



MUSIC SALES CLASSICAL

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS 2019–2020





CHERYL FRANCES-HOAD

British composer **Cheryl Frances-Hoad** signed an exclusive publishing contract with Chester Music in 2018. Premieres this season include a new Baudelaire setting for contralto Jess Dandy on October 23, and a new work for soprano Carola Darwin and string quartet on October 18. Both are under the auspices of Frances-Hoad's extended residency with the Oxford Lieder Festival, which continues until 2021 and will produce a new commissioned work each year, while also exploring her existing works for voice. The world premiere recording of Frances-Hoad's 2018 Piano Concerto *Between the Skies, the River and the Hills* is released on Rubicon Classics in September, with soloist Ivana Gavrić and Karin Hendrickson conducting the Southbank Sinfonia. In March, a CD of chamber works is released on Champs Hill Records, and includes *The Whole Earth Dances*, performed by The Schubert Ensemble of London, and *My Day in Hell*, performed by the Gildas Quartet. ■

FLORENCE PRICE

Following G Schirmer's 2018 acquisition of the worldwide publishing rights to the orchestral catalogue of **Florence Price**, this season features a wealth of performances of her music across the United States. Highlights include The Cleveland Orchestra and conductor Jahja Ling performing her Symphony No 4 in D minor April 16-19 (with *Remembering Gatsby* by **John Harbison** opening the programme) and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra performing her Symphony No 3 in C minor April 23-28 with Riccardo Muti at the podium. Price was the first African-American woman to have her music performed by a major American orchestra when the Chicago Symphony Orchestra gave the 1933 world premiere of her Symphony No 1 in E minor. The composer's interpolation of many different African-American musical styles into her classical compositions was an important development in the history of American music, and her oeuvre continues to thrill and empower in the 21st century. ■



HELEN GRIME

Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin and its Chief Conductor Robin Ticciati premiere a new orchestral commission by **Helen Grime** April 16-18. At the Barbican on April 17, Leila Josefowicz gives the UK premiere of Grime's 2016 Violin Concerto with the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Dalia Stasevska; this major addition to Grime's oeuvre captures both the ferocity and the tenderness of its solo instrument. Colin Currie continues to astonish audiences this season with Grime's kaleidoscopic Percussion Concerto, which he performs with the Swedish Chamber Orchestra February 6 and Scottish Chamber Orchestra May 7. In America, Giancarlo Guerrero and the Boston Symphony Orchestra perform Grime's *Limina* – a recent co-commission with the Tanglewood Music Center – at Symphony Hall February 27-March 3. The Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival and Wigmore Hall have commissioned Grime to write a second String Quartet, which premieres in Summer 2020. ■

BETSY JOLAS

At 93, **Betsy Jolas** is an unstoppable force. Her season begins in Leipzig, with the world premiere of *Letters from Bachville* September 12-13. Co-commissioned by the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig and the Boston Symphony Orchestra, *Letters* is scored for large orchestra and receives its American premiere at Symphony Hall November 7-12, on the same programme as Symphony No 12 in D minor 'The Year 1917' by **Dmitri Shostakovich**. Both performances are conducted by Andris Nelsons, and the commission marks an ongoing partnership between the two orchestras, who share Nelsons's artistic leadership. Jolas's *Onze Lieder*, a beguiling set of wordless songs for trumpet and orchestra, receives its UK Premiere at the Barbican November 8 with soloist Håkan Hardenberger and Sakari Oramo conducting the BBC Symphony Orchestra. The Arditti Quartet gives the world premiere of Jolas's Quatuor VIII January 14 at the Philharmonie de Paris, who commissioned the piece with support from ProQuartet. ■



OUTI TARKIAINEN

In 2017 Edition Wilhelm Hansen signed Finnish composer **Outi Tarkiainen**. Her latest collaboration is with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, who co-commissioned the orchestral piece *Midnight Sun Variations* with the National Arts Centre Orchestra; *Midnight Sun Variations* received its world premiere at the BBC Proms August 4 2019 under the direction of John Storgårds, who also conducts the piece with the Houston Symphony Orchestra January 17-19, Detroit Symphony Orchestra February 21-23 and St Louis Symphony Orchestra April 3-5. Tarkiainen's *The Lustful Mother*, a meditation on motherhood scored for baritone, piano and string orchestra, receives its world premiere in Kokkola, Finland September 28 with soloist Aarne Pelkonen and Anna-Maria Helsing conducting the Ostrobothnian Chamber Orchestra, who co-commissioned the piece with the Hetta Music Festival and Rauma Festivo. ■

OLIVIER MESSIAEN

The London Symphony Orchestra commences its season with *Éclairs sur l'Au-Delà...*, the awesome, final composition by **Olivier Messiaen**; Sir Simon Rattle leads performances in Lucerne September 9, Berlin September 11 and London September 15. On the genesis of *Éclairs*, Messiaen wrote: 'I imagined myself in front of a curtain, in darkness, apprehensive about what lay beyond: Resurrection, Eternity, the other life.' The piece is scored for an orchestra of 120 musicians and musically culminates Messiaen's lifelong practice of Roman Catholicism and ornithology. Messiaen's singular opera *Saint François d'Assise* receives two new productions in 2020: Staatsoper Hamburg presents three performances of a new staging by Georges Delnon May 15-23, with Messiaen authority Kent Nagano conducting and Johannes Martin Kränzle in the title role. Grand Théâtre de Genève concludes its season in June with a new production by Adel Abdessemed, under the musical direction of Jonathan Nott. ■

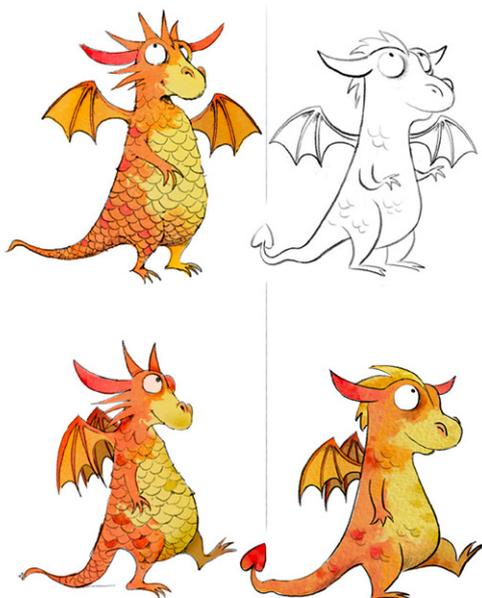


JOBY TALBOT

Ink Dark Moon is a new guitar concerto by **Joby Talbot**, written for soloist Miloš Karadaglić and commissioned by BBC Radio 3. On November 28, Karadaglić gives the Turkish premiere of the concerto with co-commissioner Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Diego Matheuz. The US premiere takes place May 7-9 with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and conductor Mark Wigglesworth; a premiere recording is to be released by Decca later in the season. The closing concert of the BBC Symphony Orchestra's Barbican season is a semi-staged performance of Talbot's opera *Everest*, in its UK Premiere. The stellar cast includes soprano Veronika Haller, tenor Andrew Bidlack, baritone Michael Mayes, baritone Craig Verm and the BBC Singers; Nicole Paiement conducts and Leonard Foglia directs. On June 25 Hamburg Ballet presents the German premiere of *The Winter's Tale*, Talbot's second full-length ballet score for Christopher Wheeldon. ■

PHILIP GLASS

The New York Philharmonic has commissioned a new work from **Philip Glass**, which premieres at their opening concerts September 18-21 under Jaap van Zweden's baton; completing the programme are *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* by **Samuel Barber** featuring soloist Kelli O'Hara, and selections from *Romeo and Juliet* by **Sergei Prokofiev**. English National Opera (ENO) continues its recent association with Glass with a new Netia Jones production of *Orphée*, running November 15-29; Geoffrey Paterson conducts a cast including Nicholas Lester, Sarah Tynan and Nicky Spence. The ENO/LA Opera production of *Akhmaten*, created in collaboration with Improbable and directed by Phelim McDermott, travels to the Metropolitan Opera November 8-December 7; Anthony Roth Costanzo and J'Nai Bridges star, and Karen Kamensek conducts. At the Philharmonie de Paris December 6-8, filmmaker Godfrey Reggio's acclaimed trilogy



of *Koyaanisqatsi*, *Powaqqatsi* and *Naqoyqatsi* is presented as a ciné-concert, with the Philip Glass Ensemble performing Glass's seminal, corresponding film scores. ■

RACHEL PORTMAN

On September 27 the BBC Singers and chief conductor Sofi Jeannin will perform *Earth Song*, commissioned from **Rachel Portman** with an original text by poet Nick Drake. A plea for positive action, partly inspired by the words of climate activist Greta Thunberg, Drake's text calls for us to calmly take stock and action. Opera North's acclaimed education programme has commissioned an adaptation of Portman and librettist Owen Sheers's *The Water Diviner's Tale*, to be performed in February by children from several schools alongside soloists from Opera North. First commissioned by the BBC Proms in 2007, this hour-long music theatre piece urgently calls on today's youth to take action against climate change. *Mimi and the Mountain Dragon* is an original story by renowned author Sir Michael Morpurgo. A screen adaptation by Leopard Films, commissioned by BBC Music and BBC Learning for broadcast on BBC television this season, features an original score by Portman, recorded with the BBC Philharmonic and conductor Scott Dunn. The screenplay is adapted by Owen Sheers and narrated by Morpurgo, and the film features animation by Factory Create with illustrations by Emily Gravett. ■

MISSY MAZZOLI

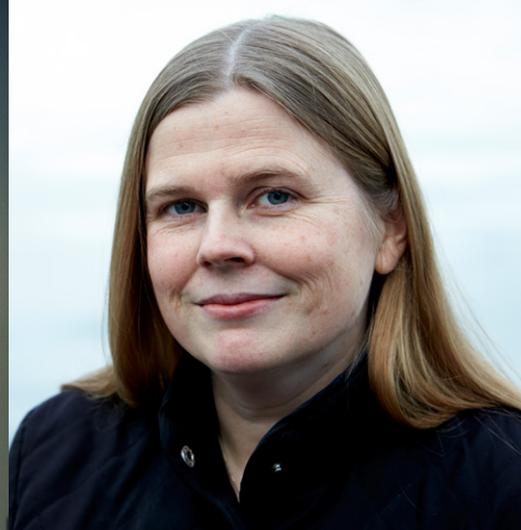
Commissioned by the National Ballet of Canada, *Orpheus Alive* is the first original ballet score from **Missy Mazzoli**. Choreographed by Robert Binet, its scenario re-envisioned the legend of Orpheus and Eurydice by casting Orpheus as a woman; the premiere performances take place November 15-21 in Toronto. *Dark with Excessive Bright*, another new Binet piece set to Mazzoli's eponymous Double



Bass Concerto and other works of hers, premieres in Düsseldorf with Ballett am Rhein March 13-June 19. As the Mead Composer in Residence with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Mazzoli has been commissioned to write a suite from *Orpheus Alive*; the suite is titled *Orpheus Undone* and premieres April 30-May 3 under Riccardo Muti's direction. Tom Morris's new Scottish Opera production of Mazzoli and librettist Royce Vavrek's *Breaking the Waves* debuted at the 2019 Edinburgh Festival and travels to the Brooklyn Academy of Music June 26-30. With Yannick Nézet-Séguin and the MET Orchestra in the pit, these performances foreshadow Mazzoli and Vavrek's *Lincoln in the Bardo*, commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera and premiering in the new decade. ■

ANNA THORVALDSDOTTIR

The string quartet *Enigma* is a new collaboration between **Anna Thorvaldsdottir** and the video artist Sigurdur Gudjonsson. Commissioned by the Spektral Quartet, the world premiere takes place at the Kennedy Center October 29. Throughout the season, Thorvaldsdottir's orchestral favourite *METACOSMOS* is performed by the Gothenburg and Boston Symphony Orchestras, and by the Los Angeles Philharmonic. *AIÖN*, her most ambitious work to date, is to be presented by the Iceland Symphony Orchestra April 1, where Thorvaldsdottir is currently Composer-in-Residence. This fully-staged performance also features members of Iceland Dance Company with choreography by Erna Ómarsdóttir. Thorvaldsdottir's music additionally appears in ballet productions by Staatstheater Mainz (*AERIALITY*) from December 8, and Ballett am Rhein, Duisburg (*METACOSMOS*) from January 10. ■



WINTER JOURNEY

Winter Journey is a new opera by **Ludovico Einaudi** and librettist Colm Tóibín, commissioned by Teatro Massimo di Palermo and Teatro San Carlo di Napoli. The opera takes place in the desolate winter of contemporary Europe, where a loving, nomadic family faces kindness, xenophobia and isolation as they flee their home country in search of a better life. Roberto Andò's production has its world premiere October 4-8, featuring a cast that includes Rokia Traoré, Badara Seck and Jonathan Moore; Carlo Tenan conducts. *Seven Days Walking*, Einaudi's septet of monthly releases for Decca, culminates in September 2019 with *Day Seven* and a complete box set. *Day One* became the fastest-streamed classical album of all time worldwide in its first week of release, exceeding 2 million streams on release day alone. ■

HANS ABRAHAMSEN

The Snow Queen by Hans Christian Andersen is a deep and intense fairy tale, pervaded by both cold hearts and warm generosity. **Hans Abrahamsen** and librettist Henrik Engelbrecht have adapted the story into the opera *Snedronningen*, whose world premiere takes place in Copenhagen at The Royal Opera October 13-December 3. The premiere production is directed by Francisco Negrin, with Sofie Elkjær Jensen in the lead role of Gerda; Michael Boder conducts. The English version of *The Snow Queen* premieres at the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich December 21-January 6 with an additional performance July 31. Noted Abrahamsen collaborator Barbara Hannigan stars as Gerda in this production, which is directed by Andreas Kriegenburg and conducted by Cornelius Meister. On January 29-31, the Berlin Philharmonic and conductor Paavo Järvi deliver the world premiere performances of a Horn Concerto by Abrahamsen, written for the orchestra's principal horn Stefan Dohr; the Horn Concerto is commissioned by the Berlin Philharmonic, NHK Symphony Orchestra,

NTR ZaterdagMatinee, Seattle Symphony Orchestra and Auckland Philharmonia. Dohr performs the concerto with the NHK Feb 15-16, also under Järvi's direction, and with the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra April 18, with Dima Slobodeniouk conducting. ■

GÁLLÁBARTNIT

Soundstreams, the leading presenter of contemporary music in Canada, is to give the world premiere of *Gállábartnit*, the first opera by **Britta Byström**, November 13-17 at Daniels Spectrum in Toronto. In this beautiful story about a woman's pursuit of the unknown, Byström's music is set to Sámi text by Rawdna Carita Eira, whose libretto draws upon both Sámi myths and the everyday lives of nomadic Nordic people. The score employs extended techniques and readymade instruments, but also bears the influence of Swedish hymns, the music of Bob Marley and Per Nørgård's infinity series. *Gállábartnit* is co-produced by Soundstreams and the Sámi National Theatre Bealivváš in Norway, where it will travel at a future date. ■

GHOSTS AT VERSAILLES

The long-awaited French premiere of *The Ghost of Versailles*, **John Corigliano** and William M. Hoffman's groundbreaking opera-within-an-opera, takes place at the Palace of Versailles on December 4-8. Marie Antoinette and Louis XVI, accompanied by Beaumarchais and his beloved characters, return home in this new staging by Jay Lesenger, a co-production of Château de Versailles Spectacles and the Glimmerglass Festival, where it debuted in summer 2019. ■

INNOCENCE

A new grand opera by **Kaija Saariaho** premieres in summer 2020 at the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence in France. Co-commissioned by Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Finnish National Opera and San Francisco Opera, *Innocence* features an original libretto by renowned Finnish writer Sofi Oksanen. Resonating with current concerns of humanity and sung in several

different languages, the opera portrays how individuals, groups of people and society as a whole handle trauma over time. ■

MATTHEW AUCOIN

Commissioned and co-produced by LA Opera and the Metropolitan Opera, *Eurydice* is the new opera by 2018 MacArthur Fellow **Matthew Aucoin**. Set to a libretto by Sarah Ruhl and adapted from her eponymous play, *Eurydice* presents ancient mythology through a contemporary lens in offering the tale of Orpheus and Eurydice from the latter's point of view. Aucoin composed the title role for soprano Danielle de Niese, who stars in the premiere run alongside Rod Gilfry and Joshua Hopkins; the world premiere performances take place at LA Opera February 1-23 with the composer conducting. Aucoin's new composition for the Brentano String Quartet is commissioned by four American venues: The world premiere takes place November 3 at Union College Concert Series, with following performances at Carnegie Hall November 6, Da Camera of Houston December 6 and La Jolla Music Society in 2020. ■

AVNER DORMAN

Die Kinder des Sultans is a new fantasy opera for children by **Avner Dorman** and librettist Ingeborg von Zadow. Based on an original fairytale by von Zadow, the story follows a pair of twins on a fantastical search for their long-lost father. The opera is co-commissioned by Deutsche Oper am Rhein, Oper Bonn and Theater Dortmund, who presents the world premiere performances April 5-29; Anna Drescher directs. On the concert stage, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and principal percussionist Cynthia Yeh give the American premiere of Dorman's new percussion concerto *Eternal Rhythm* October 3-5, with James Gaffigan conducting and Symphony No 8 in C minor by **Dmitri Shostakovich** completing the programme. In Canada, Pinchas Zukerman and Amanda Forsyth give the country premiere of Dorman's Double Concerto – a 70th birthday present for Zukerman – with the National Arts Centre Orchestra on November 27. ■



BRYCE DESSNER

On March 23, the Sydney Dance Company presents a new work by choreographer Rafael Bonacella, featuring a commissioned score for the Australian String Quartet by **Bryce Dessner**. The work will premiere at Sydney's Roslyn Packer Theatre followed by a tour through Australia, and marks the second collaboration between Bonacella and Dessner. The theatrical work *Triptych (Eyes of One on Another)*, with music by Dessner and inspired by the work of photographer Robert Mapplethorpe, continues its multi-year tour with performances at Stanford Live October 3-4, Celebrity Series of Boston October 30-November 3 and Cincinnati Opera in April. Directed by Kaneza Schaal and featuring text by Korde Arrington Tuttle, Essex Hemphill and Patti Smith, *Triptych's* compelling score is performed by vocal ensemble Roomful of Teeth, Alicia Hall Moran and Isaiah Robinson, and conducted by Brad Wells. Dessner's Concerto for Two Pianos, written for Katia and Marielle Labèque and recently released on Deutsche Grammophon alongside recordings of his *El Chan* and *Haven*, receives its American premiere September 20-21 with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and conductor Louis Langrée. ■

PETER GREGSON

On June 18 at Theaterhaus Stuttgart, Gauthier Dance/Dance Company Theaterhaus Stuttgart premieres four new adaptations of the classic ballet *Swan Lake* by four forward-thinking choreographers. Among them is Cayetano Soto, whose version is choreographed to a new **Peter Gregson** score for string ensemble and electronics. The production *Swan Lakes* runs through the summer at Theaterhaus Stuttgart, and will tour into the following season. Gregson has composed and recorded an original score to the new Roger Michell film *Blackbird*, starring Kate Winslet, Sam Neill, Rainn Wilson and Susan Sarandon. The soundtrack also includes selections from Gregson's *Bach Recomposed*, and is to be released later in 2019. ■



DAVID LANG

The Day is a new, evening-length work by cellist Maya Beiser, former New York City Ballet principal dancer Wendy Whelan, and choreographer Lucinda Childs, with music by **David Lang**. This sensory exploration of two journeys – life, and the eternal voyage of the soul that follows it – boldly weaves together universal themes through the shared language of music and dance. Following its world premiere at Jacob's Pillow in July 2019, *The Day* tours to many venues around the world, including Carolina Performing Arts October 15, the Center for the Art of Performance at UCLA October 18-19, the Joyce Theater October 22-27, the Kennedy Center December 6-7, Théâtre de la Ville January 24-February 6, San Francisco Performances February 27-28 and the ICA Boston April 23-25. Lang's opera *prisoner of the state* celebrates Beethoven's 250th with commissioned country premieres at the Barbican January 20, Bochum Symphony Orchestra May 23, Bruges Concertgebouw May 27, De Doelen May 30 and l'Auditori de Barcelona July 3. Additional performances take place at Opera Malmö June 5 and Tivoli Gardens, Copenhagen June 6. ■

KHACHATURIAN & PROKOFIEV

In his seventeenth production for American Ballet Theatre (ABT), Artist in Residence Alexei Ratmansky creates a new production set to *Gayaneh*, a 1939 ballet score by **Aram Khachaturian**. The story is based on the ancient romance novel *Callirhoe* by Chariton, and this production, featuring musical arrangements by Philip Feeney and sets and costumes by Jean-Marc Puissant, premieres March 5-8 at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa, California, before travelling to the Metropolitan Opera for ABT's annual New York season. For the entirety of the Bolshoi Ballet's June 2-7 run at the Kennedy Center, the storied company takes on Ratmansky's vital 2011 choreography to *Romeo and Juliet*, set to the cinematic score by **Sergei Prokofiev**. ■



ENVIRONMENTAL PREMIERES

Last Year is a new cello symphony commissioned by the American Composers Orchestra and the New Century, Manitoba, and River Oaks Chamber Orchestras from composer **Mark Adamo**. Inspired by Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, Adamo uses the terrors and hopes surrounding radical climate change to drive his timely rendering of this iconic trope. *Last Year* features soloist Jeffrey Zeigler and receives its world premiere with the American Composers Orchestra at Carnegie Hall April 2; this programme also features the New York Premiere of *Become River* by **John Luther Adams**. *Become River* receives its New Zealand premiere with Hamish McKeich and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra November 30, and Adams' 2018 *In the Name of the Earth* receives its UK premiere September 8 at the BBC Proms, with 600 singers positioned around the Royal Albert Hall. ■

BEETHOVEN 2020

Spire is a new score by **Nathaniel Stookey**, commissioned by the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra to pair with Beethoven's First Symphony, premiering January 10-11 with Krzysztof Urbanski conducting. The Philadelphia Orchestra has commissioned **Gabriela Lena Frank** and composers from her Creative Academy of Music to compose a series of new works for the Orchestra's BeethovenNOW initiative, elevating the context in which Beethoven's legacy is understood today; Yannick Nézet-Séguin leads the world premiere of Frank's contribution, which is co-commissioned by the Uppsala Chamber Orchestra, April 2-5. On August 8, 2020, **Tan Dun** leads the National Youth Orchestra of Germany and the World Youth Choir in the world premiere of his Choral Concerto 'Nine', a prelude to Beethoven's Choral Symphony commissioned by BTHVN2020, the Royal Philharmonic Society and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. ■



SARAH KIRKLAND SNIDER

The New York Philharmonic has commissioned **Sarah Kirkland Snider** to compose a new orchestral work that celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment. Premiering under Jaap van Zweden during the orchestra's season finale weekend June 11-13, the programme also includes *Harmonium* by **John Adams** and the Concerto in C minor for Piano, Trumpet and String Orchestra by **Dmitri Shostakovich**, with soloists Yuja Wang and Christopher Martin. Snider's *Hiraeth* opens the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra's season October 11-13, with Maestra Xian Zhang conducting and an accompanying film by Mark DeChiazza. As Distinguished Guest Composer at the 2020 Winnipeg New Music Festival, the large ensemble arrangement of her breakthrough song cycle *Penelope* receives its Canadian premiere January 27, with soloist Shara Nova and Daniel Raiskin conducting. In Spring 2020, Snider's *Mass for the Endangered* is to be released via the newly-minted partnership between New Amsterdam and Nonesuch Records; the recording features acclaimed British vocal group Gallicantus under the musical direction of Gabriel Crouch. ■

SCHIRMER THEATRICAL

On September 27 the Rochester Philharmonic premieres *Prohibition*, a time-travelling, immersive symphonic experience through the dark cabarets and speakeasies of 1920s New York, Paris, Berlin, and London. The show features the music of Josephine Baker, Marlene Dietrich, Rudy Vallée, Edith Piaf, Raymond Scott, Kurt Weill, Al Bowlly and others, with a stunning visual production design that draws from European and American film and image archives. Premieres of *Heartland: The Women of Country Music*, and *Soul Men*, a showcase of legendary artists including Marvin Gaye, James Brown and The Temptations, are to be announced in 2020. ■



LA PHIL AT 100

Conductor Laureate **Esa-Pekka Salonen** celebrates the LA Phil's centennial on October 26, leading the commissioned world premiere of his *Castor* alongside its 2018 companion piece *Pollux*; also on the programme is the stunning *Luonnotar* by **Jean Sibelius**, featuring soprano Golda Schultz. January 18-19 marks the world premiere of *Flower Power* by **Julia Wolfe**, another LA Phil commission that explores the psychedelic '60s in the form of a concerto for the Bang on a Can All-Stars; John Adams conducts. *Vista* is a new orchestral work by **Kaija Saariaho** commissioned by Susanna Mälkki for the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, with support from the LA Phil, Oslo Philharmonic and Berlin Philharmonic; Mälkki leads the LA Phil in its American premiere April 30-May 3. Music Director Gustavo Dudamel capitalises on the leap year February 27-29 with a focus on the symphonies of **Charles Ives**, variably pairing his innocent Third and omnipotent Fourth with Dvořák's 'New World Symphony' across three concerts. Other highlights include the American premiere of *Mignon – Papillons* by **Bent Sørensen** February 4 with pianist Víkingur Ólafsson and conductor Daníel Bjarnason, and Dudamel commencing the centenary concerts October 24 with the Symphony No 4 by **Witold Lutoslawski**, one of the most significant LA Phil commissions of the Salonen era. The world premiere of Saariaho's *Vista* takes place at the Helsinki Music Center March 30, also under Mälkki's direction, and John Storgårds conducts its second performance at Oslo Concert Hall April 23. Jessica Cottis conducts the European premiere of Wolfe's *Flower Power* with the Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra March 5, and Salonen brings *Castor* and *Pollux* to the New York Philharmonic November 6-12. ■



NICO MUHLY

A new Violin Concerto by **Nico Muhly** has been co-commissioned for Pekka Kuusisto by the Australian Chamber Orchestra and Melbourne Recital Hall with the Saint Paul, Norwegian, Mahler, and Scottish Chamber Orchestras. The world premiere takes place in Melbourne December 4, with country premieres in Saint Paul January 10-12, Oslo March 10 and in Scotland April 22-24. Muhly's Concerto for Two Pianos, composed for Katia and Marielle Labèque, receives its world premiere with the New York Philharmonic under Jaap van Zweden June 4-9, and is co-commissioned by the Orchestre de Paris and Dusseldorf Symphony Orchestra. The UK premiere of Muhly's Organ Concerto *Register* takes place at London's Southbank Centre on April 29, with James McVinnie as soloist and Yan Pascal Tortelier conducting the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Muhly and choreographer Justin Peck are collaborating on a new ballet scored for nine players, which premieres February 26-March 1 at New York City Ballet; its European Premiere takes place subsequently at Sadler's Wells in London March 18-21. ■

NEW WIND CONCERTOS

Ophelia's Tears, a concerto by **Nicolas Bacri** the Chicago Symphony Orchestra commissioned for their bass clarinetist J. Lawrie Bloom, receives its world premiere February 21-23 with Riccardo Muti conducting. The 2018 Oboe Concerto by **Judith Weir** is a study of both the lyrical qualities and percussive capabilities of the composer's own instrument. Its European premiere takes place on September 27 in Cardiff, performed by its dedicatee Celia Craig and BBC National Orchestra of Wales, while its London premiere takes place December 13 at the Barbican, with soloist Nicholas Daniel and the BBC Symphony Orchestra. ■



MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

The BBC Philharmonic marks the 75th birthday of **Edward Gregson** in 2020, with the February 8 premiere of his new Oboe Concerto for Jennifer Galloway, taking place at the Leeds Town Hall and to be broadcast on BBC Radio 3. The release of a new Chandos symphonic brass recording conducted by Martyn Brabbins is one of many new albums celebrating Gregson this season. The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra has commissioned a Trumpet Concerto from **Thea Musgrave** in honor of her 90th birthday. Composed for soloist Alison Balsom and debuted at the Cheltenham Music Festival in July 2019, the Concerto travels to Birmingham October 2 and the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg October 8, with Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla conducting. The LA Phil has co-commissioned the Concerto and gives its American premiere in summer 2020 at the Hollywood Bowl. ■

SCANDINAVIAN PREMIERES

Symphony No 2 by 2018 Grawemeyer laureate **Bent Sørensen** receives its world premiere February 27-28 in Copenhagen, with Jukka-Pekka Saraste conducting the Danish National Symphony Orchestra, who co-commissioned the Symphony with the Oslo Philharmonic and the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra. *Voyages Extraordinaires* by **Britta Byström** is also commissioned by the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, who premieres the piece on March 25. Named after Jules Verne's sequence of novels about incredible and unbelievable journeys, *Voyages Extraordinaires* bring the listeners on a fantastic musical journey, full of new sound worlds. The Oslo Philharmonic celebrates its 100th anniversary this season, and to mark the occasion they have commissioned a new fanfare by **Rolf Wallin**: *Soundspeed*. The orchestra performs *Soundspeed* throughout its centenary season, following its world premiere on August 15 2019 at the Royal Castle in Oslo. ■



SPANISH PREMIERES

The Orchestra of Valencia has commissioned two new works from **Ramón Paus**: the Viola Concerto *De Profundis* receives its world premiere September 19 with soloist Yuval Gotlibovich, and renowned Spanish pianist Eduardo Fernández premieres Paus's second Piano Concerto later this season; both premieres are conducted by Ramón Tebar. The Community of Madrid Orchestra has commissioned a new work for chorus and orchestra from Paus: *Cantata sobre fondo Alborán*, which premieres June 20 at the Auditorio de Madrid under the direction of Víctor Pablo Pérez. The Spanish premiere of...*der graue Wald sich unter ihm schüttelte* by **Benet Casablancas** takes place on March 9 in the Auditorium of the Reina Sofía Museum; Santiago Serrate conducts the Modus Ensemble with horn soloist José Chanzá. Following its acclaimed premiere in 2018, a DVD of Casablancas's opera *L'Enigma di Lea* is to be released in the spring. ■

SUGAR PLUM

Sugar Plum, a 15-minute romp for narrator and orchestra by **Lior Rosner**, will be released on Sony Masterworks this season with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and conductor Scott Dunn. The music is a set of variations based on the 'Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy' from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*. Written by Rosner and his co-storywriter Jim Lorick, Jeremy Irons will narrate the first of Plum's post-*Nutcracker* adventures, providing an uplifting taste of Christmas. ■

BUDDHA PASSION

Buddha Passion is the critically acclaimed six-act oratorio for multiple choruses, Chinese instruments, dancer, vocal soloists, and large orchestra by composer **Tan Dun**. The composer conducts performances with the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia February 6-8, the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra April 9 and the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France April 23, with additional performances to be announced. ■



MICHAEL GORDON

For much of his childhood, **Michael Gordon** lived in the Nicaraguan jungle. Half a century later, childhood memories of local flora and fauna, alongside remembered musings on the Sandinistas, Mayans, Aztecs and more manifest in *The Traveler's Guide to Nicaragua*. This evening-length work for The Crossing chorus and cellist Maya Beiser is co-commissioned by Carnegie Hall, where the New York premiere takes place March 25. ■

TARIK O'REGAN

Continuing his association as Composer-in-Residence and Artistic Advisor to the Pacific Chorale in Orange County, California, **Tarik O'Regan** is writing a new work for the chorus to premiere in April 2020. Pacific Chorale also releases a portrait album of the composer's music this season, to include the first commission of his residency, *Facing West*, a setting of Walt Whitman for choir and cello. A recording of O'Regan's recent opera *The Phoenix*, which premiered at Houston Grand Opera in 2019, is released on the Pentatone label in autumn. ■

JUDITH WEIR

A major new choral work by **Judith Weir**, *Blue hills beyond blue hills*, premieres at the Barbican on October 18. Commissioned by the BBC, the piece is a setting of text by the Scottish poet Alan Spence, inspired by the unfolding of a year in nature. The premiere features the BBC Singers – with whom Weir is Associate Composer – and the Ligeti String Quartet; Sofi Jeannin conducts. *On the Palmy Beach*, a song cycle commissioned by King's Place, London, for soprano Ruby Hughes, cellist Natalie Clein and pianist Julius Drake, premieres as part of the venue's 'Venus Unwrapped' series October 24. Soprano Ailish Tynan and the Hebrides Ensemble release a new recording of Weir's music on the Delphian label later this season. ■

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