

# Southampton

# Youth Orchestra

## Featuring

Richard Strauss' Horn Concerto No. 1

Borodin's fiery Polovtsian Dances and

Tchaikovsky's timeless 5th Symphony

*Saturday 6th May, 7.30pm*

*Tickets £10/£7/£3*



Good evening, and welcome to Southampton Youth Orchestra's penultimate concert of a very busy and successful season.

This term saw the annual celebration of Southampton Music Hub's string pyramid, at which Southampton Youth Orchestra performed their traditional closing slot at the FSYO Pyramid Concert. Our most recent concert celebrated a new relationship between Southampton and Isle of Wight Music Hubs. A weekend of intensive rehearsals involving the joint wind bands and orchestra of both music services culminated in a professionally performed and well-received concert in Newport, Isle of Wight.

Tonight, we are delighted to welcome Ed Lockwood, a Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra horn player, who is also Professor of Horn at the Royal Marines School of Music. It has been an inspiration to the orchestra to work with such a talented, locally-sourced musician.

Southampton Youth Orchestra showcases the most accomplished and promising young musicians in the city. Aged between 14 and 19, the orchestra presents its first of five concerts this season, and is delighted to be exploring an exciting and challenging series of programmes.

Proceeds from tonight's concert will go to Friends of Southampton Youth Orchestras, who work selflessly to fund and support all five youth orchestras, paying for music, concert venues and tours, as well as working front-of-house, organising concerts and supporting young musical talent.

It only remains to thank you for your ongoing support, and to hope that you enjoy tonight's performance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Withell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kevin Withell

Assistant Director, SYO



# Programme

Alexander Borodin - Polovstian Dances from 'Prince Igor'

Richard Strauss - Horn Concerto No.1 in Eb major

I - Allegro

II - Andante

III - Allegro

Soloist: Ed Lockwood

## **INTERVAL**

Pytor Tchaikovsky - Symphony No.5 in E minor

I - Andante - Allegro con anima - Molto piu tranquillo

II - Andante cantabile - Non allegro - Andante maestoso con piano

III - Valse. Allegro moderato

IV - Finale. Andante maestoso - Allegro vivace - Molto vivace -

Moderato assai e molto maestoso - Presto

## **Alexander Borodin – Polovstian Dances from ‘Prince Igor’ (1869)**

Born in 1833 in Saint Petersburg, Borodin initially pursued a career as a chemist, only turning to music as a professional endeavour in his late 20s. He was mid-thirties by the time he had completed his first symphony, and it was an untimely death at the age of 53 that left his opera ‘Prince Igor’ unfinished. ‘Prince Igor’ recounts medieval Russia’s defence against the 1185 invasion of the Polovstian tribes. The ‘Polovstian Dances’ which close Act II of the opera, and depict a patriotic and ecstatic demonstration of the Polovstian soldiers’ glorification of their leader. Four main sections of music depend of strong contrasts between masculinity and femininity.

The flute opens with an introduction to the first dance, in which the oboe leads a depiction of the ‘Gliding Wings of Maidens’. Strings and solo woodwind instruments develop this theme, before an energetic clarinet leads a virtuosic ‘Wild Dance of the Men’. This dance grows until we hear the entire orchestra playing together for the first time, and a short timpani solo leads into what is probably the most recognisable section of the dances. Relentlessly furious, this theme is well-loved by the percussion world for its prominent bass drum part. The fourth section is a nimble and energetic dance of the Polovstian Boys, showing off their quick, light feet. The piece becomes what can only be described as a ‘dance-off’, as reprises of each tune give the maidens, men and boys a chance to repeat and develop their respective dances, before the music is brought to a dramatic close by a short but animated finale.

## **Richard Strauss – Horn Concerto No.1 in Eb major (1883)**

Best known for composing epic tone poems such as An Alpine Symphony, Til Eulenspiegel and Also sprach Zarathustra (otherwise known as the theme from 2001: A Space Odyssey), it is no surprise that Richard Strauss’ more modestly-scored, early compositions are less famous. Strauss’ first horn concerto is typical of his early output – scored for a small classical orchestra, in three movements that are performed continuously.

In the opening movement, Strauss provides the deep thematic contrasts that had become customary in a late-Romantic concerto; long phrases that juxtapose winding lyricism with dark drama. The music seamlessly slips into the Andante movement, a sombre rendition of sweetly haunting melodies, elegantly and subtly accompanied by the orchestra. The finale is a strong, proud movement, full of hunting calls and references to the solo horn’s opening fanfare.

It is no surprise that Strauss composed such a coherent and virtuosic horn concerto at the age of only 18 – his father was one of the best known horn players in Germany, and had become particularly well-known for his performances in Wagner’s opera. It was Wagner’s music that inspired Strauss to push the boundaries of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century orchestra in his later compositions.

## **Pytor Tchaikovsky – Symphony No.5 in E minor, Op. 64 (1888)**

One of the most celebrated composers of Romantic Russia, Tchaikovsky is responsible for some of the best-loved melodies of the orchestral repertoire. Composer of classics such as Swan Lake and The Nutcracker, Tchaikovsky has become a staple of any youth orchestra's music library. The fifth symphony is probably the best known of Tchaikovsky's symphonic output, and begins with one of the most famous themes of any symphony. A slow, dark opening, played by clarinets and low strings, sets the scene for what has been nicknamed the 'Fate' symphony. Clarinets and bassoons take up a second theme – slightly faster and more graceful, but none-the-less melancholy. A third theme is introduced by the strings – an anguished and heart-wrenching melody, punctuated by the woodwind. These three themes seem to be building together towards a strong and highly energized finale, before the opening 'Fate' theme once again pulls us back to a state of sombre reflection.

A series of similarly dark and heavy string chords seem to continue our 'fate' theme into the second movement, but the solo horn intervenes, taking us to the major key with a gentle but thoughtful melody. After a development section, the clarinet introduces a new faster but wistful theme, continued by solo bassoon and then strings. The development of this theme is brutally interrupted by the return of the 'fate' theme. The movement never really recovers from this interruption – both the violins and the oboe repeat the horn's opening theme, but the fate theme always seems to overpower.

The third movement is of a much brighter nature. The movement consists of inventive variations on a light and graceful waltz theme and all thought of the recurring fate theme would be lost, but for a short and subtle reiteration just before the final few chords.

The now-familiar fate theme opens the final movement, but this time in a more optimistic major key. A sonata-style development plays with this theme against a new, violently energised theme, at the end of which our fate theme returns as a persistent rhythm. This tension builds up until the fate theme finally returns, this time as a broad and majestic march. Tchaikovsky could have chosen to draw the symphony to a close with this final triumph over the depth and despair of the original theme, but instead chooses to push headlong into a flourishing 'presto' section, before finally allowing the piece to finish on a rousing finale.



# CONDUCTOR

## Christopher Braime - Musical Director

Christopher Braime was born in 1983 and commenced conducting studies whilst a Foundation Scholar at the Royal College of Music, London, studying with Neil Thomson, and Richard Dickins.

Christopher is Musical Director of the London Gay Symphony Orchestra, the Putney Choral Society, the Grosvenor Light Opera Company, the Southampton Youth Orchestra and is Principal Guest Conductor of the Sussex Symphony Orchestra.

Christopher has also appeared as conductor with several orchestras throughout the South of England including: the Farnborough Symphony Orchestra, the Redhill Sinfonia, the Suffolk Sinfonia, and the Kensington Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2013, he made his European conducting debut with the Orquestra do Algarve, Portugal, and has recently conducted in Germany.

In the 2016/17 season he will be returning to the Suffolk Sinfonia, and he will be making a guest appearance with the Petersfield Orchestra.

Christopher has worked with some of the most outstanding young soloists of this generation including the cellist Jamal Aliyev, horn player Joel Ashford the baritones Huw Montague-Rendall and Edward Jowle, Soprano Jessica Gillingwater and the saxophonist Huw Wiggin. With the pianist Simon Ballard he also gave the first public performance in the UK of the Leroy Anderson Piano Concerto.

Christopher also still performs as an oboist and is active in the field of teaching, he was a Music Appreciation lecturer for the charity Open Age, based in West London, and conducts the Mary Ward Chamber Orchestra at the Mary Ward Adult Education Centre. He was also a consultant on the Royal College of Music's "Rhythm for Life" project where RCM students explored the skills required when working with older adult learners, and recently wrote guidance for the RCM on the subject.

Christopher was formerly Musical Director of the Imperial College String Ensemble, the Pelly Concert Orchestra, Farnborough and the Worthing Youth Orchestra



# SOLOIST

## Ed Lockwood – Solo Horn



Ed was born in Lichfield, Staffordshire and began playing the horn at the age of eleven as part of the county music service. Sadly, this first attempt only lasted a few months before it was decided that he should have some extensive correction work on his teeth which lasted for several years. During this time he played percussion in the local youth orchestras before returning to the horn at the age of fifteen.

When he took it up again he began studying with Nick Firth at Repton School and under his inspiring tutelage quickly progressed gaining a number of places at music college.

In 1991, he began his studies at the Royal Northern College of Music with Bob Ashworth and natural horn lessons with Becky Goldberg and Roger Montgomery. Whilst still at college, he began to work with the orchestras in the north west of

England including the Halle, BBC Philharmonic and Opera North. He left in 1995 with a distinction in his performing diploma and the college horn prize.

Around this time, he made an audition tape for the Natal Philharmonic in Durban, South Africa. Having forgotten about it, he was thrilled to receive a call saying that he should start on the 5th January 1996. He spent two very happy years there, honing his orchestral skills and learning repertoire before returning to England to continue his freelance work and audition for other jobs.

One such job was the fifth horn position in the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. Following a short trial he began working there full time and has continued to do so to this day. He is always keen to work with other groups and has managed to play with many of the country's top ensembles, including BBC Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra and Scottish Chamber Orchestra, to name but a few.

Aside from a busy playing schedule, Ed is also a keen teacher and recently took on the professor of horn position at the Royal Marines School of Music.





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# Southampton Youth Orchestra

Flutes	Tom Edwards Hannah Bourner Kitty Clarke	1st Violins	Emmy Huang Sara Ha  Jessica Haines Zachary Bull
Oboes	Jacob Zhang Abigail Caveney Rachel King		Henry Tsang Yuqing Chen
Clarinets	Ellie Serpell-Stevens Amber Williams Lizzie Laybourne Lily Thorne	2nd Violins	Anna Pugh Alice Ren  Katie Mitchell Zachary Burns
Bassoons	David Blunt Nikita Maxy Kelly Reynolds*		Charlotte McKenzie Matilda Bull
French Horns	Tom Salmon Matthew McDermott Alex Lui David Payne*		Imogen Lee Isaac Wright
Trumpets	Josh Bateman Kelly Reynolds*	Violas	Hiro Jones Alex Curry  Erica Tsang Abigail Hastings
Trombones	Dominic Gardner Catherine Lewis* Kevin Withell*		Hannah Edwards Raine Estales
Tuba	Morro Barry		
Percussion	Emily Yeates Tom Harman	Cellos	Issie Elliot Lara Williams Zoe Hunting*
		Double Basses	Oliver Davey Maggie Foster Pete Gosney
<b>*denotes adult volunteer</b>			

## Southampton Music Hub

The Southampton Music Service is the lead partner for the Southampton Music Hub. Over 30 music and arts organisations are represented within the Southampton Music Hub partnership. The group (established in September 2012) work collaboratively to bring a high level of music provision, expertise, access and resource to communities and young people in Southampton.

Our aim is to support schools and colleges in delivering the National Plan for Music Education and provide opportunities for young people to engage in a rich programme of music making. This is an exciting time for all involved and we look forward to seeing music in Southampton continue to thrive and ensuring our young people can take fond musical memories with them into their future lives.

## Southampton Music Service

In March 2011, the Southampton Music Service was judged by the Federation of Music Services as being in the top category of Music Services in the country. SMS has maintained the level of excellence and access to music activity that our community has come to expect. SMS seeks every opportunity to promote and develop the musical potential and personal development of all young people in the City and region of Southampton.

In addition to the specialist instrumental lessons and curriculum support we deliver in schools, SMS also provides an impressive range of choirs, bands and orchestras to support musical progression.

Any young musician interested in joining a Southampton Music Service ensemble or starting lessons for the first time should contact the music service at [music@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:music@southampton.gov.uk) or call 02380 833648

Southampton Hub website [www.southamptonmusichub.org.uk](http://www.southamptonmusichub.org.uk) Twitter <https://twitter.com/MusicHubSouth>

If you are age 8-18 and would like to join a student focus group to help shape future Hub activity, please contact us.

Watch out for the next FREE Music Instrument Fayre taking place in the Summer Term ... check on the Hub website for information.

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**A WARM WELCOME AWAITS YOU**



Dear Parents and Carers



FSYO is a charitable organisation whose aim is to support the ensembles that are part of the Southampton Youth Orchestras pyramid (Acorn, Elgar, SYS, SYCS and SYO). The FSYO committee members are parents of current players. Musical directors are also represented.

The Friends support the orchestras in many ways, for example by raising money to provide new music and new instruments, and by giving financial support for tours and residential weekends. Members of the Friends also provide support at rehearsals, providing refreshments and adult help and at concerts with front of house activities, raffles and hospitality to guests.

In order to help with our fund raising we are currently collecting printer cartridges so if you have any used cartridges please bring them along to rehearsal. Also when shopping online sign up to [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk). It doesn't cost you anything but when you click through them to make your online purchases it raises money for FSYO. The Friends are a support partner of the Southampton Music Hub, which is part of the funding arrangements that have been in place since 2012. After a period of cuts in funding, Government funding through the Hub has remained the same and will stay the same next year. What will happen to this funding in the longer term is not clear but the Friends will continue to support the orchestras.

Do feel free to contact the friends on [info@fsyo.org.uk](mailto:info@fsyo.org.uk) if you have any feedback, suggestions or you would like to volunteer to help in any way and do please visit the website ([www.fsyo.org.uk](http://www.fsyo.org.uk)), our Facebook page (Friends of Southampton Youth Orchestra) or follow us on Twitter (@friends\_syo).

If you would like to join us please contact us at [membership@fsyo.org.uk](mailto:membership@fsyo.org.uk)

Yours

Amanda Mitchell  
FSYO Chair



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## Forthcoming concerts

**Sunday 25th June, 3.00pm**

**Turner Sims Concert Hall**

Southampton Youth Concert Sinfonia's  
Summer Concert: The Best of British

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 7.00pm**

**Chandler's Ford Methodist Church**

Southampton Youth Concert Sinfonia's  
Christmas Concert  
Joint event with Splash of Red,  
Gloucestershire-based choir

**Saturday 8th July, 7.30pm**

**Chandler's Ford Methodist Church**

Southampton Youth Orchestra's  
Summer Concert.

Mozart – Flute Concerto in D major  
soloist: Hannah Bourner

Gregson – Trombone Concerto  
soloist: Dominic Gardner

Dvorak – Symphony No.9 in E minor 'From  
the New World'



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Having been established since 1946, we are still continuing to support musicians both locally and wider afield in the ever important production of live music.

We are happy to offer a percentage of all purchases via [www.beckettsmusic.co.uk/FSYO](http://www.beckettsmusic.co.uk/FSYO) to the Friends of Southampton Youth Orchestra to help support the orchestra in the future.

We would also like to wish the Southampton Youth Orchestra all the best for their 2017 season of concerts.



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