

Sunday Classics series begins at Usher Hall

Later on Sunday the Brno Philharmonic Orchestra from the Czech Republic will take to the stage at the Usher Hall at 3pm. Renowned cellist, Laura van der Heijden, will perform Martinů's Cello Concerto No. 1 and the concert concludes with Dvořák's 'New World' Symphony.

This will be followed in November by globally lauded soloist Paul Lewis with conductor Roberto González-Monjas overseeing the Belgian National Orchestra. The performance will begin with Ottorino Respighi's noble Preludio, corale e fuga, followed by Piano Concerto No. 25, the grandest of Mozart's piano concertos, before finishing with a spellbinding symphony – the insurmountable Saint-Saëns Organ Symphony.

Also in November, Maxim Vengerov, one of the world's greatest contemporary violinists, joins the Romanian National Philharmonic Orchestra, Filarmonica Brasov in not one, but two concertos – composed a century apart. The excellent conductor for the performance is Sergey Smbatyan from Armenia. The afternoon will open with Sibelius's masterful Karelia Suite and Shor's newly commissioned Symphonic Prelude, followed by Seascapes for Violin and Symphony Orchestra. Prokofiev's First Violin Concerto will be played after the interval before

ending with Tchaikovsky's hauntingly evocative Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture.



The Usher Hall

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In March, as Edinburgh moves into Spring, the Swedish Philharmonia returns to Usher Hall with the inimitable Serbian-French violinist Nemanja Radulović. Conducted by Jaime Martin, the performance will begin with Bo Linde A Merry Overture before moving into Khachaturian Violin Concerto and finishing with the enduringly popular Sibelius Symphony No. 2.

The penultimate show of the run in April showcases the Iceland Symphony Orchestra, with the distinguished company of British pianist Sir Stephen Hough. The session will begin with music from Iceland's own Thorvaldsdottir, followed by Rachmaninov's deeply poignant Piano Concerto No. 2 and concluding with Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony, one of the most powerful symphonies ever created.

To conclude this season's programme in May, the Estonian National Symphony, led by conductor Olari Elts will regale

Usher Hall. The performance will begin with the eulogistic Benjamin Britten Cantus in Memoriam, followed by Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No. 1 performed by the peerless pianist Freddy Kempf, and finishing with the evergreen Dvorak Symphony No. 9 New World.



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" I am proud that the tradition of concert-going at Edinburgh's most stunning indoor venue continues as strongly as ever.

"It's a genuine pleasure to sit back in the impressive auditorium and lose yourself in the music, and this new Sunday Classics series will feature first-class orchestras from around the world outside the usual Festival period. This series reinforces Edinburgh's status as a global musical centre and status as a year-long cultural destination. Plus, with special rates for students and those out of work, and free tickets for under 16s, the Usher Hall is helping to make classical music accessible to all."

Tickets available from Usher Hall website [here](#)