

# The Classical Roadshow

Presents



# BATTLE OF BRITAIN

THE TURNING POINT

**Narrators:** Jonathan Eio & Annabelle Brown

**Music:** Richard M Brown **Text:** Sarah Harding and Fern Dickson



with the

## Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

introduced and conducted by

## Benjamin Pope

Monday 4 March 2024



# The Classical

# Roadshow

Classical Roadshow provides unforgettable musical and educational experiences for primary school children across London. We believe singing should be central to every child's education and since it was founded in 1988, many thousands of children have enjoyed performing and learning through song at our unique events.

Not only can singing itself improve self-esteem and wellbeing, spark creativity and intellectual growth, but it can also be a fantastic vehicle for children to learn about other subjects too. All of our specially commissioned shows are linked to the KS2 curriculum, so children are learning through singing about subjects from the Great Fire of London to the Battle of Britain. Children learn the songs in school using the resources we send out, then sing their hearts out with hundreds of other children at a major concert hall.

One of the founding principles of The Classical Roadshow is that musical performance should be an essential feature of every child's life experience. At Classical Roadshow the children are performers and are integral to each piece, sharing in the life-affirming experience of making music together with the professionals on stage.

We are delighted to be performing with the musicians of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra today and are grateful to the orchestra and all the staff at Cadogan Hall for their help and support with our concerts. We are a not-for-profit, registered charity and are most grateful to all who have sponsored our concerts and our regular commissions of new, specialised pieces.

Find out more on our website [www.classicalroadshow.co.uk](http://www.classicalroadshow.co.uk)



# The Battle of Britain

## - The Turning Point

Welcome to *Battle of Britain – The Turning Point*! The show was commissioned by The Classical Roadshow and first performed in 2018. The piece relates the story of the epic air battle which was fought in 1940 by many young British pilots and their allies. It changed the course of history. With most of Europe occupied by Nazi forces, men, women, and children in Britain resisted the threat of Nazi invasion.

Music by **Richard M Brown**

Text and Lyrics by **Sarah Harding and Fern Dickson**

Conductor: **Benjamin Pope**

Charles (Narrator): **Jonathan Eio**

Mary (Narrator): **Annabelle Brown**

Stage Choir: **Marlbrough Primary School (music teacher: Joanna Fyvie)**

## Audience Songs

1. Pastoral England
2. The Feeling of Flying
3. Evacuees' Song
4. The Rules of Fighting
5. Dig For Victory
6. Hunting For Spies
7. Careless Talk Costs Lives
8. Scramble (Feeling of Flying reprise)
9. Listening In
10. The Decisive Battle (Rules of Fighting reprise)
11. Peace Song

# Biographies



## Conductor: **Benjamin Pope**

Benjamin has conducted orchestras and choirs worldwide including the Royal Philharmonic, Philharmonia, and Hallé Orchestras, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, BBC Singers and London Philharmonic Choir. A critically acclaimed conductor for dance, Benjamin is highly in demand and has been invited to work with many of the leading companies including the Royal Ballet, English National Ballet and Rambert Dance Company. Benjamin is also an established composer, writing mainly for film and television, and a highly experienced conductor of live-to-projection film screenings with concerts

including *Harry Potter*, *Amadeus*, *Titanic* and *Star Wars*.

Benjamin is committed to music education and is delighted to be the Music Director of The Classical Roadshow, conducting their schools' concerts for massed children's choirs, professional soloists and orchestra. He is the principal conductor for RPO Resound, the Royal Philharmonic's education department, including their concert series *Noisy Kids*. He has much experience coaching younger people, including working with student and youth orchestras & choirs, and as a guest coach/adjudicator at the Purcell School. Ben has also worked on projects for young people such as *First Time Live* and *Sound Around* for Orchestras Live, which won a 2018 Royal Philharmonic Society award.



## Charles: **Jonathan Eio**

Manx-raised and of Danish origin, Jonathan trained at the prestigious Royal Academy of Music, finishing with a Post Graduate Diploma in Performance, a DipRAM and a Licentiate of The Royal Academy of Music (LRAM). He is a Fellow of the London College of Music (FLCM) and holds a Fellowship to the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA).

Jonathan is currently a Vocal Coach at Kingsclere Performing Arts and Wilkes Academy and Acting Through Song Coach/Singing Teacher at Mountview Academy and East 15 Acting School in London. He has also lectured and taught

music and singing at Arts Ed, Read College (Dep. Head of Singing), Masters Performing Arts (Head of Music), Emil Dale Academy, London School of Musical Theatre, ROM Theatre Arts and

the Guildford Conservatoire. Other colleges include London College of Music, Urdang Academy, Institute of the Arts Barcelona and The Brighton Academy.

As a performer his theatre credits include Zach in *Love Beyond* (London), Melchior in *Spring Awakening* (National UK Tour), Tony in *West Side Story* (Bridewell Theatre, London), Man 1 in *Songs for a New World* (New Players Theatre), Jack in *Into the Woods* (Lantor Theatre), Tim Caruthers in *Half a Sixpence* (No. 1 UK tour), Tinman in *The Wiz* (Gatehouse) and Production Tenor/Kit Kat Boy in *Cabaret*, (English Theatre, Frankfurt).

His concert and TV credits include: vocalist for the movie soundtrack album *Cats, Cinderella* (Netflix), *GOOD* with David Tennant, the Dubai Expo 2022, singer/dancer for San Marino in the new Eurovision movie, vocalist for Elton John's UK tour, *Eurovision: Making Your Mind Up*, *CBBC Prom in the Park*, *The Paul O'Grady Show*, *The X Factor* and *Britain's Got Talent*.

More recently he has been performing across the globe with The Rockafellas, The Flyboys, the Frankie Valli Tribute group Walk Like a Man. He is currently appearing as Bob Gaudio in the UK tour of *Oh What A Night!* and as standby Principal Vocalist for the *Back to Bacharach* UK Tour. Jonathan is also concentrating on finishing his third album which is scheduled to be released in Winter 2024.



## Mary: **Annabelle Brown**

Annabelle Brown trained as an actor at Mountview and as a singer at the VCA. Theatre work has included *Estella* (Theatre6, Tour); *Rapunzel, Cinderella* (Production Exchange); *The Mousetrap* (West End); *Lysistrata, Salome* (TLC); *An Elizabethan Christmas, Speak Low if You Speak Love, Encounters* (Historic Royal Palaces); *Julius Caesar, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Much Ado About Nothing, The Tempest, Robin Hood* (Principal Theatre Company); *O Little Town, Whisky Dusk* (Specifiq); *Dick Barton* (Warehouse Theatre); *When Harry Met Sally* (National Tour); and *A Christmas Carol* (King's Head).

Audio work includes *Margate Murder Mysteries; Peter Pan: An Audio Adventure; Love Letters: Kurt & Lotte; and Taylor & Barton; The Rise of Banda Singh Badur* (English dub); and several series of children's stories for Ziptales. She has previously narrated *Fire!, Zambezi Tales, The Battle of Britain, Widcombe Fair* and *Dreamtime Tales* for The Classical Roadshow. Annabelle is also a composer and sound designer, with credits including *Emmeline* (Cockpit Theatre and UK Tour); *Lord Byron The Great Philhellene* (short film, TLC) and *Peter Pan: An Audio Adventure* (starring Kenneth Branagh and Olivia Colman, all proceeds to Great Ormond Street Hospital, [listentopeterpan.com](http://listentopeterpan.com)).

## Composer: **Richard M Brown**

Richard graduated from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and has worked extensively in theatre and TV. For 20 years he was London Director of Music for the Royal Shakespeare Company, working on over 200 productions including *Mother Courage* with Judi Dench, *Cyrano de Bergerac* with Derek Jacobi, *Peter Pan* with Mark Rylance and *The Wizard of Oz* with Imelda Staunton. He has composed and arranged many RSC scores including *Julius Caesar*, *The Happiest Days of Your Life*, *The Three Sisters*, *Barbarians*, *The Churchill Play*, *Playing with Trains*, *Son of Man* and *The Hostage and Uncle Vanya*. His TV music ranges from *Bergerac* and *A Walk Through Time* to *Playdays* and *Fingermouse*. Richard has conducted many musicals, including *Lord of the Rings* at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane, and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* at Sadler's Wells. Richard was also Head of Music at East 15 Acting School.

Musicals composed include *Murder Mystery Musical* with Shaun McKenna, *House Wives* (based on Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*) with Maz Evans, *Once Bitten* with Nigel Williams and *The Merry Miller of Wareham* with Annabelle Brown and Tobias Deacon. Choral works include several pieces for orchestra and children's choirs: *Zambezi Tales*, *Dreamtime Tales* and *Widcombe Fair* with Nigel Williams, and *Fire!*, *Battle of Britain*, *Mayflower* and *Agincourt* with Fern Dickson and Sarah Harding. Recent compositions include the opera *Ahna Refugjati* for Valletta City of Culture, *Pageant of the Seas* orchestral suite (premiered by the London Mozart Players), *The Way Up!* a video game for students selecting their universities, and *Hereward*, a cantata for choir and orchestra, recently premiered in Chichester Cathedral.

## Text and Lyrics: **Sarah Harding**

Sarah Harding is a drama director and writer. With Fern Dickson and Richard Brown, she has written *Fire!*, *Agincourt* and *Battle of Britain* for orchestra, actors and massed children's choirs and a modern mystery play, *St George and Dragon(ia)*. Sarah's TV work as a director includes *Maigret*, *Night at the Crossroads*, *Gentleman Jack*, *Poirot*, *Marple*, *The Bletchley Circle*, *Queer as Folk* and the American series, *Vikings*, *Falling Water*, *The Expanse* and *The Man Who Fell To Earth*. She is a passionate amateur pianist with a DipMus from the Open University and would love all children to enjoy everything music can bring to them.

## Text and Lyrics: **Fern Dickson**

Fern Dickson was a journalist at Reader's Digest and subsequently a freelance writer. Her adaptation of John Masefield's play *The Coming of Christ* was commissioned by the City of London Choir to accompany Holst's musical setting of the work and performed at St John's Smith Square. Recent projects with Richard Brown and Sarah Harding include *Fire!* and *Battle of Britain* for Classical Roadshow, and *Agincourt*, a semi-staged musical pageant for Southwark school children performed at St George's Church, Borough. Fern has enjoyed a lifelong love of singing. She is now a practising psychotherapist, with a keen interest in how music influences our wellbeing.

# The Orchestra



The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's (RPO) mission to enrich lives through orchestral experiences that are uncompromising in their excellence and inclusive in their appeal, places it at the forefront of music-making in the UK and internationally. Typically performing approximately 200 concerts a year and with a worldwide live and online audience of more than 60 million people, the Orchestra is proud to embrace a broad repertoire and reach a diverse audience. Whilst artistic integrity remains paramount, the RPO is unafraid to push boundaries and is equally at home recording video game, film and television soundtracks and working with pop stars, as it is touring the world performing the great symphonic repertoire.

Throughout its history, the RPO has attracted and collaborated with the most inspiring artists and in August 2021, the Orchestra was thrilled to welcome Vasily Petrenko as its new Music Director. A landmark appointment in the RPO's history, Vasily's opening two seasons with the RPO have been lauded by audiences and critics alike. Highlights included a star-studded gala concert to mark the RPO's 75th Anniversary (with soloists Sheku Kanneh-Mason MBE and Sir Bryn Terfel), all three of Mahler's epic Choral Symphonies at the Royal Albert Hall, performances at the BBC Proms and Edinburgh International Festival, and major tours to the USA, Japan, Germany, Spain and a host of prestigious European festivals.

The RPO is recognised as the UK's most in-demand orchestra, an accolade that would have pleased Sir Thomas Beecham, who founded the Orchestra in 1946. As well as a busy schedule of national and international performances, the Orchestra enjoys an annual season of concerts in London's Royal Albert Hall (where the RPO is Associate Orchestra), the Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall and Cadogan Hall, where it is celebrating its 20th Season as Resident Orchestra. In the 2023–24 Season, Vasily Petrenko and the Orchestra take a fresh look at the works of five major composers in Icons Rediscovered. The series explores the burning inspiration, the living emotion and the human personality behind some of the most iconic masterpieces, including Rachmaninov's *The Bells*, Elgar's *Falstaff*, Verdi's *Requiem*, music from Wagner's greatest operas and a semi-staged production of Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta*. The Season will also feature an autumn residency in Florida, followed by tours to the UAE and Germany, a twelve-concert tour of the USA, a series of relaxed performances across the UK, and collaborations with guest artists including Principal Associate Conductor Alexander Shelley, Yunchan Lim, Sheku-Kanneh-Mason MBE, Miah Persson, Nikolai Lugansky, John Rutter, Jennifer Johnston, and Artist-in-Residence Zlatomir Fung, amongst others.

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's mission is to place orchestral music at the heart of contemporary society and, through collaboration with creative partners, foster deeper engagement with communities to ensure that live orchestral music is accessible to as inclusive and diverse an audience as possible. To help achieve this goal, in 1993 the Orchestra launched RPO Resound, which has grown to become the most innovative and respected orchestral community and education programme in the UK and internationally. Early in 2025, the Orchestra will move its headquarters to Wembley Park in the London Borough of Brent; this will be the realisation of its long-held ambition to embed the Orchestra in a community, in line with its mission to be a truly inclusive and contemporary international orchestra for the modern age.

The Orchestra has always been entrepreneurial; in 1986 it was the first UK orchestra to launch its own record label and it has gone on to embrace advances in digital technology, achieving well over 50 million streams of its recorded music each year. The RPO's global online audience engages with it through the website and social media channels, where the Orchestra shares streamed performances, artist interviews, 'behind-the-scenes' insights and more.

Passion, versatility and uncompromising artistic standards are the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's hallmarks; as it looks forward to an exciting future with the patronage of HRH The former Prince of Wales and Vasily Petrenko as Music Director, the RPO will continue to be recognised as one of the world's most open-minded, forward-thinking and accessible symphony orchestras.

**Discover more online at [rpo.co.uk](https://rpo.co.uk)**

### **First Violins**

Duncan Riddell  
Tamás András  
Shana Douglas  
Esther Kim

### **Second Violins**

Andrew Storey  
Elen Hâf Rideal  
Charlotte Ansbergs  
Jennifer András

### **Violas**

Abigail Fenna  
Joseph Fisher  
Ugne Tiškutė

### **Cellos**

Roberto Sorrentino  
William Heggart

### **Double Bass**

Ben Wolstenholme

### **Flute/Piccolo**

Diomedes Demetriades

### **Oboe**

Patrick Flanagan

### **Clarinet/Bass clarinet**

Katy Ayling

### **Bassoon**

Richard Ion

### **Horns**

Ben Hulme  
Finlay Bain

### **Trumpet**

Mike Allen

### **Trombone**

Benny Vernon

### **Tuba**

Kevin Morgan

### **Percussion**

Tom Lee (timpani)  
Stephen Quigley

### **Piano**

Ben Dawson



# Our People

Classical Roadshow is delighted to have the support of our president and vice-presidents. The charity is run by a dedicated team of staff and trustees.

President: **Dame Cleo Laine**

Vice Presidents: **Lady Brewer, Katie Derham, Carol Leighton** (founder), **Ian Maclay, Professor Michael Mainelli, Adrian Watney**

Trustees: **Stephen Swabey** (Chairman), **Sheila Bennett** (Concerts Manager), **Jenny Robinson, Geoffrey Hunter** (Treasurer, [treasurer@classicalroadshow.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@classicalroadshow.co.uk)), **Fern Dickson, Eliza Thompson, Fflur Huysmans**.

Staff: **Alex Fryer** Executive Producer ([producer@classicalroadshow.co.uk](mailto:producer@classicalroadshow.co.uk))  
**Anouk Menpes-Smith** Schools Administrator ([schools@classicalroadshow.co.uk](mailto:schools@classicalroadshow.co.uk))

# Our Supporters

Classical Roadshow is extremely grateful to its supporters, The Postlethwaite Music Foundation and The Mercers' Company.



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