

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Pekka Kuusisto & Norwegian Chamber Orchestra: DSCH

Saturday 29 June 2024, 8pm & Sunday 30 June 2024, 3pm
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Classical music is an incredible, centuries-long story. As we at the Southbank Centre – alongside our Resident Orchestras and Resident Artists – share that story with the world today, we're creating as many ways for as many different people as possible to experience this wonderful art form.

Whether this is your first encounter with classical music or one of many, I'm absolutely thrilled that you're joining us for more powerful human experiences. Welcome to Classical Music: Spring/Summer 2024.

Toks Dada, Head of Classical Music, Southbank Centre

Performers

Norwegian Chamber Orchestra
Pekka Kuusisto *artistic director, violin*
Bjarke Mogensen *accordion*

Welcome to a concert unlike any other.

We are proud to present the Norwegian Chamber Orchestra performing *DSCH*, a concert-theatre experience that reimagines what a classical concert can be. By working with a team of collaborators from the worlds of stage direction, lighting design, set design, costume and musical arrangement, the Norwegian Chamber Orchestra transforms the concert hall experience, transcending the boundaries of classical music.

The music and musicians remain at the very centre of the performance, while exploring the limits of what musicians can achieve; kaleidoscopic visuals illuminate the performers, masks cover the players' faces and choreography demands out-of-the-ordinary movements, all the while balancing these elements so that the experience of the music emerges stronger.

The backbone of the music is 'DSCH', the musical signature of the great 20th-century composer Dmitri Shostakovich. Taken from the German spelling of the composer's name, 'Dmitri Schostakowitsch', and based on German notation, the letters translate to a four-note motif – D, E-flat, C, B natural – that is used throughout many of his works and this performance.

Shostakovich's life and music provided the Norwegian Chamber Orchestra with the musical and dramatic scope for this concert-theatre experience. At times, the visual expression is drawn solely from the character of the music, while at other times it offers a glimpse into Shostakovich's life.

New narratives are created, not to replace the traditional concert, but to enrich and offer a fresh perspective. This has long been the Norwegian Chamber Orchestra's ambition, and now they have taken a step closer towards achieving it.

Find out more

- ▶ Norwegian Chamber Orchestra
 - ▶ Pekka Kuusisto
 - ▶ Bjarke Mogensen
- ▶ southbankcentre.co.uk

Repertoire

Dmitri Shostakovich (1906–75)

- Excerpt from Moderato from Sonata for viola & piano, Op.147* 2'40
Romance from The Gadfly* 3'15
Polka (Allegretto) from 3 Fantastic Dances, Op.5* 1'15
Largo from String Quartet No.8 in C minor, Op.110 3'35
Waltz from 5 Pieces for 2 violins & piano* 2'10
Allegretto from String Quartet No.7 in F sharp minor, Op.108* 3'15
Allegretto from Cello Concerto No.2, Op.126* 4'30
Excerpt from Allegretto from Sonata for viola & piano, Op.147* 1'20
Intermezzo (Lento) from Piano Quintet in G minor, Op.57* 6'40
Polka from 2 Pieces for string quartet 2'30
Waltz 2 from Suite No.2 for jazz orchestra* 4'05
Excerpt from Allegretto from Cello Concerto No.1, Op.107* 2'40
Andante from Piano Concerto No.2, Op.102* 6'
Excerpt from Adagio – Allegro non troppo from Symphony No.8 in C minor, Op.65 4'15
Excerpts from Andante & Allegretto from Piano Trio No.2 in E minor, Op.67* 6'30
Scherzo from 2 Pieces for string octet, Op.11* 5'10
Romance from Dance of the dolls for piano 2'30
Chamber Symphony in C minor, Op.110a arr. Barshai from String Quartet No.8 20'
Excerpt from Sonata for viola & piano, Op.147* 1'

* arr. Øystein Sonstad

This performance lasts approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes without an interval.

The Norwegian Chamber Orchestra on stage

Violin

Pekka Kuusisto
Liv Hilde Klokk-Bryhn
Catharina Chen
Sara Chen
Johanne Haugland
Bjarne Magnus Jensen
Per Kristian Skalstad
Atle Sponberg
Sara Övinge

Viola

Ida Klokk-Bryhn
Nanna Ikutomi Sørli
Hanne Skjelbred
Aine Suzuki

Cello

Audun Sandvik
Øystein Sonstad
Torun Stavseng

Double bass

Katrine Sonstad

Production & crew

Katrine Sonstad & Mikkel Harder Munck-Hansen *idea and concept*
Mikkel Harder Munck-Hansen *direction*
Lars Egegaard Sørensen *lighting, set & visual design*
Maja Ravn *costumes, set & visual design*
Bodvar Tornes & Asle Karstad *sound design*
Christopher Sanders *light technician*
Mathias Grønsdal *video technician*
Silje Grimstad *stage manager*
Ane Solberg *dresser*

Norwegian Chamber Orchestra staff

Per Erik Kise Larsen *executive producer & managing director*
Euishin Kim *marketing & communications*
Eirik Tonnem *production management*
Anniken Leegaard *tour management*

You might also like...

Lawrence Power with Thomas Adès: Fairy-Tale Dances

Friday 27 September 2024, 9pm | Queen Elizabeth Hall

An imaginative programme unites extraordinary viola player Lawrence Power, one of our current Resident Artists, with leading composer Thomas Adès at the piano.

Matthew Barley: Light Stories

Saturday 28 September 2024, 5.30pm & 9.30pm | Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall

The cellist harnesses the power of music to console, comfort and uplift in a specially commissioned concert experience, with visuals from Yeast Culture.