

**B:Music**

# Birmingham Classical

2026/27

Martha Argerich  
Ingrid Fliter  
Marin Alsop  
Metropolis at 100  
Maria loudenitch  
Opera North

**B:Music** The Birmingham music charity responsible for Town Hall and Symphony Hall

## Ways to save

### Buy more and save more with concert packages

Book 3+ concerts at any time and unlock great discounts

Buy 3–5  
concerts &  
**save  
10%**

Buy 6–11  
concerts &  
**save  
20%**

Buy 12+  
concerts &  
**save  
30%**

### More ways to save

#### FAMILY TICKETS

**KIDS GO FREE** One free ticket per child (aged 16 and under) for every adult ticket purchased.

**FAMILY PLUS** One free ticket per child (aged 16 and under) for every adult ticket purchased. £5 for additional child tickets (aged 16 and under), no additional adult ticket necessary.

#### 16 – 30s FOR £5

**Tickets for just £5** are available for every Birmingham Classical 2026/2027 performance for those aged 16 – 30. Tickets can be booked online, over the phone or in person. Please ensure you bring a valid form of ID with you as checks will be in place.

#### STUDENTS

**Tickets for just £5** available with a valid free student membership.

#### GROUP OFFERS, DISABLED VISITORS' COMPANIONS & BENEFIT RECIPIENTS

Group offers, free limited tickets for Disabled Visitors' Companions and £5 tickets for benefit recipients are available for all Birmingham Classical concerts.

Full details are available at  
[bmusic.co.uk/bclassical](https://bmusic.co.uk/bclassical)

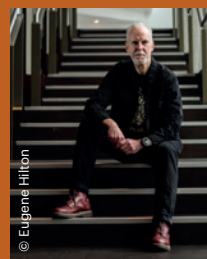
**Online:** [bmusic.co.uk](https://bmusic.co.uk)

**By phone:** 0121 780 3333

Telephone lines open

Monday to Saturday, 10am – 4pm

See **How to Book** (page 25) for further details



Welcome to a brand new Birmingham Classical season of thrilling musical experiences. From the best of British to international cultural ambassadors from Germany to Taiwan, we bring you some of the world's finest orchestras, dazzling soloists and next generation Rising Stars.

A jewel in the season's crown is the unique opportunity to hear legendary pianist Martha Argerich for the first time in Birmingham Classical. Another 'first' is the entirely female line-up of soloists, including sparkling violinists Esther Yoo and Maria Loudenitch, and renowned pianist Ingrid Fliter.

2027 marks the 200th anniversary of the death of Ludwig van Beethoven and we include two of his piano concertos at the beginning of the season. Look out too for pioneering conductor Marin Alsop and the Philharmonia in Mahler's monumental Sixth Symphony, Opera North's new production of Tristan und Isolde, and The Hallé performing Walton's Belshazzar's Feast that will shake Symphony Hall to the rafters.

Meanwhile, the intimate Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space hosts six innovative ECHO Rising Stars – early career musicians handpicked by the directors of Europe's great concert halls to launch their international careers.

Alongside package savings, we're proud to continue our commitment to accessible pricing with £15 tickets, Kids Go Free, 16 – 30s and a wide range of other discounts, available for every single concert.

We hope you'll find plenty to entertain you, and we look forward to welcoming you soon.

#### Nick Reed

Chief Executive, B:Music

# welcome

Brochure compiled and written by Fiona Fraser | Brochure designed by Louise Gale

Front cover: Hyeyoon Park plays with the Düsseldorf Symphony Orchestra (see page 19)

Image: © Halina Jasinka

# Munich Philharmonic Orchestra with Martha Argerich

Fri 4 Sep | Symphony Hall | 7:30PM

## Munich Philharmonic Orchestra

Lahav Shani conductor

Martha Argerich piano

Farrenc  
Beethoven  
Brahms

Overture No 2  
Piano Concerto No 2  
Symphony No 4

What a way to launch Birmingham Classical 2026/27! Martha Argerich is a true legend: “unquestionably one of the greatest pianists of all time” (Gramophone); “stars don’t come much bigger in classical music” (The Guardian). Added to which, this is the first time in over 30 years that she has played in Symphony Hall and it’s also her first Birmingham Classical appearance. Partnered by the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra in their only UK performance outside London, expect sheer magic in Beethoven’s youthful and exuberant Second Piano Concerto.

This long-established orchestra has been at the heart of Munich’s musical life since it was founded in 1893. Touring with newly-appointed Chief Conductor Lahav Shani, they begin with a comparative rarity – an attention-grabbing overture by 19th century French pianist-composer Louise Farrenc. Brahms’s Fourth Symphony, with its lilting opening movement and the driving momentum of its thrilling finale, makes the perfect conclusion to an exceptional evening.

A concert experience to treasure.

**Tickets: £15–£65**



# Munich Philharmonic Orchestra with Martha Argerich



## ECHO Rising Stars: Camila Mandillo

### And Now for Something Slightly Different

Sun 11 Oct | Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space | 11AM

**Camila Mandillo** soprano  
**João Casimiro Almeida** piano

Programme includes music by Monteverdi, Rossini, Berio, Schubert, Mozart, Poulenc, Ligeti and El-Turk



Across four centuries of music, composers have turned to humour, irony and wit as a way of confronting the complexities of life. Borrowing a phrase from Monty Python, this recital follows that thread, leaping across time and place to make surprising connections.

From opera to the concert stage, baroque to the boldest contemporary creations, Camila Mandillo's career is taking off at pace. She's an Artist in Residence at the prestigious Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel in Belgium and was a principal featured artist of the World New Music Days 2025. Her concert takes us from Monteverdi's healing power of laughter and Mozart's children at play to wartime satire in Poulenc's *Fêtes galantes* and the half-nonsense words of Ligeti's *Mysteries of the Macabre*.

Camila adds a newly-commissioned work by British composer Bushra El-Turk, named by the BBC as "one of the most inspiring 100 women of today".

*An hour-long concert, with coffee/tea and a slice of cake available beforehand, included in your ticket.*

*Rising Stars are nominated by the artistic directors of Europe's most prestigious venues which are members of the European Concert Hall Organisation (ECHO).*

**Tickets: £15**



## NDR Radiophilharmonic Hannover: Beethoven & Brahms

Tue 13 Oct | Symphony Hall | 7:30PM

**NDR Radiophilharmonic Hannover**  
**Stanislav Kochanovsky** conductor  
**Ingrid Fliter** piano

**Beethoven**  
**Beethoven**  
**Brahms**

**Egmont Overture**  
**Piano Concerto No 4**  
**Symphony No 2**

In 2025 NDR Radiophilharmonic Hannover celebrated its first 75 years, from its origins as a broadcast ensemble to the building of its own concert hall and its current enviable position as an orchestra of international standing. It was 2017 when Birmingham audiences last had the chance to hear them and now, led by charismatic Chief Conductor Stanislav Kochanovsky, they bring an excitingly authentic voice to masterpieces by Beethoven and Brahms.

Looking ahead to the 200th anniversary of Beethoven's death in 2027, the Hannover musicians begin with his *Egmont Overture*. Written to accompany Goethe's play, it captures *Egmont's* heroic struggle for freedom with

imposing grandeur. For many people, Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto is their favourite, and the precision and sensitivity that characterise the playing of celebrated Argentinian pianist Ingrid Fliter are the perfect qualities for a work of such lyrical poetry and joyful warmth.

Long walks and glorious countryside were the holiday backdrop to Brahms's Second Symphony. Such carefree character pervades this gorgeous work with its long, arching melodies, pastoral glimpses and a boisterous finale that carries you away.

**Tickets: £15–£42**



## Flanders Symphony Orchestra: from England to Bohemia

Thu 5 Nov | Symphony Hall | 7:30PM

**Flanders Symphony Orchestra**  
**Duncan Ward** conductor  
**Alexandra Soumm** violin

**Butterworth**  
**Mozart**  
**Vaughan Williams**  
**Dvořák**

**A Shropshire Lad**  
**Violin Concerto No 5, 'Turkish'**  
**The Lark Ascending**  
**Symphony No 8**

The passionate and enterprising Flanders Symphony Orchestra is a fixture in the Flemish cultural scene and undoubtedly one of Belgium's most exciting ensembles. They're joined by the young British conductor Duncan Ward who is much in demand across Europe's concert halls and opera houses.

Their concert of much-loved music features Dvořák's Eighth Symphony, a work that's full of optimism, inspired by the folk traditions of his native Bohemia and the natural landscape of his summer residence where he composed it. Two beautiful pastoral idylls of pre-First World War England from the pens of George Butterworth

and Ralph Vaughan Williams reflect a world that was soon to be lost, as was Butterworth himself, a tragic casualty of war. Thrilling French violinist Alexandra Soumm is the soloist in The Lark Ascending and also in Mozart's best-known Violin Concerto, cherished for its lyrical slow movement and the exotic Turkish dance elements in its rondo-finale. She's been highly praised for her rich sound and abundant personality. "The audience loved her" said the Nottingham Post, and we're sure you will too!

**Tickets: £15–£42**



## ECHO Rising Stars: Petar Pejčić

### For Slava! A Portrait in Film & Music

Sun 8 Nov | Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space | 11AM

**Petar Pejčić** cello  
**Nour Ayadi** piano

**Nadia Boulanger**  
**Piazzolla**  
**Djuro Živković**  
**Rostropovich**  
**Shostakovich**

**Trois pièces**  
**Le Grand Tango**  
**Prayer to Ecstasy (ECHO new commission)**  
**Humoresque**  
**Sonata in D minor**

Mstislav Rostropovich – affectionately and popularly known as Slava – was one of the most influential and charismatic musicians of the 20th century. A legendary cellist and magnetic cultural figure, he inspired generations of composers to expand the instrument's possibilities. Petar Pejčić's tour programme celebrates Slava's centenary in 2027 with music written for, premiered by, or indelibly associated with him. Short film clips of interviews, rehearsal excerpts and moments with his contemporaries will bring his voice and spirit into the concert space too, and Petar follows in Slava's footsteps by commissioning a new work to add to the cello repertoire.

A laureate of multiple prestigious competitions and 2025 Young Classical Artists Trust winner, Petar has already made major concert appearances with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Helsinki Philharmonic. He's been hailed as "a wonderful musician with a compelling sense of storytelling" (Le Soir), and this concert shows precisely why.

*An hour-long concert, with coffee/tea and a slice of cake available beforehand, included in your ticket.*

*Rising Stars are nominated by the artistic directors of Europe's most prestigious venues which are members of the European Concert Hall Organisation (ECHO).*

**Tickets: £15**



# Marin Alsop conducts the Philharmonia Orchestra

Sun 22 Nov | Symphony Hall | 3PM

**Philharmonia Orchestra**

**Marin Alsop** conductor

**Esther Yoo** violin

**Bernstein**  
**Mahler**

**Serenade**  
**Symphony No 6**

Afternoon  
MUSIC

Marin Alsop is not just one of the highest-ranking conductors of our time, she's a trailblazing star, a pioneer and a passionate advocate for female conductors. In this Season highlight, we're thrilled to welcome her back to Birmingham as Principal Guest Conductor of the world-class Philharmonia.

Alsop has long acknowledged Leonard Bernstein as a central influence in her life, as teacher and mentor, and there's no-one with greater insight to bring to his music. With breathtaking violinist Esther Yoo, expect to be dazzled by the virtuosity and lyrical beauty of Bernstein's Serenade – a series of musical dialogues between solo violin and orchestra on philosophies of love.

With a new wife and small daughter, this was one of the happiest times of Mahler's life, but his intensely profound Symphony No 6 foreshadowed deep personal tragedy. Marin Alsop points to the forces at work here: major and minor, light and dark, good and evil; cowbells conjure an idyllic Alpine scene in contrast to the shattering hammer blows of the finale. It's a monumental tour-de-force, a 'must-hear' work, and Symphony Hall is *the* place to experience it.

**Tickets: £15–£65**





## Metropolis at 100: film with orchestra

Sat 9 Jan | Symphony Hall | 4PM

**Covent Garden Sinfonia**  
**Ben Palmer** conductor

**Metropolis (1927) [PG]**

Directed by Fritz Lang

Original 1927 score by Gottfried Huppertz (edited by Hans Brandner & Ben Palmer)

100 years – almost to the day – since its premiere, we still marvel at the genius of Fritz Lang's *Metropolis*, one of the most influential and revered sci-fi movies ever made. Lang created a futuristic vision of a Utopian city for the rich and privileged, run by unseen machines and oppressed workers underground. With an extraordinary budget, 36,000 extras and 200,000 costumes, plus an orchestral score that laid the foundations for the future sound of Hollywood, *Metropolis* was a genre pioneer in every respect.

For the film's centenary, a new live orchestra version of Gottfried Huppertz's original symphonic score has been meticulously researched and created by silent film expert Hans Brandner and conductor Ben Palmer. As Symphony Hall audiences already know, Palmer is one of the world's most sought-after specialists in conducting live-to-picture and for *Metropolis at 100*, he brings his own Covent Garden Sinfonia to the stage.

*Presented in association with  
 Punches and Streamers Ltd*

*Performance lasts approx. 2 hrs 50 mins  
 including interval*

**Tickets: £15–£42**

Afternoon  
 MUSIC



## Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra plays Rachmaninov

Sun 7 Feb | Symphony Hall | 3PM

**Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra**  
**Aziz Shokhakov** conductor  
**Maria Ioudenitch** violin

**Saint-Saëns**  
**Prokofiev**  
**Rachmaninov**

**Danse macabre**  
**Violin Concerto No 1**  
**Symphony No 2**

Saint-Saëns's *Danse macabre* creates a strikingly demonic image of skeletons rising from their graves at Halloween, bones rattling as they dance for Death. And there's devilish difficulty in Prokofiev's First Violin Concerto, completed in 1917 against the backdrop of the Russian Revolution, especially in the breathless central scherzo, swirling with technical challenges. With an affinity to Prokofiev, multi award-winning violinist Maria Ioudenitch prepares to bewitch in a work whose gentler sections include an opening melody penned amid a love affair.

Glorious melodies follow one after the other throughout the whole of Rachmaninov's Second Symphony. It was a critical and personal

triumph for the composer who had suffered a long creative drought after the wounding criticism of his First Symphony and it remains one of today's most beloved orchestral works.

Indulging in the romance is the superlative Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra. Conducted with infectious energy by Musical and Artistic Director Aziz Shokhakov, the 170-year old orchestra retains its distinctive dual French-Germanic traditions and, today, is one of the most important ensembles in France and Europe.

**Tickets: £15–£42**

Afternoon  
 MUSIC



## ECHO Rising Stars: Javus Quartett

Sun 21 Feb | Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space | 11AM

Javus Quartett

<p><b>Schubert</b></p> <p><b>Constanze Geiger</b></p> <p><b>Haydn</b></p> <p><b>Oscar Jockel</b></p>	<p><b>Graz Galop</b></p> <p><b>Viennese Ladies' Ländler</b></p> <p><b>Waltz, D779 No 13</b></p> <p><b>Ein Volkswalzer, Op 22</b></p> <p><b>String Quartet, Op 76 No 4</b></p> <p><b>ECHO new commission</b></p>
--	---

Austria: a country of song and symphony, folk dance and swirling waltz. The Salzburg-based Javus Quartett have grown up surrounded by this rich culture and in their concert – which the players introduce – they'll explore the influence of folk music, dance and rhythm on composers such as Haydn and Schubert. And they'll premiere a new work in their Rising Stars tour by Oscar Jockel who, when not conducting the Berlin Philharmonic or Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, is busy with a side hustle as an award-winning composer.

The Javus Quartett have been together for over 10 years and since their youthful beginnings, now have armfuls of awards to their name and

are well-established on international stages. In their native Austria, they frequently perform at Vienna's Musikverein and Konzerthaus, as well as at the Mozarteum Salzburg.

*An hour-long concert, with coffee/tea and a slice of cake available beforehand, included in your ticket.*

*Rising Stars are nominated by the artistic directors of Europe's most prestigious venues which are members of the European Concert Hall Organisation (ECHO).*

**Tickets: £15**



## ECHO Rising Stars: Amelio Trio

Sun 21 Mar | Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space | 11AM

Amelio Trio

<p><b>Ives</b></p> <p><b>Bertelsmeier</b></p> <p><b>Haydn</b></p> <p><b>Helena Winkelman</b></p> <p><b>Schumann</b></p>	<p><b>TSIAJ ("This scherzo is a joke"), from Piano Trio</b></p> <p><b>vertrautes angezogensein</b></p> <p><b>Piano Trio in F major, Hob XV:6</b></p> <p><b>ECHO new commission</b></p> <p><b>Piano Trio No 3 in G minor, Op 110</b></p>
---	---

Three awesome players, one incredible trio. "Although all three showed their own distinctive personalities, their vividly wide-awake ensemble playing made for an electrifying interpretation that commanded the audience's attention for every single second." Few descriptions capture the Amelio Trio better than this review from Germany's Süddeutsche Zeitung. Their international reputation has been propelled by major prizes including second prize at the ARD International Music Competition (2023) and first prize at the 2022 International Schumann Chamber Music Competition. Having spent over half their lives as an ensemble (they first played together aged 13), their on-stage rapport is unmistakable.

Each piece is unconventional and unique in its own way, creating an exciting concert full of

rapid shifts in character and style: the eccentric wildness of Charles Ives gives way to the stillness of Birke Bertelsmeier, then to the virtuosic and playful inventiveness of Joseph Haydn, the premiere of Helena Winkelman's commissioned work and, finally, Robert Schumann's mysterious G minor Trio.

*An hour-long concert, with coffee/tea and a slice of cake available beforehand, included in your ticket.*

*Rising Stars are nominated by the artistic directors of Europe's most prestigious venues which are members of the European Concert Hall Organisation (ECHO).*

**Tickets: £15**





## Good Friday St Matthew Passion 300th Anniversary

with Ex Cathedra

Fri 26 Mar | Symphony Hall | 2PM

**Ex Cathedra Choir, Baroque Orchestra & Academy of Vocal Music**

**Jeffrey Skidmore** conductor

**Sebastian Hill** Evangelist

**William Swinnerton** Jesus

**Lawrence White** Pilate

**Bach**

**St Matthew Passion**

**Leipzig. Good Friday, 1727.** As Johann Sebastian Bach's new Passion resounded through St Thomas's Church for the first time, we can only imagine the impression it made. 300 years later the St Matthew Passion continues to have a profound impact. It's a timeless exploration of hopes and sorrow, portraying the full spectrum of human emotion: the clamour of the crowd, the drama of betrayal and the poignancy of grief, brought vividly to life in stirring choruses, heartfelt arias and richly coloured orchestral writing.

As founder and director of Birmingham's stellar early music group Ex Cathedra,

Jeffrey Skidmore conducts his last Good Friday Passion at Symphony Hall, a long tradition of which he has been an integral part. His signature feature of these performances has been to introduce chorale preludes, congregational hymns and readings, drawing us into Bach's world and creating a moving collective experience for both musicians and audience.

*Sung in German with English surtitles*

*Performance lasts approx. 3 hrs 40 mins including interval*

*Ex Cathedra is an Associate Artist of B:Music*

**Tickets: £15-£58**

Afternoon  
MUSIC



## Taiwan Philharmonic: Out of this World

Sat 3 Apr | Symphony Hall | 5PM

**Taiwan Philharmonic**

**Jun Märkl** conductor

**Adams**

**Strauss**

**Holst**

**Williams**

**Short Ride in a Fast Machine**

**Also sprach Zarathustra**

**Mars & Jupiter, from The Planets**

**Star Wars Suite**

Experience exhilarating speed, mystical planets and cosmic battles in wondrous orchestral colour in this concert which welcomes the Taiwan Philharmonic, one of Asia's leading orchestras, to Symphony Hall for the first time.

Strap yourself in as master of minimalism John Adams launches into a thrill-seeking ride that's brilliantly scored for large orchestra. We head to outer space and Richard Strauss's *Also sprach Zarathustra*, the opening 'sunrise' of which appeared so memorably in the film 2001: A Space Odyssey. Next, we visit two of Gustav Holst's planets – Mars, The Bringer of War; and Jupiter, The Bringer of Jollity – inspired by the composer's fascination with astrology.

Finally, the life-force of the orchestra is unleashed in John Williams's iconic Star Wars Suite, drawing on music from the best-known space film of them all. No-one captures action-packed adventure, heroism and romance in such glorious orchestral colour as Williams. All of which adds up to a concert that's out of this world.

**Tickets: £15-£42**



## ECHO Rising Stars: Elionor Martínez

Sun 11 Apr | Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space | 11AM

**Elionor Martínez** soprano  
**Josep Maria Martí Duran** theorbo  
**Chiara Jarrell** dancer

**Programme includes music by Monteverdi, Purcell, Strozzi, Hidalgo, Anna Campmany, Caccini and Handel**

Critics are united in their praise for the Barcelona-born soprano Elionor Martínez, singling out her “crystalline voice” (Núvol), “meticulous diction ... and expressive elegance” (Olyrix). In this hour-long concert with ‘love’ as a central theme, she selects musical gems from the most significant European Renaissance and Baroque composers, both male and female, guiding us through the periods and their unique features. There’s music from Italian contemporaries Monteverdi and Francesca Caccini, through the influential Spaniard Juan Hidalgo and prolific Italian composer and singer Barbara Strozzi, to songs of the late Baroque by Purcell and Handel, and a new work by Catalan composer Anna Campmany.

Accompanied by theorbo (a long-necked lute) and dancer, the Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space is the perfect place for this intimate concert. Expect colour, contrast, ornamentation and drama from a vocalist whose “bright timbre has something heavenly” (Hamburger Abendblatt).

*An hour-long concert, with coffee/tea and a slice of cake available beforehand, included in your ticket.*

*Rising Stars are nominated by the artistic directors of Europe’s most prestigious venues which are members of the European Concert Hall Organisation (ECHO).*

**Tickets: £15**



## Düsseldorf Symphony Orchestra plays Tchaikovsky’s Fourth Symphony

Sun 18 Apr | Symphony Hall | 3PM

**Düsseldorf Symphony Orchestra**  
**Alpesh Chauhan** conductor  
**Hyeyoon Park** violin

**Beethoven**  
**Brahms**  
**Tchaikovsky**

**Coriolan Overture**  
**Violin Concerto**  
**Symphony No 4**

Counting Mendelssohn and Schumann among its former principal conductors (and Adam Fischer as its current incumbent), the distinguished Düsseldorf Symphony Orchestra is Germany’s second oldest municipal orchestra. Since 2021, Birmingham’s own Alpesh Chauhan has been Principal Guest Conductor and he introduces them to us on their first UK tour. The super-charged Coriolan Overture by Beethoven, in the 200th anniversary year of the composer’s death, sets the scene for a concert of dramatic tension and sumptuous melody.

The vibrant young virtuoso Hyeyoon Park brings rich sonority and musical integrity to the Violin Concerto by Brahms.

Its dedicatee was Brahms’s close friend, the celebrated virtuoso violinist Joseph Joachim, so the technical demands go without saying, but there’s also a serene Adagio, fiery gypsy finale and plenty of orchestral colour.

Life imitates art in Tchaikovsky’s turbulent and ever-popular Fourth Symphony reflecting a tortured period during which he made a disastrous and short-lived marriage that sparked an emotional crisis. Opening with the striking brass ‘fate’ motif, it’s fuelled by anguish, with heartfelt melodies, a unique pizzicato scherzo and a helter-skelter finale.

**Tickets: £15–£42**

Afternoon  
MUSIC

# Opera North: Tristan und Isolde

Sat 15 May | Symphony Hall | 4PM

## Opera North

**Antony Hermus** conductor

**Peter Mumford** director

Cast includes:

**John Matthew Myers** Tristan

**Wendy Bryn Harmer** Isolde

**Karl Huml** King Marke

Wagner

Tristan und Isolde

Tristan und Isolde is one of the most significant works in western art. After it, music could never be the same again. It is a hymn to a love that transcends death, set to some of the most sheerly sensuous music ever composed – and the frank eroticism of the score still has the power to shock. Wagner described Tristan und Isolde as “the most audacious and original work of my life” and he searches every corner of human emotion in this story based on Medieval legend.

With scene projections, costumed soloists and orchestra centre-stage, Opera North’s innovative new production by Peter Mumford is sure to be as much the “concentrated and riveting realisation” (Guardian) as his Ring Cycle. Opera North’s Principal Guest Conductor, Antony Hermus leads a cast of world-class soloists. An occasion not to be missed.

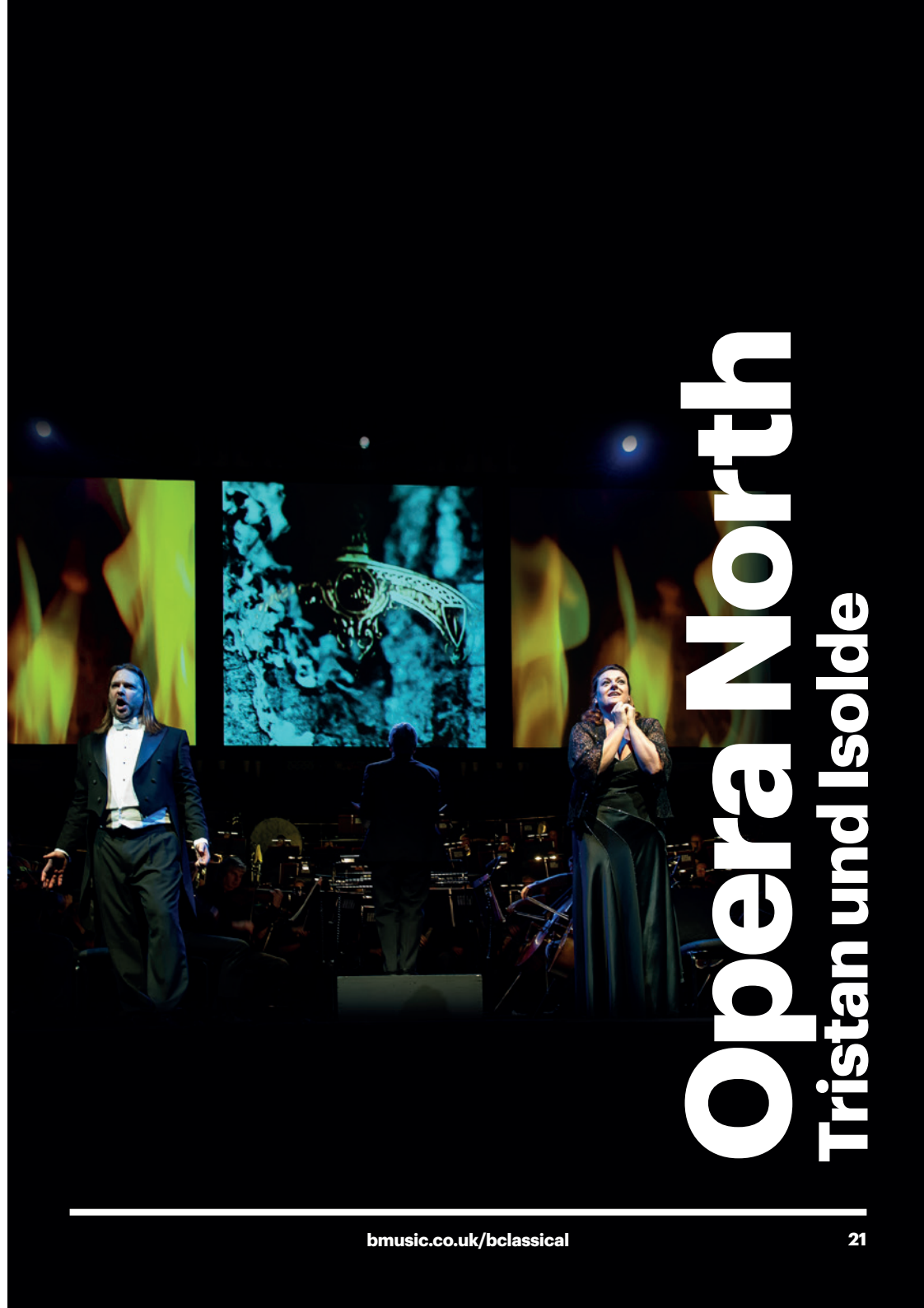
*Sung in German with English surtitles*

*Performance lasts approx. 5 hours 15 mins, including two intervals*

**Tickets: £15–£42**



Opposite: Opera North’s production of Wagner’s Die Walküre, directed by Peter Mumford.



# Opera North

## Tristan und Isolde



## ECHO Rising Stars: Ava Bahari

Sun 16 May | Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space | 11AM

Ava Bahari violin

Bach  
Ysaÿe  
Anders Hillborg  
Saariaho

Violin Partita No 2 in D minor  
Sonata for solo violin No 4  
ECHO new commission  
Frisés, for violin and electronics



Swedish violinist Ava Bahari's career has taken off in the last couple of seasons: as artist in residence with the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra from 2024-2026, and with a host of recent debuts with major international orchestras to her name, including the Philharmonia, Tokyo Symphony Orchestra and Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra among many others.

Ava picks up a Baroque bow at the start of a journey through the evolution of violin playing over three centuries. Bach's brilliant Partita No 2 contains what is surely the single most cherished piece of music for solo violin, its famous Chaconne. With Bach over his shoulder, virtuoso violinist Eugène Ysaÿe wrote his Sonata No 4 in 1923

for an equally celebrated player, Fritz Kreisler. In the 21st century, Kaija Saariaho added electronics to create a kaleidoscope of sound and resonance that explores the modern possibilities of the instrument, and leading Swedish composer Anders Hillborg writes the next chapter in the instrument's evolution.

*An hour-long concert, with coffee/tea and a slice of cake available beforehand, included in your ticket.*

*Rising Stars are nominated by the artistic directors of Europe's most prestigious venues which are members of the European Concert Hall Organisation (ECHO).*

**Tickets: £15**



## The Hallé plays Belshazzar's Feast

Sat 5 Jun | Symphony Hall | 3PM

The Hallé  
Kahchun Wong conductor  
Alena Baeva violin  
Hallé Choir

Ifukube  
Sibelius  
Walton

Dance of the Seven Veils  
Violin Concerto  
Belshazzar's Feast

Afternoon  
MUSIC

A ghostly hand appears and scripts 'the writing on the wall' that foretells the fate of Belshazzar, King of Babylon. In Walton's choral masterpiece, a huge orchestra, choir, organ and extra brass, revel in music that's every bit as excessive as the Babylonians themselves. Decadent and sacrilegious, gripping and intense, the drama builds to the spine-tingling moment when Belshazzar reads: "Thou art weighed in the balance and found wanting".

Before that, Alena Baeva – "a magnetic presence" in the words of the New York Classical Review – is the soloist in Sibelius's Violin Concerto, beloved of violinists and audiences alike for its sweeping Nordic landscapes, brooding

intensity and high-spirited finale. The vivid 1948 ballet music of Japanese composer Akira Ifukube begins the concert.

Founded in 1858 and now at the height of its powers, The Hallé is one of the UK's top symphonic ensembles with a high reputation for artistic excellence. It's ten years since they were last at Symphony Hall and, with Singaporean Kahchun Wong as Principal Conductor & Artistic Advisor since 2024, they return with a sensational concert to close the Birmingham Classical season.

**Tickets: £15-£42**

# Lunchtime Organ Concerts

With Thomas Trotter



Thomas Trotter is among the world's most celebrated musicians, with honours including The Queen's Medal for Music and the Royal Philharmonic Society Instrumental award for his outstanding contribution to classical music. Declared "Britain's greatest living organist" by Gramophone magazine, this season celebrates the 900th recital of his extraordinary tenure as Birmingham City Organist since 1983. His hour-long lunchtime concerts showcase the organ's sublime delicacy and awesome power – as well as his own technical wizardry – in some of the most inventive programmes you're ever likely to hear.

All concerts start at 1pm.

**Mon 14 Sep | Symphony Hall**

**Mon 28 Sep | Town Hall**  
**The Best of Best**

Celebrating the 200th anniversary of W T Best – the greatest organist of the Victorian Age

**Mon 12 Oct | Town Hall**  
**Guest Recital**

by IAO-RCO Organ Competition 2026 winner

**Mon 26 Oct | Town Hall**

**Mon 9 Nov | Town Hall**  
**In Memoriam**

A programme of Remembrance

**Mon 23 Nov | Town Hall**

**Mon 7 Dec | Symphony Hall\***  
**Lunchtime Christmas Music**

with The Choir of St John's College, Cambridge  
Christopher Gray, conductor

**Mon 21 Dec | Town Hall**  
**Sing Carols with the City Organist**

with Lichfield Cathedral Choir  
Ben Lamb, conductor  
Jeremy Nicholas, presenter

\*Tickets for this concert are £16 but are still available as part of a Lunchtime Organ Concert package discount

## Booking info

Tickets: £8.50 | 16 – 30s / Students: £5

Book 3 or 4 organ concerts and get 10% off

Book 5 or 6 organ concerts and get 15% off

Book 7 or more organ concerts and get 20% off

See page 25 for how to book

Full programme details for Lunchtime Organ Concerts are available from the website.

Thomas Trotter is an Associate Artist of B:Music

**Mon 18 Jan | Symphony Hall**

**Mon 1 Feb | Town Hall**  
**Animal Magic**

**Mon 15 Feb | Town Hall**

**Mon 1 Mar | Town Hall**  
**Celebrating St David's Day**

**Mon 15 Mar | Town Hall**

**Mon 12 Apr | Symphony Hall**  
**With special guest Celia Craig (oboe)**

**Mon 26 Apr | Town Hall**  
**Guest Recital: Daniel Hyde**

**Mon 10 May | Town Hall**  
**Thomas Trotter – 900th Recital as Birmingham City Organist**

**Mon 24 May | Town Hall**

**Mon 7 Jun | Town Hall**  
**With Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Chamber Choir**  
Julian Wilkins, conductor

**Mon 21 Jun | Town Hall**  
**Summer Requests**

# How to Book

**Online:** [bmusic.co.uk](http://bmusic.co.uk)

**By phone:** 0121 780 3333

Telephone lines open

Monday to Saturday, 10am – 4pm

**In person:**

Symphony Hall's Box Office is open

Monday to Saturday, 11am – 4pm

(Please check the website for full details as these are subject to change).

Closed Sundays and Bank Holidays except when there is an event, where we will open 2 hours before the start of a main hall performance.

Town Hall's Box Office is open 1 hour 30 minutes before the start of a performance except for all family and organ concerts, where we will open 1 hour before the start of a performance.

(Please check the website for full details as these timings are subject to change).

**How to reach us:**

Symphony Hall is located in Centenary Square, Birmingham, B1 2EA

Town Hall is located in Victoria Square, Birmingham, B3 3DQ

Once you've enjoyed reading this brochure, please recycle. You can find out more about what B:Music is doing to **B:Green** at: [bmusic.co.uk/bgreen](http://bmusic.co.uk/bgreen)

## Accessibility

Everyone is welcome at Town Hall and Symphony Hall, and we will do whatever we can to ensure that you have an enjoyable visit. In support of this, we work with Nimbus Disability. [bmusic.co.uk/nimbus](http://bmusic.co.uk/nimbus)

**[bmusic.co.uk/your-visit/accessibility-information](http://bmusic.co.uk/your-visit/accessibility-information)**

Access Booking Line: 0121 289 6343

## Data protection

We may collect personal data from you when you buy a ticket in person, over the phone or via **bmusic.co.uk**. We may collect data when you join or renew a membership with B:Music, ask us to send you information, make a donation, pledge a legacy, attend an event, visit our premises, or participate in a project or group. From time to time we may contact you by post, email, or phone to inform you about relevant concerts, events, services or activities we believe will be of interest, as well as opportunities to support our work. You have the option to change any of your contact preferences at any time by logging into your B:Music online account or by contacting [unsubscribe@bmusic.co.uk](mailto:unsubscribe@bmusic.co.uk). Our full Privacy Policy can be found at [bmusic.co.uk](http://bmusic.co.uk).

## Disclaimer

Information in this guide was correct at the time of going to press and published in good faith. Unforeseen circumstances, however, may result in changes to the published programme or names of artists: please check the event page on [bmusic.co.uk](http://bmusic.co.uk) for latest updates both before booking and attending.

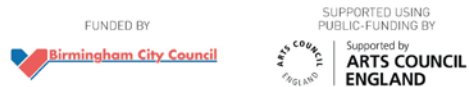
## Ticket Commissions

\*Some events may carry a £3 – £5 ticket commission; charged per ticket. This is charged when you book through B:Music's Box Office – online, by phone or in person. Any advertised prices will include any per-ticket fee that may apply. E-tickets will be sent free of charge. Customers do have an option for postage at a cost of £3.00 per order. These fees are waived for B:Music Patrons.

## Age Guidance

Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult 18+ unless otherwise stated.

# Supporters



## Trusts and Foundations

Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation  
Arts Council England  
Baron Davenport's Charity  
Birmingham City Council  
Brian Shaw Memorial Trust  
Chatwin Trust  
Cole Charitable Trust  
Dumbreck Charity  
Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust  
GJW Turner Trust  
GNC Trust  
Gowling WLG (UK) Charitable Trust  
Grantham Yorke Trust  
Grimmitt Trust  
Hortons Social Purpose Committee  
LG Harris Trust  
Lillie Johnson Charitable Trust  
Limoges Charitable Trust  
Michael Marsh Charitable Trust  
Mills & Reeve Charitable Trust  
National Lottery Heritage Fund  
Oakley Charitable Trust  
PPL  
PRS Foundation

Richard Cadbury Charitable Trust  
Roger & Douglas Turner Charitable Trust  
Ronnie Scott's Charitable Foundation  
Rowley Trust  
Sabina Sutherland Charitable Trust  
Saintbury Trust  
Thistle Trust  
Thompson Family Charitable Trust  
Uncle Bill Trust  
WED Charitable Trust  
William A Cadbury Charitable Trust

## Business Partners

The Grand Hotel  
Q-Park  
West Midlands Growth Company  
Browne Jacobson

## Corporate Patrons: Silver

Colmore Partners  
Colour Cubed Creative Communications

## Corporate Patrons: Bronze

Malmaison  
Hotel du Vin

## Makers Circle

Mr P Ashen, Jayne Cadbury MBE, Paul Carter, Paul & Dee Cocking, W. Peter Dunne, G. Cm. & Fionuala A. Dunne, Roger G. Guest, Dr Brian Gwynn, P & J Hall, Vivianne Hollinshead, Dr C G Johnston, The Justham Family, Lynn Lawrenson, James & Meg Martineau, Ian McAlpine, Ian C Norton, Jenna & Jeremy Plewes, Ald. Mike Poulter MBE & Mrs K Poulter, Pat Poynton, Mr I & Mrs G Reaves, Nick and Carole Reed, Graham Russell & Gloria Bates, Helen Russell, John & Pat Rutter, Gillian Shaw, Bryan Smith, Tony Smith, David & Lucy Stanley, Isabel Stewart, Mr A Taylor, Robert & Julia Verrion, Howard & Judy Vero, Dr D & Mr P Wardley, Alan Woodfield and other anonymous donors.

## Patrons

John Barlow, John Barnden, June & Graham Bentley, Paul & Heather Buckingham, Paul & Dee Cocking, Marcus and Linda Daly, Peter How, Abid Iqbal (SAYARTS), Dr Johnston, Ian McAlpine, Chloe Morton, Mrs Kathy Norman, Jan Prior, Ian Reaves, Graham Russell, Janette Rutter, Ann Skidmore Associates Ltd, Keith Stokes-Smith, Mr & Mrs Verrion, Mr P & Mrs D Wardley, Max Woolf, Paul C Wynn and other anonymous supporters.

## Legacy Donors

Estate of Mr William Jones  
Ros Jackson and Jean Maudsley

B:Music ©2026. Registered Charity No: 1053937, Registered England No: 3169600

# Become a Member...

If you **love** concerts, gigs and events and want to receive:

- Priority booking on select shows
- Early show notifications
- Discounted parking
- Exclusive discounts at all B:Music venues...

**Then sign up today and become a Member for just £35 per year.**



Scan to find out more

Return Address

B:Music Ltd, Symphony Hall,  
8 Centenary Square,  
Birmingham,  
B1 2EA



# Javus Quartett

Sun 21 Feb | Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space | 11AM



© Theresa Pewal

**B:Music**