

Beethoven: Symphony no. 9 - Artist Biographies

Philharmonia Orchestra

The Philharmonia Orchestra is a world-class symphony orchestra for the 21st century. Led by its Principal Conductor & Artistic Advisor Esa-Pekka Salonen, the Philharmonia has a pioneering approach to the role of the modern-day symphony orchestra, reaching new audiences and participants through audience development, digital technology and learning and participation programmes.

The Orchestra's home is Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall in the heart of London, where it presents a Season of over 50 performances each year. The Orchestra is committed to presenting the same quality of live music in venues throughout the UK, especially at its residencies: in Bedford, Leicester, Canterbury, Basingstoke, at the Three Choirs Festival and Garsington Opera. Internationally, the Philharmonia is active across Europe, Asia and the USA.

As one of the world's most recorded orchestras, the Philharmonia's international recognition and reputation in part derives from its extraordinary recording legacy, which in the last 10 years has been burnished by digital and technological innovation. Most recently the Philharmonia and Salonen have forged a new path with Virtual Reality. *360 Experience*, produced with 3D audio and video, has been presented at Southbank Centre and other venues internationally, and is sold through the *PlayStationVR* store.

The Philharmonia was founded in 1945. It has been self-governing since 1964 and is owned by its 80 members. Finnish conductor and composer Esa-Pekka Salonen has

been Principal Conductor & Artistic Advisor since 2008. Jakub Hruša and Santtu-Matias Rouvali are Principal Guest Conductors and honorary conductor positions are held by Christoph von Dohnányi and Vladimir Ashkenazy.

The Philharmonia's Principal International Partner is Wuliangye.

philharmonia.co.uk

<p>1ST VIOLIN Stephanie Gonley Fabrizio Falasca Adrián Varela Karin Tilch Victoria Irish Eleanor Wilkinson Soong Choo Cassandra Hamilton Grace Lee Caroline Frenkel Emma Wragg Peter Fisher Ann Criscuolo Gwyneth Barkham</p> <p>FLUTE Ian Mullin June Scott Kate Walter Keith Bragg Jenny Doyne</p> <p>OBOE Gordon Hunt Eugene Feild Alison Alty Alex Hilton</p>	<p>2ND VIOLIN Emily Davis Fiona Cornall Samantha Reagan Gideon Robinson Nuno Carapina Helena Buckie Paula Clifton-Everest Teresa Pople Julian Milone Anna Brigham Susan Hedger Nicola Goldscheider</p> <p>CLARINET Mark van de Wiel Katie Lockhart Charlie Dale-Harris Victor de la Rosa Lorente</p> <p>BASSOON Julian Roberts Shelly Organ Christopher Rawley Luke Whitehead</p>	<p>VIOLA Yukiko Ogura Richard Waters Amanda Verner Cheremie Hamilton-Miller Michael Turner Carol Hultmark Lucia Ortiz Sauco Stephanie Edmundson Claire Newton Graeme McKean</p> <p>HORN Andrew Budden Fabian van de Geest Geremia Iezzi Jonathan Maloney Daniel Curzon</p> <p>TRUMPET Jason Evans Robert Farley Catherine Knight</p> <p>TROMBONE Byron Fulcher Philip White Alexander Kelly</p>	<p>CELLO Karen Stephenson Victoria Simonsen Anne Baker Desmond Neysmith Judith Fleet Christopher Graves Coral Lancaster Anna Beryl</p> <p>BASS Tim Gibbs Christian Geldsetzer Adam Wynter Simon Oliver Andrew Vickers Ben Havinden-Williams Laurence Ungless</p> <p>TIMPANI Scott Bywater</p> <p>PERCUSSION Scott Lumsdaine Peter Fry Cameron Sinclair</p> <p>PIANO Timothy End</p>
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Stefan Bevier - Chorus Master

Stefan Bevier originally studied singing and double bass at the Hochschule der Künste, Berlin, and obtained a scholarship from the Herbert von Karajan Foundation. He was a member of the Orchestra Academy of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra as well as a regular deputy for them under Herbert von Karajan. He studied singing with Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Schuch-Tovini and Aribert Reimann, and conducting with the former Chief Conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic, Sergiu Celibidache. He worked closely with many conductors of international stature, including Claudio Abbado, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Leonard Bernstein, Alexandre Bloch, Karl Böhm, Sir Colin Davis, Christoph von Dohnányi, Charles Dutoit, Edward Gardner, Daniele Gatti, Daniel Harding, Eugen Jochum, Vladimir Jurowski, Herbert von Karajan, Lorin Maazel, Paul McCreech, Riccardo Muti, Andris Nelsons, Gianandrea Noseda, Vasily Petrenko, Sir Simon Rattle, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Leonard Slatkin, Sir Jeffrey Tate and Benjamin Zander.

He was the Chief Conductor of the Festival Orchestra Berlin, the Baroque Orchestra Berlin, and the founder and conductor of the European Vocal Soloists. He was active in giving master classes, singing lessons and conducting courses, and he provided musical instruments to young musicians from his extensive private collection.

He started working with the Philharmonia Chorus in 1999, and was appointed Chorus Master in 2010. He died suddenly in Berlin in January 2018, and this recording was one of his last projects.

Philharmonia Chorus

The Philharmonia Chorus was founded in 1957 by Walter Legge of EMI, to record Beethoven's 9th Symphony for Otto Klemperer. It quickly established itself as one of Europe's leading symphony choruses, and can now reflect on 60 years of distinguished music making.

Legge turned to Wilhelm Pitz, the Chorus Master at the Bayreuth Festival, to create the Chorus, and Legge's wife, Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, played a major role, attending all auditions. Pitz was followed by chorus masters from the same tradition - Walter Hagen-Groll from Deutsche Oper, then Norbert Balatsch from Wiener Staatsoper, Heinz Mende from Stuttgart Opera and Horst Neumann from Leipzig. David Hill was the first Britain, followed by Robert Dean and Edward Caswell. In 2010, the Chorus returned to its German roots with Stefan Bevier.

There have been great occasions. Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* with Guilini became a signature work. Benjamin Britten conducted his *Spring Symphony*, and William Walton twice conducted *Belshazzar's Feast*. There were regular appearances at the Roman Theatre in Orange in the south of France, and the Chorus twice sang at La Scala, Milan. The 100th birthday of the Concertgebouw was marked by Mahler's Eighth Symphony under Haitink. At home, William Walton's 80th birthday was celebrated with *Belshazzar's Feast* at the Royal Festival Hall in the presence of the composer, and the Chorus took part in the Peter Pears Memorial Concert - also the 10th anniversary of Britten's death - performing the *War Requiem* at the Royal Opera House with Simon Rattle. In 2017, the Chorus took part in the opening festival of Hamburg's new concert hall, the Elbphilharmonie with Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*.

Today the Chorus continues to enjoy an international reputation, and over the past few years has appeared regularly in Germany, Spain and France as well as in London.

www.philharmoniachorus.co.uk

SOPRANOS	ALTOS	TENORS	BASSES
Emily Armour	Katherine Adams	Simon Bainbridge	Shaun Aquilina
Bogna Bargiel	Elizabeth Album	Keith Bennett	Stephen Benson
Gill Beach	Florence Awotula	Christopher Beynon	Wesley Biggs
Jennifer Begley	Claire Barnett-Jones	Oliver Brignall	Peter Brooke
Pamela Bennett	Leilani Barratt	Mark Buttanshaw	Sherman Carroll
Imogen Cawrse	Anne-Maria Brennan	Rhys Cook	Geoffrey Chang
Sofia Celenza	Helen Cooper	Jonathan Cooke	Dan D'Souza
Sheila Clarke	Sheena Cormack	Benjie del Rosario	Phillip Dangerfield
Madeline de Berrie	Ursula Davies	Christian Forssander	Neville Filar
Milena Dobrzycka	Caroline Davies	Nils Greenhow	Alexandre Garziglia
Rachel Duckett	Sue Dodd	Edmund Henderson	Richard Gaskell
Rachel Farago	Naomi Dunston	Christopher Hollis	Julian Guidera
Sheila Fitzgerald	Rachel Falaise	James Hutchings	Richard Harding
Farah K. Ghadiali	Milda Fontanetti	Douglas Johnson	Hubert Hill-Reid
Elina Gofa	Abigail Gostick	David Lester	Oliver Hogg
Vicki Hart	Elly Hunter Smith	Simon Marsh	Peter Kirby
Susanna Heard	Sarai Keestra	Andrew Martin	Stuart Lakin
Ann Heavens	Elsbeth Marrow	Jon Meredith	Samuel Lom
Rebecca Henning	Claire Mudge	Wagner Moreira	Adrian Lowdon
Nicola Ihnatowicz	Nelli Orlova	Laurence Panter	Geoffrey Maddock
Lindsey James	Pamela Pearce	David Phillips	Chavdar Mazgalov
Bridget Kerrison	Muriel Scott	Ben Smith	Oskar McCarthy
Jackie Leach	Emilie Taride	Paul Thirer	Timothy Newton
Laura Macpherson	Danny Thomas	Kieran White	James Quilligan
Kirsty McLean	Sophie Yelland	Anthony Yates	Peter Quintrell
Sheila McNaught	Leila Zanette		Kenneth Ryan
Karlene			Victor Sgarbi
Moreno-Hayworth			James Shirras
Dilys Morgan			Christian Valle
Kyoko Murai			David Wright
Rosslyn Panatti			
Alice Pollock			
Tamsin Raitt			
Ayano Sasaki-Crawley			
Helen Semple			

Brenda Smith Johnson Denise Squires Alexandra Stenson Claire Swale Elisabeth Swedlund Florence Taylor Chloe Todd Joanna Vidal Sophie Walby Bethan Williams Alexandria Wreggelsworth			
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Rebecca Evans - Soprano

Rebecca Evans was born in South Wales, and studied at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama.

For the Royal Opera, Covent Garden she has sung Contessa Le nozze di Figaro, Mimi La bohème, Pamina Die Zauberflöte, Zerlina Don Giovanni and Despina Così fan tutte. Roles elsewhere include Ginevra Ariodante, Despina, Ilia Idomeneo and Susanna Le nozze di Figaro at the Bayerische Staatsoper, Munich; Despina at the Deutsche Staatsoper Berlin and Alice Ford Falstaff for the Teatro Real in Madrid. At the English National Opera she has sung the title role in Rodelinda, Governess The Turn of the Screw, Romilda Xerxes and Ginevra. Her many roles for the Welsh National Opera have included the Marschallin Der Rosenkavalier, Angelica Orlando, Liu Turandot, Mimi, Contessa, Pamina and Gretel Hänsel und Gretel. In the USA she has sung Susanna and Zerlina for the Metropolitan Opera, New York; Susanna and Despina in Santa Fe; Pamina and Adèle Die Fledermaus for the Lyric Opera of

Chicago and Zerlina, Anne Trulove The Rake's Progress and Adina L'elisir d'amore for the San Francisco Opera.

Equally busy on the concert platform, she has appeared at the Salzburg, Edinburgh, Tanglewood and Ravinia Festivals and she is a regular guest at the BBC Proms. Particular highlights have include appearances with the Leipzig Gewandhausorchester with Blomstedt, the London Symphony Orchestra with Gardiner, the Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg with Rizzi, the Hallé Orchestra with Elder and the Accademia Santa Cecilia under Pappano.

A Grammy Award winning artist, she has recorded prolifically including Marzelline, Pamina and Gretel with Sir Charles Mackerras, Ilia with David Parry and Laila with Brad Cohen (Chandos); Nanetta with Sir John Eliot Gardiner (Philips); a series of Gilbert and Sullivan recordings with Sir Charles Mackerras and a solo recording of Italian songs (EMI).

Patricia Bardon - Mezzo soprano

Irish mezzo-soprano Patricia Bardon is the youngest ever prize-winner of the Cardiff Singer of the World Competition and is in demand for repertoire ranging from the Baroque through to Rossini and Wagner. Her distinguished career has brought numerous opportunities to collaborate in both opera and concert with a wide range of conductors such as James Levine, Zubin Mehta, Bernard Haitink, Sir Antonio Pappano, Sir Mark Elder, Christophe Rousset, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Alberto Zedda, Fabio Luisi, Harry Bicket, Ivor Bolton, Christoph Eschenbach, William Christie, Pinchas Zuckerman, Ingo Metzmacher, Sir Charles Mackerras, and Rene Jacobs.

Highlights of the 2017/18 season include Ulrica *Un ballo in maschera* at the Gran Teatre del Liceu, Barcelona and for Opera North, a return to Glyndebourne Festival Opera for Cornelia *Giulio Cesare* and Zenobia in a concert tour of *Radamisto* with the Orchester Wiener Akademie. Most recent highlights include her critically acclaimed performance in the title role of *Agrippina* at the Theater an der Wien, Arsace *Partenope* for English National Opera, Principessa *Suor Angelica* for Opera North, *Angel Dream of Gerontius* with Simone Young and the orchestra of English National Opera at the Royal Festival Hall, Mahler Symphony No.2 with the Maggio Musicale Orchestra and Fabio Luisi in Florence, Mahler Symphony No.8 with the LPO and Vladimir Jurowski, and Erda *Das Rheingold* with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Andris Nelsons.

An acclaimed Baroque and bel canto singer, highlights have included the title roles in *Giulio Cesare* at The Liceu Barcelona, *Orlando* for the Opéra National de Paris (CD/Erato), *Rinaldo* for Oper Köln as well as Cornelia *Giulio Cesare* for Bayerische Staatsoper, The Metropolitan Opera, ENO and Glyndebourne Festival Opera (DVD/Opus Arte).

Robert Murray - Tenor

Robert Murray studied at the Royal College of Music and National Opera Studio. He won second prize in the Kathleen Ferrier awards 2003 and was a Jette Parker Young Artist at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

For the Royal Opera, he sang Tamino *Die Zauberflöte*, Borsa *Rigoletto*, Gastone *La Traviata*, Harry *La Fanciulla del West*, Lysander *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Agenore *Il re pastore*, Belfiore *La finta giardiniera*, Jaquino *Fidelio* and Don Ottavio *Don Giovanni*; for ENO, Simpleton *Boris Godunov*, Tamino, Toni Reischmann in Henze's *Elegy for Young Lovers*, Idamante *Idomeneo*, Don Ottavio, Steuerman *Der fliegende Holländer* and Frederic *Pirates of Penzance*. He has also performed for Welsh National Opera, Opera North, Garsington Opera, Hamburg Opera, Norwegian Opera and Glyndebourne on Tour.

He has performed in concert and recital at the Wigmore Hall, the Newbury, Two Moors, Brighton, Aldeburgh and Edinburgh festivals, and with the Simon Bolivar Orchestra (Gustavo Dudamel), Le Concert D'Astrée (Emmanuelle Haïm), City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (Sir Charles Mackerras), Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra (Yannick Nezet-Seguin) Philharmonia Orchestra (Esk-Pekka Salonen) and with Sir John Eliot Gardiner at the BBC Proms.

His many recordings include Malcolm Martineau's Complete Poulenc Songs series for Signum, *Gloriana* (Edward Gardner) for Chandos, and *Elijah* and *Grande Messe des Morts* with the Gabrieli Consort & Players.

Recent highlights include *Dream of Gerontius* with the Seattle Symphony (Gardner), *Written on Skin* with the Mahler Chamber Orchestra (Alan Gilbert), and Bob Boles *Peter Grimes* at the Edinburgh Festival. This season he sings Tom Rakewell at the Wilton's Music Hall with Laurence Cummings, returns to ENO as Flute in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and performs in a staging of the *St John Passion* by Calixto Bieito in Bilbao; in concert he appears with the Boston Philharmonic (Benjamin Zander), Gabrieli Consort (Paul McCreech) and Handel & Haydn Society (Harry Christophers).

Derek Welton - Bass-Baritone

Hailed as a major Wagnerian voice of the future, Australian Derek Welton made his first foray into the repertoire as Donner (Das Rheingold) under Richard Farnes at Opera North. He subsequently appeared as Klingsor at the Beijing Music Festival under Gustav Kuhn, and made his debut as der Heerrufer (Lohengrin) in an all-star cast at Semperoper Dresden conducted by Christian Thielemann. Welton debuted at the 2017 Bayreuther Festspiele as Klingsor under Hartmut Haenchen, shortly after his acclaimed first performances as Wotan (Das Rheingold) at Deutsche Oper Berlin conducted by Donald Runnicles.

Welton is currently a member of the Ensemble of Deutsche Opera Berlin where he has recently debuted a number of roles including Baron Jaroslav Prus (Věc Makropulos), Altair (Die ägyptische Helena), Forester (The Cunning Little Vixen), Saint-Bris (Les Huguenots) and Mr Flint (Billy Budd). Other recent appearances include Harašta (The Cunning Little Vixen) at Opéra de Lille, Voland in Der Meister und Margarita, and Escamillo (Carmen) at Staatsoper Hamburg where he also created the role of Regolo in the world premiere of Beat Furrer's La bianca notte under Simone Young. He returned to both Osterfestspiele Salzburg and Semperoper Dresden as Graf Dominik (Arabella) and made his debut at the 2017 Salzburger Festspiele under Franz Welser-Möst as Herzog von Albany in Aribert Reimann's Lear.

An accomplished concert performer, recent highlights have included The Epic of Gilgamesh with the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra under Manfred Honeck, A Child of Our Time with the Gewandhausorchester under Stefan Asbury, St Matthew Passion with the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra under Pablo Heras-Casado, St John Passion with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment at Theater an der Wien under

Stephen Layton, Glagolitic Mass with the National Orchestra of Spain under Xian Zhang and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra under Lan Shui. Welton has performed Messiah with the Hallé under Christian Curnyn, with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra under Paul Agnew as well as with the Minnesota Orchestra under Christopher Warren-Green.

Current season highlights include new productions of both Meyerbeer's *Le prophète* under Enrique Mazzola and Korngold's *Der Wunder der Heliane* under Marc Albrecht at Deutsche Oper Berlin, he joins the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra for *The Dream of Gerontius* while next season sees his company debut with Lyric Opera of Chicago as *Pandolfe (Cendrillon)* under Francesco Milioto and Sir Andrew Davis.

Welton is a graduate of both the University of Melbourne and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and a former member of the Salzburger Festspiele Young Singers Project.

IN MEMORIAM

Since this recording was completed, we heard of the untimely death of Stefan Bevier, the beloved and profoundly respected Chorus Master of the Philharmonia Chorus. We dedicate this performance to his memory, knowing that Stefan's unswerving commitment to inspiring the chorus to rise to Beethoven's demands is a defining feature of this project.

Credits

Recorded at

Watford Colosseum, London, UK

March 10 - 12, 2017

Recording Produced by

ELAINE MARTONE & DAVID ST. GEORGE

Engineered, Mixed, and Mastered by

ROBERT FRIEDRICH

for Five/Four Productions, Ltd.

Assistant Engineering by

Jonathan Stokes & Neil Hutchinson,

for Classic Sound, Ltd.

Recording Edited by

THOMAS C. MOORE

for Five/Four Productions, Ltd.

Discussion Disc Produced by

DAVID ST. GEORGE

Discussion Disc Engineered by

ANTONIO OLIART ROS

Artistic Consulting by

STEWART YOUNG

Design by

LAURA SHATZ

Executive Production by

JOHN HELYAR