



RTÉ Performing Groups

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www.rte.ie/performinggroups

**RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra 2008–2009 Season
in association with Anglo Irish Bank**

**Friday 5 September 2008–Friday 22 May 2009
National Concert Hall, Dublin**

RTÉ is pleased to announce details of the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra's 2008–2009 Season and the sponsorship of this concert series for the fifth year running by Anglo Irish Bank. Package booking for this 30-concert season will open at 6pm on Friday 23 May.

In a season that marks the final year in Gerhard Markson's distinguished eight-year tenure as Principal Conductor, highlights will include:

- a retrospective of **Gerhard Markson's** work with the orchestra, featuring many of his favourite works and soloists
- world-class artists including pianists **Freddy Kempf** and **Louis Lortie**, violinists **Sarah Chang** and **Chloë Hanslip**, cellists **Natalie Clein** and **Maria Kliegel** and percussionist **Colin Currie**, as well as exciting young Irish performers including violinist **Elizabeth Cooney** and soprano **Celine Byrne**
- in a new feature, the opportunity to hear artists such as **Natalie Clein**, **Freddy Kempf**, **Ann Murray** and **Louis Lortie** in conversations in **Soundings** – a series of free pre-concert discussions
- a **free concert for Culture Night**, 19 September, featuring music by Tchaikovsky, Stravinsky and Shostakovich

- world premières of new works by **Stephen Gardner, Gerald Barry** and **Fergus Johnston**, all commissioned by RTÉ, as well as contemporary music by **Jennifer Higdon, Einojuhani Rautavaara, Per Nørgård, Edino Krieger, James MacMillan** and **Giya Kancheli**
- **anniversary celebrations** for the bicentenary year of **Haydn's death** and **Mendelssohn's birth**, including performances of two oratorios – Haydn's *The Creation* and Mendelssohn's *St Paul* – as well as six of Haydn's London symphonies, Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto and his 'Scottish' and 'Italian' Symphonies
- twelve of the greatest piano concertos, by composers including Mozart, Beethoven, Ravel, Prokofiev, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov
- violin concertos by Beethoven, Brahms, Mendelssohn and Tchaikovsky, cello concertos by Elgar and Schumann, as well as more rarely performed concertos like Richard Strauss' for oboe, Carl Reinecke's for flute and Jennifer Higdon's for percussion
- milestone classical and romantic symphonies by Haydn, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Richard Strauss, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov
- a **10th birthday salute to RTÉ lyric fm**, featuring Beethoven's 'Choral' Symphony and Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 with Finghin Collins (1 May)
- for the first time, both **matinee and evening performances of the New Year's Day Viennese Gala**, featuring soprano Klara Ek and conductor Christopher Warren-Green (1 January)

Séamus Crimmins, Executive Director, RTÉ Performing Groups, commented:

'There's nothing like the experience of live music, of whatever kind. Now in its seventh decade, the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra continues to offer excellence without exclusivity. I would like to pay tribute to Anglo Irish Bank, sponsoring the RTÉ NSO season for the fifth consecutive year and making it possible for us to offer a season of such richness. The line-up of Irish and international soloists and conductors in the 2008–2009 season has huge appeal. I hope audiences will join us for the familiar and the new and make Friday night live music night whether at the National Concert Hall or on RTÉ's broadcast platforms.'

Anthony Kavanagh, Director, Group Marketing & Communications at Anglo Irish Bank, welcomed the announcement of the season:

'We are delighted to sponsor the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra once again for its 2008–2009 season. Our sponsorship continues to be a rewarding and enjoyable partnership which we consider fundamental in

the development of the cultural life of the country. We remain committed to the link between the arts and business and we are honoured and proud to be associated with the RTÉ NSO in this way. The staff of the Bank wish all involved every success and we look forward to another exciting season.'

PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR

In his years with the RTÉ NSO, Gerhard Markson has performed complete symphony cycles of Beethoven, Brahms, Bruckner and Mahler, amongst others. His recordings of the music of Richard Strauss with the RTÉ NSO (on Naxos) were critically acclaimed, and he has also won praise for the care and commitment he has brought to the performances of new music.

In the course of this season he will revisit some of this music in concerts reflecting some of his favourite repertoire, including

- Beethoven's 7th and 9th
- Brahms' 1st and 4th
- Bruckner's 7th
- Strauss' *Alpine Symphony*

He also conducts the world première of Stephen Gardner's *Hallelujah*.

In an exciting conclusion to the season and his eight-year tenure, Markson will conduct Mahler's powerful 'Resurrection' Symphony and the Strauss Oboe Concerto with Stefan Schilli on 22 May.

ARTISTS

Outstanding artists will join the RTÉ NSO for a rich seam of concertos, including:

- **Sarah Chang** making her RTÉ NSO début with **Brahms' mighty violin concerto** (30 January). A remarkable prodigy, she is now one of the most sought-after violinists of her generation.
- **Freddy Kempf** in **Ravel's G major piano concerto** (7 November). As the *Guardian* wrote of him, 'If it is true that an artist's finest years come with age, then the mind boggles at the possibilities.'
- Star cellist **Natalie Clein** making her début with the orchestra in **Elgar's Cello Concerto**, her recording of which earned her critical acclaim and a Classical Brit nomination (3 October)
- The remarkably talented Canadian pianist **Louis Lortie** playing with the RTÉ NSO for the first time, performing **Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 19** (17 October)
- **Alexander Toradze** making his début with **Prokofiev's 3rd Piano Concerto**, his recording of which with Gergiev was judged 'historically the best on record' by *International Piano Quarterly* (24 April)
- Another season début from young British violinist **Chloë Hanslip** – 'likely to become the greatest violinist of her generation' (*Limelight*) – performing Mozart's 'Turkish' Violin Concerto (31 October)
- **Simon Trpčeski** in **Tchaikovsky's 1st Piano Concerto** (13 March). The London *Independent* wrote that people would be auctioning tickets for Trpčeski soon so early booking is advised!

- AXA Dublin International Piano Competition prizewinners from 2006 **Romain Descharmes** in **Rachmaninov's 2nd Piano Concerto** (8 May) and **Kyu Yeon Kim** in **Prokofiev's 2nd Piano Concerto** (10 October)
- The extraordinary **Colin Currie** performing Higdon's virtuoso and riveting **Percussion Concerto**, a piece written for him (27 February)
- Acclaimed Brazilian pianist **Jean Louis Steurman** performing Rachmaninov's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini (23 January)

An impressive line-up of guest conductors includes:

- The highly regarded Norwegian **Arild Remmereit** making two return visits – 'He came, he conducted, he conquered' (*The New York Times*) (3 October)
- Finnish maestro **Pietari Inkinen**, the young and extremely talented Music Director of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (6 February)
- Young Ukrainian **Kirill Karabits**, noted for his intense musicality and just appointed Principal Conductor of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (17 April)
- Kazakh conductor **Alan Buribayev**, who made such an impression on audience and orchestra on his two previous visits (24 April)

CULTURE NIGHT 2008 – FREE CONCERT

The RTÉ NSO is proud to present an exciting first, a free concert on 19 September to celebrate Culture Night. The programme includes **Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto** with virtuoso **Henning Kraggerud**, classic ballet music from his ***Sleeping Beauty* suite** and Stravinsky's *The Fairy's Kiss*.

This is a **ticketed event**, with booking for free tickets opening on **20 August 2008**. Applicants should contact the National Concert Hall box office on 01 417 0000 or www.nch.ie or call to the NCH on Earlsfort Terrace from 20 August. Those who subsequently find they cannot use their tickets are asked to pass them on to someone who will or to return them to the NCH box office.

ANNIVERSARIES: HAYDN AND MENDELSSOHN

The year 2009 marks the bicentenary of both Haydn's death and Mendelssohn's birth, anniversaries celebrated with music ranging from cornerstones of the repertoire to more rarely performed gems.

Marking the Haydn anniversary are performances of *The Creation* (28 November), the Cello Concerto in C played by Johannes Moser (6 March) and six of his London symphonies.

Mendelssohn is celebrated with the serenely beautiful *St Paul* oratorio (3 April), the 'Scottish' Symphony (30 January) and 'Italian' Symphony (13 February), and the Violin Concerto (17 April), played by young French violinist David Grimal, 'an artist of immense talent and promise' (*The Strad*).

RTÉ COMMISSIONS AND OTHER CONTEMPORARY VOICES

The season will feature music commissioned by RTÉ from Stephen Gardner, Gerald Barry and Fergus Johnston. Gardner's *Hallelujah* is inspired by the invasion of Iraq in 2003 (31 October); Barry's *No other people* will be performed on 6 February and a new work by Fergus Johnston can be heard on 27 February.

Other contemporary voices in the season are Edino Krieger, Einojuhani Rautavaara, Per Nørgård, Jennifer Higdon, James MacMillan and Giya Kancheli.

BIRTHDAY SALUTE FOR RTÉ LYRIC FM

The RTÉ NSO and Principal Conductor Gerhard Markson celebrate RTÉ lyric fm's 10th birthday in style on 1 May with masterpieces by two giants of classical music: Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23, with Finghin Collins, and Beethoven's mighty 'Choral' Symphony – its rousing 'Ode to Joy' making for a fitting birthday salute. The Soundings talk that evening features Adrian Moynes, Managing Director of RTÉ Radio, in conversation with Professor Farrel Corcoran.

SOUNDINGS – FREE PRE-CONCERT TALKS

Soundings is the new name for the free pre-concert talk series. This season, for the first time, there is the opportunity to hear many of the artists in conversation. The exciting line-up includes pianists John O'Connor, Louis Lortie, Freddy Kempf and Simon Trpčeski, cellist Natalie Clein, percussionist Colin Currie, mezzo-soprano Ann Murray, conductors Gerhard Markson and Alan Buribayev and composer Gerald Barry. Their insights and perspectives promise an interesting lead-in to the concert experience.

TICKET AND BOOKING INFORMATION

Standard ticket prices range from €10 to €35 (with limited concessions available for students, unwaged and senior citizens). Under the Student Stand-by scheme, tickets can be purchased for €5 one hour before the concert (subject to availability). Discounts are offered to those booking packages, whether devotees wanting to attend every concert or those wanting to tailor packages to their individual needs. A full season package offers a discount of 30%, while the Take Your Pick options offer discounts of up to 15%. Package booking opens at the National Concert Hall on Friday 23 May, 6pm, and individual concerts can be booked from 12 noon on Monday 23 June.

Full season details below and on www.rte.ie/performinggroups

Jpegs available on request. For further information please contact:

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RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra 2008–2009 Season
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Programme

5 September 2008

8pm

Beethoven	Overture <i>Leonore</i> No. 3, Op. 72a
Beethoven	Piano Concerto No. 5 in E flat major, Op. 73 'Emperor'
Beethoven	Symphony No. 7 in A major, Op. 92

Hugh Tinney *piano*
 Gerhard Markson *conductor*

Soundings: Gerhard Markson, 6.45pm

12 September 2008

8pm

Schubert	Overture <i>Rosamunde</i> , D. 797
Reinecke	Flute Concerto in D major, Op. 283
Brahms	Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Op. 68

Philippe Boucly *flute*
 Gerhard Markson *conductor*

Soundings: Seán Rocks, 6.45pm

19 September 2008

8pm

Shostakovich	Ballet Suite No. 1
Tchaikovsky	Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 35
Stravinsky (after Tchaikovsky)	<i>The Fairy's Kiss</i>
Tchaikovsky	<i>Sleeping Beauty</i> Ballet Suite, Op. 66a

Henning Kraggerud *violin*
 Gerhard Markson *conductor*

26 September 2008**8pm**

Mozart Piano Concerto No. 25 in C major, K. 503
 Bruckner Symphony No. 7 in E major

John O'Connor *piano*
 Gerhard Markson *conductor*

Soundings: John O'Connor, 6.45pm

3 October 2008**8pm**

Sibelius *Karelia Suite*, Op. 11
 Elgar Cello Concerto in E minor, Op. 85
 Bartók Concerto for Orchestra

Natalie Clein *cello*
 Arild Remmereit *conductor*

Soundings: Natalie Clein and Arild Remmereit in conversation with Eamonn Lawlor, 6.45pm

10 October 2008**8pm**

Krieger *Passacaglia for the New Millennium*
 Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 2 in G minor, Op. 16
 Rachmaninov Symphony No. 2 in E minor, Op. 27

Kyu Yeon Kim *piano*
 Roberto Minczuk *conductor*

Soundings: Roberto Minczuk in conversation with Bernard Clarke, 6.45pm

17 October 2008**8pm**

Janáček *Taras Bulba*
 Mozart Piano Concerto No. 19 in F major, K. 459
 Dvořák Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Op. 95 'From the New World'

Louis Lortie *piano*
 Michał Dworzyński *conductor*

Soundings: Louis Lortie in conversation with Colman Pearce, 6.45pm

31 October 2008**8pm**

Stephen Gardner *Hallelujah* (world première – RTÉ commission)
 Mozart Violin Concerto No. 5 in A major, K. 219 'Turkish'
 Messiaen *Réveil des Oiseaux*
 Ravel *La Valse*

Chloë Hanslip *violin*
 Thérèse Fahy *piano*
 Gerhard Markson *conductor*

Soundings: Raymond Deane, 6.45pm

7 November 2008**8pm**

Dutilleux *Métaboles*
 Ravel Piano Concerto in G major
 Franck Symphony in D minor

Freddy Kempf *piano*
 Pierre-André Valade *conductor*

Soundings: Freddy Kempf in conversation with Finghin Collins, 6.45pm

14 November 2008**8pm**

Smetana 'The Moldau' from *Má Vlast*
 Dvořák Violin Concerto in A minor, Op. 53
 Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 6 in B minor, Op. 74 'Pathétique'

Elizabeth Cooney *violin*
 Vladimir Altschuler *conductor*

Soundings: Elizabeth Cooney in conversation with Eamonn Lawlor, 6.45pm

ON TOUR 18–21 NOVEMBER**28 November 2008****8pm**

Haydn *The Creation*

Ailish Tynan *soprano*
 Finnur Bjarnason *tenor*
 Johannes Mannov *bass/baritone*
 RTÉ Philharmonic Choir
 Gerhard Markson *conductor*

Soundings: Gerard Gillen, 6.45pm

5 December 2008**8pm**

Beethoven Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 61
 Richard Strauss *Alpine Symphony*, Op. 64

Stefan Tönz *violin*
 Gerhard Markson *conductor*

Soundings: Ian Fox, 6.45pm

1 January 2009**Performances at 2.30pm and 6.30pm**

New Year's Day Viennese Concerts

A programme of lively and at times nostalgic music from the Johann Strauss family and contemporaries.

Conductor Christopher Warren-Green – famous for his Strauss interpretations – and exciting young Swedish soprano Klara Ek ('fearless and brilliant' – *Opera*) join the RTÉ NSO for an effervescent start to 2009. Featuring the *Pizzicato Polka*, the *Tritsch-Tratsch Polka*, *The Emperor Waltz*, *The Blue Danube*, arias from *Die Fledermaus* and more.

This year for the first time there is a matinee and a repeat evening performance.

Klara Ek *soprano*
 Christopher Warren-Green *conductor*

9 January 2009**8pm**

Schubert Symphony No. 5 in B flat major, D. 485
 Mahler *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*
 Haydn Symphony No. 104 in D major 'London'

Ann Murray *mezzo-soprano*
 Gerhard Markson *conductor*

Soundings: Ann Murray in conversation with Eamonn Lawlor, 6.45pm

16 January 2009**8pm**

Rautavaara *Before the Icons*
 Shostakovich Piano Concerto No. 2 in F major, Op. 102
 Sibelius Symphony No. 2 in D major, Op. 43

Boris Giltburg *piano*
 Hannu Lintu *conductor*

Soundings: Hannu Lintu in conversation with Bernard Clarke, 6.45pm

23 January 2009**8pm**

Haydn Symphony No. 95 in C minor
 Rachmaninov Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini
 Mussorgsky (orch. Ravel) *Pictures at an Exhibition*

Jean Louis Steuerman *piano*
 Daniel Klajner *conductor*

Soundings: John Buckley, 6.45pm

30 January 2009**8pm**

Nørgård *Pastorale*
 Brahms Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 77
 Mendelssohn Symphony No. 3 in A minor, Op. 56 'Scottish'

Sarah Chang *violin*
 Giordano Bellincampi *conductor*

Soundings: Helen Meany, 6.45pm

6 February 2009**8pm**

Gerald Barry *No other people.* (world première – RTÉ commission)
 Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 4 in G major, Op. 58
 Shostakovich Symphony No. 5 in D minor, Op. 47

Elisabeth Leonskaja *piano*
 Pietari Inkinen *conductor*

Soundings: Gerald Barry in conversation with Michael Dungan, 6.45pm

13 February 2009**8pm**

Haydn Symphony No. 102 in B flat major
 Schumann Cello Concerto in A minor, Op. 129
 Mendelssohn Symphony No. 4 in A major, Op. 90 'Italian'

Maria Kliegel *cello*
 Gerhard Markson *conductor*

Soundings: Fergus Sheil, 6.45pm

20 February 2009**8pm**

Beethoven Symphony No. 3 in E flat major, Op. 55 'Eroica'
Janáček *Glagolitic Mass*

Katarina Jovanovic *soprano*
Karen Cargill *alto*
Josef Kundlák *tenor*
Matthew Rose *bass*
RTÉ Philharmonic Choir
Andreas Delfs *conductor*

Soundings: Andreas Delfs in conversation with Bernard Clarke, 6.45pm

27 February 2009**8pm**

Fergus Johnston New work (world première – RTÉ commission)
Higdon Percussion Concerto
MacMillan *The Sacrifice: Three Interludes*
Kancheli Symphony No. 5

Colin Currie *percussion*
James MacMillan *conductor*

Soundings: James MacMillan in conversation with Colin Currie, 6.45pm

6 March 2009**8pm**

Haydn Symphony No. 103 'Drumroll'
Haydn Cello Concerto No. 1 in C major
Schumann Symphony No. 3 'Rhenish'

Johannes Moser *cello*
Arild Remmereit *conductor*

Soundings: Ethna Tinney, 6.45pm

13 March 2009**8pm**

Markevitch *Rebus*
Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1 in B flat minor, Op. 23
Stravinsky *The Firebird*, complete ballet

Simon Trpčeski *piano*
Gerhard Markson *conductor*

Soundings: Simon Trpčeski in conversation with Colman Pearce, 6.45pm

20 March 2009**8pm**

Haydn Symphony No. 94 in G major 'Surprise'
 Liszt Piano Concerto No. 1 in E flat major
 Brahms Symphony No. 4 in E minor, Op. 98

Bernd Glemser *piano*
 Gerhard Markson *conductor*

Soundings: Cliona Doris, 6.45pm

ON TOUR 24–27 MARCH**3 April 2009**

Mendelssohn *St Paul*

Celine Byrne *soprano*
 Raphaela Mangan *alto*
 Timothy Robinson *tenor*
 Owen Gilhooly *bass*
 RTÉ Philharmonic Choir
 David Hill *conductor*

Soundings: David Milne, 6.45pm

17 April 2009**8pm**

Haydn Symphony No. 96 'Miracle'
 Mendelssohn Violin Concerto
 Dvořák Symphony No. 7 in D minor, Op. 70

David Grimal *violin*
 Kirill Karabits *conductor*

Soundings: Ian Fox, 6.45pm

24 April 2009**8pm**

Mussorgsky (orch. Shostakovich) *Dawn on the Moscow River (Khovanshchina)*
 Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 3 in C major, Op. 26
 Shostakovich Symphony No. 10 in E minor

Alexander Toradze *piano*
 Alan Buribayev *conductor*

Soundings: Alan Buribayev in conversation with Bernard Clarke, 6.45pm

1 May 2009**8pm**Celebrating the 10th birthday of RTÉ lyric fm

Mozart Piano Concerto No. 23 in A major, K. 488
 Beethoven Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125 'Choral'

Finghin Collins *piano*
 Ailish Tynan *soprano*
 Jane Irwin *mezzo-soprano*
 Wynne Evans *tenor*
 Markus Brück *bass*
 RTÉ Philharmonic Choir
 Gerhard Markson *conductor*

Soundings: Adrian Moynes, Managing Director RTÉ Radio, in conversation with Farrel Corcoran, 6.45pm

8 May 2009**8pm**

Debussy *Prélude à l'Après-midi d'un Faune*
 Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, Op. 18
 Ravel *Daphnis et Chloé*

Romain Descharmes *piano*
 National Chamber Choir
 Gerhard Markson *conductor*

Soundings: Romain Descharmes in conversation with Pavel Nersessian, 6.45pm

22 May 2009**8pm**

Richard Strauss Oboe Concerto in D major, Op. 144
 Mahler Symphony No. 2 in C minor 'Resurrection'

Stefan Schilli *oboe*
 Franzita Whelan *soprano*
 Jane Irwin *mezzo-soprano*
 RTÉ Philharmonic Choir
 Gerhard Markson *conductor*

Soundings: Colman Pearce, 6.45pm