



RNCM

SUN 26
APR 2020

WIND, BRASS AND PERCUSSION FESTIVAL

SYMPHONIES — CREATIONS
AND RECREATIONS

WELCOME

The RNCM's School of Wind, Brass and Percussion presents a day of performances that explore the Symphony, and how shifts of time and place inspire creativity and invention.

Our first concert explores symphonic ideas in the moment through improvisation, as we invite young players from Greater Manchester schools and music services to perform alongside our students. Next, we hear how Stravinsky ended his Russian phase with his *Symphonies of Wind Instruments*, with new multimedia backdrops created by students from Manchester Metropolitan University.

45 years in the making, the world première of John Wallace's monumental *Symphony for Brass* brings together Black Dyke Band and the RNCM Brass Band under the baton of Nicholas Childs and James Gourlay, and the day comes to a close with Mahler's great symphony of song *Das Lied von der Erde* in an arrangement created by the Netherlands Wind Ensemble – the world's most exciting, forward-looking group of wind players.

And that's not all! There'll be much more music taking place in between these concerts both in our venues and via 'pop-up' performances in our public spaces...

We look forward to welcoming you.

Nicholas Thompson *artistic director*

12.30pm – 1.15pm // RNCM Concert Hall

SYMPHONISATION

Scott McAllister *Black Dog*

Steve Berry *Improvisation*

Gustav Holst *Suite No 1 in E flat major Op 28 No 1*

Melissa Demarjian *clarinet*

Steve Berry *improvisation director*

Mark Heron *conductor*

RNCM Wind Orchestra

With players from local schools and music services

Influences of Led Zeppelin can be heard in Scott McAllister's rhapsodic clarinet concerto *Black Dog*, then RNCM students are joined by young players from the region for an improvised work directed and designed by RNCM's Head of Jazz and Improvisation Steve Berry, exploring concepts of the symphony. The programme ends with a performance of Holst's wonderfully symphonic first suite for military band, a cornerstone of concert band repertoire.

Free admission, no ticket required

2.15pm – 3pm // RNCM Theatre

SYMPHONIES OF WINDS RNCM WIND ENSEMBLE

Igor Stravinsky Concertino for 12
Instruments

Francis Poulenc Suite française
Igor Stravinsky Symphonies of Wind
Instruments

Stefano Canuti, Simone Rebello
conductors

Poulenc's charming *Suite française* is bookended by two Stravinsky works, both originally written 100 years ago. Stravinsky's unusual use of the word *Symphonies* challenges the notion of symphonic writing, drawing on its ancient meaning: 'sounding together in harmony'. This multimedia performance will feature new animation created by students from Manchester Metropolitan University.

Free admission, no ticket required

4pm – 5pm // RNCM Concert Hall

SYMPHONY FOR BRASS BLACK DYKE AND RNCM BRASS BANDS

John Wallace Symphony for Brass
1974-2019 (world première)

Mark O'Keefe *trumpet*

James Gourlay *tuba*

All Saints Brass

James Gourlay, Nicholas Childs
conductors

RNCM welcome professional partners Black Dyke Band, who will perform alongside students in the world première of John Wallace's *Symphony for Brass*. Composed over five decades, the autobiographical work is dedicated to the composer's father, and the music takes its inspiration from locations in Fife, the area in which John grew up.

Tickets £10

6.30pm – 7.45pm // RNCM Concert Hall

DAS LIED VON DER ERDE RNCM WIND ENSEMBLE

Gustav Mahler (arr Willem van Merwijk)
Das Lied von der Erde (UK première)

Heather Lowe *mezzo-soprano*

Paul Nilon *tenor*

Clark Rundell *conductor*

Described by conductor Leonard Bernstein as Mahler's 'greatest symphony', *Das Lied von der Erde* (The Song of the Earth) was written following the most painful period in the composer's life, and the songs celebrate life and death in the form of an ode to nature. Willem van Merwijk's arrangement was originally premiered by the Netherlands Wind Ensemble in 2019; although the notes remain unchanged, the resulting performance is completely unique.

Tickets £10

from 8pm // RNCM Concourses

RNCM ARKENSEMBLE

The RNCM's cutting-edge, highly creative student wind, brass and percussion ensemble take to the concourses for this closing performance of the day, under the direction of Rob Buckland.

Free admission, no ticket required

HOW TO BOOK

In person **RNCM Box Office,
124 Oxford Road,
Manchester M13 9RD**

By phone **0161 907 5555**

Online **www.rncm.ac.uk**
(individual event tickets only)

FOOD AND DRINK

During the Wind, Brass and Percussion Festival, our Café is open from 11.30am – 6.30pm for sandwiches, snacks and drinks.

Our Concert Bar is open from 3pm until 11pm.

HOW TO FIND US/PARKING

For the latest information about public transport and parking options, plus a map of how to find us, please visit **www.rncm.ac.uk/visit**

Box Office **0161 907 5555**

www.rncm.ac.uk/wbpfest

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