



wiepodlega



The Adam Mickiewicz Institute continues its 'Polska Scotland' series with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, celebrating the rich musical and cultural history between Poland and Scotland

Streamed concerts featuring soloists including Nicola Benedetti and Benjamin Grosvenor will be available to watch throughout May and June

The Adam Mickiewicz Institute continues its 'Polska Scotland' series with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra through a series of upcoming digital concerts featuring leading soloists including Nicola Benedetti and Benjamin Grosvenor. The collaboration celebrates the rich musical and cultural history between Poland and Scotland.

The concerts are part of the RSNO's digital season, with some already available to watch online, including Nicola Benedetti's performance of Szymanowski's Violin Concerto No. 1 alongside Weinberg's *Rhapsody on Moldavian Themes* and Andrzej Panufnik's *Sinfonia Sacra*, conducted by Thomas Søndergård.

This month, Marta Gardolińska conducts Lutosławski's *Mala suite* (14 May), and the RSNO Chamber Ensemble is joined by Adrian Wilson and Lena Zeliszewska for a concert of works by Szymanowski, Lutosławski and Bacewicz (28 May). In June Benjamin Grosvenor plays Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1 alongside works by Kilar and Lutosławski conducted by Elim Chan (4 June). Finally, Chan returns to conduct the RSNO with Benedetti returning to perform Szymanowski's second Violin Concerto (11 June).

Scotland's link with Poland date back to the 15th century trade routes, developing to the migration of 30,000 Scots to Poland by the 17th century. Chopin famously visited Scotland in 1848, whose concerts in stately homes across Glasgow and Edinburgh were widely celebrated. More recently, tens of thousands of Polish soldiers came to Scotland to aid in the war effort during the Second World War, with many opting to settle. The number of Polish residents in Scotland today numbers around 90,000, making it the largest migrant population in Scotland.

The Polish series also reflects the RSNO's long association with Polish music and musicians, dating from Emil Młynarski (Polish Principal Conductor of the then Scottish Orchestra from 1910 to 1916 and early champion of Szymanowski's music) to composers who conducted their own works – Andrzej Panufnik in 1956, Krzysztof Penderecki on three occasions in the 1970s, and Witold Lutosławski in 1979 and 1981.

Supported by the Adam Mickiewicz Institute and by the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Edinburgh, this series marks the centenary of Poland's regained independence.

Read more on the RSNO website: <https://www.rsno.org.uk/polska-scotland/>

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Notes to Editor

Listings

Available Now

Thomas Søndergård (Conductor)
Nicola Benedetti (Violin)
RSNO

Weinberg- Rhapsody on Moldavian Themes
Szymanowski- Violin Concerto No. 1
A. Panufnik – Sinfonia Sacra (Symphony No. 3)

Available from Fri 14 May 2021: 7.30pm

Marta Gardolińska (Conductor)
RSNO

Lutosławski Mala suite
Dvořák Symphony No. 7

Available from Fri 28 May 2021: 7.30pm

Adrian Wilson Oboe
Lena Zeliszewska Violin
RSNO Chamber Ensemble

Britten Phantasy Quartet for Oboe & String Trio
Szymanowski Violin Sonata in D Minor
Lutosławski Epitaph for Oboe and Piano
Bacewicz String Quartet No. 4

Available from Fri 4 June 2021: 7.30pm

Elim Chan (Conductor)
Benjamin Grosvenor (Piano)
RSNO

Kilar - Orawa for String Orchestra
Chopin - Piano Concerto No. 1
Lutosławski - Concerto for Orchestra

Available from Fri 11 June 2021: 7.30pm

Elim Chan (Conductor)
Nicola Benedetti (Violin)
RSNO

Duncan – Stac Dona from the Lost Songs of St Kilda
Bartók – Concerto for Orchestra
Szymanowski - Violin Concerto No. 2

Adam Mickiewicz Institute

The Adam Mickiewicz Institute is a national cultural institute whose mission is to build and communicate the cultural dimension of the Poland brand through active participation in international cultural exchange. The Institute has carried out cultural projects in 70 countries on six continents, including in the United Kingdom, France, Russia, Israel, Germany, Turkey, the United States, Canada, Australia, Morocco, Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia, China, Japan, and Korea. Within the framework of its activities to date, the Institute has developed 38 strategic programmes seen by 60 million viewers. The Adam Mickiewicz Institute is governed by the Ministry of Culture, National Heritage and Sport.

More information about Polish culture worldwide at culture.pl

Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO)

Formed in 1891, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO) is one of Europe's leading orchestras with a rich history stretching back over 130 years. Awarded Royal Patronage in 1977 and supported directly by the Scottish Government, the RSNO is one of Scotland's leading cultural institutions, and an orchestra with a variety of work that is almost unparalleled amongst its British peers. The RSNO performs across Scotland, including concerts in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Perth, and Inverness. The Orchestra appears regularly at the Edinburgh International Festival and the BBC Proms at London's Royal Albert Hall, and has made recent tours to the USA, China and throughout Europe. The Orchestra's artistic team is led by Danish conductor Thomas Søndergård, who was appointed RSNO Music Director in 2018, with Hong Kong-born Elim Chan as Principal Guest Conductor. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the RSNO swiftly adapted to the 'new normal' by moving full orchestral performances and outreach projects online, successfully leading the way in innovative digital engagement with audiences of all ages and walks of life.

For more information about the RSNO's current Digital Season visit <https://www.rsno.org.uk/digital-season/>