



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: Hommage 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 enlightening 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

RPO Legacy Giving Concert



© 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 Toppsett 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

* Supported by the ABO Trust's Sirens programme



© 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.*



© Victoria Cadisch of Lucy Crowe

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



© Marco Borggreve of Delyana Lazarova

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



© Matthew Johnson of Lucas Krupinski

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



© Benjamin Eilovgva of Adam Hickox

Tchaikovsky Revealed

Tchaikovsky Symphony No.4

Adam Hickox Conductor

RPO Conductor-in-Residence, 2026–27

Leah Broad Presenter

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



© Benjamin Ealovega of Alpeah Chauhan



© Mark Allan of Kirill Karabits

Brahms Violin Concerto

Farrenc Overture No.2

Brahms Violin Concerto

Schumann Symphony No.4

Alpeah Chauhan OBE 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 8813

Cadogan Hall

cadoganhall.com

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