



Crossing Continents

Vasily Petrenko embraces works by a broad spectrum of composers, from Beethoven and Brahms to Ives and Shostakovich, in his season's second half

Conductor makes landmark debuts at Dutch National Opera and with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra with new staging of Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunov*

***Lights in the Dark* London series with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra probes enduring works written under the shadow of war or dictatorial regimes**

'The [RPO's] game has been lifted to new levels by the arrival of Vasily Petrenko as music director,' *Observer*, 17 February 2024

Vasily Petrenko's engaging 2024-25 season is set to unfold next year with the launch of his latest series as Music Director of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall. *Lights in the Dark* will explore the many ways in which composers have responded to the existential threat of war and the untold suffering unleashed by oppressive regimes. The programme opens on 26 January with Berg's Three Pieces for Orchestra, Beethoven's Piano Concerto No.5 'Emperor', with Paul Lewis as soloist, and Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*. It continues with three movements from Korngold's *The Sea Hawk* Suite, Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*, with Bruce Liu as soloist, and Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra (23 March), followed by the intriguing mix of Sibelius's *Finlandia*, Weill's *Four Walt Whitman Songs*, with baritone Roderick Williams OBE, and Shostakovich's Symphony No.7 'Leningrad' (27 April).

Lights in the Dark concludes on 25 June with Dorothy Howell's symphonic poem *Lamia*, written at the end of the First World War, and Florence Price's Piano Concerto in One Movement, presented in company with Tchaikovsky's Symphony No.4. "*Lamia* is a fantastic piece of music in a late-Romantic style," observes Vasily Petrenko. "The Tchaikovsky explores life and death, the place of the composer, the place of the human in the great cycle of time; in the end, life and humanity triumph."

Petrenko and the RPO will leave London at the end of January to undertake an extensive tour of central Europe. Their programme comprises major symphonic works by Bartók, Brahms, Dvořák and Mussorgsky together with the violin concertos of Tchaikovsky and Sibelius, with Julia Fischer as soloist. The tour begins on 30 January at Vienna's Konzerthaus and proceeds to the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg (31 January), Hanover's Kuppelsaal (1 February), the Cologne Philharmonie (2 February), Dusseldorf's Tonhalle (3 February), Munich's Isarphilharmonie (4 February), Liederhalle Stuttgart (6 February), Rosengarten Mannheim (7 February), Freiburg's Konzerthaus (8 February), and Frankfurt Opera (9 February). Closer to home, Petrenko will lead the RPO on tour to the Royal Festival Hall in Nottingham and Symphony Hall, Birmingham (27 & 29 March) in performances of Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet* Overture, Bruch's Violin Concerto No.1 in G minor, with Esther Yoo, and Prokofiev's Symphony No.5.

In addition to his work with the RPO, Petrenko is set to make his debut at Dutch National Opera and with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra in six performances of *Boris Godunov*. Mussorgsky's opera, scheduled to open on 10 June and run until 29 June, will be presented in a new staging by the Russian theatre and film director Kirill Serebrennikov. "I am delighted to join Dutch National Opera for this fresh look at Mussorgsky's great work," notes Vasily Petrenko. "Although I've performed *Boris* several times before, including at Bavarian State Opera last year, this will be my first new production. Dutch National Opera is one of the world's most diverse opera companies, so the staging will involve people from many different backgrounds. I'm also looking forward to my first meeting with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, especially in Mussorgsky's incredible score, which was so ahead of its time."

Petrenko's schedule comprises a rich and varied diet of guest conducting dates. He begins the new year in the company of student players, working with the National Youth Orchestra of Spain or JONDE (12-20 January)

and the Royal College of Music Symphony Orchestra in London (23 January). “It is my passion to work with young musicians as often as possible,” he notes. “I conducted JONDE many years ago and it was a special experience to be on tour with them.” His visit to the RCM marks the start of a long-term strategy to unite the conservatoire’s young conductors with its student orchestra. “No amount of conducting with piano can replace this experience of working with an orchestra,” he observes. “The Royal College wants to see more opportunities like this in future, as it will help the next generation of conductors as well as the young orchestral players.”

Vasily Petrenko revisits the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra after an eight-year absence to conduct William Walton’s spectacular cantata *Belshazzar’s Feast*, with Nathan Berg and the mighty Atlanta Symphony Chorus, together with Sibelius’s Symphony No.1 (13 & 15 February). He remains stateside for performances with the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C., opening with Liadov’s symphonic poem *Kikimora* and Saint-Saëns’ Cello Concerto No.1 with Tchaikovsky Competition prize winner Edgar Moreau. The programme closes with Tchaikovsky’s *Manfred* Symphony (20, 22 & 23 February). “I find something new in *Manfred* every time I come back to it,” he observes. “It will be fascinating to see how the National Symphony Orchestra has developed under my good friend Gianandrea Noseda. I’ve heard many good things about them.”

Back in Europe, Petrenko will open his concert with the Rundfunk Sinfonieorchester Berlin with the *Four Sea Interludes* from Britten’s *Peter Grimes*. Their programme presents Ravel’s song-cycle *Shéhérazade* in company with Rimsky-Korsakov’s symphonic suite *Sheherazade (1 March)*. He then travels to Geneva to conduct the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande in Prokofiev’s mighty Sinfonia-Concertante for cello and orchestra, with Kian Soltani, and Brahms’s Symphony No.1 (5, 6 & 7 March). Petrenko’s work with the Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra continues with a programme comprising the *Adagio* from Mahler’s Symphony No.10 and Shostakovich’s Symphony No.4 (5 & 6 April), followed by performances with the George Enescu Philharmonic, where he will conduct Mahler’s *Symphony No.2* on 16 and 17 April.

Vasily Petrenko’s season ends with his return to the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra as its Conductor Emeritus (3 July). “It’s always great to be back with them,” he comments. According to Google Maps Timeline, the conductor visited 93 cities in 29 countries last year and travelled the equivalent of 4.5 times round the world. “I think I might beat that by the time I reach Liverpool next summer! This is a really exciting season for me.”

www.vasilypetrenkomusic.com - [Facebook](#) - [Instagram](#)

The information in this press release was correct at the time of sending. Please check the organisations’ websites and social media for the latest updates.

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JONDE (Spanish National Youth Orchestra) SPAIN TOUR 12-20 JANUARY 2025

Sunday 12 January Pamplona, **Tuesday 14 January** Burgos, **Thursday 16 January** Santander, **Friday 17 January** Zaragoza, & **Monday 20 January** Madrid

Darius *Le Bœuf sur le toit*

Ravel *Daphnis et Chloé* Suite No.1&2

Bartók Concerto for Orchestra

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **National Youth Orchestra of Spain (JONDE)**

Thursday 23 January 2025, 7:30pm
Royal College of Music, London

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Royal College of Music Symphony Orchestra**

Sunday 26 January 2025, 3:00pm
Royal Festival Hall, London

Berg Three Pieces for Orchestra
Beethoven Piano Concerto No.5 "*Emperor*"
Stravinsky *The Rite of Spring*

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Paul Lewis** piano | **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**

RPO CENTRAL EUROPEAN TOUR 30 JANUARY - 9 FEBRUARY 2025 (with soloist Julia Fischer)

Thursday 30 January Vienna, **Friday 31 January** Hamburg, **Saturday 1 February** Hanover, **Sunday 2 February** Cologne, **Monday 3 February** Dusseldorf, **Tuesday 4 February** Munich, **Thursday 6 February** Stuttgart, **Friday 7 February** Mannheim, **Saturday 8 February** Freiburg & **Sunday 9 February** Frankfurt.

Thursday 13 February 2025, 8:00pm
Saturday 15 February 2025, 8:00pm
Atlanta Symphony Hall, Atlanta

Walton Belshazzar's Feast
Sibelius Symphony No.1

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Nathan Berg** baritone | **Atlanta Symphony Orchestra** | **Atlanta Symphony Chorus**

Thursday 20 February 2025, 7:00pm
Saturday 22 February 2025, 8:00pm
Sunday 23 February 2025, 3:00pm
The Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.

Liadov *Kikimora*
Saint-Saëns Cello Concerto No.1
Tchaikovsky Manfred Symphony

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Edgar Moreau** cello | **National Symphony Orchestra**

Saturday 1 March 2025, 8:00pm
Konzerthaus, Berlin

Britten *Four Sea Interludes* from *Peter Grimes*
Ravel *Shéhérazade*
Rimsky-Korsakov *Sheherazade*

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Véronique Gens** mezzo-soprano | **Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin**

Wednesday 5 March 2025, 7:30pm
Thursday 6 March 2025, 7:30pm
Friday 7 March 2025, 7:30pm
Victoria Hall, Geneva

Prokofiev *Sinfonia-Concertante* for cello and orchestra
Brahms Symphony No.1

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Kian Soltani** cello | **Orchestre de la Suisse Romande**

Sunday 23 March 2025, 7:30pm
Royal Festival Hall, London

Korngold *The Sea Hawk Suite* (three movements)
Rachmaninov *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*
Bartók Concerto for Orchestra

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Bruce Liu** piano | **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**

Thursday 27 March 2025, 7:30pm
Nottingham Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham

Saturday 29 March 2025, 7:30pm
Birmingham Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Tchaikovsky *Romeo and Juliet* Overture
Bruch Violin Concerto No.1 in G minor
Prokofiev Symphony No.5

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Esther Yoo** violin | **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**

Saturday 5 April 2025, 7:30pm
Sunday 6 April 2025, 7:30pm
Kultrpalast Concert Hall, Dresden

Mahler Symphony No.10 *Adagio*
Shostakovich Symphony No.4

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra**

Wednesday 16 April 2025, 7:00pm
Thursday 17 April 2025, 7:00pm

Mahler Symphony No.2

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Katerina Knezíkova** soprano | **Roxana Constantinescu** mezzo-soprano | **George Enescu Philharmonic**

Sunday 27 April 2025, 3:00pm
Royal Festival Hall, London

Sibelius *Finlandia*
Weill *Four Walt Whitman Songs*
Shostakovich Symphony No.7 "*Leningrad*"

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Roderick Williams OBE** baritone | **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**

Nationale Opera & Ballet
10, 14, 17, 20, 23, 26, 29 June 2025
Dutch National Opera & Ballet, Main Stage, Amsterdam

Mussorgsky *Boris Godunov*

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Kirill Serebrennikov** director, set & costume designer | **Tomasz Konieczny** Boris Godunov | **Inna Demenkova** Xenia | **Ya-Chung Huang** Prince Vasili Ivanovich Shuisky | **Dmitry Cheblykov** Andrei Schelkalov | **Vitalij Kowaljow** Pimen | **Najmiddin Mavlyanov** Grigory | **Raehann Bryce-Davis** Marina Mnishek | **Gevorg Hakobyan** Rangoni | **Shenyang** Varlaam | **Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra** | **Chorus of Dutch National Opera** | **Nieuw Amsterdams Children's Chorus** (part of Nieuw Vocaal Amsterdam)

Wednesday 25 June 2025, 7:30pm
Royal Festival Hall, London

Howell *Lamia*
Price Piano Concerto in One Movement
Tchaikovsky Symphony No.4

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Jeneba Kanneh-Mason** piano | **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**

Thursday 3 July 2025, 7:30pm
Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool

Weinberg *Rhapsody on Moldavian Themes*
Shostakovich *Suite for Variety Orchestra*
Tchaikovsky Symphony No.4

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra**