



ROYAL  
PHILHARMONIC  
ORCHESTRA

2025-26  
SEASON

CADOGAN HALL

# ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA LIVE AT CADOGAN HALL



CADOGAN HALL

# Welcome to our 2025–26 Season of concerts at Cadogan Hall

In a world full of noise, we sometimes forget to listen. But for the musicians who make up the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO), music is more than just another sound. It's emotion, it's colour; it's the gateway to different lives and unseen worlds. It's entertainment too – and our 2025–26 Season of concerts at our home, Cadogan Hall, opens with an explosion of laughter. Over 15 captivating concerts, we'll be exploring favourite melodies, contemporary classics, new discoveries and sonic surprises. There'll be fireworks, serenity, and composers who speak across continents and centuries – from Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky to the timeless beauty of Beethoven, Mozart and Brahms.

But there'll be surprises too – forgotten treasures and lively new voices, and concerts to help you celebrate those special times of year. We're featuring works by our Composer-in-Association Joe Hisaishi, and we've invited some of our favourite soloists and conductors: performers from Britain and beyond who share our belief in the power of music. Kevin John Edusei, our Conductor-in-Residence

for the 2025–26 Season at Cadogan Hall, has already made quite a splash in London. He'll showcase music by Bartók and Beethoven, as well as Gershwin's fabulous *Rhapsody in Blue* with Japanese jazz piano sensation Makoto Ozone. There will be several opportunities to hear music written for the voice with incredible artists including Jess Dandy and Nicky Spence. Violinist Midori performs Sibelius' epic Violin Concerto, pianist Boris Giltburg plays Grieg, and Sir John Rutter – a true national treasure and Honorary Member of the RPO – performs his joyous piano concerto with the incomparable Steven Osborne as soloist.

At the RPO, through every note we play, we have one ambition above all else to let you feel the full, life-enhancing wonder of great music, played from the heart. Join us, and hear the difference.

**Sarah Bardwell**  
Managing Director,  
Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

## At a glance

### 2025

Thu 25 Sep **Midori plays Sibelius**  
Tue 30 Sep **Stravinsky's The Firebird**  
Thu 16 Oct **Boris Giltburg plays Grieg**  
Tue 11 Nov **Poulenc's Gloria**  
Tue 25 Nov **Mendelssohn, Elgar and Wagner**  
Sat 6 Dec **Christmas Cracker**

### 2026

Sat 14 Feb **Valentine's Opera Gala**  
Thu 19 Feb **Dvořák, Brahms and Mozart**  
Thu 26 Feb **Strauss' Four Last Songs**  
Wed 4 Mar **Alexandra Tirsu plays Prokofiev**  
Tue 31 Mar **Rachmaninov's Symphony No.1**  
Thu 9 Apr **Sir John Rutter conducts Reflections**  
Wed 27 May **Makoto Ozone plays Gershwin**  
Wed 10 Jun **Tchaikovsky's Symphony No.5**



© Nigel Parry

## Midori plays Sibelius

**Strauss** Till Eulenspiegels lustige Streiche  
**Sibelius** Violin Concerto  
**Hisaishi** Sinfonia for Chamber Orchestra  
*European premiere*  
**Strauss** Der Rosenkavalier: Suite

**Alexander Shelley** Conductor  
**Midori** Violin



© Laura Oja

## Stravinsky's The Firebird

**Sibelius** En saga  
**Pejačević** Phantasie Concertante\*  
**Ravel** Mother Goose: Suite  
**Stravinsky** The Firebird: Suite (1919)

**Emilia Hoving** Conductor  
**Alexandra Dariescu** Piano

\* Supported by the ABO Trust's Sirens programme



© Sasha Gusov

## Boris Giltburg plays Grieg

**Smith** Field Guide  
**Grieg** Piano Concerto  
**Sibelius** Symphony No.2

**Kevin John Edusei** Conductor (RPO  
Conductor-in-Residence, 2025–26)  
**Boris Giltburg** Piano

RPO Annual Legacy Giving Concert



## Poulenc's Gloria

**Boulanger** Psalm 24  
'La terre appartient à l'Éternel'  
**Barber** Adagio for Strings  
**Bizet** L'Arlésienne: Suite No.1  
**Barber** Knoxville: Summer of 1915  
**Debussy, arr. Caplet** Clair de Lune  
**Poulenc** Gloria

**Daniel Hyde** Conductor  
**Sally Matthews** Soprano  
**City of London Choir**



© Clare Park

Tue 25 Nov  
2025  
7.30pm

## Mendelssohn, Elgar and Wagner

**Wagner** The Flying Dutchman: Overture  
**Elgar** Sea Pictures\*  
**Mendelssohn** Symphony No.3, 'Scottish'

**Antony Hermus** Conductor  
**Jess Dandy** Contralto

*\*Kindly supported by The Elgar Society*



© Bill Lam

Sat 6 Dec  
2025  
3pm &  
7.30pm

## Christmas Cracker

*Programme to include:*  
Let It Snow!, It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas, The Christmas Song, Winter Wonderland, Sleigh Ride, All I Want for Christmas is You, Jingle Bells, *And much more!*

**Stephen Bell** Conductor  
**Juliette Crosbie** Vocalist  
**Matt Ford** Vocalist



© Chris Christodolou

Sat 14 Feb  
2026  
7.30pm

## Valentine's Opera Gala

A romantic evening featuring much-loved music from well-known operas. Enjoy outstanding overtures, poignant arias and exquisite duets from Bizet, Mozart, Puccini, Verdi and more.

**Jordan de Souza** Conductor  
**Anne-Marie MacIntosh** Soprano  
**Nicky Spence OBE** Tenor

[cadoganhall.com](http://cadoganhall.com)



© Eva Vermandel

Thu 19 Feb  
2026  
7.30pm

## Dvořák, Brahms and Mozart

**Mozart** The Marriage of Figaro: Overture  
**Brahms** Piano Concerto No.2  
**Dvořák** Symphony No.7

**Adam Hickox** Conductor  
**Pavel Kolesnikov** Piano



© Vera Elma Vacek

## Strauss' Four Last Songs

**Moussa** Adgilis Deda: Hymn for Orchestra  
**Strauss** Four Last Songs  
**Beethoven** Symphony No.7

**Kevin John Edusei** Conductor (RPO  
Conductor-in-Residence, 2025–26)  
**Masabane Cecilia Rangwanasha** Soprano



© Alexandra Mar

## Alexandra Tirsu plays Prokofiev

**Boulanger** Marche gaie  
**Prokofiev** Violin Concerto No.1  
**Rachmaninov** Symphony No.2

**Eun Sun Kim** Conductor  
**Alexandra Tirsu** Violin



© Alessandro Bertani

## Rachmaninov's Symphony No.1

**Rossini** The Barber of Seville: Overture  
**Rubbra** Piano Concerto\*  
**Rachmaninov** Symphony No.1

**Nil Venditti** Conductor  
**Mark Bebbington** Piano

\*Kindly supported by Adrian Yardley



© Nick Rutter

## Sir John Rutter conducts Reflections

**Bernstein** Candide: Overture  
**Rutter** Reflections (Piano Concerto)  
**Rutter** New work for oboe and orchestra  
*World premiere*  
**Copland** Appalachian Spring: Suite

**Sir John Rutter** Conductor  
**Steven Osborne** Piano  
**John Roberts** Oboe

*Generously supported by The 1916 Foundation  
in Montchanin, Delaware*



© Kentaro Hisadomi



© Marco Borggreve

## Makoto Ozone plays Gershwin

**Ligeti** Concert Românesc  
**Gershwin** Rhapsody in Blue  
**Bartók** Concerto for Orchestra

**Kevin John Edusei** Conductor (RPO  
Conductor-in-Residence, 2025–26)  
**Makoto Ozone** Piano

*This concert is generously supported by*

Calderwood Wealth  
Management Ltd

## Tchaikovsky's Symphony No.5

**Hisaishi** Encounter for String Orchestra  
*European premiere*  
**Britten** Violin Concerto  
**Tchaikovsky** Symphony No.5

**Cornelius Meister** Conductor  
**Clara-Jumi Kang** Violin



© Nick Rutter

# Kevin John Edusei

RPO Conductor-in-Residence, 2025–26

We are delighted to welcome Kevin John Edusei, Former Chief Conductor of the Munich Symphony Orchestra and Bern Opera House, as our Conductor-in-Residence for our 2025–26 concerts at Cadogan Hall. We caught up with him ahead of the season.

**What excites you most about your new role with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra?**

It has to be the opportunity to collaborate with this outstanding group of musicians over the course of a complete season and to contribute to the artistic vision of the Orchestra. When I worked with the Orchestra for the first time in the 2021–22 Season, I found it astonishing how sensitively they reacted and entered into a lively musical dialogue. I'm now very much looking forward to deepening this experience.

The RPO has an incredible ability to connect with audiences across diverse venues and communities. I'm particularly eager to explore new repertoire, create inspiring musical experiences with fantastic soloists, and engage with the RPO's audience.

**The season features *Four Last Songs* by Richard Strauss, one of the most moving works in the repertoire. How do you approach conducting such an emotional piece?**

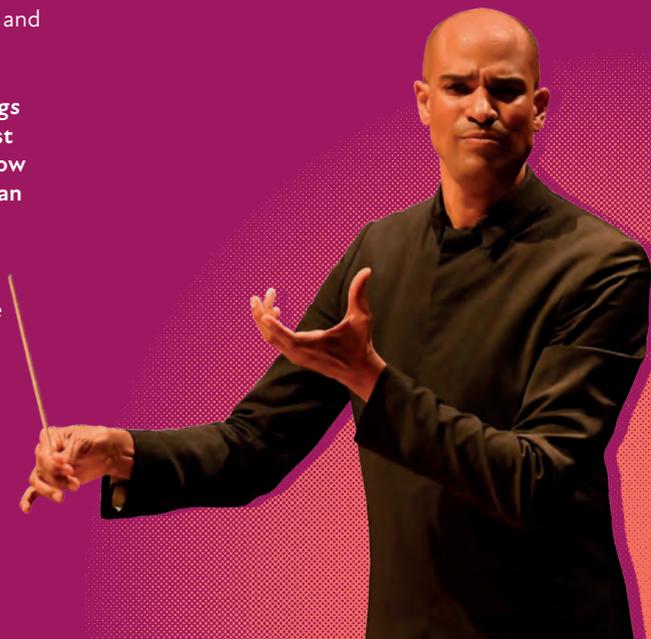
The music of Richard Strauss has played a major role in my repertoire over the years, both in opera and in the concert hall.

He is masterful at combining text and every sentence, every word, every syllable carries a whole wealth of meaning. I'm delighted that we have the exceptional soprano Masabane Cecilia Rangwanasha joining us for this concert. She will enchant you with her voice.

**How do you balance tradition with innovation in your programming and interpretation?**

My love of classical music has always gone hand in hand with my desire to make connections between compositions from different genres and eras. It all started when I was a schoolboy and made mixtapes on my cassette recorder, with the classics next to obscure or unknown repertoire. This curiosity has stayed with me, and I hope I can infect others with it.

**Don't miss Kevin's performances on Thursday 16 October 2025, Thursday 26 February 2026 and Wednesday 27 May 2026.**



# HOW TO BOOK

Tickets from £18\*

Orchestral Valentines and  
Christmas Cracker Tickets from £28\*

Under 18 from £5\*

Book as early as you can to secure the best  
choice of seats at the best possible prices.

## Box Office

### Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

rpo.co.uk

## Cadogan Hall

cadoganhall.com

020 7730 4500

5 Sloane Terrace,  
London SW1X 9DQ  
2 minutes' walk from Sloane Square  
Underground station

## Series Discount

Book 2 or 3 concerts save 15%

Book 4 or 5 concerts save 25%

Book 6 or more concerts save 30%

*Excludes Christmas Cracker concerts*

## Groups

Groups of 6+ save up to 35%

School group tickets from just £5,  
subject to availability

Call 020 7608 8840 to find out more  
and reserve tickets

(Book 6 to 9 tickets online and  
immediately save up to 15%)

\*Prices subject to change  
& booking fees apply.

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra gratefully acknowledges  
the generous support of Arts Council England.  
Cover images © Simon Pauly and © TODD Creative Services

# JOIN THE RPO CLUB

RPO Club members can save  
50% on up to two tickets  
for each of our concerts  
at Cadogan Hall and the  
Southbank Centre's  
Royal Festival Hall, as well  
as selected performances  
at the Royal Albert Hall.

Join from £180 per year and  
receive additional benefits,  
including priority booking  
and discounted tickets.

See [rpo.co.uk/club](http://rpo.co.uk/club) or call  
020 7608 8840 for details  
and to join.

