


Royal Liverpool Philharmonic

Review of the Year 2020-2021

ROYAL
LIVERPOOL
PHILHARMONIC





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Introduction

Over the past 12 months, despite great uncertainty, Liverpool Philharmonic has continued to demonstrate its creativity, boldness and resilience in the face of the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. This Annual Review highlights the excellent work undertaken across the organisation to enhance and transform lives through music.

In September 2020, Liverpool Philharmonic was one of a few organisations presenting a regular programme of concerts and activity. Although they were much fewer in number than normal, we delivered some superb concerts when we could in October and December 2020, then from May to July and September onwards. We sought to make a virtue of the fact that we could not fit the whole orchestra on the stage, by presenting a range of ensembles playing wonderful music, some of which had never been played by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. Our musicians responded brilliantly, playing in string ensembles, chamber orchestras, brass and percussion ensembles and more.

The pandemic meant the postponement or cancellation of almost all of our planned visiting concert tours and artists in both the Hall and the Music Room, but during Autumn 2021 we once again had a busy and artistically vibrant programme of visiting artists from around the world, many of whom played to sold out houses.

We could not have predicted how vital digital platforms would be to facilitate our work over this period and we have taken full advantage of these innovative ways of delivering our activity to audiences and participants. A key innovation was our series of On Demand streamed concerts, which we offered from September 2020. We know that for many it was a lifeline during lockdown, and indeed even when we were open to audiences. As well as these streams we have uploaded a number of audio recordings of live concerts on our website. The power of digital media to send our music round the world

was never more valuable, with literally hundreds of thousands of people listening to our music every month.

We used digital technology to continue delivering our award-winning Learning programmes, such as In Harmony Liverpool and our NHS Music and Mental Health programme, before returning to in-person sessions. Now restrictions have lifted, our programmes continue to thrive, with participants feeling the full benefits of in-person sessions.

2021 saw the end of Vasily Petrenko's fifteen-year tenure as our Chief Conductor. There is no doubt that his time with Liverpool Philharmonic will be looked upon as one of the great golden periods artistically in the history of the organisation. We cannot overstate the profound impact Vasily had on Liverpool Philharmonic and we are pleased that his links with us will continue as he takes on the post of Conductor Laureate.

We welcomed Domingo Hindoyan as our new Chief Conductor in September 2021. Domingo's outstanding talent coupled with his passion for music education, make him a perfect fit for Liverpool Philharmonic. He has treated us to some sublime concerts already, including a performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, and we look forward to embarking on the organisation's next chapter with him at the creative helm.

In 2021, we published our Inclusivity and Relevance Plan which sets out how we will reflect the diversity of our City. Reaching new audiences, engaging young people, and a wide-ranging programme are all part of this plan.

All of the activity over the past year would not have been possible without our amazing audiences, our generous supporters, sponsors and individual donors, or the support we have received from Liverpool City Council, Arts Council England and other organisations throughout this time.

We are certainly in a better place in comparison with 2020, but the pandemic is far from over and its impact will continue to affect Liverpool Philharmonic, and all of us, for some time to come. However, this organisation has faced many challenges in its history, and time and time again has demonstrated its resilience, its tenacity and its enterprising spirit. We can be proud of how we responded to these recent challenges, as we look to continue our recovery, and achieve our ambitions in the years ahead.



Professor Nigel Weatherill DL, DSc, FEng, FRSA
Chairman



Michael Eakin Chief Executive

Working through Covid-19

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Liverpool Philharmonic found new ways of working, ensuring that we could keep music alive in Liverpool.

We launched **On Demand concerts** by the Orchestra which were streamed online. We also used digital platforms to deliver our learning programmes until we could safely deliver in-person workshops again.

Despite the challenges, when restrictions were eased, the Orchestra was one of a handful of UK orchestras to find a way to safely present concerts with live audiences, presenting 41 concerts to over 9,000 people between September and December 2020.

In collaboration with our musicians and performance, health and wellbeing specialists, we implemented a Return-to-Work programme with the Orchestra following months of lockdown. The Return-to-Work programme was featured at the Australian Society for Performing Arts Health conference in November 2021.

We are indebted to the support we have received over the last 18 months, including grants from the Government's Culture Recovery Fund, and a Weston Culture Fund grant from the Garfield Weston Foundation (one of the largest in the country).



▲ Domingo Hindoyan in concert with members of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, June 2021



“It’s all testament to the way an orchestra blessed with visionary and courageous management, with the freedom of manoeuvre that comes from owning its own venue, can curate an inspiring season that appeals to every taste.”

The Telegraph
December 2020

▲ Members of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, June 2021

An Award-Winning Organisation

Liverpool City Region Culture and Creativity Awards

Liverpool Philharmonic’s NHS Music and Mental Health programme won the Impact Award for Health and Wellbeing at the [Liverpool City Region Culture and Creativity Awards](#) in February 2021. This award celebrates the power, value and contribution of culture and creativity to achieve positive outcomes in health and wellbeing.

South Bank Sky Arts Award for Classical Music

The Orchestra and Vasily’s Petrenko’s performances of Mahler *Symphony No. 1* (23 January 2020) and Mahler *Symphony No. 2* (27 February 2020) won the [South Bank Sky Arts Award for Classical Music](#).

Mahler *Symphony No.2* ‘Resurrection’ featured soprano Miah Persson, mezzo-soprano Jennifer Johnston and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir.

Royal Philharmonic Society Awards

The [2021 Royal Philharmonic Society Awards](#) saw two fantastic wins. Former Artist-in-Residence Jennifer Johnston won the Singer Award, whilst composer Dani Howard won the Large-Scale Composition Award for her *Trombone Concerto*,

commissioned by Liverpool Philharmonic and performed by Peter Moore with Domingo Hindoyan conducting.

National Media Recognition

Our Chief Executive Michael Eakin was named a “Lockdown Hero” of 2020 by [The Times](#), as part of a list of individuals who “saved arts and entertainment during the crisis.” [The Times](#) praised Liverpool Philharmonic’s return to live music in Autumn 2020.

[The Telegraph](#) also highlighted Liverpool Philharmonic as a “cultural hero”, stating that regional orchestras were at the “head of the pack” when it came to restarting performances after the first lockdown, and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra was “right at the front”.

In December 2021, [The Telegraph](#) named the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra’s concert on 17 June as one of the 100 best cultural events of 2021. [The Telegraph](#) praised Chief Conductor Domingo Hindoyan and the Orchestra for delivering “the best performance of Stravinsky’s Octet” their critic has ever heard, as well as the world premiere of Dani Howard’s “terrific” *Trombone Concerto*.

Orchestra Highlights



In September 2020, we announced a series of new socially distanced concerts at Liverpool Philharmonic Hall. This set up meant that the works performed were for smaller orchestral forces of up to 35 players. To maximise the opportunities for performing during this period, our musicians formed new ensembles. During this time, the Liverpool Philharmonic Brass and Percussion Ensemble and the Liverpool Wind Collective held concerts at the Hall.



The On Demand online concert streaming service launched in Autumn 2020. These concerts featured live Question and Answer sessions with musicians and conductors, led by BBC Radio 3 broadcaster Stephen Johnson. Seventeen On Demand concerts were presented in the period between September 2020 and October 2021. Over 7,000 people have watched these concerts, which have also been popular with critics.

“Petrenko’s forces played with heart, soul and all the other necessities in a performance strong enough to overwhelm even a home listener alone with a laptop.” ★★★★★

THE  TIMES, October 2020



Our ‘[Live from Liverpool Philharmonic Hall](#)’ free-to-play online radio channel, which was launched in early 2020, continues to live on our website, providing a unique opportunity to hear material that has never been commercially released.



After a period of closure in November in line with the lockdown restrictions in place at the time, Christmas saw a programme of seasonal favourites delivered by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir.

Vasily Petrenko led performances of Ginastera’s *Variaciones concertantes*, Respighi’s *Il Tramonto* (with Jennifer Johnston) and Schehedrin/Bizet *Carmen Suite for percussion and strings*. Members from the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir performed popular Christmas carols *a cappella*, under conductor Ian Tracey.

From commissioning world premieres of works by renowned composers from around the globe, to bold selections of well-known and lesser-known pieces, we are proud that over the last year we have maintained the outstanding artistic output that we are known for the world over.



Following further Government restrictions over winter, we re-opened in May 2021. Vasily Petrenko and the Orchestra performed works by Beethoven, Delius and Prokofiev, while Domingo Hindoyan conducted his first concerts since being named Chief Conductor Designate. Domingo's concerts included works by Ravel, Prokofiev and Stravinsky, as well as the world premiere of British composer Dani Howard's *Trombone Concerto*, performed by Peter Moore, which went on to win the 2021 Royal Philharmonic Society's Large-Scale Composition Award.

"Domingo Hindoyan proved his mettle by leading the best performance of Stravinsky's Octet I've ever heard, plus the world premiere of Dani Howard's terrific new Trombone Concerto"

The Telegraph 100 Best Cultural Events of 2021, December 2021



Vasily Petrenko's final concerts as Chief Conductor took place in July before he assumed his new role of Conductor Laureate. These final concerts, featuring Shostakovich, Schreker and Walton, marked the end of one of the most successful and creative eras in the organisation's history.



The 2021/22 season, the first with Domingo Hindoyan as Chief Conductor, was announced in July. An exciting and diverse mix of music and artists, this season features twenty works by female composers in total (including eight new works), nine female conductors and 15 premieres including world premieres. We previously made a pledge through the Keychange movement to work to a gender balance by 2023 of female composers; we have achieved that this year.

September started with Domingo making his BBC Proms debut with a programme that featured Sheku Kanneh-Mason as the soloist in Dvořák's *Cello Concerto*. Domingo also conducted the Orchestra performing 2017 Rushworth Prize winner Grace-Evangeline Mason's *The Imagined Forest*, a world premiere. Isata Kanneh-Mason, Young Artist in Residence at Liverpool Philharmonic, joined Domingo and the Orchestra later in the month for Clara Schumann's *Piano Concerto in A minor*.



October saw Domingo, the Orchestra and the Choir deliver what Richard Morrison of *The Times* called a "spine-tingling" Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, as well as the world premiere of Puerto Rican composer Roberto Sierra's *Sixth Symphony*.

"If Hindoyan can come up with more premieres and rarities from South America and the Caribbean, he will expand musical consciousness in northwest England no end... Beethoven's Ninth Symphony followed, another statement of intent and ambition from Hindoyan."

THE  TIMES, October 2021

Radio Broadcasts

Audiences around the world heard the Orchestra perform in a number of radio broadcasts over the past year.

On the week before the end of Vasily Petrenko's tenure as Chief Conductor, Classic FM featured a whole week of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

In addition to the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra's BBC Proms appearance, BBC Radio 3 broadcasted several concerts including Vasily Petrenko and Jennifer Johnston, Joshua Weilerstein and Tasmin Little, and Domingo Hindoyan's first concert since being named Chief Conductor Designate, featuring Dani Howard's *Trombone Concerto* in June 2021. The Beethoven's Ninth Symphony/Sierra's Sixth Symphony concert was broadcast in October. In November, Principal Guest Conductor Andrew Manze conducting Lawrence Power in the world premiere of Anders Hillborg's *Viola Concerto* was also broadcast by BBC Radio 3.

Family Concerts

Our popular family concerts returned in Christmas 2020, including *The Snowman* with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and *Nutcracker – Reimagined* with pianist Alexandra Dariescu and the Orchestra's brass and percussion ensemble. *Pirate Party* was held in June, conducted by Rebecca Tong and presented by Alasdair Malloy.

Royal Liverpool Philharmonic

Our Artistic Partnerships

Liverpool Philharmonic has partnered with a range of cultural organisations, such as DadaFest, Resonate Music Education Hub, Liverpool International Music Festival (LIMF) Academy, Tomorrow's Warriors, Liverpool Arab Arts Festival, and Africa Oyé.

Liverpool Philharmonic partnered with the Leeds International Piano Competition in 2021. The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra accompanied the five finalists at Leeds Town Hall conducted by our Principal Guest Conductor, Andrew Manze, with the final viewed globally through online streaming. Alim Beisembayev performed Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* and was awarded First Prize.

We will be commissioning a new work for Alim to perform in the future as he also won the RLPS Contemporary Music prize; Kaito Kobayashi (second prize winner) won the chamber prize which means he will also return to Liverpool for a future chamber concert. In the week after the final the top three prize-winners performed at Liverpool Philharmonic; Alim repeated his prize-winning concerto performance and the runners up performed lunchtime recitals in the Music Room.

The competition attracts entries from across the world and streaming of the competition reaches audiences of over 1 million in some 190 countries.



▲ The Leeds International Piano Competition third prize winner Ariel Lanyi performing in the Music Room



▲ Children enjoying one of our family concerts



Liverpool Philharmonic Hall and Music Room

A diverse array of artists have appeared at the Hall and our Music Room, showcasing a mix of music genres.

Artists who appeared at the Hall in this period included:

- Connie Lush
- Nick Cave & Warren Ellis
- Billy Bragg
- Martha Wainwright
- Collabro
- Billy Ocean
- Gabrielle
- Jamie Cullum
- Level 42
- The Real Thing
- Steve Hackett
- Dr Hook Starring Dennis Locorriere
- Ian Prowse
- Nu Civilisation Orchestra

Artists who appeared at the Music Room in this period included:

- Baked A La Ska
- Spiers & Boden
- Heidi Talbot & Boo Hewerdine
- Blick Bassy
- Fairport Convention
- Mary Coughlan
- Luca Stricagnoli
- Karine Polwart
- Diana Jones

Chamber Music

Chamber music played an even larger role than usual over the last year, with Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra musicians forming their own ensembles in response to social distancing guidelines.

This period saw the formation of the Liverpool Philharmonic Brass and Percussion Ensemble and the Liverpool Wind Collective. Our chamber music concerts included works such as the world premiere of Julian Joseph's *Othello 21*. Artist in Residence Roderick Williams also gave a recital in October 2020.

Ensemble 10/10

Ensemble 10/10, Liverpool Philharmonic's award-winning contemporary music group, performed works by a range of composers from Benjamin Britten to 2020 Rushworth Composition Prize winner, Alexander Papp.

As part of a wide and active partnership between the University of Liverpool and Liverpool Philharmonic encompassing concert activity, education and teaching and the Classical Music Industry MA, the University's new Tung Auditorium will become a new home for Ensemble 10/10 who will perform there at least four times a year.



Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra

Anniversaries

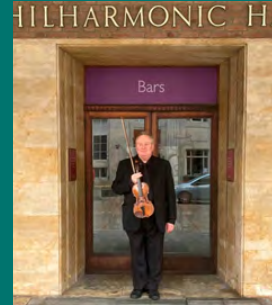
A number of our employees celebrated significant anniversaries during the past year.



Alexander Marks
Section Player 1st
Violin, celebrated 35
years in October 2020



Ashley Frampton
Principal Double Bass,
celebrated 30 Years in
January 2021



James Hutton
Section Player 2nd
Violin, celebrated 40
years in January 2021



Sandra Parr
Artistic Planning
Director (Orchestra
& Ensembles),
celebrated 40 years in
September 2021



Hilary Browning
Associate Principal
Cello, celebrated 30
years in October 2021



Rhys Owens

Section Leader Trumpet, stepped down from his role in 2021 after nearly 30 years' service. Rhys was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease and is focusing on his health and his family at this time.

We are incredibly grateful for the outstanding contribution Rhys has made to Liverpool Philharmonic and live music in our great City.

Our Musicians

Domingo Hindoyan *Chief Conductor*

“Judging by this opening concert in his first season as Chief Conductor of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Domingo Hindoyan has a bright future in Liverpool.”

bachtrack, October 2021

Domingo Hindoyan joined the Orchestra as Chief Conductor in September 2021. In June 2021, Domingo conducted several concerts with the Orchestra, performing works by composers including Stravinsky, Prokofiev and Mendelssohn.

Highlights from the 2021/22 season so far include Domingo’s first concert as the Chief Conductor of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, which was at the BBC Proms and broadcast live on BBC Radio 3.

Domingo has also been busy delivering workshops as part of our In Harmony learning programme. In November 2021, he swapped his baton for a bow, playing violin with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, side by side with the Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. He also conducted the Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra during part of this concert.

We look forward to seeing the creative partnership between Domingo and the Orchestra flourish in the years to come.



▲ Domingo Hindoyan performing side by side with the Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and Youth Academy Orchestra, November 2021

Andrew Manze

Principal Guest Conductor

In 2021, Andrew Manze extended his contract as Principal Guest Conductor of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra for an additional two years until Summer 2023.

Over the past year, Andrew's has conducted performances of Strauss' *Don Juan* and the world premiere of Anders Hillborg's *Viola Concerto*. He also conducted the Orchestra at the final of the Leeds International Piano Competition



Vasily Petrenko

Conductor Laureate

Since becoming the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra's youngest ever Chief Conductor in 2006, Vasily Petrenko led the Orchestra through arguably one of its most creative and successful periods in history. His final concerts, held in July, received fantastic reviews, rounding off 15 years of award-winning music-making. Vasily stepped down as Chief Conductor in 2021 and became the Orchestra's Conductor Laureate.

In the words of Prof Nigel Weatherill, Chair of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society: *"We owe you a great gratitude for what you've achieved, and what you have given to Liverpool Philharmonic, and what you have brought also to the city of Liverpool. You have taken the music excellence of Liverpool Philharmonic to new heights, you've raised the reputation and profile of Liverpool Philharmonic regionally, nationally and internationally [...] you have inspired future generations to engage with, and love, music"*.

Of course, it is not really 'goodbye' as we look forward to welcoming Vasily back for concerts to be held later in the 2021/22 season.



"[Vasily's] stewardship of the RLPO is a positive story to emerge from the city in the past 20 years: he has brought a youthful dynamism to the orchestra's profile, rejuvenated both players and audience, and won laurels for a wide range of recordings...it was a joy to be back in the deco splendours of Philharmonic Hall...A delicious performance"

THE SUNDAY TIMES October 2020

Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir

Members from the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir performed popular Christmas carols a cappella, under conductor Ian Tracey in December 2020. Members from the Choir next appeared in a performance of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* in October 2021



"How thrilling to hear the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir (or a section of it) released from pandemic silence and hurling out the Ode to Joy with spine-tingling fervour."

THE  TIMES review of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, October 2021 ★★★★★

Royal Liverpool Philharmonic

Artist in Residence

Roderick Williams *baritone*

Award-winning baritone Roderick Williams has been an Artist in Residence since October 2020. An internationally-celebrated musician, Roderick is a firm favourite with Liverpool audiences. In October 2020 he delivered a celebration of English song including works by Britten, Finzi, Bax and more. A year later, Roderick headed up a hand-picked cast to perform *An Italian Songbook* at St George's Hall Concert Room.



"Williams' voice has a wonderful creamy timbre and he is a captivating and elegant storyteller-in-song, bringing real colour and nuance to the expression of Hardy's deep thoughts."

ARTS CITY LIVERPOOL

October 2020 review ★★★★★

Young Artist in Residence

Isata Kanneh-Mason *piano*

Young Artist in Residence Isata Kanneh-Mason made her debut with the Orchestra in July 2021, in Mendelssohn's lyrical *Piano Concerto No. 1*. She joined the Orchestra and Domingo Hindoyan in September 2021 performing Clara Schumann's *Piano Concerto*.



"Kanneh-Mason's expressive playing made this a joy to listen to, not least in the remarkable second movement Romanze."

bachtrack

September 2021 review ★★★★★

New Recordings

The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra is loved and appreciated all over the world. This was especially reflected during the lockdowns of 2020, when the Orchestra became the most listened to UK regional orchestra on Spotify.

The past year saw the release of two recordings:



Zemlinsky
Die Seejungfrau

Schreker
Der Geburtstag der Infantin

Vasily Petrenko conductor

Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra

Onyx

To listen to this album on Spotify, [click here.](#)

In 2021, this recording was named as one of Gramophone's Recordings of the Year and as one of BBC Radio 3 Record Review's Records of the Year.



Britten
The Young Person's
Guide to the Orchestra

Vasily Petrenko conductor

Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra

Onyx

To listen to this album on Spotify, [click here.](#)

New Sounds

Liverpool Philharmonic is committed to commissioning and premiering great new music from the most exciting composers of today.

24 October 2020

Julian Joseph *Othello 21*
(world premiere)
Performed by **Liverpool Wind Collective**



19 April 2021

Brittany Collie *Fallen for flute, clarinet, violin, cello and piano*
(world premiere)
Daniel Thorne *The Fall of the Leaf for cello & electronics* (world premiere)
Robert Ames conductor
Performed by **Ensemble 10/10**

17 June 2021

Dani Howard *Trombone Concerto*
(world premiere)

Domingo Hindoyan conductor
Peter Moore trombone



“Howard’s concerto is a work of substance and frequent beauty.”

Seen and Heard International
July 2021

▲ Domingo Hindoyan performing Dani Howard’s *Trombone Concerto* with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, June 2021

5 September 2021

Grace-Evangeline Mason
An Imagined Forest (world premiere, co-commissioned with the BBC Proms)

Domingo Hindoyan conductor



“Mason skilfully shapes her attractive material to ensure we experience the sense of a transforming encounter with the imaginary forest.”

EveningStandard.
September 2021

▲ Domingo Hindoyan and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra performing at the BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall, London, September 2021

6 October 2021

Alexander Papp *The Myth of Bertie & Bella* (Rushworth Composition Prize Commission)

Robert Ames conductor
Performed by **Ensemble 10/10**

14 October 2021

Roberto Sierra *Symphony No.6*
(world premiere, co-commissioned with National Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra and Boston Symphony Orchestra)

Domingo Hindoyan conductor

21 October 2021

Anders Hillborg *Viola Concerto*
(world premiere, co-commissioned with Frankfurt Radio, Swedish Radio, Basel Sinfonieorchester, Aspen Music Festival, Netherlands Radio Symphony Orchestra and Viola Commissioning Circle)

Andrew Manze conductor
Lawrence Power viola

Inclusivity and Relevance

In 2021, Liverpool Philharmonic published an [Inclusivity and Relevance Plan](#). To fulfil our mission, it is vital that we reflect the communities which we serve, not only across our organisation, but also through the artists we work with, our audiences and participants of our learning programmes.

Inclusivity and Relevance are fundamental to how we see ourselves as a music organisation. We are profoundly connected with communities and individuals across our city, unlocking their creativity and placing music – whether making or experiencing it – at the centre of their lives.



▲ A member of the Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra during rehearsals, November 2021

Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Company

Our Youth Company is made up of people from across our City Region, of all backgrounds and expertise, aged from 7 years old, to 21 years old. There are ten different ensembles and programmes, comprising instrumentalists, singers, and composers, plus a large range of other opportunities. After a period of successfully hosting rehearsals and workshops via Zoom, the Youth Company is back in full swing.

Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Academy Orchestra, for those at Grades 4-7, relaunched as a permanent weekly ensemble in October 2021. The Orchestra is conducted by Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra cellist Gethyn Jones and In Harmony Deputy Artistic Director, Alexandra Dunn, and offers a progression route for young people working at this critical intermediate level, including young musicians from In Harmony.

The Youth Academy Orchestra's first public performance was held in November 2021 at Liverpool Philharmonic Hall. They were joined with Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra (celebrating its 70th birthday year) to play side-by-side with members of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. Notably, Domingo

Hindoyan swapped baton for bow and joined the violin section for part of this wonderful concert before conducting its finale.

Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Brass Band launched as a new permanent ensemble from October 2021 and is led by Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra Section Leader Trombone, Simon Cowen.

Our four youth choirs, the Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Choir, Cambiata Choir, Children's Choir and Melody Makers, continue to prove popular, as they now comprise of nearly 200 singers aged between 7 years old and 19 years old.

Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Session Orchestra will launch from January 2022 performing multi-genre concerts including contemporary, jazz, pop, and soul.

In partnership with Resonate Music Education Hub, we lead the Resonate Youth Philharmonic Orchestras in North and South Liverpool for those at Grade Two or higher.

In Harmony Liverpool

In Harmony Liverpool, Liverpool Philharmonic's flagship community programme uses orchestral music making to improve the life chances of children and their families in North Liverpool, by increasing confidence, wellbeing, skills and resilience.

In March 2021, In Harmony celebrated 12 years in North Liverpool. The programme has benefited over 2,500 children and families in Everton and Anfield and involved over 300 professional musicians, artists, school teachers and staff.

Over the past 18 months, In Harmony has provided consistency and routine for children, increasing social and emotional wellbeing. Despite the challenges during the pandemic, the programme has delivered hundreds of curriculum sessions online and in-person has focussed on musicianship, creative composition, instrumental lessons and ensembles.

The In Harmony Chamber Stars held their first major public performance in October 2021 at a service at Liverpool Cathedral marking the beginning of

the Legal Year, with the High Sheriff of Merseyside in attendance. Chamber Stars consists of 13 talented young In Harmony musicians, aged 11-17, some of whom have been part of the programme since it began in 2009.

Our In Harmony young musicians are rehearsing and performing with peers from around the country in two national ensembles. One young musician has retained their place in the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain Under-12 Orchestra, while two other young musicians have joined the National Orchestra for All - the only non-auditioned, fully inclusive national youth orchestra in the world.

We are also working with the Royal Northern College of Music's Pathfinder talent development programme to provide inspirational training and opportunities for some of our most talented young musicians on the programme.

We would like to thank our In Harmony schools and community partners for their continuing support.

"It's caused me to try my best every time I can."

- In Harmony alumnus

"It made me think that hard things are achievable."

- In Harmony alumnus



▲ Members of In Harmony Liverpool, performing at their 11th Birthday Concert, March 2020

Music and Mental Health Programme

Liverpool Philharmonic and Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust have been working in partnership since 2008, delivering the Musician in Residence Music and Mental Health programme across in-patient and community settings.

In 2019 we launched a 5-year ambition to grow the reach of the programme. This has included a pilot with Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP), to support the mental wellbeing of individuals on the Wirral.

During coronavirus restrictions, the team of Liverpool Philharmonic musicians delivered informal Zoom performances for Mersey Care Secure Division wards.

We have also provided regular online sessions for 18 of Mersey Care Local Division wards. Our weekly sessions with Mersey Care's Perinatal Mental Health team for parents and babies were also moved online. We expanded this programme when restrictions lifted to deliver regular face to face sessions in the Music Room.

We delivered fortnightly Zoom sessions for people with eating disorders

"I have done so many things in these sessions that I didn't think I had the ability or confidence to do."

– Participant

on Oaktrees Ward at CWP NHS Foundation Trust.

Our programme of Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust Life Rooms courses moved online, with 9 courses delivered over the last year. We were delighted to return to Life Rooms in person in October, with the fully-attended Super Sing course culminating in a performance in Music Room for invited guests in December.

We have expanded our social prescribing model, launching new bi-weekly "Music Monday" sessions, as a way for adults across the City Region to access music to benefit their wellbeing. Individuals can be referred into these sessions via their GP, third sector and NHS professionals across the Liverpool City Region. Sessions enable participants to learn, listen and connect with others, led by Liverpool Philharmonic musicians in the Music Room.

We would like to thank our NHS partners, including Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust, for their continuing support and collaboration, working with us tirelessly over the last year to ensure that their service users continued to benefit from our activities.

"Absolutely wonderful... I've turned around... Starting appreciating arts and music – never done anything like that before."

– Participant



▲ Music and Mental Health Session taking place in the Music Room, January 2020

Developing Talent

Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra Emerging Musicians Fellowship

We announced the launch of the [Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra Emerging Musicians Fellowship](#) in November 2021. The Fellowship, which will run annually starting with the 2022-23 season, will provide four musicians at the beginning of their orchestral careers with an immersive experience in the world of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, both on and off the stage through five residencies during four weeks spread over the course of a year. Notably, the Fellowship is the first paid opportunity of its kind in the North of England.

Fellows will rehearse and perform with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra as part of the regular season programme. Each Fellow will receive a bespoke training package including instrument lessons and developmental sessions during

their residencies and will be mentored by an orchestral musician. Fellows will rehearse and perform within chamber ensembles, with the year culminating in a public chamber performance.

As Learning and community engagement is a core strand of professional life at Liverpool Philharmonic, Fellows will participate in our award-winning Learning programmes such as In Harmony Liverpool, our music and mental health programme with NHS partners, and Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Company. Fellows will perform in children and family specific concerts, and will connect to our Emerging Composers programmes.

We look forward to welcoming the four new Fellows next season.



▲ Rushworth Composition Prize winner Nneka Cummins

Rushworth Composition Prize

The Rushworth Composition Prize, formerly the Christopher Brooks Composition Prize, was won in October 2021 by [Nneka Cummins](#). Nneka, from Toxteth, was awarded a prize of £1,000 (made possible through the support of the Rushworth Foundation) and a year's complimentary membership of the Ivors Academy, the UK's leading professional association for music creators.

The Prize provides Nneka with a unique opportunity over the next year to develop their talent. As part of Liverpool Philharmonic's Emerging Professionals programme, they will take part in a programme of workshops, masterclasses and mentoring sessions from composers, performers, conductors and other industry professionals associated with Liverpool Philharmonic. Nneka will also receive additional opportunities to produce new works and commissions for Liverpool Philharmonic and its associated ensembles. Nneka's year will culminate in them writing a new work for performance by Ensemble 10/10, which will be premiered in Autumn 2022.

Rushworth Young Composers

The Rushworth Young Composers scheme offers young composers and Youth Company members the chance to develop their composing skills by writing music for performance by their peers. The composers, aged 14 to 18, work with mentors to develop their creative and musical voice, write music for players and singers from Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and Choir and have the chance to see their music performed in the Liverpool Philharmonic Music Room.

We are supporting three Rushworth Young Composers, who have been busy taking part in workshops with members of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. The young composers will be writing a commission for string quartet Equilibrium, who will be bringing these new pieces to life in May 2022.



▲ Musicians from the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra deliver an online workshop to the Rushworth Young Composers, March 2021

Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries Programme

Adam Ghidouche, Creative Programming Officer, joined Liverpool Philharmonic in 2021. Adam's role was created through the [Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries programme](#), which supports jobs in arts and cultural organisations across the UK, seeking to remove barriers to building a career in the arts.



▲ Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries Programme beneficiary Adam Ghidouche

National Careers Week

In March 2021, we supported the Discover! Creative Careers Week, an online programme aimed at introducing students to different careers and workplaces across the creative sector including music, theatre and film. Schools and colleges could access a variety of filmed interviews, tours and live panel discussions including with our Technical Manager, Emma Carey and Production Technician Apprentice, Ellie Black.

University of Liverpool Partnership

Our well-established Learning and Teaching partnership with the University of Liverpool continues to go from strength to strength.

In September 2021, a new cohort commenced studying for an [MA in Classical Music Industry](#). This is a unique programme where students are able to gain insight into the industry from guest speakers from Liverpool Philharmonic's Executive Team, as well as undertake an internship within the organisation. Students enjoy privileged access to concerts throughout their study and are able to meet members of the orchestra and administration team in ways not available to the general public or students on other programmes. We are grateful to the Rushworth Foundation for sponsoring the Rushworth Scholarships for MA Classical Music Industry.

Help Musicians UK and Liverpool John Moores University

In 2019, Liverpool Philharmonic, Help Musicians UK and Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) announced a new partnership for groundbreaking research into injury prevention in professional musicians. Physiotherapist and Masters Graduate Céleste Rousseau commenced a three-year PhD research and development programme into injury prevention, focusing on common and significant injuries experienced by orchestral musicians.

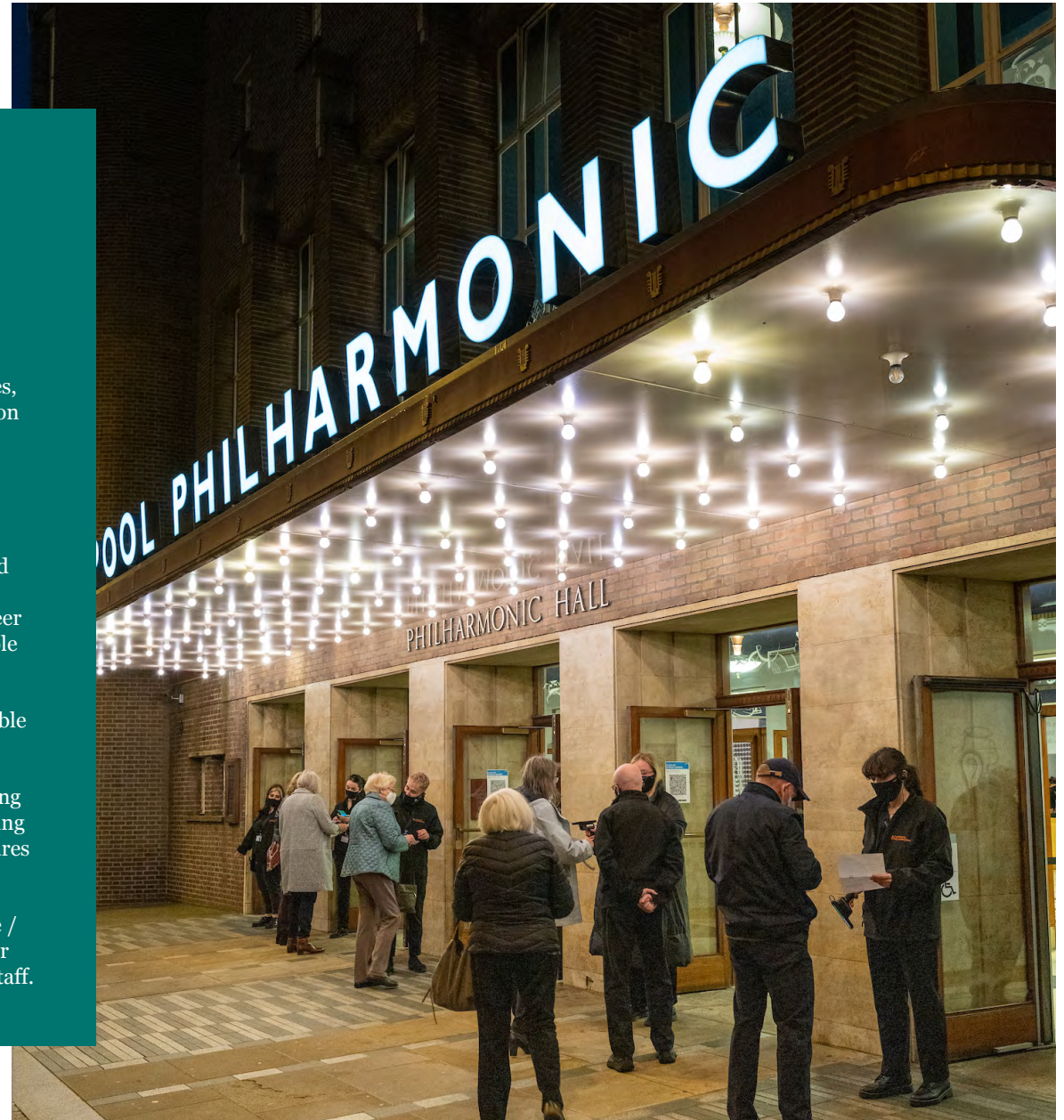
In May, Céleste spoke to the [Elevate Music Podcast](#), alongside Ruth Davies, Principal Oboe in Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. Céleste discusses common physical issues orchestral musicians come up against, her latest research and, her top tips to reduce risk.

Environmental Sustainability Plan

Liverpool Philharmonic is committed to fully understanding and minimising its impact upon the environment. [Our Environmental and Sustainability Policy](#) focuses on reach the highest standards in environmental sustainability throughout our operations and developing a positive culture of environmental awareness, personal and corporate responsibility across our employees, performers, promoters, audiences, participants, clients and contractors.

Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic and its aftermath, a team across the organisation have worked on a variety of activities including:

- Carbon Literacy training for all staff, providing an awareness of the carbon dioxide costs and impacts of everyday activities, and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community and organisational basis
- Food waste is now being composted, we've introduced more plant-based offerings, including vegan wine and beer on our bars and no disposable plastic glasses are used.
- Programme notes are available online rather than printed.
- Improvements to our Building Management System, enabling greater control of temperatures in the building.
- The hybrid working at home / office model has meant fewer journeys into the office for staff.



Our Supporters

As we continue to address the challenges posed by the pandemic, we want to thank our loyal donors, corporate supporters, trusts and foundations, and our wonderful audiences, for their support.

Vasily Petrenko - Celebrating 15 Years

In June 2021 we launched a campaign celebrating 15 years of Vasily Petrenko. We invited supporters to honour his 15-year tenure by supporting projects close to his heart. Donations supported the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir, as well as programmes which have thrived under Vasily's leadership, such as In Harmony and our work with music and mental health.

We commissioned a limited edition commemorative CD with previously unreleased performances. People who gave donations of £200 or more received a copy of this CD.

We were overwhelmed by the generosity shown. We received 385 donations which raised a total of £65,609.

To find out more about how you could make a lasting and meaningful contribution to the future generations of music lovers, please contact our fundraising team on 0151 210 2921, email fundraising@liverpoolphil.com or visit www.liverpoolphil.com/support-us/

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We are grateful to Arts Council England and Liverpool City Council for their invaluable contribution to our work.

Premier Sponsors



Investec Wealth & Investment

Investec Wealth & Investment have been a long standing supporter of Liverpool Philharmonic and have been a Premier Sponsor since the 2020-21 Season.

Investec Wealth & Investment sponsored On Demand: Vasily Petrenko conducts Mendelssohn, Schubert & Beethoven (20 April), Vasily Petrenko, Chief Conductor: Final Concerts (8, 9 and 10 July) and On Demand: Vasily Petrenko Final Concert (20 July).



Hill Dickinson

International law firm Hill Dickinson have been a long term supporter of Liverpool Philharmonic and have been a Premier Sponsor for three years.

Hill Dickinson sponsored two concerts (27 and 28 May), as well as On Demand: Sheku Kanneh-Mason performs Dvořák's Cello Concerto (1 June).



David M Robinson

Liverpool Philharmonic is delighted that David M Robinson have recently increased their support to Premier Sponsor.

David M Robinson sponsored John Lennon – A Life in Music (9, 10 and 11 December), The Snowman Family Concert (19, 20 December), and On Demand: Domingo Hindoyan conducts Stravinsky, Howard, Ravel and Prokofiev with Peter Moore (29 June).

Our Sponsors



In 2020/21, in addition to support from our Premier Sponsors, we were grateful for support from The Rushworth Foundation, Maestro! Touring, The Royal College of Pathologists and Liverpool Ocular Oncology Research Group.

The Rushworth Foundation sponsored two Royal Liverpool Philharmonic concerts (16 and 19 December), and also support the Rushworth Composition Prize and the Rushworth Scholarships for MA Classical Music Industry.

On Air



We thank our media partner, Classic FM, for helping us to share our music with millions of people around the world.



In Memory

We are grateful to all those who have made charitable bequests to Liverpool Philharmonic over the years. They help to ensure that Liverpool Philharmonic can continue delivering outstanding artistic output and award-winning community work for generations to come.

We are proud to honour these benefactors and also thank those who have given anonymously.

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