



**SOUTHBANK  
CENTRE**

**CLASSICAL  
MUSIC**

AUTUMN/WINTER 2026/27



# Welcome



Seventy-five years ago, King George VI opened the Royal Festival Hall with an inaugural concert of British music (Parry, Vaughan Williams, Elgar, Purcell and the honorary Englishman Handel). In the intervening decades the Southbank Centre has hosted remarkable musical innovators, from Jacqueline du Pré to Daniel Barenboim and Gustavo Dudamel to Chineke! Orchestra. Fittingly, our new

season, featuring all six of our Resident Orchestras, finds new ways to bring people to the transformative power of classical music. Seventy-five years on from our opening concert, it's our privilege to welcome you to the place where the heritage of classical music inspires the innovators of today.

**Mark Ball**  
Artistic Director  
Southbank Centre



After 75 years at the forefront of classical music, we are more committed than ever to exploring the breadth and possibilities of the art form. We bookend Autumn/Winter with works inspired by key historical moments of social change: the London premiere of Julia Wolfe's oratorio *Fire in my mouth*, with Resident Orchestra the Philharmonia Orchestra and a 146-strong chorus; and the UK premiere of Philip Glass' 15th Symphony, *Lincoln*. Resident Orchestra the London Philharmonic Orchestra also presents a large-scale oratorio in our *Season Opening Week*, performing Britten's *War Requiem*.

We mark the 90th birthdays of founders of minimalism Steve Reich and Philip Glass in our *Contemporary Edit*. In our Reich weekend, Resident Orchestra the London Sinfonietta performs with Jonny Greenwood, and Paraorchestra returns to our *Alternative Experiences*, inviting you to hear *Music for 18 Musicians* in their signature immersive format. *Philip Glass at 90* features the composer's collaborators Brooklyn Rider, performing string quartets that span his career, and there's a rare opportunity to hear the epic *Music in 12 Parts*, performed by Riot Ensemble.

There's more from our Resident Orchestras, as the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment shares the high drama of Bizet's *L'Arlésienne*.

Chineke! Orchestra is joined by guitarist Plínio Fernandes for a double bill including the intimate *After Dark: Samba Café*. And younger audiences are invited to join interactive concerts from the LPO and OAE.

In our *Artist Residencies*, we platform innovators of today. Violinist Pekka Kuusisto appears with Resident Orchestra Aurora Orchestra, with a unique interpretation of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*. Harpsichordist Jean Rondeau interprets Bach's *Goldberg Variations* for the organ, and performs chamber works with friends Nicolas Altstaedt and Thomas Dunford. And the returning Manchester Collective collaborates with Sidiki Dembélé.

More thrilling artists join us from the worlds of keyboard and chamber music: Mariam Batsashvili; Carducci Quartet, Ligeti Quartet and Solem Quartet; Concerto Italiano; Isabelle Demers; Tine Thing Helseth; Vadym Kholodenko; Pavel Kolesnikov; Hayato Sumino and Nobuyuki Tsujii.

Classical music's appeal has truly stood the test of time. As we kick off this new season, in our 75th year, we're thrilled to continue bringing you experiences that celebrate classical music at its most powerful, daring and bold.

**Taks Dada**  
Head of Classical Music  
Southbank Centre

# SEASON OPENING WEEK

From epic choral works to the hypnotic rhythms of minimalist masters, the full sonic and emotional range of classical music is celebrated in our *Season Opening Week*. We are joined by many of our Resident Orchestras and Resident Artists to open an Autumn/Winter programme that speaks to every musical mood.



Julia Wolfe's *Fire in my mouth* © Chris Lee

The London premiere of Julia Wolfe's impassioned *Fire in my mouth* provides an unforgettable start to our *Season Opening Week* with Resident Orchestra the Philharmonia Orchestra. Commemorating the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, the oratorio is written for 146 female voices, representing the number of people who died in the tragedy, many of whom were immigrants.

Another of our six Resident Orchestras, the London Philharmonic Orchestra, also captures the power of reflection in their opening concert, performing Britten's *War Requiem*. The work fuses sacred texts with Wilfred Owen's poetry in a devastating gesture of sorrow.

Two of our Resident Artists are here to help us kick off Autumn/Winter. Known for his experimental flair, violinist Pekka Kuusisto joins forces with Resident

Orchestra Aurora Orchestra for two of classical music's greatest nature-inspired works. And boundary-pushing keyboardist Jean Rondeau gives his own insightful take on Bach's *Goldberg Variations* on the Queen Elizabeth Hall organ.

Also on the keys, pianist Mariam Batsashvili traces a line from Baroque exuberance to Romantic emotion in her programme of works by Bach and Liszt.

Over the final weekend, we delve into the multi-layered universe of minimalist pioneer Steve Reich, celebrating his 90th birthday with artists including Resident Orchestra the London Sinfonietta, Radiohead's Jonny Greenwood and Paraorchestra. It's an extraordinary line-up, fitting for the extraordinary works of this giant of contemporary classical music.

Tuesday 22 September 2026

### Julia Wolfe's *Fire in My Mouth* with Marin Alsop



Marin Alsop conducts Julia Wolfe's *Fire in my mouth*, presented in partnership by the Philharmonia Orchestra and the Southbank Centre. It gives voice to the 146 victims of New York's 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire with folksong, epic choruses and visuals.

Royal Festival Hall, 8pm

Wednesday 23 September 2026

### The Multi-Story Orchestra: *Dreamer*

Get up close to the orchestra in a dynamic, interactive musical experience for all ages, guided by the musicians and culminating in a seated performance in the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7pm

Thursday 24 September 2026

### Philharmonia Orchestra: Santtu & Sol Gabetta



Santtu-Matias Rouvali *conductor*  
Sol Gabetta *cello*

**Brahms** Academic Festival Overture; **Elgar** Cello Concerto; **Dvořák** Symphony No.9 (From the New World)

The Philharmonia and Principal Conductor Santtu-Matias Rouvali open their season with a performance featuring superstar cellist Sol Gabetta playing Elgar's Cello Concerto. The evening begins with Brahms' *Academic Festival*, and concludes with Dvořák's *New World* Symphony.

Royal Festival Hall, 7.30pm

Friday 25 September 2026

### Pekka Kuusisto, Ale Carr & Aurora: *Four Seasons*



Aurora Orchestra  
Pekka Kuusisto *violin, conductor*  
Ale Carr *cittern*

**Caroline Shaw** Plan and Elevation; **Sibelius** Symphony No.5; **Vivaldi** The Four Seasons interspersed with folk music improvisations

Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.30pm

Saturday 26 September 2026

### Mariam Batsashvili: *Bach & Liszt*

Mariam Batsashvili *piano*

**Bach** Keyboard Concerto in D minor, BWV.974 (transc. from A. Marcello Oboe Concerto in D minor); **Liszt** Sarabande and Chaconne from Handel's *Almira* arr. for piano, S.181; **Thalberg** Grand caprice on motifs from Bellini's *La Sonnambula*, Op.46; **Liszt** Valse from Gounod's *Faust* transc. for piano, S.407; **Bach** Chaconne from *Partita No.2* in D minor, BWV.1004 arr. Busoni for piano; **Liszt** *Après une lecture de Dante* – Fantasia quasi sonata from *Années de pèlerinage*

Queen Elizabeth Hall, 6pm

### London Philharmonic Orchestra: Edward Gardner Conducts Britten's *War Requiem*

Edward Gardner *conductor*  
Natalya Romaniw *soprano*  
Allan Clayton *tenor*  
Benjamin Appl *baritone*  
London Philharmonic Choir  
London Symphony Chorus  
Tiffin Boys' Choir  
Tiffin Girls' Choir

**Britten** *War Requiem*

Royal Festival Hall, 7pm

Sunday 27 September 2026

### Jean Rondeau: *Goldberg Variations*

Jean Rondeau *organ*

**Bach** Goldberg Variations, BWV.988  
Queen Elizabeth Hall, 2pm

### Steve Reich at 90

We mark the 90th birthday of this pioneering voice of American minimalism with a weekend of events, featuring some of his best known works, along with lesser-known masterpieces.

Saturday 26 September 2026

### Double Bill Triple Quartet

Carducci Quartet  
Ligeti Quartet  
Solem Quartet

Programme includes:

**Steve Reich** Triple Quartet;  
*Different Trains* arr. for string orchestra (UK premiere)

Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, 8pm

### After Dark

Join us as we continue our Steve Reich celebrations late into the night, in our Reich-infused classical club night featuring well-known works.

Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer, 9.30pm

Sunday 27 September 2026

### Music for 18 Musicians

Paraorchestra and artistic director Charles Hazlewood present Steve Reich's *Music for 18 Musicians* as a living sonic installation, with the players spaced across the ballroom. You can wander among them or remain still and be enveloped in the hypnotic soundscape.

The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall, 2pm & 6pm

### London Sinfonietta & Jonny Greenwood



Chloe Rooke *conductor*  
Jonny Greenwood *electric & bass guitar*  
Students from the Royal Academy of Music

**Steve Reich** Clapping Music; Pulse; Electric Counterpoint; Radio Rewrite & City Life

Royal Festival Hall, 3.30pm



# PLAYING WITH FIRE

Alight with wonder and music, this multisensory, mixed-reality concert conjures world-renowned pianist Yuja Wang's personal and artistic journey. A virtual recreation of the pianist performs her own personally selected repertoire, immersing the audience through spatial audio, while surrounded by surrealist animation.



Still from *Playing with Fire*, written and directed by Pierre-Alain Giraud, 2025. courtesy of VIVE Arts and Atlas V

The stunning music and visuals of this virtual concert explore fire as the spark of human imagination: feel the transcendent light of Bach and the blaze of Stravinsky and Prokofiev.

At the centre of the space, both real and virtual, is a Steinway & Sons Spirio concert grand piano. The Spirio system uses advanced self-playing technology to recreate Yuja Wang's virtuosity on the physical instrument, synchronised with the holographic fingers of her virtual self. The immersive visual and sonic world is created by award-winning writer and director Pierre-Alain Giraud in collaboration with artist Gabriela Friðriksdóttir.

The grand narrative of artistry and creation in *Playing with Fire* is also intertwined with Yuja Wang's personal story. The pianist invites audiences into her mind, and paints a portrait of her path from young pianist in China to world-renowned virtuoso.

Yuja Wang is an Opus Klassik- and Grammy Award-winning pianist, whose charismatic artistry, emotional honesty and captivating stage presence have established her place among the world's leading classical musicians.

Produced by VIVE Arts and Atlas V, in collaboration with production partner Lightroom. Supported by Steinway & Sons and the Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée.

Please note that *Playing with Fire* does not feature Yuja Wang in person. The experience is a virtual concert featuring a pre-recorded avatar of the pianist and her recital, presented in an immersive environment.

## Playing with Fire

Fri 11 Sep – Sun 3 Jan; see website for details.  
Spirit Level, Level 1, Royal Festival Hall

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ATLAS V

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# RESIDENT ORCHESTRAS

The Southbank Centre is the proud home of six exceptional Resident Orchestras, who bring their extraordinary artistry to our spaces throughout the year. Each orchestra has its own identity, and together, we explore the depth and breadth of classical music in all its colours and forms.



## Aurora Orchestra

Aurora Orchestra is an innovative and boundary-breaking ensemble, creating musical experiences beyond the ordinary. Under its Principal Conductor Nicholas Collon, it has grown since its first concert in 2005 into an established name on the UK and international orchestral scene. Aurora is a pioneer of memorised orchestral performance and known for its cross-genre musical explorations. Through Aurora Classroom, it regularly offers events for families and young people, along with an online learning platform.

## Chineke! Orchestra

Chineke! Orchestra is Europe's first majority Black and ethnically diverse orchestra. The ensemble made its debut in 2015 at the Southbank Centre and became a Resident Orchestra here in 2022. Its repertoire brings together core classical works and music by contemporary and historically overlooked composers. Upcoming concerts include the London premiere of The Ayoub Sisters' joyful *Arabic Symphony*, while guitarist Plinio Fernandes performs Rodrigo's luminous *Concierto de Aranjuez*.



To see all of our classical music events, including those from our Resident Orchestras, scan the QR code or visit our website. [southbankcentre.co.uk/classicalmusic](https://southbankcentre.co.uk/classicalmusic)



© Jason Bell

### London Philharmonic Orchestra

From the moment it was founded in 1932, the London Philharmonic Orchestra has been celebrated as one of the world's great orchestras. It has been creating thrilling experiences at the Southbank Centre since the Royal Festival Hall's opening concert 75 years ago. Exhilarating to hear, the LPO's mission is to create unrivalled orchestral experiences on stage and cultivate human connections beyond it. Special guests this autumn include violinist Julia Fischer and pianists Víkingur Ólafsson and Alice Sara Ott.



© Monika Jakubowska

### London Sinfonietta

The London Sinfonietta is one of the world's leading contemporary music ensembles. Formed in 1968, it has commissioned over 470 works. Its musicians reimagine the contemporary repertoire they champion, and work with inspiring living composers and artists to create new music. They collaborate with young people, communities and the public in making projects involving film, theatre, dance and art, while their free-to-view digital channel reaches audiences around the world.



© Zen Grisdale

### Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

In 1986, a group of inquisitive musicians took a hard look at the orchestra and decided to start from scratch, throwing out the rulebook. A single conductor? No way. Specialise in one era? Too restricting. Since then, the OAE has changed and mesmerised the music world. Period-specific instruments have become just one element of its quest for authenticity – today, its name stands for excellence, diversity and exploration.



© Marc Gascoigne

### Philharmonia Orchestra

Founded in 1945, the Philharmonia has always been dedicated to bringing music of the highest quality to the widest possible audience. Originally created by the record label EMI, it quickly earned a reputation for brilliant live performances, working with conductors including von Karajan and Toscanini, and premiering music by Richard Strauss, Errollyn Wallen and many others. The current Principal Conductor is Santtu-Matias Rouvali, who took up the role in 2021.



# KEYBOARD MUSIC

The keyboard has earned its place at the heart of classical music thanks to its blend of emotional versatility and dynamic range. We explore this rich history with world-class performers on the piano and organ, exploring the timeless power of beloved greats and the thrill of the new.



Mariam Batsashvili © Maximilian Koenig

Following the *Season Opening Week*, featuring the perceptive brilliance of pianist Mariam Batsashvili and Jean Rondeau's performance of Bach's *Goldberg Variations* on the organ, we welcome many more celebrated keyboard artists.

Pianist Vadym Kholodenko showcases his talents in Schumann's deeply personal *Fantasia in C* and Berlioz' *Symphonie fantastique*, a fevered story of obsession. Multi-faceted pianist Hayato Sumino presents his new album *Chopin Orbit*, which shows how the composer's music is becoming ever more resonant. Also known for revealing fresh depths in familiar music, pianist Nobuyuki Tsujii gives a recital featuring Beethoven's dramatic *Appassionata* Sonata and Tchaikovsky's enchanting *Nutcracker Suite*.

Isabelle Demers uncovers every nuance of the Royal Festival Hall organ in a recital that builds to Brahms' monumental *Handel Variations*. Finally, pianist Pavel Kolesnikov brings his original approach to Feldman's rarely performed *Triadic Memories* in all its profound beauty.

## **Mariam Batsashvili: Bach & Liszt**

See Sat 26 Sep

## **Jean Rondeau: Goldberg Variations**

See Sun 27 Sep

## **Vadym Kholodenko: Berlioz' Symphonie Fantastique**

See Sat 17 Oct

## **Hayato Sumino Presents Chopin Orbit**

See Sun 29 Nov

## **Nobuyuki Tsujii: Beethoven, Grieg & Tchaikovsky**

See Sun 6 Dec

## **Isabelle Demers: Bach, Stravinsky & Brahms**

See Sat 23 Jan

## **Pavel Kolesnikov: Feldman's Triadic Memories**

See Fri 29 Jan

# CONTEMPORARY EDIT

At the forefront of classical music, our *Contemporary Edit* showcases visionary artists of today while celebrating the innovators of the 20th century. In Autumn/Winter we mark the milestone birthdays of two minimalist masters, and are joined by many of our Resident Artists and Orchestras in unexpected collaborations and brand new projects.



London Sinfonietta © Viktor Erik Emanuel



Steve Reich © Jeffrey Herman



Philip Glass © Laurie Anderson

Opened by Resident Orchestra the Philharmonia's performance of Julia Wolfe's powerful elegy *Fire in my mouth*, our *Contemporary Edit* is framed by celebrations of the 90th birthdays of Steve Reich and Philip Glass, with performances featuring the composers' close collaborators from throughout their lives, new works and reimaginings of familiar masterpieces.

During our *Season Opening Week* we pay homage to Reich over two days. The Carducci Quartet, Ligeti Quartet and Solem Quartet come together to perform his *Triple Quartet* and the UK premiere of a new version of the composer's well-known *Different Trains* for large ensemble, followed by a Reich-inspired classical club night. On Sunday, enter the soundscape of Reich's *Music for 18 Musicians*, as Paraorchestra reimagines this iconic work in an immersive performance. And Resident Orchestra the London Sinfonietta, which has commissioned a number of Reich works, presents a rare opportunity to hear *City Life*, in addition to works including *Electric Counterpoint* and *Radio Rewrite*, featuring Radiohead's Jonny Greenwood.

Our Resident Artists also feature in our *Contemporary Edit*. The ever-inventive violinist Pekka Kuusisto opens his residency with Resident Orchestra Aurora Orchestra and collaborator Ale Carr, and returns in November with singer-songwriter Gabriel Kahane as Council, for an intimate evening of folk-infused music. Shape-shifting ensemble Manchester Collective returns for the fifth year, performing with percussionist extraordinaire Sidiki Dembélé and in the ground-trembling show *Black Gold*.

Elsewhere, pianist, composer and technologist Zubin Kanga returns with the second instalment of his project *Cyborg Soloists*, presenting new work that brings together keyboard and technology, and the London Sinfonietta presents the world premiere of composer Brigitta Muntendorf's *Last Show*.

Closing out *Contemporary Edit*, our two-day *Philip Glass at 90* celebration opens with the composer's epic and rarely performed *Music in 12 Parts*. Genre-defying quartet Brooklyn Rider, close collaborators of Glass, and Manchester Collective present the composer's range of string quartets. And we're delighted to host the UK premiere of the composer's 15th Symphony, *Lincoln*.

**Julia Wolfe's *Fire in My Mouth* with Marin Alsop**

See Tue 22 Sep

**The Multi-Story Orchestra: *Dreamer***

See Wed 23 Sep

**Steve Reich at 90**

See Sat 26 & Sun 27 Sep

**Manchester Collective & Sidiki Dembélé**

See Sun 4 Oct

**Zubin Kanga: *Ghost in the Machine* + *After Dark***

See Sat 17 Oct

**Council: Pekka Kuusisto & Gabriel Kahane**

See Sat 7 Nov

**Philharmonia Orchestra:**

**Taylor Mac – *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music***

See Thu 26 Nov

**London Sinfonietta: Brigitta Muntendorf – *Last Show***

See Sat 28 Nov

**Manchester Collective: *Black Gold***

See Sun 6 Dec

**Pavel Kolesnikov: *Feldman's Triadic Memories***

See Fri 29 Jan

**Philip Glass at 90**

See Sat 30 & Sun 31 Jan

# CHAMBER MUSIC

Shared artistry shines in these intimate performances spanning centuries of music-making. Close collaborations of musical friends and small ensembles perform works that encompass everything from one of the transformative masterminds of Baroque music to the pulsing rhythms of a minimalist icon.



In our two-day celebration of Steve Reich, his ever-shifting *Triple Quartet* is performed by the combined forces of the Carducci, Ligeti and Solem Quartets.

Harpichordist Jean Rondeau, one of our new Resident Artists, joins forces with lutenist Thomas Dunford and cellist Nicolas Altstaedt for an afternoon of French Baroque composers from the heart of Louis XIV's court.

Bringing together a stellar quintet, trumpeter Tine Thing Helseth honours Nadia Boulanger. The teacher, conductor and composer welcomed icons of 20th-century music like Stravinsky and Fauré at her Paris studio, known as The Boulangerie, with an influence that reached far beyond its walls.

Legendary Italian ensemble Concerto Italiano returns to perform Monteverdi's complete Third Book of Madrigals. Published in 1592, these passionate part-songs, innovative for their time, helped to lay the foundations for early Baroque music.

## **Steve Reich at 90: Triple Quartet + After Dark**

See Sat 26 Sep

## **Jean Rondeau, Nicolas Altstaedt & Thomas Dunford**

See Sun 25 Oct

## **Tine Thing Helseth & Friends: The Boulangerie**

See Sat 7 Nov

## **Concerto Italiano: Monteverdi's Madrigals**

See Fri 4 Dec



# ARTIST RESIDENCIES

Our Artist Residencies create space for forward-thinking music-makers to explore new ideas and let creative experimentation thrive. For 2026/27, we welcome violinist and conductor Pekka Kuusisto and harpsichordist Jean Rondeau, joining our brilliant friends Manchester Collective.



© Nat Urazmetova

## Manchester Collective

Our Resident Artists Manchester Collective are back for the fifth year. Led by Co-Artistic Directors Rakhi Singh and Jasmin Kent Rodgman, the Collective is a shape-shifting ensemble known for its commitment to radical human experiences and its consistently intriguing cross-genre collaborations. This autumn and winter, they lead you from the complex rhythms of West Africa with the Sidiki Dembélé Ensemble to minimalist chamber music in our *Philip Glass at 90* celebration, via the burning oil wells of 1920s Santa Fe with Luke Mombrea's *Black Gold*.

### Manchester Collective & Sidiki Dembélé

See Sun 4 Oct

### Manchester Collective: Black Gold

See Sun 6 Dec

### Philip Glass at 90: Manchester Collective

See Sun 31 Jan



© Magnus Skrede

## **Pekka Kuusisto**

To describe Pekka Kuusisto as a violinist and conductor doesn't really do justice to one of classical music's great creative minds. He begins his residency here this autumn with Aurora Orchestra in a nature-inspired concert including his thrilling take on Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, with its folk-inspired improvisations. You can also see his inventive musical collaboration with composer and singer-songwriter Gabriel Kahane, performing under the moniker Council, which features sonically varied songs and chamber music exploring universality in the personal.

### **Pekka Kuusisto, Ale Carr & Aurora: Four Seasons**

See Fri 25 Sep

### **Council: Pekka Kuusisto & Gabriel Kahane**

See Sat 7 Nov

## **Jean Rondeau**

The harpsichord is undergoing something of a 21st-century renaissance, thanks in no small part to the work of Jean Rondeau. He's built a reputation for his ambitious recording projects, unexpected performance style and rock star presence – so we're delighted to welcome him as a Resident Artist from this autumn. Rondeau's tenure begins with Bach's *Goldberg Variations* performed on the organ as part of our *Season Opening Week*. He returns to the harpsichord in late October for a chamber concert alongside Thomas Dunford (lute) and Nicolas Altstaedt (cello).

### **Jean Rondeau: Goldberg Variations**

See Sun 27 Sep

### **Jean Rondeau, Nicolas Altstaedt & Thomas Dunford**

See Sun 25 Oct



© Shura Rujanova

# ALTERNATIVE EXPERIENCES

See classical music in a fresh light at our *Alternative Experiences*, featuring artists and ensembles creating bold new ways for us to feel, hear and immerse ourselves in sound. Break out of the concert hall to wander among the musicians or take in a late-night show with friends.



Paraorchestra © Maarten Mooijman

Discover new ways to experience classical music's greatest works. Hear the orchestra from the inside with the ever-inventive ensemble Paraorchestra, returning with their signature immersive format to perform the Steve Reich masterpiece *Music for 18 Musicians* as a living sonic installation during our *Steve Reich at 90* celebrations. Dance the night away in our hypnotic, Reich-inspired classical club night. Or take a deep dive into a soundbath as Riot Ensemble performs Philip Glass' epic four-hour *Music in 12 Parts* during our *Philip Glass at 90* celebrations.

Pianist, composer and technologist Zubin Kanga turns the Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer into a nightclub dance floor, as he presents Alex Groves' evocative *PARTITA*. And our Resident Orchestras carry us late into the night with more *After Dark* events in the relaxed setting of the foyer, following their Queen Elizabeth Hall concerts: players from Chineke! Orchestra join guitarist Plínio Fernandes and violinist Braimah Kanneh-Mason for *After Dark: Samba Café* – an intimate evening of Latin American music and folk songs – and players from the London Philharmonic Orchestra join clarinetist Martin Fröst and vocalist Matilda Fröst.

## **Steve Reich at 90: After Dark**

See Sat 26 Sep

## **Steve Reich at 90: Music for 18 Musicians**

See Sat 27 Sep

## **After Dark: Club Cyborg – Zubin Kanga**

See Sat 17 Oct

## **After Dark: Samba Café**

See Sat 27 Nov

## **After Dark: Sibelius**

See Sat 20 Jan

## **Philip Glass at 90: Music in 12 Parts**

See Sat 30 Jan

# FAMILY CLASSICAL CONCERTS

Crack the codes of musical mysteries, bring along your stamping feet and clapping hands, and get ready to meet the instruments! Our family-friendly concerts and workshops, presented in collaboration with our Resident Orchestras and visiting ensembles, are the place to come to share the joy of classical music with your little ones.



The Multi-Story Orchestra © Raf Petherbridge

We welcome The Multi-Story Orchestra for an interactive, classical music experience for all ages during our *Season Opening Week*, before diving into our Resident Orchestras' long-running series of family concerts. There's lots of fun to be had!

The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment returns with *OAE TOTS*, their uplifting concerts for ages two to five, where you can share the stage with a cast of occasionally weird – and always wonderful – instruments.

For this edition of *FUNharmonics* from the London Philharmonic Orchestra, for ages six and over, we're uncovering the mysteries in some of the greatest classical music ever made, including Elgar's brain-teasing *Enigma Variations*. The OAE returns on the same day with *OAE TOTS at LPO FUNharmonics* – a musical workshop for ages two to five that can be enjoyed alongside the LPO's concert, or as a standalone event.

## **The Multi-Story Orchestra: Dreamer**

See Wed 23 Sep

## **OAE TOTS**

See Sun 17 Jan

## **OAE TOTS at LPO FUNharmonics**

See Sat 23 Jan

## **LPO FUNharmonics: The Big Enigma**

See Sat 23 Jan

Friday 2 October 2026

**London Philharmonic Orchestra: Kian Soltani Plays Dvořák**



Marie Jacquot *conductor*  
Kian Soltani *cello*

Dvořák Cello Concerto;  
Franck Symphony in D minor  
Royal Festival Hall, 7.30pm

Saturday 3 October 2026

**Oracle with the BBC Concert Orchestra**

Jérôme Kuhn *conductor*

Programme includes: Dobrinka Tabakova Orpheus' Comet; Vaughan Williams The Wasps, Aristophanic Suite; David Buckley Oracle – chamber opera in 1 act (UK premiere)

Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.30pm

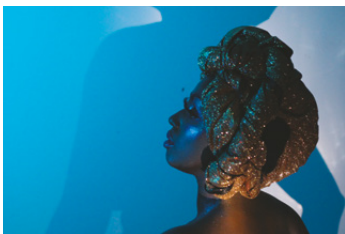
Sunday 4 October 2026

**Philharmonia Orchestra: Bruckner 5 with Herbert Blomstedt**

Herbert Blomstedt *conductor*

Bruckner Symphony No.5  
Royal Festival Hall, 3pm

**Manchester Collective & Sidiki Dembélé**



Percussionist extraordinaire Sidiki Dembélé and his band join Manchester Collective for an evening of folksong and storytelling from Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Senegal. Also on the bill: new music by Nwando Ebizie, and violinist Rakhi Singh breathes life into familiar classical works.

Queen Elizabeth Hall, 6pm

Friday 9 & Saturday 10 October 2026

**Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment: The Girl from Arles**

Unrequited love and melodrama collide in Bizet's *L'Arlésienne*. Conducted by Mark Elder and directed by Jeremy Sams, this new version restores the composer's original orchestration, with the 26 musicians becoming part of the on-stage action alongside the cast.

Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7pm  
Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer at 6pm on both dates; pre-concert talk. Free.

Sunday 11 October 2026

**Chineke! Orchestra: Arabic Symphony**



Fawzi Haimor *conductor*  
Armand Djikoloum *oboe*  
Axelle Fanyo *soprano*

Valerie Coleman *Umoya* – anthem of unity; Osman The Shepherd's song for oboe & strings; Ravel Shéhérazade; Kareem Roustom Ramal; The Ayoub Sisters Arabic Symphony (London premiere)

Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.30pm

Saturday 17 October 2026

**Vadym Kholodenko: Berlioz' Symphonie Fantastique**



Vadym Kholodenko *piano*  
Schumann Fantasie in C, Op.17;  
Berlioz Symphonie fantastique arr. Liszt (S.470) for piano  
Queen Elizabeth Hall, 3pm

Saturday 17 October 2026

**Double Bill Zubin Kanga**



**Ghost in the Machine**

Pianist, composer and technologist Zubin Kanga performs groundbreaking new music from his *Cyborg Soloists* project, combining the piano with hybrid instruments, digital avatars, synthesizers, body sensors and experimental AI. Featuring works by Nwando Ebizie, Alex Paxton and Ben Nobuto.  
Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, 8pm

**After Dark: Club Cyborg**

Zubin Kanga performs the world premiere of *PARTITA* by Alex Groves, a fusion of Baroque forms and electronic music, in a classical club night. Combining the piano with multiple keyboards, a ROLI Seaboard and electronics, the piece brings together classical virtuosity, queer culture and novel technologies.

Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer, 9.30pm

Wednesday 21 October 2026

**London Philharmonic Orchestra: Julia Fischer Plays Brahms**



Edward Gardner *conductor*  
Julia Fischer *violin*

Brahms Violin Concerto;  
Tchaikovsky Manfred Symphony  
Royal Festival Hall, 7.30pm

Thursday 22 October 2026

**Philharmonia Orchestra:  
Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto  
with Seong-Jin Cho**



Santtu-Matias Rouvali *conductor*  
Seong-Jin Cho *piano*

**Borodin** In the Steppes of Central Asia; **Tchaikovsky** Piano Concerto No.1; **Shostakovich** Symphony No.11 in G minor (The Year 1905)  
Royal Festival Hall, 7.30pm

Friday 23 October 2026

**London Philharmonic  
Orchestra: The Firebird**

Edward Gardner *conductor*  
Vikingur Ólafsson *piano*

**Howell** Lamia, symphonic poem;  
**Mark Simpson** Piano Concerto (World premiere); **Stravinsky** The Firebird, complete ballet (1910)  
Royal Festival Hall, 7.30pm

Sunday 25 October 2026

**Jean Rondeau, Nicolas  
Altstaedt & Thomas Dunford**

Resident Artist Jean Rondeau takes to the harpsichord alongside Thomas Dunford (lute) and Nicolas Altstaedt (cello) for a programme including works by Marais, Forqueray and Couperin.  
Queen Elizabeth Hall, 2pm

Thursday 29 October 2026

**Philharmonia Orchestra:  
Dvořák Violin Concerto  
with James Ehnes**

Kevin John Edusei *conductor*  
James Ehnes *violin*

**Pejačević** Overture in D minor for large orchestra, Op.49;  
**Dvořák** Violin Concerto;  
**Suk** Fantastic Scherzo, Op.25;  
**Janáček** Sinfonietta  
Royal Festival Hall, 7.30pm

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Sunday 1 November 2026

**Philharmonia Orchestra:  
Mendelssohn Violin Concerto  
with Benedetti**



Jakub Hrůša *conductor*  
Nicola Benedetti *violin*

Smetana Overture, The Two Widows; Mendelssohn Violin Concerto; Schumann Symphony No.3 in E flat (Rhenish), Op.97  
Royal Festival Hall, 3pm

Wednesday 4 November 2026

**London Philharmonic  
Orchestra: Karina Canellakis  
Conducts Beethoven**



Karina Canellakis *conductor*  
Christian Tetzlaff *violin*

Elgar Violin Concerto; Dai Fujikura New work (UK premiere); Beethoven Symphony No.5  
Royal Festival Hall, 7.30pm

Thursday 5 November 2026

**Philharmonia Orchestra:  
Shostakovich Piano Concerto  
No.2 with Nobuyuki Tsujii**

Xian Zhang *conductor*  
Nobuyuki Tsujii *piano*

Nokuthula Ngwenyama Primal Message; Shostakovich Piano Concerto No.2; Prokofiev Selections from Romeo and Juliet, Op.64

Royal Festival Hall, 7.30pm

Friday 6 November 2026

**London Philharmonic  
Orchestra: Alice Sara Ott  
Plays Beethoven**



Karina Canellakis *conductor*  
Alice Sara Ott *piano*

Beethoven Piano Concerto No.4; Mahler Symphony No.1  
Royal Festival Hall, 7.30pm

Saturday 7 November 2026

**Tine Thing Helseth &  
Friends: The Boulangerie**

Trumpeter Tine Thing Helseth celebrates legendary music teacher Nadia Boulanger. The programme features Boulanger's own compositions along with music by some of her celebrated students, including Copland, Gershwin and Stravinsky. With Hyeyoon Park (violin), Andreas Brantelid (cello), Julian Bliss (clarinet) and Julien Quentin (piano).

Queen Elizabeth Hall, 2pm

**Council: Pekka Kuusisto &  
Gabriel Kahane**



Violinist Pekka Kuusisto and singer-songwriter Gabriel Kahane, together known as Council, present an evening of intimate and sonically varied songs and chamber music, created during several writing retreats in North Karelia, Finland, and Portland, Oregon.

Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, 6pm

Thursday 12 November 2026

**Philharmonia Orchestra:  
Manfred Honeck &  
Emanuel Ax**

Manfred Honeck *conductor*  
Emanuel Ax *piano*

J Strauss II Overture, Die Fledermaus; Mozart Piano Concerto No.25 in C, K.503; R Strauss Elektra Suite arr. Honeck & Ille  
Royal Festival Hall, 7.30pm

Wednesday 18 November 2026

**London Philharmonic  
Orchestra: Strauss'  
Ein Heldenleben**

Robin Ticciati *conductor*  
Vilde Frang *violin*

Sibelius King Christian II, suite from the incidental music, Op.27; Hindemith Kammermusik No.4 for violin & chamber orchestra, Op.36 No.3; Strauss Ein Heldenleben  
Royal Festival Hall, 7.30pm

Thursday 19 November 2026

**Philharmonia Orchestra:  
Mahler 6 with Marin Alsop**

Marin Alsop *conductor*  
Esther Yoo *violin*

Bernstein Serenade after Plato's Symposium for violin, strings & percussion; Mahler Symphony No.6

Royal Festival Hall, 7.30pm

Wednesday 25 November 2026

**London Philharmonic  
Orchestra: Lessons in  
Love and Violence**

Edward Gardner *conductor*  
Dan Ayling *director*

Nathaniel Sullivan *King*  
Gyula Orendt *Gaveston*  
Georgia Jarman *Isabel*  
Toby Spence *Mortimer*  
James Way *Young King*  
Hannah Sawle *Witness 1*  
Joanne Evans *Witness 2*  
Andri Björn Róbertsson *Madman*

George Benjamin Lessons in love and violence – opera in 2 parts (semi-staged)

Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.30pm

Thursday 26 November 2026

### Philharmonia Orchestra: Taylor Mac – A 24-Decade History of Popular Music

Acclaimed performance artist Taylor Mac joins the Philharmonia Orchestra for the UK orchestral premiere of his award-winning show.

Royal Festival Hall, 7.30pm

Friday 27 November 2026

### Double Bill

#### Chineke! Orchestra: Hailstork – Symphony No.1



Tatiana Perez *conductor*  
Plínio Fernandes *guitar*

**Stravinsky** Suites Nos.1 & 2 for chamber orchestra; **Rodrigo** Concierto de Aranjuez for guitar & orchestra; **Eliana Echeverry** Suite Arrullos sinfónicos from *Diez lunas para una espera* (10 Moons for waiting); **Adolphus Hailstork** Symphony No.1

Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7pm

### After Dark: Samba Café

Guitarist Plínio Fernandes and violinist Braimah Kanneh-Mason are joined by players from Chineke! Orchestra for an intimate and relaxed performance of their favourite works, including Paganini, Latin American music and folk songs.

Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer, 9.30pm

Saturday 28 November 2026

### London Philharmonic Orchestra: Patricia Kopatchinskaja Plays Shostakovich

Edward Gardner *conductor*  
Patricia Kopatchinskaja *violin*

**Rachmaninov** Symphony in D minor (Youth); **Shostakovich** Violin Concerto No.2; **Rachmaninov** Symphony No.1

Royal Festival Hall, 6.30pm

### London Sinfonietta: Brigitta Muntendorf – Last Show

Be part of the world premiere of *Last Show*, as composer Brigitta Muntendorf turns the Queen Elizabeth Hall into a live social experiment where music, technology and human behaviour collide. Fourteen musicians operate as both showband and ensemble, with the audience invited to step into the action and to engage, respond, vote or just reflect. Conducted by Xizi Wang.

Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.30pm

Sunday 29 November 2026

### Philharmonia Orchestra: A German Requiem with Diana Damrau & Gerald Finley

Simone Young *conductor*  
Diana Damrau *soprano*  
Gerald Finley *baritone*

**Strauss** Intermezzo (Moonlight Music) from *Capriccio*; **Das Rosenband**, Op.36 No.1; **Ständchen**, Op.17 No.2; **Freundliche Vision**, Op.48 No.1; **Zueignung**, Op.10 No.1; **Brahms** Ein deutsches Requiem

Royal Festival Hall, 3pm

### Hayato Sumino Presents Chopin Orbit

Pianist Hayato Sumino gives a performance inspired by his acclaimed album *Chopin Orbit* – a meeting of Romantic and contemporary compositions. It features much-loved works by Chopin, including the intense First Scherzo and the dramatic Piano Sonata No.2, along with Sumino's own responses, and pieces by Thomas Adès, Saint-Saëns and Stravinsky.

Queen Elizabeth Hall, 6pm

Friday 4 December 2026

### Concerto Italiano: Monteverdi's Madrigals

Concerto Italiano  
Rinaldo Alessandrini *director*

Monteverdi Madrigals, Bk.3

Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7pm

### Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment Presents Bach's Christmas Oratorio



Don't miss this rare chance to hear the OAE perform Bach's Christmas masterpiece live across two evenings, conducted by Václav Luks. With Sofia Kirwan-Bæz (soprano), Helen Charlston (mezzo-soprano), Guy Cutting (tenor) and Florian Störtz (bass-baritone). Sung in German, with English surtitles.

Saturday 5 December 2026

### Christmas Oratorio, Parts 1 – 3

**Zelenka** Credo from *Missa Omnium Sanctorum*, ZWV.21; **Bach** Cantata 1 (Jauchzet, frohlocket, auf, preiset die Tage); Cantata 2 (Und es waren Hirten in derselben Gegend); Cantata 3 (Herrscher des Himmels, erhöre das Lallen) from *Christmas Oratorio*

Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7pm

Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer at 6pm:  
pre-concert talk. Free.

Sunday 6 December 2026

### Christmas Oratorio, Parts 4 – 6

**Zelenka** Statio quadruplex pro *Processione Theophorica*, ZWV.158; **Bach** Cantata 4 (Fallt mit Danken, fällt mit Loben); Cantata 5 (Ehre sei dir, Gott, gesungen); Cantata 6 (Herr, wenn die stolzen Feinde schnauben) from *Christmas Oratorio*

Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7pm

Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer at 6pm:  
pre-concert talk. Free.



Sunday 6 December 2026

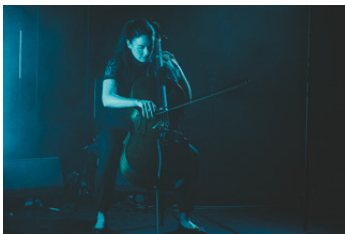
**Nobuyuki Tsujii:  
Beethoven, Grieg &  
Tchaikovsky**



Nobuyuki Tsujii, one of the world's most dazzling pianists, makes his solo Royal Festival Hall debut. The recital includes Beethoven's fiery *Appassionata* Sonata, a selection of Grieg's quirky *Lyric Pieces*, and ends with Mikhail Pletnev's solo piano version of Tchaikovsky's festive treat *The Nutcracker*.

Royal Festival Hall, 3pm

**Manchester Collective:  
Black Gold**



Feel the ground tremble as Manchester Collective morphs into a bass-heavy ensemble. The revving engines of Tenney's *Glissade* rip open a chasm from which Luke Mombrea's atmospheric *Black Gold* emerges, telling the story of oil well fires, with visuals by Nate Mohler. In between, hear a new commission by Sasha Scott and a selection of Bach chorales.

Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, 6pm

Saturday 16 January 2027

**Royal Philharmonic  
Orchestra: Stravinsky's  
The Firebird**



Vasily Petrenko *conductor*  
Eric Lu *piano*

**Butterworth** A Shropshire Lad;  
**Grieg** Piano Concerto; **Stravinsky**  
The Firebird, Suite (1945)

Royal Festival Hall, 7.30pm

Sunday 17 January 2027

**OAE TOTS**

Join the OAE for a fun, interactive performance. For ages 2 – 5 and their grown-ups.

Royal Festival Hall, 10.30am & 12 noon

Wednesday 20 January 2027

**Double Bill**

**London Philharmonic  
Orchestra: Sibelius' First**



Anja Bihlmaier *conductor*  
Martin Fröst *clarinet*

**Andrea Tarrodi** Paradisfåglar (Birds of Paradise); **Jacob Mühlrad** Kavanah for clarinet & orchestra (World premiere); **Göran & Martin Fröst** Nomadic dances; **Sibelius** Symphony No.1 in E minor

Queen Elizabeth Hall, 6.30pm

**After Dark: Sibelius**

Clarinetist Martin Fröst and vocalist Matilda Fröst join a quintet of LPO string players for a relaxed late-night performance.

Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer, 8.30pm

Saturday 23 January 2027

**OAE TOTS at LPO  
FUNharmonics**

Join the OAE for a fun, interactive performance. For ages 2 – 5 and their grown-ups.

Level 5 Function Room, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall, 10.15am, 11.15am & 12.15pm

**LPO FUNharmonics:  
The Big Enigma**

Join the London Philharmonic Orchestra for a concert especially for families featuring music from Elgar's *Enigma Variations*. For ages 6+.

Royal Festival Hall, 12 noon

Royal Festival Hall foyers, from 10am: concert ticket holders can take part in fun pre-concert activities around the building.

**Isabelle Demers:  
Bach, Stravinsky & Brahms**



Isabelle Demers *organ*

**Bach** Canonic Variations on Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her, BWV.769; **Stravinsky** Gavotte with 2 variations from Pulcinella Suite arr. Demers for organ; **Alkan** Grand prélude in G minor, Op.66 No.4; **Laurin** Sweelinck Variations, Op.96; **Peeters** Toccata, fugue et hymne sur Ave maris stella, Op.28; **Brahms** 25 Variations and fugue on a theme by Handel, Op.24 arr. Laurin for organ

Royal Festival Hall, 7pm

Wednesday 27 January 2027

**London Philharmonic  
Orchestra:  
Hilary Hahn Plays Mozart**

Karina Canellakis *conductor*  
Hilary Hahn *violin*

**Schumann** Julius Caesar Overture; **Mozart** Violin Concerto No.5, K.219 (Turkish); **Brahms** Symphony No.1

Royal Festival Hall, 7.30pm

Thursday 28 January 2027

## Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment: A Viennese House Party

Matthew Truscott *director, violin*  
Jane Gower *bassoon*

**Mozart** Menuetto from String Quartet in B flat, K.458 (Hunt); Overture, The Marriage of Figaro; **Dittersdorf** Symphony in C (The 4 Ages of the World); **Vanhal** Bassoon Concerto in C; **Mozart** Serenade in D, K.239 (Serenata notturna); **Haydn** Symphony No.101 (The Clock)

Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7pm

Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer at 6pm:  
pre-concert talk. Free.

Friday 29 January 2027

## Pavel Kolesnikov: Feldman's Triadic Memories



Pianist Pavel Kolesnikov takes on Morton Feldman's expansive, hypnotic *Triadic Memories* in honour of the late composer's centenary year.

Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7pm

## Chineke! Orchestra: Romeo and Juliet



Stephanie Childress *conductor*  
**Coleridge-Taylor** Othello Suite, Op.79; **Richard Thompson** The Shadow of Dawn; **Prokofiev** Romeo and Juliet Suite

Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.30pm

## Philip Glass at 90

We close Autumn/Winter 2026/27 celebrating another great voice of US minimalism across two days – kicking off with a rare opportunity to hear the composer's epic *Music in 12 Parts*, and culminating in the UK premiere of his brand new Symphony No.15, inspired by Abraham Lincoln's writings in defence of democracy.

See website for full details of our *Philip Glass at 90* events.

Saturday 30 January 2027

## Music in 12 Parts

Riot Ensemble

**Philip Glass** Music in 12 Parts

The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall, 5pm

Sunday 31 January 2027

## Brooklyn Rider: Quartets



Brooklyn Rider *string quartet*

**Philip Glass** String Quartets: No.7; No.2 (Company); No.4 (Buczak) & No.3 (Mishima)

Queen Elizabeth Hall, 11am

## Manchester Collective

Rylan Gleave *vocals*

Programme includes:

**Traditional** Kyrie eleison arr. Rylan Gleave; **Philip Glass** Part 1 from String Quartet No.1; **Edmund Finnis** String Quartet No.3 (Devotions); **Rylan Gleave** New work (London premiere); **Philip Glass** String Quartet No.5

Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, 1.30pm

## Symphony No.15



Hear the UK premiere of Philip Glass' *Lincoln* Symphony in this grand finale of our *Philip Glass at 90* celebrations. Its libretto draws on speeches and writings by Abraham Lincoln, and is sung by baritone Davone Tines.

Royal Festival Hall, 5pm



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Anish Kapoor, *Mount Moriah at the Gate of the Ghetto*, 2022. Photo: Attilio Maranzano. © Anish Kapoor. All rights reserved, DACS, 2026

A man with dreadlocks, wearing a dark blue button-down shirt and light-colored trousers, is sitting in a row of beige concert hall seats. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The seat number '22' is visible on the back of the chair in front of him.

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London Philharmonic Orchestra Junior Artists,  
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A young woman with her hair in a bun, wearing a dark blue top and large hoop earrings, is playing a flute. She is in a concert hall setting, with other musicians and instruments visible in the background.

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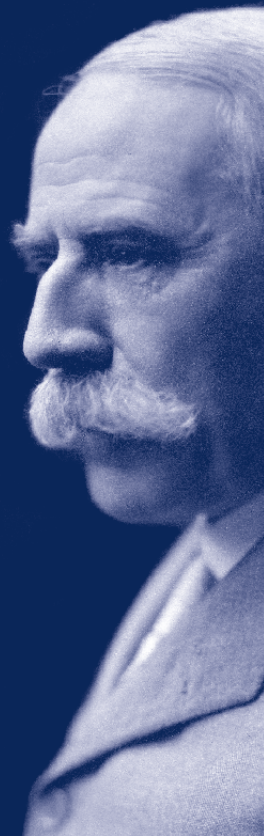
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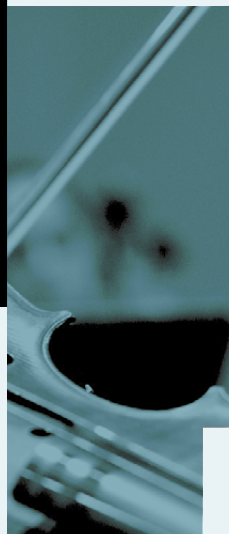
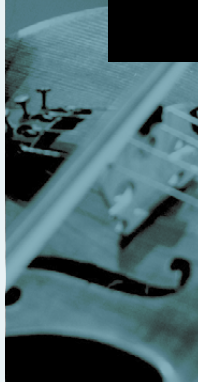
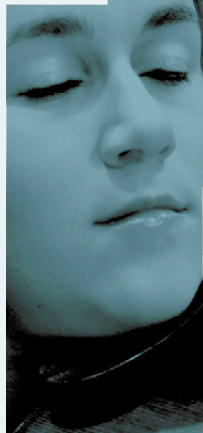


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