

Eastbourne
CONCERT :
ORCHESTRA



SUMMER CONCERT



CLASSICAL BANGERS

PROGRAMME

In aid of



St Wilfrid's Hospice

WELCOME

Welcome to our Summer 'Classical Bangers' concert which finishes our 73rd Orchestral Season. We have put this concert together to celebrate my 10th year as Musical Director of this wonderful community orchestra, using some of our favourite pieces from the last decade alongside some other instantly recognisable classical favourites.

This concert is in aid of St Wilfrid's Hospice - a fantastic local charity doing amazing work in our community. All proceeds from tonight will be sent to support them in delivering this vital service.

We open the concert at Sunrise. This fanfare is the opening to Richard Strauss' tone poem 'Also Sprach Zarathustra' and was used famously in Stanley Kubrick's 1968 sci-fi masterpiece '2001: A Space Odyssey'. Listen out for the very famous timpani moments in the middle!

To help celebrate this anniversary we asked the orchestra, the friends of the ECO, and our audience to vote for pieces to add into the programme. The first of which is Jupiter from the Planets by Holst as voted for by the players in the Orchestra. In this movement from the Planets Suite, Holst portrays Jupiter's characteristic vitality and abundance of life with music that is buoyant and exuberant. You may recognise the 'I Vow to thee my Country' melody in the middle of the work. The use of that particular melody in the solemn patriotic hymn 'compromised' the vitality and jollity of the work according to the composer's daughter, Imogen Holst, and was never intended for that mood. Whilst Holst adapted his own melody for use in the hymn he was keen that they were seen as two separate works.

The second choice, this time by our ECO friends, is 'Tara's Theme' from Gone with the Wind by Max Steiner. Steiner was a pioneer of film music and believed every character should have a theme associated with them. The biggest and grandest theme in all of Gone with the Wind goes to the O'Hara plantation, Tara. Whilst this seems to contradict the previous point, Steiner saw the plantation house as a central character in the film:

"Tara is more than a plantation, more than a fine old house saturated with proud and sad and always-loving memories. Tara is a living thing, giving and demanding life." This theme, as heard in the Horns and strings, returns throughout the film and is one of the most recognisable melodies in film music.

Speaking of recognisable melodies we now journey through the decades with James Bond. The unmistakable "James Bond Theme" by Monty Norman captures the essence of Bond's character: suave, confident, and dangerous. John Barry's arrangement brought a jazzy, dynamic edge that has endured through every Bond film. This selection moves through some of the Bond music milestones as we celebrate the legacy of James Bond themes, each capturing the spirit of their times and contributing to the timeless nature of 007.

We conclude the first half of our celebrations with music from Bizet's opera 'Carmen' from 1875. This selection of orchestral pieces showcases the vivid themes and motifs that capture the tragic yet passionate characters in Bizet's work, blending Spanish folk elements with rich orchestral colours. The choices here being my particular favourites from the first and second orchestral suites.

We open the second half with one of my highlights from the last 10 years - The Phantom of the Opera. This broad orchestral arrangement captures the dark intensity and fleeting innocence of the main characters bringing the music from the second longest running West End musical to life.

Whilst the quieter, more reflective Pavane by Fauré isn't a 'classical banger' in the same way as the other pieces in the programme, it is still one of the most popular and recognisable works in the repertoire. With a delicate and memorable opening flute melody and delicate and airy, yet powerful, scoring this piece definitely packs a musical punch.

The vivid tone poem 'A Night on a Bare Mountain' by Mussorgsky was composed in 1867 to depict a witches sabbath on St John's Eve - a night traditionally associated with dark, mystical occurrences in Slavic folklore. The frantic energy and orchestral writing depict the supernatural and foreboding nature of the work, before building to a stringent intensity before the dawn bells chime and the music ends in a more reflective tone suggesting the peaceful morning. Walt Disney used the music in his 1940 film Fantasia, introducing Chernabog, the winged demon, as the central villain calling restless souls to the Bare Mountain. Not only is this piece a certified 'classical banger', but its inclusion tonight helps us join in the centenary celebrations of the Walt Disney company.

Continuing our frenzied theme we come to the Bacchanale taken from Saint-Saëns' 1887 opera Samson and Delilah based on the biblical story of Samson. This music is taken from Act 3 of the opera as the philistine priests of Dagon dance to this frantic, savage music as they prepare to sacrifice a weakened and blinded Samson to celebrate their victory over the Hebrews.

Our final piece of this celebration concert was chosen by you, our wonderful audience. You were given the option to vote for your favourite piece during our Spring Concert and with a 54% vote share Pirates of the Caribbean is our concert ender. This music, in a fantastic arrangement by Ted Ricketts, showcases the swashbuckling and adventurous nature of the films with instantly recognisable themes from the franchise.

The last 10 years has seen the orchestra truly transform and I am privileged to stand at the helm. Here's to another decade of fantastic music making!

Simon Polton-Gower
Conductor & Musical Director

ST WILFRID'S HOSPICE

St Wilfrid's provides support for people with any life-limiting illness towards the end of their lives.

We want to see a community where people talk openly about dying, live well until the end of their life and where nobody dies alone, afraid or in pain.

We are a charity that relies on voluntary gifts to support over 70% of our vital work. It costs just over £19,000 a day to provide our care and support services across our catchment area.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EASTBOURNE GALA CONCERT
Thursday 26th September 2024 - Winter Garden
Celebrating 150 years of the Devonshire Park

CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Tuesday 3rd December 2024 - All Saints' Church, Eastbourne

PROGRAMME

STRAUSS

Also Sprach Zarathustra (sunrise from 2001: A Space Odyssey)

Orchestra Choice: HOLST

The Planets - Jupiter: The Bringer of Jollity

ECO Friends Choice: STEINER

Gone with the Wind - Tara's Theme

ARR. BULLA

007: Through the Years

BIZET

Selections from Carmen

I - Prelude & Aragonaise **II** - Intermezzo

V - Les Toréadors **VII** - Habanera **XI** - Danse Bohême

INTERVAL

LLOYD-WEBBER ARR. CUSTER

Selections from the Phantom of the Opera

FAURÉ

Pavane

MUSSORGSKY

Night on a Bare Mountain

SAINT-SAËNS

Samson and Delilah - Bacchanale

AUDIENCE CHOICE: BADELT ARR. RICKETTS

Pirates of the Caribbean

THE ORCHESTRA

FIRST VIOLIN

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

HARP

Fiona Hosford

FLUTE

Gill Willis
Elizabeth Winch

CLARINET

Sally Donegani
Jason Carbonell-Ferrer
Stephanie Bond

FRENCH HORN

Chris Willard
Aussie Pepper
Andrew Cochlin
Bob Turner

SECOND VIOLIN

Will Oastler
Lucy Blyth
Paula Burr
John Caroe
Lynn Leppard
Alicia Newell
Yvonne Spear

DOUBLE BASS

Julian Baker
Kaye Colier

OBOE

Gail Taylor
Sian Russell

BASSOON

Charlotte Willis
Kate Denny
Theresa Keysell
Jan Townsend

TRUMPET

Martin Bunce
Stuart Welford

VIOLA

Sophie Bayman
Elizabeth Cotton
Valmai Crane
Vieda Mercer

CELLO

Jonathan Bruce
Kathryn Anderson
Miranda Buser
Karen Sinstadt



PERCUSSION & TIMPANI

Ed Bond
Patricia Golds

TROMBONE

Roger Dibbens
Will Roberts
Chris Thompson

FRIENDS OF THE ORCHESTRA



CHAIRMAN

Dr John Caroe

PRESIDENT

The Worshipful, The Mayor of Eastbourne

FRIENDS

Andy Anderson

Jacqui Bland

Jean Booth

Jenny Cole

Nigel Cole

David Cooke

Eva Cram

Pam Dye

Margaret Gardner

Mike Goss

Sue Goss

Jill Haughan

Maggie Haynes

Jeanne Hayward

Virginia Le Croisette

Barbara Leggett

Bert Leggett

Dominic McIlhargey

Mia Neupauerova-Shepherd

Jacqueline Osborn

David Rowan

Glenys Rowan

Patricia Snowden

Brian Waters Esq MBE

D.P. Wood

Jane Worsley

[Names correct at time of print.](#)

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