



Sussex Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Mark Andrew James



FATE UNFOLDING

SUPPÉ

POET & PEASANT OVERTURE

KHATCHATURIAN

SABRE DANCE

BIZET

L'ARLESIENNE SUITE No.2

TCHAIKOVSKY

SYMPHONY No.4

SATURDAY, February 3, 7.30pm
All Saints Church, Hove BN3 3QE

SussexSymphony.org

Welcome...

...to the Sussex Symphony Orchestra's February concert and the start of our 2024 series of concerts.

This evening's performance is dedicated to Joe Campbell (1936-2023) who was a wonderful friend of the orchestra and led the Double Bass section for many years.

We've been busy over the last couple of months creating our new website - SussexSymphony.org. It is still developing but is already looking great. We really hope you like it. Our sincere thanks to Adam Clarke (Viola) for all his hard work.

We are delighted to start the year with a concert of Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4, an audacious flirtation with fate. Born from the throes of Tchaikovsky's own turbulent life and soul, the work is a tempestuous journey - oscillating between the tumult of fate's decree and ephemeral moments of serenity. The SSO's rendition promises to transcend mere performance; it will be a visceral manifestation of Tchaikovsky's struggle with life itself.

In May we have an amusing repertoire for the Brighton Fringe concert involving a typewriter and vacuum cleaners, and finishing with Elgar's ever popular Enigma Variations and in July we are excited to return to the Dome to perform a celebration of Verdi.

We hope you enjoy this evening's concert,
From all at the Sussex Symphony Orchestra.

PROGRAMME NOTES

Franz von Suppé *Poet & Peasant Overture*

[Duration ~9']

Composed in 1846 and first performed in Vienna with Suppé conducting, the operetta "Poet and Peasant" tells the story of a poet who falls in love with a peasant girl, and the overture's themes reflect the work's lighthearted and humorous tone.

Divided into three sections, the opening features a slow, lyrical melody played by the strings and repeated by the woodwinds. The following main section in contrast is fast and lively, featuring a catchy melody played by the brass and woodwinds. The final section however is slower and more melodic with a beautiful solo played by the clarinet.

Suppé's "Poet and Peasant" overture has become one of his most popular works and a favourite of audiences and musicians alike.

Aram Khachaturian *Sabre Dance from Gayane*

[Duration ~2' 30"]

The final act of Khachaturian's 1942 ballet *Gayane* has become Khachaturian's best-known and most recognizable work.

Sabre Dance is based on an unnamed Armenian folk song. It includes a prominent theme for cello and alto saxophone but is particularly notable for its use of percussion, with the piece's insistent xylophone-accented melody becoming a global musical shorthand for cartoonish urgency.

The piece's popularity continues to captivate audiences and has been used widely outside the concert hall thanks to the piece's driving melody and exciting orchestration.

Georges Bizet *L'Arlésienne Suite No.2*

[Duration ~17']

- Pastorale
- Intermezzo
- Minuet
- Farandole

L'Arlésienne Suite No. 2 is a collection of four pieces extracted from Bizet's incidental music for Alphonse Daudet's play *L'Arlésienne*. First performed in Paris in 1879, four years after Bizet's death, it has since become one of his most popular works.

The suite opens with a *Pastorale* featuring the woodwinds and strings. The second piece, *Intermezzo*, is slow and lyrical with a beautiful solo played by the oboe. The *Minuet* is a fast and lively dance featuring the strings. The final piece, *Farandole*, is a fast and energetic dance that features the brass and strings.

Bizet showcases his skill in writing and orchestrating melodies to create a sense of excitement and energy which has helped its popularity endure.

INTERVAL

Pyotr Tchaikovsky *Symphony No. 4 "Fate" in F Minor*

[Duration ~53']

- Andante sostenuto - Moderato con anima - Moderato assai, quasi Andante - Allegro Vivo
- Andantino in modo di canzona
- Scherzo: Pizzicato ostinato - Allegro - Trio
- Finale: Allegro con fuoco

The fourth symphony is a monumental work showcasing the composer's skill in writing music that is both emotionally powerful and technically complex.

Composed in 1877, the symphony is divided into four movements, each of which is connected thematically to the others.

The first, marked *Andante sostenuto - Moderato con anima*, begins with a sombre and melancholic theme played by the strings. This is developed and expanded by the rest of the orchestra, building to a powerful climax before subsiding back into the original theme.

The second movement, marked *Andantino in modo di canzone*, is a lyrical and romantic piece that features a beautiful solo played by the oboe. The movement is notable for its use of pizzicato strings, which create a delicate and ethereal atmosphere.

The third movement, marked *Scherzo: Pizzicato ostinato - Allegro*, is playful and energetic featuring a catchy melody played by the strings and is notable for its use of pizzicato strings throughout, which create a unique and distinctive sound.

The final movement, *Finale: Allegro con fuoco*, is a triumphant and powerful piece with a driving rhythm and a memorable melody played by the brass which builds to a thrilling climax before ending with a triumphant flourish.

Tchaikovsky's Fourth symphony is a masterpiece of the Romantic era that is both emotionally powerful and technically complex which has endured for over a century.



The Sussex Symphony Orchestra

Established in January 1993, the Sussex Symphony Orchestra comprises a diverse blend of highly skilled musicians, both professional and talented amateurs, who reside or work in Sussex.

Over the past 30 years, the SSO has had the privilege of sharing the stage with renowned performers such as cellist Guy Johnston, violinist Magnus Johnston, pianist John Lill, and vocalists Katherine Jenkins, Aled Jones, and Lesley Garrett.

The Sussex Symphony Orchestra continues to enrich the lives of audiences with memorable live music experiences. With unwavering dedication to our craft, we strive to ensure our performances are both engaging and enjoyable for all.



Mark Andrew James *Musical Director*

The founder of SSO, Mark was born in Limassol, Cyprus. He studied conducting and the oboe at Trinity College, London, where he was awarded prizes enabling him to continue his studies with Franco Ferrara in Siena. He participated in masterclasses with conductors such as

Leonard Bernstein, Zubin Mehta and Sir Charles Mackerras conducting the New York Philharmonic, the Israel Philharmonic and the Juilliard Orchestras.

Since forming the SSO in 1993, Mark has created opportunities for musicians in Sussex to perform leading orchestral repertoire while also assisting charities such as Martlets Hospice, Save The Children & UNICEF.

In recognition of his work with the SSO, he was nominated for a Creative Briton Award, a national recognition for individuals who have made the greatest contributions to British Life during the year.



Martin Palmer *Orchestra Leader*

Martin has worked regularly with the London Philharmonic and Bournemouth Symphony orchestras. He was Principal 2nd Violin with the National Symphony Orchestra and worked extensively as a freelance violinist throughout the UK and Germany.

Later, much of his work has been in the theatre, as a 1st Violinist with the Orchestra of English National Ballet. He works regularly in London's West End and is a frequent guest leader for *Les Misérables* at the Sondheim Theatre and on the current UK tour. In 2017 he was Leader for Sébastien Lancrenon's *The Braille Legacy* at the Charing Cross Theatre.

Martin is a founder member of the Sussex String Quartet who recorded soundtracks for the films *A Dangerous Game* and *Five Seconds to Spare*, for television commercials and for Universal Music Group.

Martin plays a 1756 violin of Ambroise de Comble.

The Orchestra

Violin 1: Martin Palmer (Leader), Natasha White, Ashleigh Dunn, Graham Smith, Dan Sanders, Rajani Murthy, Lydia Ennis, Edward Sanjana, Seb Rowlands, Annie Kerr, Elaine Patience

Violin 2: Wietske Wynniatt-Husey, Harriet Waters, Edan Bartlett, Elizabeth Lamb, Emily Anstis, Hannah Green, Jinny Smith Lizzy Longstaff, Soumen Basak, Steve Ul-Haq, Silvia Saunders

Viola: Adam Clark, Carolyn Holleyman, Paul King, Elizabeth Lupton, James Landucci-Harmey, Finn Curry, Bethan Wardrobe

Cello: Margaret Swiatowska, Caroline Parkinson, Heather Eves, Rachel Robertson, Laura Elliot, Elizabeth Newington, Becks Miller, Olivia Powys, Hannah Wylie

Double Bass: Ben Wade, Johan Stalmans, Julian Baker, Kaye Snelling-Colyer

Flute: Joe Laurent , Sue Goodwin, Jenny Dudgeon

Oboe: Mia Clift, Gaynor Gallant

Clarinet: Zoe Davies, Linda Atkinson, Jay Bevan

Bassoon: Helen Beckingham, Sarah Colbert

Horn: John Peskett, Rose Frederic, Jess Saunders, Lizzie Faulkner, Annalena Goldblum

Trumpet: Malcolm Warnes, Neil Bland

Trombone: Chris Schmidt, Ann Zeal-Bland, Jon Fursdon

Tuba: Dave Hush

Timps: Neil Reynolds

Percussion: Avril Vegh, Tom Strange, Stephen Hiscock

Upcoming Events

Saturday 18 May 2024 *Musical Mayhem*

All Saints Church, Hove, 7.30pm

- Arnold, *A Grand Grand Overture*
- Anderson, *The Typewriter*
- Britten, *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*
- Elgar, *Enigma Variations*

Sunday 23 June 2024 *A Celebration of Verdi*

Brighton Dome, 3pm

Saturday 5 October 2024 *Master Musicians*

All Saints Church, Hove, 7.30pm

- Beethoven, *Coriolan Overture*
- Grieg, *Peer Gynt Suite No. 1*
- Mahler, *Symphony No. 5*

Sunday 15 December 2024 *Christmas Concert*

All Saints Church, Hove, 3pm

Supporting the Orchestra

We are most grateful to all of our friends and members for their continued support.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| - David Botibol | - Chris Sanders |
| - Roger & Liz Hanlon | - Roger Saunders |
| - Richard & Enid Lovett | - Rose Wade |
| - Carol and Nicholas Richardson | |

For further details on all our forthcoming performances and how to become a friend, please visit our website SussexSymphony.org or on [Facebook](#).
