

London **Philharmonic** Orchestra

Why Beethoven Threw the Stew **Half term family concert with the London Philharmonic Orchestra**

Royal Festival Hall, Sunday 16 February, 12pm



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***Why was he so grumpy? Why did he rarely have a bath?
And most importantly, why should you never serve him stew?***

As the world celebrates Ludwig van Beethoven's 250th birthday in 2020, the London Philharmonic Orchestra takes to Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall stage for a live FUNharmonics family concert during half term on Sunday 16 February introducing families to one of the most famous – and brilliant – composers in the history of music.

Inspired by the book of the same name by cellist Steven Isserlis, this concert explores some of the best moments from some of Beethoven's greatest orchestral music, as well as revealing the real man behind the music. The audience will get the chance to guess Beethoven's mood from the music, conduct the Orchestra just like he did, and join in to sing with the LPO, all while finding out more about his life and what he was like. The concert is presented by Rachel Leach and conducted by Ben Glassberg and will also include a new work by Rachel Leach performed alongside excerpts of Beethoven's most popular orchestral works.

In addition to the concert, the LPO also present free hands-on activities around Southbank Centre between 10am and 12pm. Children aged 6+ with a concert ticket can 'have a go' at different orchestral instruments under expert instruction, take part in a singing workshop, or get creative with drop-in arts and crafts activities on the Clore Ballroom. FUNharmonics foyer activities are generously supported by Stentor Music Co. Ltd, Jupiter and Bell Music.

The London Philharmonic Orchestra – 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 decades through its FUNharmonics concerts. These much-loved, hour long concerts offer an engaging and fun introduction to classical music for children aged 6 and over.

London Philharmonic Orchestra

Future FUNharmonics events include 'Before the Firebird...' with Igor Stravinsky's magical ballet score *The Firebird* [Sunday 3 May 2020].

For further information please contact Jennifer Long at Premier
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Editor's Notes

Sunday 16 February 2020 – Why Beethoven Threw the Stew

Tickets £8 - £24. [Click here](#) for more information.

Sunday 3 May 2020 – Before the Firebird...

Tickets £8 - £24. [Click here](#) for more information.

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.

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