



ROYAL  
PHILHARMONIC  
ORCHESTRA

2026-27  
SEASON

ROYAL  
PHILHARMONIC  
ORCHESTRA  
LIVE AT  
CADOGAN  
HALL



CADOGAN  
HALL

# Welcome to our 2026–27 Season of concerts at Cadogan Hall

As the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) turns 80, we're in the mood for a celebration. Whilst the milestone allows us to reflect on the Orchestra's glorious history, it is also an invitation for an exciting future. We've got a lot of stories to tell, and great music never gets old. Cadogan Hall is a place where music feels more direct, more intimate, more personal; and whether we're bringing favourite pieces to life, premiering the classics of the future or welcoming our Music Director Vasily Petrenko, we draw our energy and inspiration from performing for you.

Our brand-new *Revealed* concerts aim to get under the skin of the music and give you a closer connection to the RPO. This hour-long format sees award-winning presenter Leah Broad unwrapping the works in conversation with the conductor and musicians of the Orchestra, followed by a complete performance of each symphony. Vasily will be conducting Mozart's 'Jupiter' Symphony in this new format, followed by Beethoven's Fifth Symphony in a full concert later in the season. But that's just part of a season filled with melody. Great composers get

back to basics, as Dvořák, Tchaikovsky, Liszt and Vaughan Williams explore the endless possibilities of folk music. There are symphonies by Shostakovich and Brahms, and a celebratory performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony (with its *Ode to Joy*) led by Conductor-in-Residence, Adam Hickox.

Our guest artists this season include RPO Associate Conductor Emilia Hoving, Zlatomir Fung, Jan Lisiecki, Ariane Matiakh, Sunwook Kim, Lucy Crowe, Alain Altinoglu and Johan Dalene; stars who make everything they play sound brighter. We're thrilled, too, to welcome Liya Petrova – one of the most inspirational violinists of our time, in a residency that includes concertos by Sibelius, Beethoven and Stravinsky. But there'll also be French fancies and Hungarian spice, a Christmas spectacular and a romantic night of classic love songs, because whatever the occasion, if something's worth celebrating, it's worth celebrating with music. Join us this season, as we raise the roof.

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

## At a glance

### 2026

Thu 1 Oct **Mozart Revealed**  
Thu 8 Oct **Sibelius Violin Concerto**  
Wed 21 Oct **Brahms 1**  
Sat 5 Dec **Christmas Cracker**

### 2027

Wed 20 Jan **Vasily Petrenko conducts  
Beethoven 5**  
Sun 14 Feb **'S Wonderful:  
Timeless Love Songs**

Thu 25 Feb **Beethoven and Dvořák**  
Wed 3 Mar **Liszt Hungarian Fantasy:  
Homage á Cziffra**  
Thu 22 Apr **Beethoven 9**  
Thu 29 Apr **Beethoven Violin Concerto**  
Sun 9 May **Debussy, Saint-Saëns  
and Dukas**  
Wed 19 May **Tchaikovsky Revealed**  
Thu 10 Jun **Brahms Violin Concerto**  
Thu 24 Jun **Tchaikovsky 2**



© Antoine Sato of Vasily Petrenko

## Mozart Revealed

**Mozart** Symphony No.41, 'Jupiter'

**Vasily Petrenko** Conductor  
**Leah Broad** Presenter

An entertaining one-hour exploration of Mozart's 'Jupiter' Symphony, featuring insights and a complete performance. This concert has no interval.



© Simon Fowler of Liya Petrova

## Sibelius Violin Concerto

**Bacewicz** Overture  
**Sibelius** Violin Concerto  
**Vaughan Williams** Symphony No.5

**Adam Hickox** Conductor  
*RPO Conductor-in-Residence, 2026–27*  
**Liya Petrova** Violin  
*RPO Artist-in-Residence, 2026–27*



© Marco Borggreve of Ariane Matiakh

## Brahms 1

**Debussy** Prelude à l'après-midi d'un faune  
**Osborn** Sun Sundered Head: Nocturne for Cello and Orchestra  
*World premiere*  
**Brahms** Symphony No.1

**Ariane Matiakh** Conductor  
**Zlatomir Fung** Cello



Image of Katie Birtill

## 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  
**Katie Birtill** Vocalist  
**Oliver Tompsett** Vocalist



© Christoph Koestlin of Jan Lisiecki

Wed 20 Jan  
2027  
7.30pm

## Vasily Petrenko conducts Beethoven 5

**Rimskaya-Korsakova** A Bewitched Place  
*World premiere*

**Prokofiev** Piano Concerto No.2

**Beethoven** Symphony No.5

**Vasily Petrenko** Conductor

**Jan Lisiecki** Piano



© Chris Winter of Sumudu Jayatilaka

Sun 14 Feb  
2027  
4.30pm

## 'S Wonderful: Timeless Love Songs

*Programme to include:* So in Love, Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye, My Funny Valentine, The Way You Look Tonight, Someone to Watch Over Me, It Had to Be You, A Fine Romance, The Lady is a Tramp, *And much more!*

**Richard Balcombe** Conductor

**Sumudu Jayatilaka** Vocalist

**Iain Mackenzie** Vocalist



© Marco Borggreve of Sunwook Kim

Thu 25 Feb  
2027  
7.30pm

## Beethoven and Dvořák

**Beethoven** Piano Concerto No.1

**Smetana** The Bartered Bride: Overture

**Dvořák** Symphony No.8

**Sunwook Kim** Conductor/Piano



© Laura Oja of Emilia Hoving

Wed 3 Mar  
2027  
7.30pm

## Liszt Hungarian Fantasy: Hommage á Cziffra

**Liszt** Hungarian Rhapsody No.2

**Liszt** Hungarian Fantasy

**Liszt** Totentanz

**Kodály** Háry János Suite: Song and Intermezzo

**Bartók** Dance Suite

**Emilia Hoving** Conductor

**János Balázs** Piano

*This concert is jointly presented by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Cziffra Festival.*



Thu 22 Apr  
2027  
7.30pm

## Beethoven 9

**Rossini** William Tell: Overture  
**Brahms** Nänie  
**Beethoven** Symphony No.9, 'Choral'

**Adam Hickox** Conductor  
*RPO Conductor-in-Residence, 2026–27*  
Featuring vocalists **Lucy Crowe, Claire Barnett-Jones, Ed Lyon** and **Neal Davies**  
**City of London Choir**



Thu 29 Apr  
2027  
7.30pm

## Beethoven Violin Concerto

**Tabakova** Swarm Fanfares  
*London premiere*  
**Beethoven** Violin Concerto  
**Shostakovich** Symphony No.9

**Delyana Lazarova** Conductor  
**Liya Petrova** Violin  
*RPO Artist-in-Residence, 2026–27*



Sun 9 May  
2027  
4.30pm

## Debussy, Saint-Saëns and Dukas

**Debussy, arr. Caplet** Clair de lune  
**Saint-Saëns** Piano Concerto No.5, 'Egyptian'  
**Chausson** Poème de l'amour et de la mer  
**Dukas** The Sorcerer's Apprentice

**Alain Altinoglu** Conductor  
**Lucas Krupinski** Piano  
**Nora Gubisch** Mezzo-soprano

*With the generous support of Wendy Leighton.*



Wed 19  
May 2027  
6pm &  
8.30pm

## Tchaikovsky Revealed

**Tchaikovsky** Symphony No.4

**Adam Hickox** Conductor  
*RPO Conductor-in-Residence, 2026–27*  
**Leah Broad** Presenter

An entertaining one-hour exploration of Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony, featuring insights and a complete performance. This concert has no interval.



© Benjamin Ealovega of Alpeah Chauhan

Thu 10 Jun  
2027  
7.30pm



© Mark Allan of Kirill Karabits

Thu 24 Jun  
2027  
7.30pm

### Brahms Violin Concerto

- Farrenc** Overture No.2
- Brahms** Violin Concerto
- Schumann** Symphony No.4

**Alpeah Chauhan** Conductor  
**Johan Dalene** Violin

### Tchaikovsky 2

- Akimenko** Angel, Poem-Nocturne
- Stravinsky** Violin Concerto
- Tchaikovsky** Symphony No.2, 'Little Russian'

**Kirill Karabits OBE** Conductor  
**Liya Petrova** Violin  
*RPO Artist-in-Residence 2026-27*

## Adam Hickox and Liya Petrova



We are delighted to welcome Adam Hickox as Conductor-in-Residence and Liya Petrova as Artist-in-Residence for our 2026-27 Season at Cadogan Hall. We spoke with them ahead of the season.

### As Conductor-in-Residence and Artist-in-Residence, how do you describe your relationship with the Orchestra?

Adam Hickox – I've developed a personal rapport with a lot of the players which means a great deal to me – when that level of trust is afforded to you... you can immediately go beyond simply executing details and find a greater depth in performances.

Liya Petrova – Listening is at the centre of everything – the music begins to breathe when we are fully attentive and responsive to one another. I love the exchange of energy that happens on stage with an orchestra.

**What sparked your passion for music, and how did that passion develop into a career?**

Adam – As soon as I fell in love with music... I was drawn to conducting. I have never really looked back from that moment – and I see my role as one that combines enabling others to give their very best whilst advocating for the intentions and wishes of the composer.

Liya – I had been asking my parents since I was three to buy me a violin. But the situation back then in Bulgaria wasn't easy for musicians, so my parents didn't agree. My uncle was a violinist and I asked him to find me a little violin... and from my first concert with an orchestra, my parents supported me endlessly.

**This season you collaborate in a performance of Sibelius' Violin Concerto. What makes this concerto such a compelling work for both soloist and orchestra?**

Liya – I imagine endless Nordic landscapes, but also a very strongly human element. In my mind I see an elderly person sitting by the fire in the nature and telling the story of her life to her grandchildren. A story of fighting against time and destiny, of love and passion, resilience and courage.

Adam – As Liya says, with Sibelius, you are immediately transported to the landscape of his native Finland – the Concerto's opening presents a string texture that sends icy shivers down one's spine. What follows... is at times some of the most ravishing music that he ever wrote, with a solo part that is... introspective and virtuosic.

**What do you hope audiences experience when they come to hear the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at Cadogan Hall this season?**

Adam – I hope that audiences can be drawn into a world where nothing else exists but the music. We want to offer you performances of the highest level.

Liya – I try to create a strong emotional connection with the audience and the musicians... a moment where we communicate and give something to each other through music.

Don't miss Adam Hickox on Thu 8 Oct 2026, Thu 22 Apr 2027 and Wed 19 May 2027, and Liya Petrova on Thu 8 Oct 2026, Thu 29 Apr 2027 and Thu 24 Jun 2027.



# HOW TO BOOK

Tickets from £24\*

'S Wonderful: Timeless Love Songs and Christmas Cracker tickets from £37\*

Under 18 from £9\*

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

020 7608 8840

### 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%

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*Excludes Christmas Cracker concerts*

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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  
& include booking fees.

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra gratefully acknowledges  
the generous support of Arts Council England.  
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# 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.

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