

CLASSIC *f*M

Programme highlights

Saturday 23rd to Friday 29th March 2024

WEEK 13



DAME JUDI'S CLASSICAL FAVOURITES with ZEB SOANES

Friday 29th March, 9pm to 10pm

In the year Dame Judi Dench turns 90, the celebrated actor welcomes Zeb Soanes (above) into her home, as she reveals her favourite pieces of classical music. In an exclusive programme for Classic FM, Judi tells Zeb how she has treasured this music and how its connected to her long and glittering life and career.

Illustrating her love of Scotland, Dame Judi chooses Peter Maxwell Davies' *Farewell to Stromness*, describing to Zeb why, although she's not Scottish, she feels it's her spiritual home. Later, she selects part of a Mozart opera she saw whilst at drama school, describing it as 'unforgettable', and Judi also chooses the favourite piece of her late husband Michael Williams: *The Lark Ascending* by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

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WEEK 13

SATURDAY 23RD MARCH

10am to 1pm: ALED JONES

Aled invites you to join him for three hours of the best classical music, with an unmissable morning of old favourites and new discoveries. Includes the legendary Italian mezzo-soprano Cecilia Bartoli as his **Saturday Singer** after 12pm, where Aled celebrates the greatest voices in classical music.

Bartoli has established herself as a musical pioneer, exploring new performance practices and highlighting lesser-known works over her 30-year-career. She brings this music to life with her uniquely rich and powerful, but supple voice. Aled selects Bartoli's recording of 'Voi che sapete' from *The Marriage of Figaro* by Mozart, accompanied by the Chamber Orchestra of Vienna under György Fischer.

4pm to 7pm: ALAN TITCHMARSH

Join Alan for three hours of perfect classical music. He'll have *Eye Level*, the theme by Jack Trombey to the detective drama *Van der Valk*, as his **Off the box** choice after 4pm, as well as a **Gardening Tip**, and setting his legendary **Titchmarsh Teaser** question after 5pm. There's a chance to enjoy Richard Rodney Bennett's evocative score to *Murder on the Orient Express* and, after 6pm, Alan chooses one of Shostakovich's most popular pieces: the posthumously compiled *Jazz Suite No.2*, also known as the *Suite for Variety Orchestra*, performed by the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra under Riccardo Chailly.

7pm to 9pm: CLASSIC FM AT THE MOVIES with JONATHAN ROSS

Jonathan continues to highlight cinema's biggest anniversaries falling in 2024. It's been 10 years since the release of the scores to *The Imitation Game* and *The Grand Budapest Hotel* by Alexandre Desplat; Pixar animation *The Incredibles* turns 20 along with its score by Michael Giacchino, and Hans Zimmer and Elton John's musical masterpiece, *The Lion King*, celebrates its 30th anniversary. Also marking a significant anniversary is Nino Rota's score to *The Godfather Part II*, and Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* celebrates 70 years on the screen.

9pm to 10pm: CONNECTING NOTES with JOHN HUMPHRYS (10 / 10)

John Humphrys concludes his series exploring the themes that have united classical music through the centuries.

In the final episode, John explores the world of choral music. He has a personal connection to the genre, having joined a choir last year, which he explains, as well as revealing what it is about singing that has become so special to him.

John celebrates the diversity of UK choral music with a range of amateur and professional choirs, including the Welsh male voice tradition, through a recording made by the Treorchy Male Voice Choir. Elsewhere, Voces8 performs *The Seal Lullaby* by American composer Eric Whitacre, and John selects a performance of the 'Lacrimosa' from Mozart's Requiem – a piece which his own choir is tackling.

SUNDAY 24TH MARCH

1pm to 4pm: JOANNA GOSLING

Joanna Gosling presents Sunday afternoons. Join her for three hours of the best classical music, from firm favourites to new discoveries.

Joanna features Tchaikovsky's Symphony No.5 in E minor as her **Sunday Symphony**, showcasing the graceful second movement. The composer once described the piece as a 'complete resignation before fate'. Whilst he eventually abandoned any overtly programmatic references in the work, the idea of 'fate' clearly underpins it, most notably through a 'fate motive', which pervades the entire symphony. Joanna selects a recording by the London Symphony Orchestra under Gianandrea Noseda.

After 2pm, there's an opportunity to **Stop the Clock** during the *Adagio of Spartacus and Phrygia*, from the ballet *Spartacus* by Khachaturian, and, after that, Joanna presents the **Hall of Fame 3 at 3** – three pieces of music from the Classic FM Hall of Fame chart.

4pm to 7pm: STEPHEN MANGAN

Join renowned actor and author Stephen Mangan in his new radio home on Classic FM for a three-hour programme packed with the best classical music for a Sunday afternoon.

After 5pm, Stephen reveals the latest instalment in his **Classical A-Z** – unwrapping classical music names and notions one letter at a time. This week the focus is on the letter 'I' for 'Intermezzo', a musical term with a number of contradictory meanings. Stephen provides clarity through a recording of the *Intermezzo in A Opus 118 No.2* by Johannes Brahms, transcribed for clarinet and piano and performed, respectively, by Andreas Ottensamer and Yuja Wang.

FRIDAY 29TH MARCH

9am to 9pm: THE CLASSIC FM HALL OF FAME 2024

This Easter, Classic FM counts down the world's biggest annual poll of classical music tastes – **The Classic FM Hall of Fame**. This is the 29th countdown in the chart's history and is compiled entirely by the public, from votes received during the first months of 2024.

From 9am to 9pm, across all four days of the long weekend, the 300 pieces of music the nation has chosen will be unveiled, with the all-important number one piece revealed just before 9pm on Easter Monday.

9am to 12pm: The Classic FM Hall of Fame 2024 with Aled Jones

12pm to 3pm: The Classic FM Hall of Fame 2024 with Anne-Marie Minhall

3pm to 6pm: The Classic FM Hall of Fame 2024 with Margherita Taylor

6pm to 9pm: The Classic FM Hall of Fame 2024 with Sam Pittis

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