

Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra



Here and Now

The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra gives over **sixty concerts** from September to June in the bright, pleasant ambience and excellent acoustic of Philharmonic Hall, as well as presenting a regular concert series in Preston's Guild Hall and Blackburn's King George's Hall, and making frequent appearances in concert halls throughout the United Kingdom.

Classic FM Partnership

In November 2001 the RLPO and Classic FM, the UK's leading classical music radio station, announced a ground-breaking partnership which makes the Liverpool Phil **Classic FM's Orchestra in North West England**. In October 2007 it was announced that this relationship would be extended to 2012. Classic FM will broadcast 25 RLPO concerts from the orchestra's 2007-2008 season.

Far and Wide

The RLPO made its first tour abroad in 1966 and has since given concerts in the USA and Far East, as well as throughout Europe. In 1993 the RLPO became the first non-Czech orchestra to have the honour of performing the opening concerts at the Prague Spring Festival, and has returned to Prague several times, most recently in September 2005. The Orchestra toured **Spain** and performed in **Malta** in 2006.

RLPO Live

In 1998 the Orchestra **launched its own recording label**, RLPO Live. The initiative came from the musicians themselves; each recording is made with the in-house recording company, Merseyside Sound Recordings. Many RLPO Live recordings are currently being reissued by **Avie Records**. See www.avierecords.com for more information.

Other Recordings

The RLPO's extensive catalogue includes the complete symphonies of Beethoven (with Sir Charles Mackerras), Nielsen (Douglas Bostock), Vaughan Williams (Vernon Handley) and William Alwyn (David Lloyd-Jones), and music by Britten, Dvorak, Mahler, Rachmaninov, Smetana, Richard Strauss and Suk. Several recordings also feature the **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir**. The Orchestra enjoys working with various recording companies including EMI, Naxos, Nimbus and Universal. Please see www.liverpoolphil.com for the latest releases.

New Trends

The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, committed to the encouragement of today's composers, has commissioned new works from many leading contemporary composers. Among the British composers it has worked with are Graham Fitkin, Django Bates, David Horne (Composer in Association 2000–2002) and Joby Talbot. Formed in 1997, **Ensemble 10/10** is an offshoot of the RLPO focusing on contemporary and chamber music. **Kenneth Hesketh** is working closely with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic's performing groups to write new works for them as the Orchestra's Composer in the House (2007-09).

Education & Participation

The Education and Participation offers young people and adults an opportunity to participate in a wide range of music activities. Musicians from the RLPO work extensively in schools and the community on a range of education projects including the annual schools' concerts, and the Music for Life residency in the Kensington area of Liverpool. The **Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra** and the **Youth, Community and Gospel Choirs** create an excellent opportunity for members of the community to perform in a range of venues including local community development projects. Some 40,000 participants per year benefit from the many education programmes on offer.

History

The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra is **one of the oldest concert-giving organisations in the world**, and the second oldest in Britain. The origins of its concert series date back to the formation of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society, which administers it, in 1840. The Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, as it was called then, acquired the title 'Royal' in 1957. In 1989 the RLPS and Orchestra received an Honorary Fellowship from the Liverpool John Moores University and in 1991 were the first organisation to be granted the freedom of the City of Liverpool. A further honour of Meritorious Service was granted by the City of Liverpool in 1997.

Conductors

The RLPO has a distinguished list of previous Principal Conductors including Max Bruch, Sir Charles Hallé, Sir Henry Wood, Sir Malcolm Sargent, Sir John Pritchard, Sir Charles Groves, Walter Weller, David Atherton, Marek Janowski, Libor Pesek KBE, Petr Altrichter and Gerard Schwarz. Dynamic young Russian **Vasily Petrenko** became Principal Conductor in September 2006; his contract has recently been extended until 2012.