: Vladimir Ashkenazy

Grace Williams Fantasia on Welsh Nursery Tunes Andrew Penny conducts the Royal Ballet Sinfonia

TUESDAY 15TH MARCH

8pm to 10pm: THE CLASSIC FM CONCERT with SIR TREVOR MCDONALD

Two of the day's most celebrated classical pianists share the spotlight in the programme. First, Sir Trevor highlights Stephen Hough, a multi-talented soloist, writer and composer, as he plays Beethoven's 'Emperor' concerto, in a critically acclaimed recording with the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Hannu Lintu. Later, international star Lang Lang takes to the stage to play Liszt's moving *Consolation No.3.*

Also in the programme, there's a lesser-known work by Coleridge-Taylor, and I Solisti Veneti plays Respighi's tribute to renaissance Italy.

Felix Mendelssohn Hebrides Overture Opus 26 ('Fingal's Cave') John Eliot Gardiner conducts the London Symphony Orchestra

Ludwig van Beethoven Piano Concerto No.5 in E-flat major Opus 73 ('Emperor') Piano: Stephen Hough Hannu Lintu conducts the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Romance of the Prairie Lilies Opus 39 Adrian Leaper conducts the RTÉ Concert Orchestra

Joseph Haydn Symphony No.96 in D major Bernard Haitink conducts the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra

Ottorino Respighi Ancient Airs and Dances – Suite No.3 Claudio Scimone conducts I Solisti Veneti

Franz Liszt Consolation No.3 Piano: Lang Lang

Frederick Delius A Song before Sunrise John Barbirolli conducts the Hallé Orchestra

WEDNESDAY 16TH MARCH

8pm to 10pm: THE CLASSIC FM CONCERT with SIR TREVOR MCDONALD: MIDWEEK MOODLIFTERS

Sir Trevor hosts a programme of the most uplifting music, beginning with a lively dance from Tchaikovsky's most successful opera, *Eugene Onegin*, before Steven Isserlis is the soloist in Haydn's Cello Concerto No.1, which the composer wrote for his close friend, Joseph Weigl.

After, the London Mozart Players perform Alice Mary Smith's Symphony in A minor, which was never played during her lifetime. There's a medley of showtunes by Jerome Kern and a moment of musical comedy courtesy of Mozart.

Peter Ilich Tchaikovksy Eugene Onegin – Polonaise Antonio Pappano conducts the National Academy of St Cecilia Orchestra

Joseph Haydn Cello Concerto No.1 in C major Steven Isserlis directs the German Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra

Nikolay Rimsky-Korsakov Capriccio Espagnol Opus 34 Alexander Lazarev conducts the London Philharmonic Orchestra

Alice Mary Smith Symphony in A minor Howard Shelley conducts the London Mozart Players

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart A Musical Joke K.522 Camerata Salzburg

Jerome Kern Showboat – Symphonic Suite Carl Davis conducts the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra

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Anon Danny Boy John Williams conducts the Boston Pops Orchestra

Charles Villiers Stanford Irish Rhapsody No.3 in D major Opus 137 Cello: Raphael Wallfisch Vernon Handley conducts the Ulster Orchestra

Phil Coulter Home away from home James Galway directs the Irish Philharmonia from the flute

Bill Whelan Riverdance: Symphonic Suite David Brophy conducts the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra

John Field Piano Concerto No.3 in E-flat major Piano: Miceal O'Rourke Matthias Bamert conducts the London Mozart Players

Anon (Arr. Leroy Anderson) The Minstrel Boy Arthur Fiedler conducts the Boston Pops Orchestra

Herbert Hamilton Harty In Ireland Proinssias O'Duinn conducts the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland

FRIDAY 18TH MARCH

8pm to 10pm: THE CLASSIC FM CONCERT with SIR TREVOR MCDONALD

Sir Trevor showcases one of his own favourite classical recordings, which is often considered to be one of the finest of the 20th century. Jacqueline du Pré recorded Elgar's mighty Cello Concerto with the London Symphony and John Barbirolli at the age of just 20, propelling herself into international recognition, and raising the popularity of the concerto.

There's also a moment for the harp to shine, in Handel's Harp Concerto in B-flat, performed by Lily Laskine, and Andris Nelsons conducts the Boston Symphony Orchestra in Brahms' much toiled over Symphony No.1.

Marc-Antoine Charpentier Te Deum – Prelude William Christie conducts Les Arts Florissants

Edward Elgar Cello Concerto in E minor Opus 85 Cello: Jacqueline du Pré John Barbirolli conducts the London Symphony Orchestra

Ralph Vaughan Williams English Folksongs Suite Arthur Fiedler conducts the Boston Pops Orchestra

Johannes Brahms Symphony No.1 in C minor Opus 68 Andris Nelsons conducts the Boston Symphony Orchestra

Johann Sebastian Bach Prelude in B minor Piano: Alexandre Tharaud

George Frideric Handel Harp Concerto in B-flat major Harp: Lily Laskine Louis Auriacombe conducts the Toulouse Chamber Orchestra