

# RPO



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PHILHARMONIC  
ORCHESTRA

Resident Orchestra at **Cadogan Hall**  
JUNE – DECEMBER 2008



Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

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WELCOME

Welcome to the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's programme from June – December at Cadogan Hall. The first concert in this season features an enchanting programme of English music, conducted by John Rutter and featuring some of his own works. Continuing in the English vein we enter into the world of *The Snowman* with a special concert in celebration of composer Howard Blake's 70th Birthday, introducing not only his classic *Walking in the Air* but some other wonderful lesser-known works. José Serebrier and Garry Walker take the helm to perform programmes devoted to the Bohemian traits of Dvořák accompanied by Beethoven's poetic Piano Concerto No.4 and Brahms' heartfelt Violin Concerto.

To end 2008 in style, *Christmas Cracker* is back by popular demand. This concert is always a firm favourite with audiences, offering a collection of sparkling orchestral miniatures and as much Christmas cheer as you can absorb – please book early to avoid disappointment.

#### MEET THE ARTISTS



Edward Seckerson

Edward Seckerson (Chief Critic, Independent and BBC presenter) chats informally to the artists in his pre-concert talks.

From 6.30pm in the main auditorium, Edward can be heard enlightening audiences with interesting facts about the evening's programme, and engaging in discussion with the artists themselves.

Meet the artists

## Friday 13th June 7.30pm



John Rutter

**John Rutter** Composer / Conductor

- Delius** On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring
- Butterworth** The Banks of Green Willow
- Rutter** Suite Antique for Flute, Harpsichord and Strings
- Elgar** Introduction and Allegro
- Vaughan Williams** Fantasia on Greensleeves; The Lark Ascending
- Rutter** Suite for Strings
- Binge** The Watermill

An enchanting programme of evocative music that includes The Lark Ascending, a wonderfully soaring and poignant piece that features a free-flying violin solo. Folksong (albeit Henry VIII may have written the indelible tune that is Greensleeves!) and nature play a vital role in this concert, one of pastoral hue and gentle melody, with Elgar's masterly Introduction and Allegro, not without its own wistful qualities, adding ballast to a programme that reminds just how 'green and pleasant' England is and how wondrously beautiful and lively is this country's core of indigenous song and dance. John Rutter's music in particular, continues to appeal directly to so many, with its tuneful melodies and joyous warmth.

RPO Friends' discounts apply

## Thursday 14th August 7.30pm



Robert Ziegler

### Rhapsody in Blue and The Gershwin Songbook

**Robert Ziegler** Conductor  
**Viv McLean** Piano

Première in 1924 with Paul Whiteman and his Palais Royal Orchestra, Rhapsody in Blue was an instant hit with audiences and critics alike, and remains immensely popular with today's concert-goers.

Originally published in 1932, The Gershwin Songbook is the composer's own arrangement of thirty-two of his greatest songs, including S'Wonderful, Fascinating Rhythm, Strike Up the Band, Someone to Watch Over Me and many, many more.

**Special ticket prices apply**

Tickets: £35, £28, £22, £12

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## Tuesday 14th October 7.30pm



Lara St John

**Josep Caballé-Domenech** Conductor  
**Lara St John** Violin

- Mussorgsky** Night on the Bare Mountain
- Bruch** Violin Concerto No.1
- Dvořák** Symphony No.9, 'From the New World'

Meet the artists, free pre-concert talk from 6.30pm presented by Edward Seckerson.

A programme of three ever-popular pieces, beginning with Mussorgsky's chilling depiction of a pagan ceremony. On arriving in New York to teach, a homesick Dvořák was inspired to compose his invigorating and soulful New World Symphony, its slow movement now world-famous in many guises. In between these celebrated works is Max Bruch's evergreen Violin Concerto No.1 which remains one of the most-loved of violin works imbued as it is with heart, vitality, deep expression and a fund of glorious romantic melody.

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## Tuesday 21st October 7.30pm



Garry Walker

**Garry Walker** Conductor  
**Daniel De Borah** Piano

- Sibelius** Pelléas et Mélisande Suite
- Beethoven** Piano Concerto No.4
- Dvořák** Symphony No.7

Included within the potent music that Sibelius composed for the play Pelléas et Mélisande is At the Castle Gate, the signature tune for Patrick Moore's long-running BBC television series, The Sky at Night. Both tonight's piano concerto and symphony are masterpieces in their respective genres; Beethoven's poetic, searching and light-hearted concerto providing the perfect contrast to Dvořák's impassioned, and arguably greatest symphony, brimful with lyricism and emotion, and imbued with Bohemian traits of song and dance.

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CONCERT IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE YOUNG CONCERT ARTISTS TRUST

Tuesday 28th October 7.30pm



The Snowman

### Howard Blake's 70th Birthday Concert

**Howard Blake** Composer / Conductor

**Nigel Havers** Narrator

**Robert William Blake** Treble

**William Chen** Piano

**Patricia Rozano** Soprano

**Martyn Hill** Tenor

**Lars Arvidson** Bass

**Blake** *The Snowman*

**Blake** *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra*

**Blake** *The Passion of Mary (London Première)*

One only has to imagine *Walking in the Air* and its haunting melody immediately enters the mind; it is undoubtedly the most memorable part of Howard Blake's *The Snowman*, a setting of Raymond Briggs' delightful story, and a worldwide hit with children and adults alike. *The Snowman* is just a small part of Howard Blake's immense output – at the heart of which is melody and colour – which includes *The Passion of Mary*, a work described as a 'dramatic oratorio'. Blake's memorable Piano Concerto was written in 1991 to celebrate the thirtieth birthday of Diana, Princess of Wales.

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Tuesday 11th November 7.30pm



José Serebrier

**José Serebrier** Conductor

**Rachel Barton Pine** Violin

**Mozart** *The Marriage of Figaro Overture*

**Brahms** *Violin Concerto*

**Dvořák** *Symphony No.8*

Meet the artists, free pre-concert talk from 6.30pm presented by Edward Seckerson.

The ever-delightful scurrying Overture to Mozart's beloved comic-opera *The Marriage of Figaro* heralds one of the greatest of violin concertos. Brahms' music revels in pitting the soloist against the orchestra, only to later have the two forces entwine in mellifluous depths, before ending with the rhythmic swing of the 'Hungarian' finale. Dvořák's *Symphony No.8* is a joyously outgoing and heartfelt work that brings Bohemia's countryside and native aspects, intrinsic and populist, to vivid and exuberant musical life.

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Thomas Carroll

## Wednesday 26th November 7.30pm

**Dirk Joeres** Conductor  
**Rafal Zambrzycki-Payne** Violin  
**Thomas Carroll** Cello  
**Anthony Hewitt** Piano

**Brahms** Academic Festival Overture  
**Beethoven** Triple Concerto  
**Elgar** 'Enigma' Variations

Meet the artists, free pre-concert talk from 6.30pm presented by Edward Seckerson.

Brahms composed the Academic Festival Overture as a thank you to the University of Breslau for awarding him an honorary doctorate. This agile and resounding potpourri of student songs (the best-known being *Gaudeamus igitur*) makes for a stirring beginning to this concert. Beethoven's Triple Concerto features piano, violin and cello in music which is expressive and elegant. Elgar's 'Enigma' Variations is simply one of the most remarkable of works, ever-fresh, chameleon-like and mysterious in concept. At its heart is the affecting *Nimrod*, music associated with state occasions, although originally composed as a profound tribute to a great friend.

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## Tuesday 16th December 7.30pm



Christmas Cracker

### Christmas Cracker

**Nick Davies** Conductor  
**Mary Carewe** Vocalist  
**Michael Dore** Vocalist

**Humperdinck** Hansel and Gretel Overture  
**Tormé** The Christmas Song  
**Hairston** Mary's Boy Child  
**Anderson** Sleigh Ride

**Waldteufel** The Skaters' Waltz  
**Tchaikovsky** Waltz of the Flowers  
**Bernard** Winter Wonderland

plus many more festive favourites

Time is flying and another Christmas approaches! This is the moment to forget about stuffing the turkey and searching for Auntie Mabel's present and instead take a couple of hours off to enjoy some festive and uplifting music. There are so many indelible Christmas pieces – sing-a-long carols, nativity-inspired works and light and sparkling orchestral miniatures. Rest assured that the RPO will usher in a Christmas feast of sheer enjoyment!

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Notes by Colin Anderson, Classicalsource.com

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## Cadogan Hall Booking Information

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£35, £28, £20, £10

(Thursday 14th August £35, £28, £22, £12)

### Telephone bookings

020 7730 4500

### Online bookings

[www.cadoganhall.com](http://www.cadoganhall.com)

### Subscription discounts

Generous discounts are available for booking multiple concerts from the RPO's Resident Season. Please ask the Box Office when booking.

### Concerts booked

2 or 3 – receive a 15% discount

4 or 5 – receive a 25% discount

6 and above – receive a 30% discount

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