

Eastbourne
CONCERT :||
ORCHESTRA



CHRISTMAS
Concert



PROGRAMME 2022



Welcome

Welcome to the first concert in our 72nd Season. Tonight's Christmas concert will be a return to our usual mixture of Christmas and classical favourites with a chance for you to join in with some carols to get you in the festive spirit.

We open tonight's concert with perhaps Sibelius' best known work - Finlandia. The closing years of the 19th century saw Russia tightening its grip on Finland and the growing resistance to this oppression. Although he mainly kept out of politics, Sibelius subtly engaged in patriotic activities through his art. For an 1899 Finnish festival he composed music on themes of Finnish historical events. Finlandia accompanied the portrayal of Finland during the Nordic war: Mother Finland in the snowdrifts surrounded by her starving children. The piece was an instant success, and in 1900 toured Europe, bringing international attention to the composer and the cause of Finnish independence.

Richard Strauss' most popular opera, Der Rosenkavalier (The Knight of the Rose) draws on the orchestral technique the composer had perfected in his earlier tone poems. The opera started out as a satirical comedy but evolved into a deeper study of psychological nuance. This arrangement of the themes found in the waltzes throughout the opera focuses on the comedy and light-hearted nature of the work and the quintessential Viennese waltz style.

Alexandre Luigini was a French composer of Italian musical heritage. He conducted the Lyon Theatre Orchestra and as such had to fill compositional obligations for ballets and short operas. His Ballet Egyptien, 1875, is his most well known work and saw great success partly down to its inclusion in the 1886 production of Verdi's Aida. He left Lyon in 1897 to conduct at the Opéra-Comique in Paris until his sudden death in 1906.

Smetana was a Nationalist composer giving a musical voice to the folk music of Bohemia. His opera 'The Bartered Bride' from 1866 helped to establish the tradition of combining Bohemian folk music with German Romanticism, later taken up by Czech composers such as Dvořák and Janáček.

The rustic but elaborate Polka is danced by villagers celebrating a spring holiday. The Furiant, a fast Bohemian folk dance characterised by cross rhythms is performed in the inn following a drinking song. The third dance, The Dance of the Comedians, a spirited *Skočná*, takes place on the village green where a visiting circus offers a sample of its acts including acrobats, ballerinas and a dancing bear!

A combination of strength and beauty characterise both the music and the choreography in the Act I Adagio from Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty. The "Rose Adagio," named because Aurora dances with four suitors to decide which she might want to marry, with each handing her a rose, has one of the most instantly recognisable melodies in the ballet as heard in the strings at the beginning, accompanied by a lilting figure and powerful chords in the wind and brass.

The Egyptian March by Strauss II was commissioned for the opening of the Suez Canal in November 1869. Composed in an 'alla turca' style this characterful piece has several enduring arabesque melodies combined with the Viennese flair we come to expect from a leading member of the Struass composing dynasty.

1971 saw Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice team up again to compose a sung-through Rock Opera loosely based on the accounts of the Passion as told in the Gospels. The plot is centred on Judas Iscariot, who is dissatisfied with the direction in which Jesus is steering his disciples, and Mary Magdalene who is struggling with the realisation that she is falling in love with Jesus. This arrangement by Henry Mancini combines some of the greatest songs from the show including: Superstar, I don't know how to love Him, Everything's Alright and King Herod's Song.

Our Christmas Concert would not be complete without our traditional Christmas pieces. Our Second half sees the orchestra swing through traditional carols thanks to Anderson's masterful arrangement in a Christmas Festival. You will have a chance to get into the festive spirit by joining us for some carols before we end the concert on a festive high with Anderson's Sleigh Ride and Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank John Caroe for stepping into the role of Vice Chairman of the Orchestra, we are extremely pleased to welcome him into this new role. I would also like to thank Nigel Allen for an exemplary 30 years of service playing the clarinet in the orchestra as he retires at the end of this concert. We thank him profusely for his dedication to the orchestra and wish him well in his future endeavours.

We hope you enjoy tonight's concert and all of us at the Eastbourne Concert Orchestra wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Simon Gower
Conductor & Musical Director

Brian Waters
Chairman

Programme

SIBELIUS

Finlandia

**STRAUSS,
ARR. ROY DOUGLAS**

Rosenkavalier Waltz

LUIGINI

Ballet Egyptien

- Allegro non troppo
- Allegretto
- Andante Sostenuto
- Allegretto

SMETANA

Three Dances from the Bartered Bride

- Polka
- Furiant
- Dance of the Comedians

INTERVAL

ANDERSON

A Christmas Festival

CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

TCHAIKOVSKY

Sleeping Beauty - Adagio

STRAUSS II

Egyptian March

CAROL

O Come All Ye Faithful

**LLOYD-WEBBER,
ARR. HENRY MANCINI**

Jesus Christ Superstar Medley

ANDERSON

Sleigh Ride

**MARTIN & BLANE,
ARR. BOB CERULLI**

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

Carol Lyrics



HARK! THE HERALD

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored: Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of the favoured one.
Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see; Hail, th'incarnate Deity:
Pleased, as man, with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!

Hail! the heaven-born Prince of peace! Hail! the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Risen with healing in his wings
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that man no more may die:
Born to raise the son of earth, Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King !"

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him, Born the King of Angels!

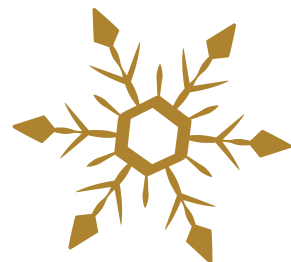
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, Begotten not created

Chorus

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, In the highest

Chorus



The Orchestra

STRINGS

FIRST VIOLIN

Simon Smith
Hazel Brewer
Liz Bux
Mike Goss
Sara Sage
Jill Vaughan
Rachel Williams

SECOND VIOLIN

Will Oastler
Sheila Bellamy
Lucy Blyth
Paula Burr
Julia Carlton-Lowe
John Caroe
Yvonne Spear

VIOLA

Sophie Bayman
Ann-Marie Brooke
Valmai Crane
Sandor Végh

CELLO

Jonathan Bruce
Kathryn Anderson
Fran Collins
Karen Sinstadt
Ruth Stirton
Roger Wintle

DOUBLE BASS

Julian Baker
Kaye Colyer

WOODWIND, BRASS & PERCUSSION

FLUTE & PICCOLO

Gill Willis
Sarah Thomson
Elizabeth Winch

OBOE

Gail Taylor
Sian Russell

CLARINETS

Dave Bottom
Jason Carbonell-Ferrer
Nigel Allen
Stephanie Bond

BASSOONS

Kate Denny
Charlotte Willis
Theresa Keysell
Jan Townsend

FRENCH HORNS

Chris Willard
Bob Turner
Mike Sarna
Andy Trowhill

TRUMPETS

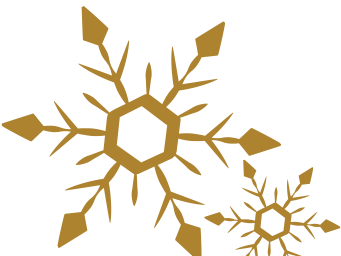
Andy Trowhill
Stuart Welford

TROMBONES & TUBA

Roger Dibbens
Ian Lawrence
Chris Thompson
Hubert McCallum

PERCUSSION & TIMPANI

Edward Bond
Patricia Golds
Avril Végh



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Next Concert

Tuesday 22nd March, 7.30pm
Eastbourne Town Hall

Rossini: Italian Girl in Algiers Overture
Coleridge-Taylor: Petite Suite de Concert
Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 5 - Reformation

Upcoming Concert

Tuesday 4th July, 7.30pm
Eastbourne Town Hall

A concert celebrating music of The Americas

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