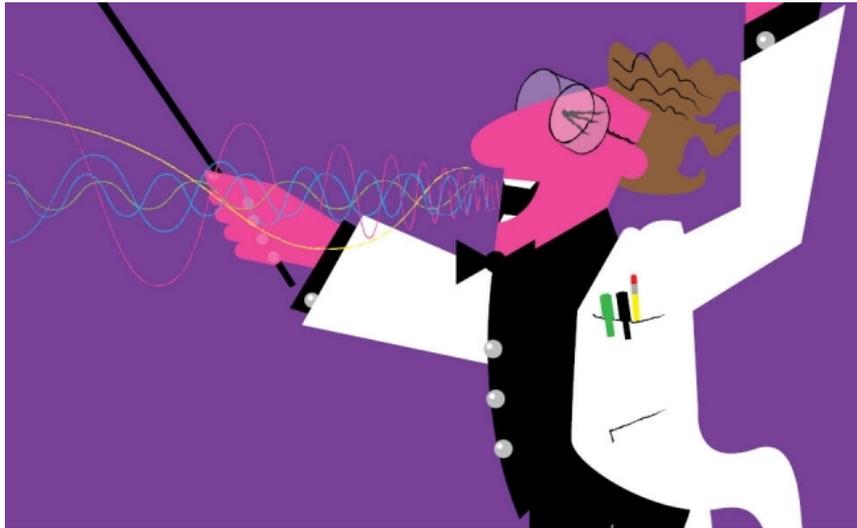


# London **Philharmonic** Orchestra



Music meets science with the London Philharmonic Orchestra's FUNharmonics family concert, presented by comedian Helen Arney and guest presenter Wendy Sadler

## **Conducting Science – Voice Box**

Saturday 30 March 2019

12pm, Royal Festival Hall

**Helen Arney** presenter | **Wendy Sadler** guest presenter | **Greg Tassell** tenor  
**London Philharmonic Orchestra** | **Michael Seal** conductor

*“My family and I love every minute of it. The whole experience is one that no child should miss out on (or grown-up either)”* **LPO FUNharmonics audience member**

The London Philharmonic Orchestra joins forces with expert Science presenter and comedian Helen Arney for its next FUNharmonics concert on 30 March, based on the theme of music and science. The LPO, conducted by Michael Seal, is joined by tenor Greg Tassell to explore the human voice, looking into how we make sounds and what happens when we sing. With a collection of experiments ranging from big balloons and musical tubes to duck quacks and decibel meters, the presenters will demonstrate how your voice works live on stage, culminating in a scientific singalong led by the orchestra and Greg Tassell. The repertoire will include the prelude to Bizet's *Carmen*, *Flight of the Bumble Bee* by Rimsky-Korsakov, *Do-Re-Mi* from the *Sound of Music* and more.

Helen Arney, self-professed “presenter, comedian and geek songstress” joins the LPO to present this FUNharmonics concert. Arney is best known for explaining physics while riding a rollercoaster for BBC Coast, singing the periodic table on Channel 4 News and electrifying Sandi Toksvig on QI. In addition to this, Arney is also a classically trained musician, holding grade 8 in piano and oboe. Helen Arney will be joined by guest presenter Wendy Sadler, founding Director of *science made simple* and lecturer in Science Communication and Engagement at Cardiff University. Wendy studied Physics

and Music for her first degree and is passionate about combining science and the arts.

Helen Arney explains *“Not content with letting people just watch and learn, the whole orchestra – and audience – will be used as a musical laboratory, so that everybody inside the Royal Festival Hall can try out the science for themselves. We’ve all got a voice, but do you know how it actually works? Through interactive experiments, simple science explanations and cracking operatic tunes, everyone in the audience from 6 to 106 will learn more about the instrument that’s already inside them - and get a chance to sing along! There’s a wealth of science to be discovered in the human voice and we’re here to help you find it.”*

The LPO – widely regarded as one of the world’s finest orchestras working on the international stage – has brought the wonder of orchestral music to children for many years through its FUNharmonics concerts. These much-loved, hour long concerts offer an engaging and fun introduction to classical music through the power of a world-class symphony orchestra on stage.

In addition to the concert, free LPO FUNharmonic activities are held between 10am and 11:45am in the Royal Festival Hall foyer, where families can get involved with hands-on science activities, complete activity sheets to learn more about the LPO and its music, and even have a go at an orchestral instrument of their choice under expert instruction (NB: available to concert ticket holders only).

The LPO presents three musical family days at Royal Festival Hall each season, all of which are designed with children in mind and involve a presenter, audience participation and fun activities.

For more information and to book tickets, please visit the [LPO’s website](#).

**-ENDS-**

**For more information please contact Rebecca Johns at Premier**

**[Rebecca.johns@premiercomms.com](mailto:Rebecca.johns@premiercomms.com)**

**020 7292 7336**

#### **NOTES TO EDITOR**

**Saturday 30 March 2019**

**Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre,**

**Free FUNharmonics activities 10am-11:45am (details below)**

**Concert 12pm-1pm**

**Tickets: £6 - £20**

**Helen Arney** presenter

**Michael Seal** conductor

**Greg Tassell** tenor

**London Philharmonic Orchestra**

<https://www.lpo.org.uk/whats-on-and-tickets/5129-conducting-science-voice-box.html>

**Free FUNharmonics activities 10.00am–11:45am**

– Have a go at an orchestral instrument of your choice under expert instruction (Ages 6+, for concert ticket holders only)

- Get involved with some hands-on science activities
- Grab an activity sheet and find out more about the LPO and its music

FUNharmonics foyer activities are generously supported by Stentor Music and Bell Music.

### **London Philharmonic Orchestra**

One of the finest orchestras on the international stage, the London Philharmonic Orchestra was founded in 1932 by Sir Thomas Beecham. Since then, its Principal Conductors have included Sir Adrian Boult, Bernard Haitink, Sir Georg Solti, Klaus Tennstedt and Kurt Masur. In 2007 Vladimir Jurowski became the Orchestra's current Principal Conductor.

The London Philharmonic Orchestra has been performing at Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall since it opened in 1951, becoming Resident Orchestra in 1992. It also has residencies in Brighton and Eastbourne, and performs regularly around the UK, including over 50 years as resident orchestra at Glyndebourne Festival Opera.

The Orchestra broadcasts regularly on television and radio and has recorded soundtracks for numerous films including *The Lord of the Rings*. In 2005 it began releasing live, studio and archive recordings on its own CD label.

It has presented family concerts since the 1930s.

[www.lpo.org.uk](http://www.lpo.org.uk)

### **Helen Arney**

Science presenter, geek songstress and 'Voice of an Angle' Helen Arney has appeared on TV, Radio and in theatres across the world with her unique mix of stand-up, songs and science. You might have seen her explaining physics while riding a rollercoaster for BBC2 Coast, electrifying Sandi Toksvig on QI, singing the periodic table on Channel 4, smashing a wine glass with the power of her voice live on Blue Peter, hosting 'Outrageous Acts Of Science' on Discovery Channel, or touring with science comedy phenomenon Festival of the Spoken Nerd.

### **Wendy Sadler MBE**

Wendy is the founding Director of *science made simple* and a lecturer in Science Communication and Engagement at Cardiff University. Wendy is passionate about inspiring the next generation of scientists, engineers and communicators, and making STEM subjects accessible to more diverse audiences. Her first degree was in Physics and Music and she has always had an interest in combining science and the arts. She led the idea of an innovative non-verbal theatre show called The Experimentrics which has toured to over 15 countries and been a sell-out show at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

### **Greg Tassell**

Greg Tassell was brought up on a hop farm in Kent and was a chorister at Durham Cathedral. He read music at the University of Exeter where he was also a choral scholar at Exeter Cathedral. He went on to study as a postgraduate at the Royal Academy of Music under Ryland Davies and attended master classes with the late Robert Tear among others. Whilst at RAM he was a prize winner in the 2008 London Handel Competition and was runner-up at the inaugural John Kerr Award for Early English Song of which he is now a trustee. He was also a young artist for Retrospect Ensemble under Matthew Halls with whom he appeared at the Wigmore Hall and toured Israel. Much in demand for oratorio and recitals on the concert platform, Greg is also a founder member of professional

chamber choir Sonoro and vocal quartet Twilight Ensemble.

**Michael Seal**

Michael Seal holds the position of Associate Conductor of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO), a unique appointment which recognises his work as Assistant Conductor, and the special relationship he has built with the orchestra. His in-depth knowledge of orchestras from an insider's position (he was a violinist with the CBSO early in his career) gives him a unique perspective and he quickly builds rapport and trust with the orchestras he works with. His energy and enthusiasm are infectious and he has built a reputation for outstanding results, delivered with great charm and often on a typically British tight rehearsal schedule.