Programme highlights

Saturday 4th May to Friday 10th May 2024

WEEK 19



Monday 6th May

7pm to 8.30pm: THE GENIUS OF JOY: THE STORY OF BEETHOVEN'S NINTH with RICHARD ARMITAGE and CLASSIC FM PRESENTERS

8.30pm to 10pm: BEETHOVEN'S SYMPHONY NO.9 with JOHN SUCHET

On 7th May 1824, Ludwig van Beethoven conducted the premiere of his genre-defying and genre-defining Ninth Symphony, the 'Choral'. On the eve of the 200th anniversary of this occasion, from 7pm to 8.30pm, Classic FM brings the story of the work's genesis to life through an exclusive dramatisation narrated by Richard Armitage – with a cast of Classic FM presenters including Alexander Armstrong, Stephen Mangan, Dan Walker, Myleene Klass and Alan Titchmarsh providing the character voices.

Then from 8.30pm to 10pm, John Suchet – Beethoven expert and devotee – continues Classic FM's celebration of the composer's Symphony No.9, guiding you through the symphony, movement by movement, offering interesting historical context and pointing out moments of musical significance.

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WEEK 19

SATURDAY 4TH MAY

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 Jamaican-born British bass-baritone Sir Willard White as **Saturday Singer** after 12pm, when Aled celebrates the greatest voices in classical music. Aled selects White's recording of 'Fin ch'han dal vino' from Mozart's opera *Don Giovanni*.

4pm to 6pm: ALAN TITCHMARSH

Join Alan for three hours of the very best classical music. For **Off the Box** after 4pm, Alan chooses Ron Grainer's theme to TV detective series Maigret, alongside his **Gardening Tip**, and there's the **Titchmarsh Teaser** question after 5pm. Alan also features a big-screen classic from Ron Goodwin, playing the suite from *Battle of Britain*.

6pm to 7pm: NOTES FROM DOWNING STREET with ALAN TITCHMARSH

Alan presents a Classic FM exclusive – a collection of players from the London Philharmonic Orchestra performs a special concert in the state rooms of Number 11 Downing Street. The performance is part of a new initiative to place live classical music at the heart of government, celebrating the nation's best orchestras and ensembles. This concert features the Clarinet Quintet in F-sharp minor by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor.

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

Jonathan puts some spring favourites front and centre, including *Notting Hill* by Trevor Jones, *Memoirs of a Geisha* by John Williams and *Alice in Wonderland* by Danny Elfman. He also features period dramas *Anna Karenina* scored by Dario Marianelli and *The Last Emperor* by Ryuichi Sakamoto, as well as music by the great Nicholas Britell and Alberto Iglesias to the films *Don't Look Up* and *Pain and Glory.*

SATURDAY 4TH MAY

9pm to 10pm: CLASSIC PARENT POWER with MYLEENE KLASS (5 / 8)

As we enter exam season, Myleene Klass is here for an extra hour on Saturday evening to bring 60 minutes of popular and relaxing classical music interspersed with helpful tips and advice for parents of students studying.

This evening, Myleene tackles the subject of wellbeing during exams. How do we help our students stay mentally and physically healthy while they're revising? Myleene has tips and advice, as well as music from Rossini, who was born into a musical family and whose father was a horn player. We'll hear his 'Largo al factotum' from *The Barber of Seville*, sung by Dmitri Hvorostovsky.

She also features Lili Boulanger, whose father Ernest was a French composer of opera. Lili and her sister Nadia were both encouraged as musicians by their parents from an early age. We hear Lili's 'Nocturne' – with Coco Tomita and Simon Callaghan performing.

SUNDAY 5TH MAY

1pm to 4pm: JOANNA GOSLING

Joanna Gosling presents three hours of perfect classical music to accompany your Sunday afternoon.

For her **Sunday Symphony,** Joanna selects an early work by Georges Bizet, written when the composer was only 17 years old – the Symphony in C. Joanna chooses the recording by the National Phlharmonic Orchestra under Leopold Stokowski.

After 2pm, Joanna has an invitation to **Stop the Clock,** by playing the opening movement of Robert Schumann's Piano Concerto in A minor with soloist Ingrid Fliter joining the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

In the **Hall of Fame 3 at 3**, Joanna brings three pieces in a row from the Classic FM Hall of Fame chart.

4pm to 7pm: STEPHEN MANGAN

Join renowned actor and author Stephen Mangan for a three-hour programme packed with the best classical music for a Sunday afternoon.

After 5pm, Stephen reaches the letter N in his **Classical A-Z** feature, as he explains classical music names and notions one letter at a time. N stands for Nocturne, a nebulous term used by different composers to mean different things. Stephen provides clarity as he plays the last of Debussy's three orchestral *Nocturnes*, subtitled 'Sirènes', evoking the churning of a seascape as a group of sirens laugh in the background. Stephen also chooses Jan Lisiecki's performance of the *Nocturne in E-flat Op.9 No.2* by Chopin.

MONDAY 6TH MAY

7pm to 8.30pm: THE GENIUS OF JOY: THE STORY OF BEETHOVEN'S NINTH with RICHARD ARMITAGE and CLASSIC FM PRESENTERS

On 7 May 1824, Ludwig van Beethoven conducted the premiere of his genre-defying and genre-defining Ninth Symphony, the 'Choral' – the first symphonic work to feature choral and solo voices. On the eve of the 200th anniversary of this occasion, Classic FM brings the story of the work's genesis to life through an exclusive dramatisation that includes letters written by Beethoven to his friends and acquaintances.

Narrated by Richard Armitage – with a cast of Classic FM presenters including Alexander Armstrong, Stephen Mangan, Dan Walker, Katie Breathwick, Zeb Soanes, Myleene Klass and Alan Titchmarsh providing the character voices – this is a fascinating and entertaining retelling of the birth of one of western civilisation's most important and treasured works of music.

8.30pm to 10pm: BEETHOVEN'S SYMPHONY NO.9 with JOHN SUCHET

John Suchet – Beethoven expert and devotee – continues Classic FM's celebration of the composer's Symphony No.9, on the eve of the work's 200th anniversary. In this programme, John will guide you through the symphony, movement by movement, offering interesting historical context and pointing out moments of musical significance.

FRIDAY 10TH MAY

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

Join Jonathan as he plays iconic and much-loved film music to start the weekend to entertain the whole family, from Golden-Age Hollywood favourites to blockbuster action films, musicals and animations. This programme includes *The Little Mermaid* by Alan Menken, *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3* by John Murphy*, Superman* by John Williams, *Gone with the Wind* by Max Steiner and *The King and I* by Rodgers and Hammerstein.

9pm to 10pm: NOTES FROM ITALY with FREDDIE DE TOMMASO (6 / 6)

The talented British-Italian tenor concludes his musical exploration of Italy on Classic FM.

For the final programme in the series, Freddie heads to the south of Italy to discover the art of Neapolitan song. He features operatic classics including 'Mattinata' by Leoncavallo, and the finale from *Norma* which Freddie recently performed at the famed San Carlo Theatre in Naples. Other favourites include 'Funiculì, funiculà', 'O Sole Mio' and 'Torna a Surriento'.