

Eastbourne
CONCERT :||
ORCHESTRA



SUMMER
CONCERT
the Americas



PROGRAMME 2023

Welcome

Welcome to our Summer concert as we continue our 72nd Orchestral Season. Tonight's concert will take you on a tour of North and South America with traditional folk music, classical favourites and music from both stage and screen.

All of the works featured in tonight's concert have been composed by people from across the Americas, from the USA, Mexico and Venezuela in particular. The first half of the concert plants our focus firmly in the USA with the second mostly focusing on Mexico and South America.

One of the American greats, Aaron Copland (1900-1990) was known as the Dean of American Composers and is often cited as the first composer of the 'American School'. Fanfare for the Common Man is arguably Copland's best known concert opener. Originally performed in March 1943 it was commissioned by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra to honour the armed forces serving in World War II. Copland wrote: *'The challenge was to compose a traditional fanfare, direct and powerful, yet with a contemporary sound.'*

The name was perhaps inspired by a 1942 speech by Vice President Henry A. Wallace who proclaimed the dawning of the "Century of the Common Man". The fanfare was played as the Space Shuttle Endeavour landed at the end of its final flight in 2012.

Elmer Bernstein (1922-2004) had a career spanning five decades writing music for some of the biggest films in Hollywood including *True Grit*, *The Blues Brothers* and *Ghostbusters*. Bernstein wrote this theme for the 1960 Western Film *The Magnificent Seven* starring Steve McQueen and Yul Brenner. The score was nominated for an Oscar for Best Original Score and is listed on the American Film Institute's list of the top 25 American film scores of all time.

Quintessentially and unapologetically American, John Philip Sousa (1854-1932) is renowned for his Military marches and his prowess in this field has given him the title 'The King of Marches'. Upon the outbreak of World War I, Sousa led the Naval Reserve Band in Illinois as Lieutenant Commander. *The Liberty Bell March* has frequently been performed at Presidential Inaugurations and is the official march of the Canadian Forces Public Affairs Branch.

The second of Sousa's marches played in this concert rounds off the whole American affair! His 1896 march Stars and Stripes Forever was officially adopted as the national march of the United States of America in 1987 and is traditionally played following a speech by the President. In the Theatre it is known as the 'Disaster March' due it being used to subtly notify personnel of emergency situations when played by the band and allowed them to organise the audience's exit without causing a mass panic.

Another master of American music was George Gershwin (1898-1937). He built a reputation working on 'Tin Pan Alley' in Manhattan before his break on Broadway which led to great commercial success. In 1928 Gershwin took a trip to Paris and was warmly welcomed by both audiences and leading modernist composers including Prokofiev, Poulenc, Ravel and Berg. Gershwin recalls asking Ravel, a true master of orchestration, for lessons. After asking what Gershwin had earned from his music in the previous year Ravel remarked 'then it is I who should be taking lessons from you.' Gershwin's Parisian trip inspired the orchestral tone poem *An American in Paris* which draws both from New York Jazz, expressing the title character's homesickness, and European modernist 'neoclassicism' as heard in the taxi horns in particular. This arrangement takes the main themes from the broader work.

Cole Porter (1894-1964) was another master of Broadway. Born into a wealthy American family he went against his mother's wishes and became a musician. Porter was extravagant and lived a lavish lifestyle with platinum wallpaper and chairs upholstered in zebra skin in his Parisian home and the ability to hire the entire Ballets Russes for the entertainment of his guests. He had success on Broadway with the musicals *Anything Goes* and *Kiss me Kate* amongst his biggest hits. He also wrote hit songs and music for films including *High Society* and *Rosalie*. The music featured in this suite comes from his extensive songbook including 'Another Op'nin', Another Show' from *Kiss Me Kate*, 'In the Still of the Night' from *Rosalie*, 'Anything Goes' and 'Night and Day' from *The Gay Divorce*.

One of the most celebrated composers of the 20th Century was Samuel Barber (1910-1981). His music usually avoided the experimental trends of modernism in favour of the more traditional harmonies of 19th-century romantic music focusing on emotion and lyricism. *His Adagio for Strings*, possibly his best known work, was originally part of his *String Quartet* composed in 1937, heard here in its more recognisable string orchestra arrangement. It has been used to mark notable and poignant events in American History, including to announce the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1945; following the assassination of John F. Kennedy in 1963 and in a concert to commemorate the death of Barber himself in 1981. It was also performed at Last Night of the Proms in 2001 to honour the victims of the September 11th attacks in New York.

The final piece in the first half sees us cross the Southern US border into Mexico. Arturo Marquez (born 1950) composed this orchestral dance in 1994 and it has become a staple of the orchestral repertoire, particularly since the popular world-tour performances by the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela under the baton of conductor Gustavo Dudamel in 2007. The music was inspired by a visit to a ballroom in the Mexican state of Veracruz and reflects the 'danzon' dance style, which has its origins in Cuba but is a very important part of Mexican folklore.

An American themed concert would not be the same without the swing stylings of Glenn Miller (1904-1944). This arrangement features two of his best sellers - *In The Mood* and *Moonlight Serenade*.

'Glenn Miller and His Orchestra' was one of the most popular and successful bands of the 20th century and the best-selling recording band between 1939-1942.

As well as being an exceptional civilian band leader, Miller is considered to be the father of the modern US military band. He volunteered to join the US Armed forces in 1942 to entertain troops during World War II. Miller went missing in action on the 15th December 1944 on a flight over the English Channel.

Teresa Carreño (1853-1917) was a child prodigy and virtuoso pianist from Venezuela. She was already writing short works for piano by the age of 7 before her family moved to New York in 1862 where she met the American pianist and composer Louis Moreau Gottschalk. Having seen her perform he wrote 'I intend to devote myself to her musical instruction. She must be something great and she shall be.'

Her composition *Kleiner Walzer (Mi Teresita)* (1885), which was composed for her daughter Teresita, became her most popular piece, often performed as an encore at her own concerts. This piece and her short fantasy, *Un Bal en Rêve*, have been arranged from the original piano scores for the chamber orchestra.

The Mexican Hat Dance, *Jarabe Tapatío*, is the national dance of Mexico. Its earliest origins date from the 18th century with the standard music composed in the 19th Century, and a more common instrumental arrangement dating from the 1920s. This arrangement is by British Light Music composer Peter Hope, and uses the thematic material from the traditional music.

Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990) composed *West Side Story* in 1957 following a time of great turmoil in his life. The 'Red Scare' climate of American politics during the Cold War meant that Bernstein, as a Jewish, gay, left-winger was very much blacklisted, under investigation by the FBI and subsequently unable to find work. These major setbacks did nothing to dwindle his artistic and political life and may well have spurred him on to greatness. Bernstein wanted to create a new 'American Theatre' that would fuse together American modern dance with vernacular speech and extended musical sequences, counterpoint and orchestration. *West Side Story* fits this bill and endures as an undisputed masterpiece of American musical theatre.

Sousa's *Stars and Stripes Forever* concludes our musical tour of the Americas. We hope you have enjoyed the varied nature of this concert as much as we have enjoyed rehearsing and performing it for you. It has been inspiring to work with more 20th Century scores and with some living composer's work to help showcase the variety and intricacy of music from 'across the pond'.

Simon Gower
Conductor & Musical Director

Brian Waters
Chairman

Programme

AARON COPLAND

Fanfare for the Common Man

ELMER BERNSTEIN

The Magnificent Seven - Main Theme

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

The Liberty Bell March

GEORGE GERSWHIN

An American in Paris

COLE PORTER

A Cole Porter Salute

SAMUEL BARBER

Adagio for Strings

ANTONIO MARQUEZ

Danzon No. 2

INTERVAL

GLENN MILLER,
ARR. PETER LAWSON

A Glenn Miller Medley

TERESA CARREÑO

Kleiner Waltz - Mi Teresita

TERESA CARREÑO

Un bal en rêve

TRADITIONAL,
ARR. PETER HOPE

Mexican Hat Dance

LEONARD BERNSTEIN,
ARR. JACK MASON

West Side Story Selections

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

Stars and Stripes Forever

The Orchestra

STRINGS

FIRST VIOLIN

Simon Smith
Nigel Bland
Hazel Brewer
Liz Bux
Lindsey Cook
Roz Hall
Jill Vaughan
Rachel Williams
Tessa Younger

SECOND VIOLIN

Will Oastler
Sheila Bellamy
Lucy Blyth
Paula Burr
John Caroe
Lynn Leppard
Alicia Newell
Bronwen Trowhill

DOUBLE BASS

Julian Baker

VIOLA

Sophie Bayman
Ann-Marie Brooke
Valmai Crane
Rebecca Kirby
Sándor Végh

CELLO

Jonathan Bruce
Kathryn Anderson
Karen Sinstadt
Roger Wintle

WOODWIND, BRASS & PERCUSSION

FLUTE & PICCOLO

Gill Willis
Sarah Thomson
Elizabeth Winch

OBOE & COR ANGLAIS

Gail Taylor
Barbara Ashby

BASSOON

Kate Denny
Charlotte Willis
Theresa Keysell
Jan Townsend

CLARINET & ALTO SAXOPHONE

Dave Bottom
Jason Carbonell-Ferrer
Sally Donegani

FRENCH HORN

Chris Willard
Aussie Pepper
Bob Turner
Mike Sarna

TRUMPET

Andy Trowhill
Stuart Welford

PIANO

Marie Crawford

TROMBONE

Roger Dibbens
Ian Lawrence
Chris Thompson

PERCUSSION & TIMPANI

Patricia Golds
Avril Végh
Frank Hawkes

Friends of the Orchestra

CHAIRMAN

B.E. Waters, Esq M.B.E

PRESIDENT

The Worshipful, The Mayor of Eastbourne

FRIENDS

Mrs J Booth

P. Hammond, Esq.

Mrs J. Haughan

Ms M. Haynes

Miss J. Hayward

Mrs B. Leggett

Hon. Alderman A. Leggett

Mrs Z. Luck

Mrs P. Snowden

Mrs J. Stevens

BECOMING A FRIEND AND SUPPORTING YOUR ORCHESTRA

An annual subscription of £20 gets you:

- » A ticket to both the Spring and Summer concerts.
- » Advance information about upcoming concerts.
- » Your name in the programme.
- » The opportunity to make further donations to support the orchestra.
- » The opportunity to sponsor a piece through purchasing music for the orchestra.

Please email: eastbourneorchestra@gmail.com for more information on becoming a friend of Eastbourne Concert Orchestra.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Concert The Nutcracker

All Saints Church, Tuesday 5th December 2023

Spring Concert Dvořák Symphony No. 8

Eastbourne Town Hall, Tuesday 19th March 2024

Summer Gala Concert

Devonshire Park / Winter Garden (TBC)
Monday 1st July 2024

Hastings Sinfonia

Christmas Concert, Sunday 3rd December 2023

LUXURY WATCHES • FINE DIAMONDS • PRE-OWNED • AFTERSALES

BRUFORDS

1886

Established in Eastbourne since 1886, at Brufords we are extremely proud of our reputation for exceptional service, exclusive choice and attention to detail.



FIND US IN THE BEACON
&
COMING SOON OUR NEW PREMISES AT
10 CORNFIELD ROAD

enquiries@brufords.com

01323 725452

www.brufords.com