

BIGGER AND BOLDER: THE 112TH SEASON OF BBC PROMS

FRIDAY 14 JULY – SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2006

SEASON AT A GLANCE

MORE PROMS THAN EVER

More than 90 concerts with a new series of four Saturday Matinees at Cadogan Hall to add to the 73 Royal Albert Hall concerts, the eight Proms Chamber Music concerts and the five Proms in the Park events around the country on the Last Night

GREAT ANNIVERSARIES

Mozart and Shostakovich celebrated throughout the season, with other composer anniversaries including M Haydn, C Matthews, Reich and Schumann

NEW MUSIC

World premiere of Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance* March No. 6 in a completion by Anthony Payne; BBC commissions and UK premieres from Anderson, Henze, Rihm, Benjamin, Golijov, Gruber and Lindberg

QUEEN TO VISIT PROMS

New work for children's choirs by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies and Andrew Motion, celebrating The Queen's 80th birthday

JOIN IN!

Two concerts involving more than 800 singers and a public Come and Sing session, with Prommers singing for the first time (officially!) in an ambitious creative project on The Voice

THE WORLD'S FINEST ORCHESTRAS

Major American orchestras – Minnesota, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and the Orchestra of St Luke's – join top ensembles from around the world, in addition to leading European ensembles including the Berlin Philharmonic

THE FIRST AND LAST NIGHTS

BBC Symphony Orchestra introduces Jiří Bělohlávek as Chief Conductor and Mark Elder returns to conduct the Last Night

TOP CONDUCTOR DEBUTS

Proms debuts for British conductor Jonathan Nott and his Bamberg orchestra, as well as Marc Albrecht, Stéphane Denève and Philippe Jordan

COMPLETE OPERAS

Wagner's *Siegfried* from Paris, the third instalment of the Proms *Ring* cycle; Valery Gergiev conducts Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth*; and Glyndebourne brings its new Mozart *Così fan tutte*

OUTSTANDING DEBUTS

Proms debuts for leading American mezzo-soprano Susan Graham, Peruvian tenor sensation Juan Diego Flórez and Cardiff Singer of the World 2005 Nicole Cabell

WORLD MUSIC LEGENDS

83-year-old Algerian legend Cheikha Rimitti and Radio Tarifa make debuts in a Late Night Prom in association with the Festival of Muslim Cultures

PROMS MORE ACCESSIBLE THAN EVER

For the very first time, the First Night of the Proms will be available to watch again for up to seven days after the broadcast, via BBC TWO's new broadband site at bbc.co.uk/bbctwo, and every Prom is available on BBC Radio 3's Listen Again. The final three weeks of the season are live on BBC FOUR, with further Proms on BBC ONE and BBC TWO



BBC Proms Guide 2006 cover



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS FOR MOZART (250) AND SHOSTAKOVICH (100)

From Mozart's first symphony to Shostakovich's last, their works dominate the season with performances by the world's finest advocates of their music. Mozart highlights include a new completion of his Mass in C minor conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras, Glyndebourne's *Così fan tutte* and a solo piano recital from András Schiff. For Shostakovich, there's a weekend of concerts from Valery Gergiev (including the complete *Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District* with the Kirov Opera), and eight of his symphonies with such champions as Jiří Bělohlávek, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Daniele Gatti, Kurt Masur and Vassily Sinaisky.

OTHER ANNIVERSARIES

Robert Schumann died 150 years ago and is remembered with performances in both the Royal Albert Hall and Cadogan Hall of four of his large-scale orchestral works, a recital of his Lieder and performances of several of his chamber works. Colin Matthews's 60th birthday is celebrated with four works across the season, including specially composed chamber pieces, his Horn Concerto and a tribute to Mozart. Other anniversaries include Steve Reich (70) and Hans Werner Henze (80), György Kurtág (80), Henri Dutilleux (90), Michael Haydn (200 years since death) and Marin Marais (350 years since death).

MORE CONCERTS AND EVENTS

For the first time there are four Proms Saturday Matinees at Cadogan Hall, which bring such fine chamber ensembles as the Academy of Ancient Music with Richard Egarr; the London Mozart Players with Isabelle van Keulen, the Britten Sinfonia with André de Ridder; and OSJ Voices with John Lubbock to celebrate Mozart and Shostakovich at Cadogan Hall. These four new concerts – in addition to the 73 Royal Albert Hall concerts, eight chamber Proms at Cadogan Hall and five Proms in the Park events around the country – bring the total number of Proms concerts this year to 90. There are also four Proms Films, four Composer Portraits, a BBC Proms Out + About concert at the Hexagon Theatre, Reading, 25 pre-concert talks, a Come and Sing Session, a Proms Quiz, and an Audience Forum, bringing the total number of Proms events to more than 120.

NEW MUSIC

The world premieres of Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance* March No. 6 (completed by Anthony Payne), Sir Peter Maxwell Davies's new work for The Queen's 80th birthday, and a new version of the *Blue Peter* theme are just three highlights among the brand-new music for 2006. There's also music new to the UK from such leading living composers as Hans Werner Henze, Osvaldo Golijov, HK Gruber, Magnus Lindberg and Wolfgang Rihm, as well as original new voices such as Dai Fujikura, Toshio Hosokawa and Benjamin Wallfisch. Adventurous new music and BBC commissions from British talents Julian Anderson, George Benjamin, James Dillon, Mark-Anthony Turnage and Ian Wilson is also prominent, while an acclaimed completion of Mozart's Mass in C minor by Mozart scholar Robert D. Levin is heard for the first time in the UK.

EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS

Special events in 2006 include a special concert for Her Majesty The Queen in honour of her 80th birthday, which involves 250 children drawn from eight choirs for a specially commissioned work by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies and Poet Laureate Andrew Motion, and a Late Night Prom devoted to the choral works written for St Mark's, Venice, between 1570 and 1670 which will see Sir John Eliot Gardiner using the RAH spaces to the full. There are also two solo recitals in the RAH – one for the mighty organ by David Goode, the first such Proms recital since the organ's restoration in 2004; the other from András Schiff in an all-Mozart programme, the first solo piano recital in a main RAH Prom since Evgeny Kissin's in 1997. Radio Tarifa and legendary 83-year-old 'mother of rai', Cheikha Rimitti, give a Late Night world music Prom as part of the Festival of Muslim Cultures.



This year, The Queen returns to the Proms for a special concert in honour of her 80th birthday

Chris Christodoulou

WELCOME ...

Jiří Bělohlávek conducts his first First Night on the day he officially becomes Chief Conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, and David Robertson conducts his first Prom as Principal Guest Conductor of that Orchestra. Charles Hazlewood, who is well-known for presenting Proms on TV, conducts his first Prom as he takes up the role of Principal Guest Conductor of the BBC Concert Orchestra. Susan Graham makes a long-awaited Proms debut, and Juan Diego Flórez and Cardiff Singer of the World 2005 Nicole Cabell also appear for the first time.



Jiří Bělohlávek begins his tenure as Chief Conductor of the BBC SO at the First Night of the Proms

FAREWELL ...

Richard Hickox concludes his outstanding period at the helm of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, and Barry Wordsworth ends his distinguished tenure as Principal Conductor of the BBC Concert Orchestra.

AN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF OUTSTANDING TALENT

Christoph Eschenbach (carrying forward the four-year-long Proms *Ring* cycle), Bernard Haitink, Kurt Masur, Sir Simon Rattle, Esa-Pekka Salonen and many other leading names make welcome returns. Visiting orchestras – from Bamberg under Jonathan Nott and Budapest under Iván Fischer; to Pittsburgh under Sir Andrew Davis and Minnesota under Osmo Vänskä – plus Proms debuts from Stéphane Denève with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Philippe Jordan with the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra and a host of other major artists together with a late-night celebration of Islamic music and culture, all add up to a truly international festival of outstanding talent in 2006.

ENSEMBLES FROM ACROSS THE UK

Complementing the orchestras from around the world, the Proms is a showcase for our home-grown ensembles. The BBC performing groups continue to provide the backbone of the season alongside the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Hallé, Philharmonia, London Philharmonic, London Symphony, Royal Philharmonic and Royal Scottish National orchestras. The Britten Sinfonia, London Sinfonietta, Nash Ensemble, Northern Sinfonia and Scottish Chamber Orchestra also appear, and many of the UK's finest period-instrument ensembles help to celebrate Mozart, including the Academy of Ancient Music, English Concert, King's Consort and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. More than 20 choirs from all over the UK also appear in 2006.

RAISE YOUR VOICES

Prommers are invited to sing at the Proms for the first time (officially!) as part of a day devoted to the human voice. The BBC Proms undertakes its biggest and boldest creative project to date – calling on more than 800 amateur singers drawn from a wide variety of singing backgrounds, and including 100 Prommers, two symphony orchestras, two conductors and the professional choir The Shout. Together, in two separate concerts, they perform two versions of a new work by Orlando Gough with a text by renowned playwright Caryl Churchill about climate change.

TOWARDS THE FUTURE

True to one of the Proms' founding principles to provide high-quality, inexpensive concerts that would build a public appetite for classical music and appeal to the widest possible audience, the BBC Proms offers opportunities for families and musicians – young and old, amateur and professional – to become involved in the experience of music at the highest level with a view to nurturing the artists, composers and audiences of the future: BBC Proms: Out + About moves to the Reading Hexagon for the first concert outside London; BBC Proms/Guardian Young Composers Competition raises the stakes with key involvement from Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, John Adams and a prestigious panel of judges; special programming for children with the Blue Peter Proms, and more of the world's top youth orchestras, children's choirs and young artists than ever. Ticket schemes responsible for bringing more than 7,000 new young people to the Proms in 2005 are continued.

PROMS ON AIR, ONLINE, ANYWHERE, ANYTIME

This year, more performances and comprehensive information services are available across multiple media platforms. BBC ONE and BBC TWO broadcast ten Proms between them (most in High Definition), and – for the first time – BBC TWO makes the First Night available to watch again for seven days after the broadcast. BBC FOUR showcases the final three weeks of the season with live concerts each evening from Sunday to Friday. Each Prom is broadcast live on Radio 3 and, for the first time, available to Listen Again for seven days after broadcast at bbc.co.uk/radio3. Online, bbc.co.uk/proms continues to offer the best source of news and up-to-date information about the season.

The BBC Proms Guide contains full details of the complete programme of concerts, along with articles about the music and artists, and an advance booking form. Priced £5, the same price as a Promming ticket, it is available from all good bookshops and can be ordered from the BBC Shop, 50 Margaret Street, W1W 8SF, or by telephone on 0870 241 5490.