

RSNO announce details of new season

Thomas Søndergård takes up his position as Music Director at the Royal Scottish National Orchestra from October this year. The orchestra announced their programme which the 36th music director is making his own with the beginning of Mahler and Prokofiev symphonic cycles over four seasons.



He is no stranger to the orchestra as he has been guest conductor since 2012 during Peter Oundjian's term at the helm.

As his appointment leaves the Principal Guest Conductor role vacant he will be succeeded by Elim Chan, who previously won the London Symphony Orchestra's Donatella Flick Conducting Competition.

This will be a busy season with 45 different productions along with touring and recording. Dr Krishna Thiagarajan, CEO of the RSN0, explained to us that this year the orchestra will tour from Inverclyde to LA.

He pointed out that Søndergård has interest in both lyrics and song, which is quite new territory. Thomas and the RSN0 are joined by 2017 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Main Prize and Song Prize winner, Scottish mezzo-soprano Catriona Morison for the second week of the 2018:19 Season, for performances of Ravel's song-cycle *Shéhérazade*, which shares the programme with selected movements from Grieg's *Peer Gynt* and Rachmaninov's *Symphony No1*.

There will also be new works in the programme with fellow Nord Lotta Wennäkoski's *Flounce* (which received its world premiere at the BBC's Last Night of the Proms last year and receives its Scottish premiere here) as the first work to be performed as Music Director.

RSN0 Chief Executive Dr Krishna Thiagarajan: "To a certain extent we must thank fate for lending a hand in getting us to this position. It was the cancellation of a guest conductor in 2009 and the subsequent appearance of Thomas that led to this orchestra meeting its next Music Director.

"From that first date the musicians knew that this was a relationship we would build and develop. Nearly seven years later and we are now taking it to the next level. Similarly, with the appointment of Elim Chan as Principal Guest Conductor, who initially came to us, stepping in for an indisposed Neeme Järvi last year, we are grateful for such fortune to strike twice. We look to the future with confidence as an exciting, innovative and growing national arts organisation, to better serve our audience."

RSN0 Music Director Designate Thomas Søndergård: "I have intimated previously that, as cliché as it may sound, I had

the feeling from the very beginning of our relationship that we shared a special sense of purpose.

“I’m delighted that we have not succumbed to the ‘seven-year itch’, and that the Orchestra has chosen me as its Music Director for the next chapter in its journey. I love working with these musicians, I feel at home in Scotland, and I hugely appreciate the warmth and generosity of the audiences we perform to. Now, more than ever, I look forward to visiting the great concert halls across the country and playing my part in providing the quality of musicianship the people of Scotland expect and deserve.

“The advantage of getting to know the Orchestra over time is that I’ve developed a feeling for what we do well together. I’ve included music in this Season that I think is important for us to do at this point in our journey together, and also music that best fits the combination of the Orchestra and me – all with a view of where we’d like to be in three or four years’ time.”

Booking information for 2018-19 season [CLICK HERE](#)

SEASON OPENER: SØNDERGÅRD CONDUCTS MAHLER FIVE

Fri 5 Oct 2018: 7.30pm Usher Hall (Supported by Dunard Fund)

Lotta Wennäkoski Flounce Scottish premiere

Beethoven Piano Concerto No2

Mahler Symphony No5

Thomas Søndergård Conductor

Francesco Piemontesi Piano

SØNDERGÅRD CONDUCTS RACHMANINOV ONE

Fri 12 Oct 2018: 7.30pm Usher Hall

Grieg Selected movements from Peer Gynt Suites 1 & 2

Ravel Shéhérazade

Rachmaninov Symphony No1

Thomas Søndergård Conductor

Catriona Morison Mezzo-soprano

THE THREE-CORNERED HAT (Recommended by Classic FM)

Fri 19 Oct 2018: 7.30pm Usher Hall

Gabriela Ortiz Hominum: Suite for Orchestra Scottish premiere

Ravel Piano Concerto in G major

de Falla The Three-Cornered Hat (complete ballet score)

Ravel Boléro

Carlos Miguel Prieto Conductor

Vanessa Benelli Mosell Piano

Ana Schwedhelm Soprano

CHILDREN'S CLASSIC CONCERTS: BROOMSTICK RIDE (Sponsored by La Bonne Auberge and A1 Toys)

Sun 28 Oct 2018: 3.00pm Usher Hall

CHAN CONDUCTS RACHMANINOV (Recommended by Classic FM)

Fri 2 Nov 2018: 7.30pm Usher Hall

Dukas The Sorcerer's Apprentice

Chopin Piano Concerto No2

Rachmaninov Symphonic Dances

Elim Chan Conductor

Benjamin Grosvenor Piano

SØNDERGÅRD CONDUCTS POULENC'S GLORIA (In collaboration with PoppyScotland)

Fri 9 Nov 2018: 7.30pm Usher Hall

Prokofiev Symphony No1 Classical

Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No1

Ken Johnston Three movements from All Those Men Who Marched Away

Poulenc Gloria

Thomas Søndergård Conductor

Alexander Gavrylyuk Piano

Elin Rombo Soprano

Glasgow Cambiata

Frikki Walker, Director Glasgow Cambiata

VARÈSE SARABANDE 40TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

Fri 16 Nov 2018: 7.30pm Usher Hall

Diego Navarro Conductor

Sara Andon Flute

Robert Townson Presenter

Patrick Doyle Composer

Rachel Portman Composer

RSNO Chorus

Gregory Batsleer Chorus Director, RSN0 Chorus

SØNDERGÅRD'S GUIDE TO THE ORCHESTRA (Recommended by Classic FM / In association with RSN0 Young Ambassadors)

Fri 23 Nov 2018: 7.30pm Usher Hall

Britten The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra

Winner of the RSN0 Composers' Hub 17:18 New Work (RSN0 Commission) World premiere

Poulenc Concerto for Two Pianos

Gary Carpenter Ghost Songs (RSN0 Commission) World premiere

Saint-Saëns Carnival of the Animals

Thomas Søndergård Conductor

Christina & Michelle Naughton Piano

RSN0 Junior Chorus

ANNE-SOPHIE MUTTER IN CONCERT (Recommended by Classic FM / Supported by the RSN0 Foundation)

Fri 30 Nov 2018: 7.30pm Usher Hall

Krzysztof Penderecki Violin Concerto No2 Metamorphosen

Tchaikovsky Symphony No5

Krzysztof Penderecki Conductor

Anne-Sophie Mutter Violin

CHILDREN'S CLASSIC CONCERTS: A CHRISTMAS CAROL (Sponsored by La Bonne Auberge)

Sun 9 Dec 2018: 3.00pm Usher Hall

SØNDERGÅRD CONDUCTS THE NUTCRACKER (Recommended by Classic FM

/ Sponsored by Investec Wealth and Investment)

Fri 14 Dec 2018: 7.30pm Usher Hall

Prokofiev Winter Bonfire

Tchaikovsky Variations on a Rococo Theme

Tchaikovsky Excerpts from The Nutcracker

Thomas Søndergård Conductor

Johannes Moser Cello (Artist in Residence)

RSNO Junior Chorus

RSNO CHRISTMAS CONCERT (featuring The Snowman) (Sponsored by ScotRail)

Fri 21 Dec 2018: 7.30pm Usher Hall Matthew Hamilton Conductor

Jamie MacDougall Presenter

RSNO Junior Chorus & RSNO Chorus