

London **Philharmonic** Orchestra

THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES TWO COMPLETE WAGNER *RING* CYCLES CONDUCTED BY VLADIMIR JUROWSKI

Star-studded concert stagings of all four *Ring* operas to take place at Royal Festival Hall, London, with the complete cycle performed twice over a fortnight

25 – 31 January and 5 – 10 February 2021

Performances complete epic Wagner project which began with *Das Rheingold* in 2018, *Die Walküre* in 2019 and continues with *Siegfried* in 2020 with the full cycle – including *Götterdämmerung* - in 2021



The London Philharmonic Orchestra and Vladimir Jurowski performing *Die Walküre* 2019 © Simon Jay Price

“Jurowski’s Wagner is fit for the gods...Jurowski and the London Philharmonic on fine form had as much to say as many a fully-staged production.” The Financial Times

In one of its boldest undertakings yet, the London Philharmonic Orchestra today [28 October 2019] announces that it will present all four operas of Wagner’s *Der Ring des Nibelungen* over a week at Southbank Centre’s Royal Festival Hall, the Orchestra’s London home. The full cycle will be performed twice from 25-31 January 2021 and 5-10 February 2021.

The star-studded concert stagings of Wagner’s complete cycle will be conducted by Vladimir Jurowski as a landmark of his final season as Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, before he becomes its Conductor Emeritus and assumes his new role as Music Director at the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich in spring 2021.

The casts for the two *Ring* cycles include many established Wagner specialists: Patricia Bardon, Ruxandra Donose, Christian Elsner, Burkhard Fritz, Torsten Kerl, Lise Lindstrom, Robert Hayward, Derek Welton, Allan Clayton, Kai Rüttel, Claire Barnett-Jones and Brindley Sherratt. A number of soloists will be making important role debuts, such as Matthew Rose as Wotan in *Die Walküre* and Brindley Sherratt as Hagen in *Götterdämmerung*.

Vladimir Jurowski says:

“Conducting the Ring is possibly the single most challenging undertaking for any conductor, but I cannot imagine a better partner for this than the London Philharmonic Orchestra. I hope that we have already shown that experiencing these operas in imaginative concert stagings is a hugely powerful and fulfilling way to enjoy Wagner’s magnificent scores and I hope that music lovers from around the world will join us for this momentous event.”

Timothy Walker, Chief Executive and Artistic Director of LPO says:

“Vladimir’s creative energy and artistic rigour with the LPO has been nothing less than transformational. Two complete cycles of Wagner’s massive Ring cycle in as many weeks, considered by many to be the supreme test for a conductor, players and singers seems a fitting tribute to Vladimir in his last season as Principal Conductor, and a magnificent way for the Orchestra to acknowledge our deepest gratitude to him.”

Gillian Moore CBE, Director of Music, Southbank Centre says:

“A complete Ring cycle is a momentous occasion, not least when it’s presented by forces as magnificent as our Resident Orchestra the London Philharmonic and Vladimir Jurowski. Their exemplary interpretations of the first two operas in the cycle, Das Rheingold and Die Walküre, promise that the full cycle here at Southbank Centre will be an unmissable event. What better way to celebrate Jurowski’s extraordinary tenure with the LPO than with this ambitious project.”

Siegfried, the third part of the *Ring*, will be performed in February 2020 and *Götterdämmerung* follows in early 2021 as the culmination of two complete four-evening cycles, scheduled over the space of two weeks. The full cycles conclude the ambitious project launched in 2018 to mark Jurowski’s 10th anniversary as the LPO’s Principal Conductor. Alongside the performances, Southbank Centre will also host a programme of events further exploring Wagner’s *Ring* cycle, with full details to be announced.

Speaking of the *Ring*, Jurowski has said, *“The main point of interest is the music itself.”* It is, of course, a work that offers a feast of interpretative possibilities to directors and dramaturgs. In 1976, Patrice Chéreau’s Bayreuth Centenary production, which set the action in an industrialised society, opened a new era in the staging of opera. Since then, the *Ring* has been reinvented so many times – and sometimes so controversially – that, as the *Financial Times* wrote, *“A concert performance seems to be the only way of putting the spotlight back on the orchestra and singers.”*

Unusually for one of the world’s leading symphony orchestras, the LPO also has an extensive history in the opera pit, having been the resident orchestra at Glyndebourne Festival Opera since 1964. Jurowski was Glyndebourne’s Music Director from 2001-13 and has conducted at such houses as the Metropolitan Opera, New York; the Opéra National de Paris; the Teatro alla Scala, Milan; the Dresden Semperoper and the Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow. Among the operas that Jurowski and the LPO have performed at Royal Festival Hall are Britten’s *Peter Grimes*, Beethoven’s *Fidelio*, Enescu’s *Oedipe*, Stravinsky’s *The Rake’s Progress*, Rachmaninoff’s *The Miserly Knight*, Zemlinsky’s *A Florentine Tragedy*, Shostakovich’s *The Gamblers* and Korngold’s *Das Wunder der Heliane*.

Tickets go on sale to Supporters on Thursday 31 October. For more information on becoming a Friend, please visit the LPO [website](#). General booking will be available from Monday 4 November.

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Images of Jurowski conducting the LPO in Die Wälkure are available [here](#)

Notes to Editors

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

One of the finest orchestras on the international stage, the London Philharmonic Orchestra balances a long and distinguished history with its reputation as one of the UK's most forward-looking ensembles. As well as its concert performances, the Orchestra also records film soundtracks, releases CDs and downloads on its own label, and reaches thousands of people every year through activities for families, schools and local communities.

The London Philharmonic Orchestra was founded by Sir Thomas Beecham in 1932, and has since been headed by many great conductors including Sir Adrian Boult, Bernard Haitink, Sir Georg Solti, Klaus Tennstedt and Kurt Masur. In 2017 Vladimir Jurowski celebrated his tenth anniversary as the Orchestra's Principal Conductor. Edward Gardner is currently Principal Conductor Designate, and will take up the position when Jurowski's tenure concludes in September 2021.

The London Philharmonic Orchestra has performed at Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall since it opened in 1951, becoming Resident Orchestra in 1992. As well as its London home, it also has flourishing residencies in Brighton, Eastbourne and Saffron Walden, and each summer plays for Glyndebourne Festival Opera, where it has been Resident Symphony Orchestra for over 50 years. The Orchestra also tours internationally, performing to sell-out audiences worldwide.

The London Philharmonic Orchestra broadcasts regularly on television and radio. It also works with the Hollywood and UK film industries, recording soundtracks for blockbusters including the Oscar-winning score for *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. In 2005 it established its own record label, which now numbers over 100 releases all available on CD and to stream or download.

In summer 2012 the London Philharmonic Orchestra performed as part of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Pageant on the River Thames, and was also chosen to record all the world's national anthems for the London 2012 Olympics. In 2013 it was the winner of the RPS Music Award for Ensemble.

The London Philharmonic Orchestra's dynamic Education & Community programme provides first musical experiences to children and families; offers creative projects and professional development opportunities for schools and teachers; inspires talented teenage instrumentalists to progress their skills; and develops the next generation of professional musicians.

The Orchestra's work at the forefront of digital technology has enabled it to reach millions of people worldwide: all its recordings are available to download and stream and, as well as a YouTube channel and podcast series, the Orchestra has a lively presence on social media.

www.lpo.org.uk

facebook.com/londonphilharmonicorchestra

twitter.com/LPOrchestra

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre and one of the UK's top five visitor attractions, occupying a 17-acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. We exist to present great cultural experiences that bring people together and we achieve this by providing the space for artists to create and present their best work and by

creating a place where as many people as possible can come together to experience bold, unusual and eye-opening work. We want to take people out of the everyday, every day.

The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is made up of the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as being home to the National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. It is also home to four Resident Orchestras (London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, London Sinfonietta and Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment) and four Associate Orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra and National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain).

www.southbankcentre.co.uk