

NEW MUSIC AT THE PROMS

The BBC Proms has long been associated with introducing new music to audiences in the UK – whether it is new and specially commissioned, new to the UK or London, or simply new to Proms audiences – and 2006 is no exception.

- Six world premieres of four new works commissioned by the BBC from Julian Anderson, James Dillon, Dai Fujikura and Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, and two further BBC commissions for Proms Chamber Music concerts from Colin Matthews and Ian Wilson
- Nine big UK premieres for composers including George Benjamin, HK Gruber, Mark-Anthony Turnage, Wolfgang Rihm, Steven Stucky and Magnus Lindberg
- Major works from over 30 living composers, including great international figures like John Adams, Hans Werner Henze, György Kurtág, György Ligeti and Steve Reich, as well as top British talents, such as James MacMillan, Jonathan Dove and Thea Musgrave
- Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance* March No. 6 gets world premiere in a completion by Anthony Payne
- Specially commissioned new work for The Queen's 80th birthday by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies
- Orlando Gough and The Shout create new choral work with more than 800 singers in the most ambitious creative project the BBC Proms has undertaken to date
- Four Composer Portraits packed full of contemporary chamber music by George Benjamin, Toshio Hosokawa, Jonathan Harvey and Magnus Lindberg (see page 24)
- World premiere of new version of *Blue Peter* theme tune by Murray Gold (see page 19)
- Over 100 works new to the Proms



Sir Peter Maxwell Davies has composed a new work for massed children's choirs for The Queen's 80th birthday

BBC COMMISSIONS

SIR PETER MAXWELL DAVIES

A LITTLE BIRTHDAY MUSIC

In honour of The Queen's 80th birthday, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies (Master of The Queen's Music) and Andrew Motion (Poet Laureate) have answered the BBC Proms' request to compose a 20-minute choral work for orchestra and large choir of children. It is performed in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen by eight separate children's choirs including choristers from St James and Hampton Court Palaces, and children's choirs from Birmingham, Southend and London. Jiří Bělohlávek conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra in a BBC ONE televised concert. (PROM 7)

JULIAN ANDERSON

HEAVEN IS SHY OF EARTH

At only 39 Julian Anderson has established a rare international profile. A professor of music at Harvard and a composing fellow with the Cleveland Orchestra, many of his works, including his first Proms commission, *Stations of the Sun* (1998), are performed all over the world. He describes *Heaven is Shy of Earth* as 'celebratory'. It is inspired by a poem by Emily Dickinson which extols the beauties of the natural world and, at 35 minutes long, promises to be one of the most substantial new works of the season. Written especially for the rich and versatile mezzo-soprano of Angelika Kirchsclager, who is joined by Sir Andrew Davis (who conducted the premiere of *Stations of the Sun*) and the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. (PROM 32)

JAMES DILLON

ANDROMEDA

Always challenging and much-respected, the Scottish composer James Dillon has written a half-hour piano concerto for the BBC Proms, based on the Greek legend of Andromeda. It is his fourth Proms commission. *Andromeda* calls on a large percussion section, including lion's roar, air horn and a football referee's whistle and has a ferociously difficult piano part. Written especially with the particular qualities of the soloist in mind, he admits that 'the technical demands are extreme', but Noriko Kawai is an acclaimed interpreter of his work and will rise to the challenge. She joins the second of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra's Proms with Ilan Volkov for this premiere. (PROM 36)

DAI FUJIKURA

CRUSHING TWISTER

One of the youngest composers ever to receive a BBC Proms commission, Dai Fujikura is still only 29. With such champions as Pierre Boulez and Peter Eötvös it is hardly surprising that he is fast becoming recognised as one of the most exciting and individual voices around. Born in Japan, he has been based in London since he was 15 and studies with George Benjamin (who was only 20 when he received his first BBC commission!). Fujikura's *Crushing Twister* lasts seven minutes and is expected to use unconventional effects inspired by DJ turntables. It is performed by the BBC Concert Orchestra under Charles Hazlewood in a concert of popular jazz-influenced music by Weill, Gershwin and Bernstein. (PROM 58)

IAN WILSON

RED OVER BLACK

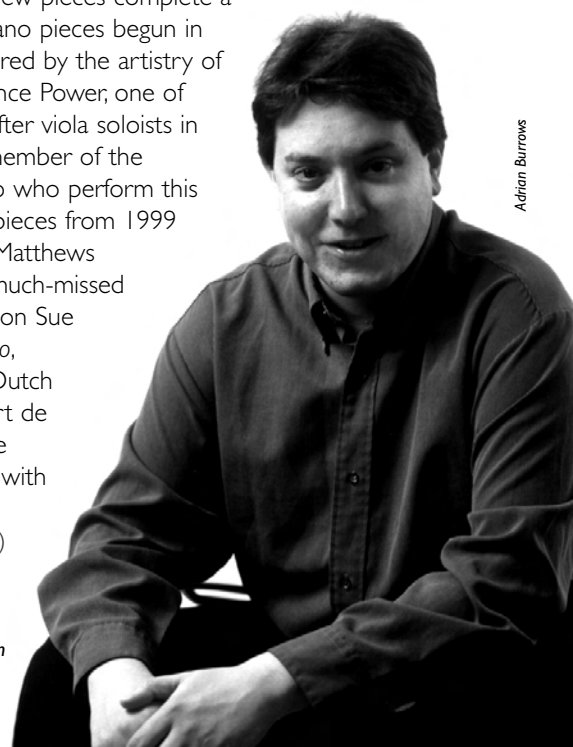
Jointly commissioned by the BBC and the Royal Philharmonic Society, Ian Wilson's 13-minute work is written for clarinet, viola and piano to complement two other works scored for those instruments – Mozart's *Kegelstatt* Trio and György Kurtág's tribute to Schumann – performed in the same concert by the BBC New Generation Artists for whom it was composed, Martin Fröst (clarinet), Pierre Lénert (viola) and Cédric Tiberghien (piano). (PCM 5)

COLIN MATTHEWS

FOUR PIECES FOR VIOLA AND PIANO

The BBC Proms celebrations of Colin Matthews's 60th birthday include a new commission for the Proms Chamber Music series. The new pieces complete a set of viola and piano pieces begun in 1999 and are inspired by the artistry of viola player Lawrence Power, one of the most sought-after viola soloists in the world and a member of the Leopold String Trio who perform this concert. The two pieces from 1999 are *Oscuro* which Matthews dedicated to the much-missed new music champion Sue Knussen, and *Calmo*, dedicated to the Dutch conductor Reinbert de Leeuw, but now he completes the set with *Animato* and *Scorrevole*. (PCM 7)

Julian Anderson's BBC commission promises to be one of the most substantial new works of the season



Adrian Burrows

OTHER WORLD PREMIERES

ELGAR (ARR. & ORCH. ANTHONY PAYNE) POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE MARCH No. 6

Ten years since he gave the world a new Elgar Symphony, Anthony Payne has added a sixth *Pomp and Circumstance* March to the famous five, which include the well-known cornerstone of the Last Night of the Proms (No. 1). The resulting new March is an 'elaboration' of some sketches by Elgar labelled 'P & C 6' which included an obvious main tune and other promising ideas (over which Elgar had written 'Jolly good'). Those sketches date from the early 1930s and turned up among some papers in the library of the Royal School of Church Music during the 1990s. They appeared to complement another, near-indecipherable manuscript fragment already in the British Library – 'more an aide-mémoire than a sketch', says Payne, though he was able to use his extensive knowledge of Elgar's style to draw on this also. The newly constructed piece receives its world premiere from the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Sir Andrew Davis (who premiered the Third Symphony together) on the very day of Payne's 70th birthday. (PROM 26)

ORLANDO GOUGH

WE TURNED ON THE LIGHT

Orlando Gough writes a major new choral work to be the centrepiece of a day devoted to the human voice. *We Turned on the Light*, with a text by Caryl Churchill, will be realised twice in two separate Proms by different groups of performers, but both times including Gough's dynamic choir, The Shout, and 'rabblies' of amateur singers drawn from a wide variety of musical disciplines (jazz, gospel, opera, blues etc). Although Gough will largely compose and notate the piece, elements of it will evolve during workshops and rehearsals in the weeks leading up to the performances (see page 16 for details). (PROMS 20 & 21)

BENJAMIN WALLFISCH

NEW WORK

A seven-minute work for chamber orchestra by OSJ's associate composer, performed by OSJ under John Lubbock (PROMS SATURDAY MATINEE AT CADOGAN HALL, 2 SEPTEMBER)



Jonathan Nott includes Rihm in his Proms debut

UK PREMIERES

GEORGE BENJAMIN

DANCE FIGURES

Dance Figures – in nine varied and vibrantly coloured sections – received rapturous reviews following its premiere from Daniel Barenboim and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra last year. The UK premiere is with the BBC SO and David Robertson. George Benjamin is the subject of a Composer Portrait concert (see page 24 for details). (PROM 14)

WOLFGANG RIHM

VERWANDLUNG

Jonathan Nott brings his acclaimed Bamberg Symphony Orchestra to the Proms for the first time with a programme that includes the UK premiere of this orchestral work by one of Germany's most productive, acclaimed and original composers. (PROM 18)

BRAHMS/GLANERT

FOUR PRELUDES AND SERIOUS SONGS

Detlev Glanert's BBC commission was received with considerable acclaim in 2005. This season his new work based on Brahms's *Four Serious Songs* for baritone and orchestra receive its UK premiere from Johan Reuter (bass-baritone) and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Marc Albrecht. (PROM 19)

TOSHIO HOSOKAWA

CIRCULATING OCEAN

This work is described by the composer as 'a metaphor for the human life-cycle'. It was premiered to great acclaim by the Vienna Philharmonic and Valery Gergiev in 2005. It is the first work by this 50-year-old Japanese composer to be heard at the BBC Proms and it is played by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales under compatriot Kazushi Ono. Hosokawa is also the subject of a Composer Portrait concert (see page 24 for details). (PROM 27)

STEVEN STUCKY

SECOND CONCERTO FOR ORCHESTRA

Esa-Pekka Salonen brings to the UK Stucky's Pulitzer Prize-winning 26-minute showpiece written for the opening of the new Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. Stucky is a popular composer who has been strongly associated with the LA Philharmonic for nearly 20 years. (PROM 41)

HK GRUBER

HIDDEN AGENDA

Due to be premiered in Lucerne immediately before it comes to the Proms, *Hidden Agenda* is a 10-minute orchestral work described by the composer as 'not the school of plinky-plonky'. HK Gruber conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra in a Late Night concert that also features his most famous work, the 'pan-demonium' *Frankenstein!!* (PROM 52)

MARK-ANTHONY TURNAGE

RELIC OF MEMORY

Relic of Memory, named after a poem by Seamus Heaney, sets a few lines of a death-haunted Shakespeare sonnet and phrases from the Requiem Mass and was premiered in Berlin by Turnage's first great champion, Sir Simon Rattle. It is performed here by the London Philharmonic Orchestra (of which Turnage is Composer in Residence) and London Philharmonic Choir conducted by Vladimir Jurowski. (PROM 53)

OSVALDO GOLIJOV

THREE SONGS

The music of Argentinian sensation Osvaldo Golijov comes to the Proms with the UK premiere of *Three Songs* with Dawn Upshaw, who gave the first performance of this piece in 2002. It is not the first time Golijov's music has been heard at the Proms, but it is a debut for the Minnesota Orchestra, here conducted by Osmo Vänskä. (PROM 54)



Yuri Lenquette

Magnus Lindberg has a UK premiere and Composer Portrait

MAGNUS LINDBERG

SCULPTURE

Lindberg was commissioned to write a work for the opening of the new Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles and was directly inspired by Frank Gehry's vision for the building in writing this piece. Finnish compatriot Jukka-Pekka Saraste conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra. Magnus Lindberg is also the subject of a Composer Portrait concert. (PROM 55)

NEW TO LONDON

JONATHAN HARVEY

... TOWARDS A PURE LAND

Written for and first performed by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Ilan Volkov who bring it to the Proms, this work has an 'Ensemble of Eternal Sound' glowing serenely in the centre of an orchestra that creates its own brand of worldly activity. It is the first work Harvey has completed for the BBC SSO in his new role as its Composer in Association. Jonathan Harvey is also the subject of a Composer Portrait concert (see page 24 for details). (PROM 35)

HANS WERNER HENZE

FIVE MESSAGES FOR THE QUEEN OF SHEBA

Drawing on motifs from Henze's latest opera, *L'Upupa*, about a magical bird charged with carrying messages between King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, this 20-minute work is given for the first time in London by the Orchestre National de France under Kurt Masur. (PROM 60)

NEW TO THE PROMS

There are over 100 works in 2006 which have never been heard at the Proms before. Among them are:

- Three works by John Adams
- Arrangements of music by Bach by both Mozart and Sir Andrew Davis
- Michael Haydn's *Requiem*
- Wagner's complete opera *Siegfried*
- Morton Feldman's iconic *Rothko Chapel*, the first work by Feldman to be heard at the Proms
- Charles Ives's Second Symphony
- Much piano music by Mozart, as well as arias from many of his less well-known operas
- Steve Reich's percussion pieces *Clapping Music*, *Drumming* and *Nagoya Marimbas*
- Previously unheard music by Shostakovich, including excerpts from film scores, his Jazz Suite No. 1, String Quartet No. 7 and the complete opera *Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District*

For full listings of works new to the Proms see Index in the BBC Proms Guide (pages 156–9)