

  
**EDINBURGH  
INTERNATIONAL  
FESTIVAL**

# **ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**

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**Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**

**Vasily Petrenko** Conductor

**Isata Kanneh-Mason** Piano

9 Aug 6pm & 8.30pm

EDINBURGH ACADEMY JUNIOR SCHOOL

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

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**Joscelyn Fox**

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# ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

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**Vasily Petrenko** Conductor

**Isata Kanneh-Mason** Piano

Clara Schumann

## Piano Concerto

1 Allegro maestoso

2 Romanze:

Andante non troppo con grazia

3 Finale: Allegro non troppo

Beethoven

## Symphony No 7

1 Poco sostenuto – Vivace

2 Allegretto

3 Presto

4 Allegro con brio

# PROGRAMME NOTES

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Though commonly described as the wife of the better-known Robert, Clara Schumann was an exceptionally talented pianist and teacher in her own right, whose skills her husband sometimes even felt overshadowed his own. She composed extensively before their marriage, but then slowed considerably, her time and energy taken up with running their household and raising their children, as well as with crippling self-doubt. She famously wrote: ‘A woman must not desire to compose – there has never yet been one able to do it. Should I expect to be the one?’

Clara finished her only Piano Concerto in 1835 at the age of just 15, having completed the finale (which she originally conceived as a stand-alone *Konzertsatz*) the previous year. She designed the work to showcase her breathtaking abilities, which she displayed at its premiere the same year with the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra and conductor Felix Mendelssohn.

Richard Wagner famously described Beethoven’s Symphony No 7 as ‘the apotheosis of the dance’, immediately identifying the Symphony’s obsession with rhythm as an unstoppable force of pure energy. Despite its mood of celebration and positivity,

the Symphony comes from a difficult period in Beethoven's life, as his deafness was growing steadily worse, and a serious fever necessitated a lengthy period of convalescence. Its first movement's introduction provides the work's slowest music, while the implacable tread of its second movement (encored at the Symphony's premiere) has been used in movies from *X Men: Apocalypse* to *The King's Speech*. Following a bouncing scherzo, Beethoven ends with a finale of blazing energy and wild, whirling motion.

### **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.

# ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

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As the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2021, its mission to enrich lives through orchestral experiences places the Orchestra at the forefront of music-making in the UK. Performing approximately 200 concerts each season and with a worldwide audience of more than half a million people, the RPO embraces a broad repertoire that enables it to reach the most diverse audience of any British symphony orchestra.

While artistic integrity remains paramount, the RPO is unafraid to push boundaries and is equally at home recording video game, film and television soundtracks and working with pop stars as it is performing the great symphonic repertoire.

The RPO is thrilled to welcome its new Music Director, Vasily Petrenko. His appointment stands as a major landmark in the Orchestra's history and together they will pursue a strategy to broaden the audience for orchestral music while enhancing the RPO's reputation as one of the world's most versatile and in-demand ensembles.

The RPO aims to place orchestral music at the heart of contemporary society, collaborating with creative partners to foster a deeper engagement with communities to ensure that live orchestral music is accessible to an audience that is as inclusive and diverse as possible. To achieve this, in 1993 the Orchestra launched RPO Resound, which has grown to become one of the most innovative and respected orchestral community and education programmes in the UK and internationally. The programme delivers bespoke, pioneering education, community and talent development projects to a wide range of participant groups, including homeless people, children, young people and stroke survivors, with the overarching objective of leaving a lasting legacy.

# VASILY PETRENKO

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Vasily Petrenko is Music Director of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Chief Conductor of the European Union Youth Orchestra, and Artistic Director of the State Academic Symphony Orchestra of Russia (where he has held the position of Principal Guest Conductor since 2016). He served as Chief Conductor of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra (2006–21) and the Oslo Philharmonic (2013–20), Principal Conductor of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain (2009–13), and Principal Guest Conductor of St Petersburg's Mikhailovsky Theatre, where he began his career as Resident Conductor (1994–97).

Petrenko was born in 1976 and started his music education at the St Petersburg Capella Boys Music School, Russia's oldest music school. He then studied at the St Petersburg Conservatoire, where he participated in masterclasses with such luminaries as Ilya Musin, Mariss Jansons and Yuri Temirkanov.

He has worked with many of the world's most prestigious orchestras, including the Berlin Philharmonic, Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra,

Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, St Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre National de France, Czech Philharmonic, NHK Symphony Orchestra and Sydney Symphony Orchestra. In North America, he has led the Philadelphia Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony and the Boston, Chicago and Montreal symphony orchestras. Petrenko has appeared at the Edinburgh International Festival and Grafenegg Festival, and has made frequent appearances at the BBC Proms. Equally at home in the opera house, and with over 30 operas in his repertoire, he has conducted widely on the operatic stage, including at Glyndebourne, the Opéra National de Paris, Opernhaus Zürich, Bayerische Staatsoper and New York's Metropolitan Opera.

Petrenko has established a strongly defined profile as a recording artist. Among a wide discography, his Shostakovich, Rachmaninov and Elgar symphony cycles with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra have garnered worldwide acclaim. With the Oslo Philharmonic, he has recently released cycles of Scriabin and Prokofiev symphonies and Richard Strauss tone poems.



# ISATA KANNEH-MASON

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Isata Kanneh-Mason is the recipient of the 2021 Leonard Bernstein Award, a 2020 Opus Klassik award for best young artist and, as a member of the Kanneh-Mason family, the 2021 best classical artist at the Global Awards.

Her debut album, *Romance – the Piano Music of Clara Schumann*, entered the UK classical charts at No 1 when it was released in July 2019. This was followed by the release of *Summertime* in July 2021.

Since studying with Hamish Milne and Carole Presland at London's Royal Academy of Music, graduating in 2020 with a Master of Arts in Performance and the Diploma of the Royal Academy of Music, Kanneh-Mason has embarked on a concert career as a solo artist, with concerto appearances, solo recitals and chamber concerts throughout the UK and abroad. She recently gave her Wigmore Hall solo recital debut and appeared in streamed performances with orchestras such as the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. In the 2021/22 season, Kanneh-Mason will continue as Young Artist in Residence with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

Highlights of the next season include performances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, as well as at the Rheingau Festival and Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival. During the 2021/22 season, Kanneh-Mason will be one of the European Concert Hall Organisation's Rising Stars. As part of her ECHO Rising Stars season, she will collaborate with composer Eleanor Alberga on a newly commissioned piece. Kanneh-Mason also continues to perform with her siblings. Recent highlights include appearances at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Paris, Teatro della Pergola, Florence, and L'Auditori, Barcelona.

She completed her undergraduate degree at the RAM as an Elton John Scholar and performed with Sir Elton in 2013 in Los Angeles. Kanneh-Mason is grateful for support from the Nottingham Soroptimist Trust, Mr and Mrs John Bryden, Frank White and Awards for Young Musicians. She is currently continuing her studies privately with Alisdair Beatson.

  
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