

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

19 Aug 6pm & 8.30pm

EDINBURGH ACADEMY JUNIOR SCHOOL

The performance lasts approx. 1hr 10mins
with no interval.

Please ensure all mobile phones and electronic
devices are turned off or put on silent.

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Sir Simon Rattle Conductor

Ibert

Divertissement

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Cortège
- 3 Nocturne
- 4 Valse
- 5 Parade
- 6 Finale

Martinů

Jazz Suite

- 1 Prelude
- 2 Blues
- 3 Boston
- 4 Finale

Strauss

Le Bourgeois gentilhomme

- 1 Overture
- 2 Minuet
- 3 The Fencing Master
- 4 Entry and Dance of the Tailors
- 5 Lully's Minuet
- 6 Courante
- 7 Entry of Cléonte
- 8 Intermezzo
- 9 The Dinner

PROGRAMME NOTES

Classical music can ponder weighty issues of life and death, of course, but it can also entertain, amuse and bring a smile to the face, as today's concert demonstrates. Jacques Ibert was a heavyweight in French music, as director of the Paris Opera and Opéra-Comique. But he's probably best known for a single work: his *Divertissement* (literally Diversion or simply Entertainment) is a suite drawn from incidental music he wrote for a 1929 Paris production of the French farce *The Italian Straw Hat*. It's music full of wit, high spirits and mischief, from a frenetic Introduction to a delirious Waltz and a riotous Finale, heralded by a wild piano solo, that quickly descends into slapstick chaos.

Czech composer Bohuslav Martinů was soaking up the cultural vibrancy of the French capital around the same time, and wrote his Jazz Suite in 1928, inspired by the new-fangled musical style just arriving from America. A bit more than a decade earlier, Richard Strauss was working with his long-time librettist Hugo von Hoffmannsthal on a theatrical/operatic production of Molière's *Le Bourgeois gentilhomme*, which eventually

spawned the opera *Ariadne auf Naxos* (which gets its own performances at the International Festival on 25, 27 and 29 August). After the original project collapsed, Strauss compiled his incidental music into a colourful concert suite, which borrows liberally from Jean-Baptiste Lully (composer of the music for the original staging of Molière's farce at the court of Louis XIV) as well as more fleetingly from Wagner, whose River Rhine supplies the salmon served in the Suite's final movement.

David Kettle

David Kettle is a music and arts writer based in Edinburgh, who contributes regularly to the *Scotsman* and the *Daily Telegraph*. He has also written for publications including *BBC Music Magazine*, *The Times*, *The Strad* and *Classical Music*, and for organisations including the BBC Proms, Glyndebourne and Scottish Opera.

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The London Symphony Orchestra was established in 1904, as one of the first orchestras shaped by its musicians. Since then, generations of remarkable talents have built the LSO's reputation for uncompromising quality and inspirational repertoire.

Today, the LSO is ranked among the world's top orchestras, with a family of artists that includes Music Director Sir Simon Rattle, Principal Guest Conductors Gianandrea Noseda and François-Xavier Roth, and Conductor Laureate Michael Tilson Thomas. It is Resident Orchestra at the Barbican in the City of London and also reaches international audiences through touring, artistic residencies and digital partnerships that include Aix-en-Provence, the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, and global broadcasters.

Through a world-leading education and community programme, LSO Discovery, the LSO connects people from all walks of life to the power of great music. LSO musicians are at the heart of this unique programme, leading workshops, mentoring bright

young talent, performing at free concerts for the local community, and using music to support adults with learning disabilities. LSO musicians also visit children's hospitals and lead training programmes for music teachers.

In 1999, the LSO formed its own recording label, LSO Live, and revolutionised how live orchestral music is recorded, with over 150 recordings released so far — more than any other orchestra. As a leading orchestra for film, the LSO has entertained millions with classic scores for *Star Wars*, *Indiana Jones* and *The Shape of Water*. Thanks to the generous support of the Corporation of the City of London, Arts Council England, corporate supporters and individual donors, the LSO is able to continue sharing extraordinary music with as many people as possible, across London and the world.

SIR SIMON RATTLE

Sir Simon Rattle was born in Liverpool and studied at the Royal Academy of Music. From 1980 to 1998, Rattle was Principal Conductor and Artistic Adviser of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and was appointed Music Director in 1990. In 2002, he took up the position of Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the Berliner Philharmoniker, where he remained until the end of the 2017/18 season. Rattle took up the position of Music Director of the London Symphony Orchestra in late 2017. He remains in this position until the 2023/24 season, when he becomes the LSO's Conductor Emeritus. From the 2023/24 season, he takes up the position of Chief Conductor with the Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks in Munich.

Rattle is a Principal Artist of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Founding Patron of the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group. He also regularly conducts the Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, Staatskapelle Berlin, Deutsches Symphonie Orchester Berlin, Berliner Philharmoniker and Czech Philharmonic. Recent operatic highlights include *Manon Lescaut*

with the Deutsche Oper Berlin, *Der Rosenkavalier* with the Metropolitan Opera New York, Janáček's *Jenůfa* with the Staatsoper Berlin, and *Tristan und Isolde* with the London Symphony Orchestra at the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence.

His partnership with the Berliner Philharmoniker broke new ground with the education programme Zukunft@BPhil, earning him the Comenius Prize, the Schiller Special Prize from the city of Mannheim, the Golden Camera and the Urania Medal. He and the Berliner Philharmoniker were also appointed International UNICEF Ambassadors in 2004. In 2019, Rattle announced the creation of the LSO East London Academy. He has been awarded several personal honours, including a knighthood in 1994, becoming a member of the Order of Merit from Her Majesty the Queen in 2014, and he was bestowed the Order of Merit in Berlin in 2018. In 2019, Rattle was given the Freedom of the City of London.

In the 2021/22 season, Rattle conducts the LSO, Staatskapelle Berlin, the Berliner Philharmoniker and the Chamber Orchestra of Europe. He returns to the Staatsoper Berlin to revive Rameau's *Hippolyte et Aricie* and in the spring conducts a new production of Janáček's *The Makropulos Case*. He has received numerous prestigious international awards for his recordings on various labels.

AUDIENCE SURVEY

We are delighted to welcome audiences back to live performances. The past year has been one of the most challenging in the International Festival's history, so your feedback is more important to us than ever. Anyone who completes the survey will be entered into a prize draw for a chance to win £200 in vouchers of your choice.

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