



Journeys of Discovery

**Vasily Petrenko's 2022-23 season includes Mahler's 'Symphony of a Thousand' and major tours with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, debut concerts with the Hong Kong Philharmonic, and returns to the Oslo Philharmonic, Berlin Radio Symphony and Cleveland orchestras
Conductor closes season with Bavarian State Opera production of *Boris Godunov***

Orchestral blockbusters, beguiling symphonic rarities and two performances of *Boris Godunov* for the Munich Opera Festival stand among the highlights of Vasily Petrenko's new season. The conductor is set to lead a second series of London concerts as Music Director of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and lead his players on tours of Eastern Europe, Spain, Germany, Japan and South Korea. His schedule also includes debut appearances with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and the Orchestra of the Palau de les Arts in Valencia and a run of return performances with, among others, the Oslo Philharmonic, the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Cleveland Orchestra and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

Journeys of Discovery provides the overarching theme of Petrenko's concerts with the RPO in London. His programmes comprise works that confront such existential questions as 'What is it to be human?' and 'What is our place in the world?', concerns that helped shape so many great orchestral works. The series begins at the Royal Festival Hall on 2 October with Wagner's rarely performed *A Faust Overture*, Grieg's Piano Concerto (with Simon Trpčeski) and Strauss's *Also sprach Zarathustra*, billed under the umbrella title of 'Awakening'.

Mahler's Symphony No.8, his so-called 'Symphony of a Thousand', is set to hold the Royal Albert Hall stage on 23 October, presented under the heading of 'Redemption'. "Mahler Eight is very rarely performed, because of the number of performers it requires," notes Vasily Petrenko. "Some 650 people will be involved – not quite a thousand but still a large number! I'm looking forward to performing it with the RPO and also Mahler's Second and Third Symphonies later in the season (30 March & 27 April 2023)." Thanks to the rescheduling of projects postponed during the pandemic, the 2022-23 season includes a substantial touring programme for Petrenko and his London orchestra. Their forthcoming overseas itinerary includes concerts in Bratislava, Zagreb, Wrocław and Krakow (7-13 October); a 10-concert tour of Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium, including performances in Munich, Frankfurt, Cologne and Antwerp (23 January-4 February); and a major tour of Asia (20-28 May).

"My way of programming is to create concert series that people might want to follow over several performances," observes Vasily Petrenko. "That's why there's an overall theme for our London series. It's an intense season for us at home and overseas. It shows that things are coming back to some sort of pre-pandemic life. Let's hope the present political and economic turmoil returns to normality soon, too."

The conductor's season includes debut appearances with the Orchestra of the Palau de les Arts in Valencia (16 December) and the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (January 2023). "I've been to Hong Kong with touring orchestras but this will be my first time with the local band," he recalls. "I'm particularly excited to be working with this fine orchestra and that we will play Strauss's *Ein Heldenleben* in one of our programmes."

This autumn also sees Vasily Petrenko return to the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, which he served as Chief Conductor from 2013-20, and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra in his role as Conductor Laureate. He will perform Tchaikovsky's *Manfred* Symphony with both orchestras, coupling it with Nikolai Tchernin's Prelude to *La Princesse lointaine* and Tchaikovsky's *Rococo Variations* (with Pablo Ferrández as soloist) for his Oslo programme (27 October). "I'm looking forward to being back in Oslo again, especially so as this concert was postponed during the pandemic. *La princesse lointaine*, little known in the West, was one of the first

Romantic pieces for symphony orchestra in the Russian repertoire. I'm trying to programme works by composers, such as Myaskovsky, Glière, Tchernin and so on, that deserve to be heard more often."

Petrenko returns to the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra with a thought-provoking combination of Mozart's 'Haffner' Symphony, Alban Berg's *Seven Early Songs* (with the acclaimed Australian soprano Siobhan Stagg as soloist) and the fantasy for large orchestra *Die Seejungfrau* (12 & 13 November). "*Die Seejungfrau* is one of my favourite works," he notes. "It may be based on Hans Christian Andersen's story *The Little Mermaid*, but it's really about Zemlinsky's heartbreak at the ending of his relationship with one of his students, Alma Schindler, who had fallen in love with Gustav Mahler and married him soon after. Zemlinsky associated himself with the mermaid who sacrificed her life for the sake of love."

For his concerts with the Cleveland Orchestra Petrenko has programmed Elgar's *Cockaigne (In London Town)* and Walton's First Symphony together with Prokofiev's Second Piano Concerto (1, 2 & 3 December). "I have discovered so much wonderful British music during my time in the UK and it's one of my passions to bring it to other countries. I feel a duty to bring the beauties of British music to the world." Other season highlights include an Easter concert with the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra comprising Te Deum settings by Arvo Pärt and Bruckner (7, 9 April) and a return to the SWR Symphony Orchestra Stuttgart (17, 18 & 20 November) to perform Franz Schreker's *Vorspiel zu einem Drama*, Berg's *Seven Early Songs* (with Chen Reiss as soloist) and the original 1911 version of Stravinsky's ballet *Petrushka*. "This will be my first time with them for about ten years," he recalls. "I'm looking forward to working with the orchestra again, especially with one of several programmes I'm doing of works by Viennese composers or members of the Second Viennese School."

As his season draws to a close, Vasily Petrenko will return to the Bavarian State Opera to conduct *Boris Godunov* as part of the Munich Opera Festival (4 & 6 July). The production, a revival of Calixto Bieito's 2013 staging, returns to the original 1868-69 version of Mussorgsky's score. Ildar Abdrazakov is set to sing the title-role, with Daria Proszek as the tsar's son Fyodor, Emily Pogorelc as Kseniya and Vitalij Kowaljow as Pimen. "This work, which is set in a time of troubles, offers so many insights into what it is to be human and the ways in which power corrupts," the conductor comments. "I can't wait to perform it in Munich with this fine cast."

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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Sunday 2 October 2022, 7.30pm
Royal Festival Hall, London

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Simon Trpčeski** piano | **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**

Wagner *A Faust Overture*

Grieg Piano Concerto

Strauss *Also sprach Zarathustra*

RPO TOUR 7 - 13 OCTOBER 2022

Friday 7 October Bratislava, Saturday 8 October Zagreb, Sunday 9 October Wroclaw, Monday 10 October Krakow, Thursday 11 October Bielsko-Biala, Wednesday 12 October Kaunas, Thursday 13 October 2022 Thessaloniki

Sunday 23 October 2022, 3pm
Royal Albert Hall, London

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Sarah Wegener** soprano | **Jacquelyn Wagner** soprano | **Regula Mühlemann** soprano | **Jennifer Johnston** mezzo-soprano | **Claudia Huckle** contralto | **Vincent Wolfsteiner** tenor | **Michael Nagy** baritone | **Shenyang** bass-baritone | **Philharmonia Chorus** | **Bournemouth Symphony Chorus** | **City of London Choir** | **Schola Cantorum of The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School** | **Tiffin Boys' Choir** | **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**

Mahler Symphony No.8 'Symphony of a Thousand'

Wednesday 26 & Thursday 27 October 2022, 7pm
Oslo Concert Hall

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Pablo Ferrández** cello | **Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra**

Tcherepnin *La princesse lointaine* (27 October only)
Tchaikovsky Variations on a Rococo Theme (27 October only)
Tchaikovsky *Manfred* Symphony

Thursday 3 November 7.30pm & Sunday 6 November 2022 2.30pm
Liverpool Philharmonic Hall

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Alban Gerhardt** cello | **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra**

James Macmillan *For Zoe*
Rubinstein Cello Concerto No.2
Tchaikovsky *Manfred* Symphony

Mendelssohn Overture *The Hebrides (Fingal's Cave)*
Haydn Cello Concerto in D
Tchaikovsky *Manfred* Symphony

Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 November 2022, 8pm
Philharmonie Berlin

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Siobhan Stagg** soprano | **Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin**

Mozart Symphony in D Major KV 385 'Haffner'
Berg *Seven Early Songs*
Zemlinsky *Die Seejungfrau*

Thursday 17 & Friday 18 November 2022 8pm, Beethovensaal Liederhalle, Stuttgart
Sunday 20 November 2022 7pm, Konzerthaus Freiburg

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Chen Reiss** soprano | **SWR Symphonieorchester Stuttgart**

Schreker *Vorspiel zu einem Drama*
Berg *Seven Early Songs*
Stravinsky *Petrushka* (1911 version)

Thursday 1 December 7.30pm, Friday 2 December 11am & Saturday 3 December 2022 8pm
Severance Music Center, Cleveland

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Behzod Abduraimov** piano | **Cleveland Orchestra**

Elgar *Cockaigne (In London Town)*
Prokofiev Piano Concerto No.2 (except 2 December)
Walton Symphony No.1

Friday 16 December 2022, 7.30pm Palau de les Arts, Valencia
Saturday 17 December 2022, 7.30pm Auditori de Castelló

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Roman Burdenko** baritone | **Orquestra de la Comunitat Valenciana**

Tcherepnin Prelude from *La princesse lointaine*
Mussorgsky *Songs and Dances of Death*
Rachmaninov Symphony No.2

Friday 6 & Saturday 7 January 2023, 8pm
Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Ning Feng** violin | **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra**

Elgar *Cockaigne (In London Town)*
Sibelius Violin Concerto in D minor, Op.47
R. Strauss *Ein Heldenleben*, Op.40

Friday 13 & Saturday 14 January 2023, 8pm
Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Boris Giltburg** piano | **Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra**

Prokofiev Piano Concerto No.3
Rachmaninov Symphony No.2

RPO TOUR 23 JANUARY - 4 FEBRUARY 2023

Monday 23 January Erlangen, Tuesday 24 January Munich, Wednesday 25 January Friedrichshafen,
Thursday 26 January Hamburg, Friday 27 January Düsseldorf, Saturday 28 January Hannover, Monday
30 January Frankfurt, Tuesday 31 January Cologne, Saturday 4 February 2023 Antwerp

Wednesday 8 February 2023, 7.30pm
Royal Festival Hall, London

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Javier Perianes** piano | **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**

Prokofiev *Romeo and Juliet* (excerpts)
Ravel Piano Concerto in G
Wagner *Tristan und Isolde*: Prelude and Liebestod
Scriabin *The Poem of Ecstasy*

Friday 17 & Saturday 18 February 7.30pm, Sunday 19 February 2023 11.30am
Sala Sinfónica, Madrid

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Cuarteto Quiroga** | **Orquesta Nacional de España**

Ligeti *Lontano*

Adams *Absolute Jest*, for string quartet and orchestra

Strauss *Also sprach Zarathustra*

Saturday 25 February 7pm & Sunday 26 February 2023 11am

L'Auditori Barcelona

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Heidi Melton** soprano | **Orquestra Simfònica de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya**

Strauss *Divertimento*, Op.86 (1941)

Strauss *Four Last Songs*

Strauss *Also sprach Zarathustra*

Friday 3 & Saturday 4 March 7.30pm, Sunday 5 March 2023 11am

Kulturpalast, Dresden

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Alice Coote** alto | **Dresdner Philharmonie**

Dvorák *The Aquarius* (except 5 March)

Elgar *Sea Pictures* (except 5 March)

Zemlinsky *Die Seejungfrau*

Thursday 30 March 2023, 7.30pm

Royal Albert Hall, London

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Elizabeth Watts** soprano | **Jennifer Johnston** mezzo-soprano | **Philharmonia Chorus** | **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**

Mahler *Symphony No.2 'Resurrection'*

Friday 7 April 2023 8.15pm TivoliVredenburg, Utrecht

Sunday 9 April 2023 11am Het Concertgebouw, Amsterdam

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Netherlands Radio Choir** | **Mané Galoyan** soprano | **Fleur Barron** mezzo-soprano | **Bekhzod Davronov** tenor | **Johannes Weisser** bass-baritone | **Radio Filharmonisch Orkest**

Pärt *Te Deum*

Wagner *Karfreitagszauber* (from *Parsifal*, 7 April only)

Bruckner *Te Deum*

RPO TOUR 19 - 21 APRIL 2023

Wednesday 19 & Thursday 20 April Madrid, Friday 21 April 2023 Alicante

Sunday 23 April 2023, 7.30pm
Royal Festival Hall, London

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Truls Mørk** cello | **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**

Dukas *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*
Elgar Cello Concerto
Tchaikovsky *Manfred* Symphony

Thursday 27 April 2023, 7.30pm
Royal Albert Hall, London

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Hanna Hipp** mezzo-soprano | **Philharmonia Chorus** | **Tiffin Boys' Choir** | **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**

Mahler Symphony No.3

Thursday 4 May 2023, 7.30pm
Liverpool Philharmonic Hall

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Adela Zaharia** soprano | **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra**

Bernd Richard Deutsch *Phantasma* (UK premiere)
Strauss Brentano Lieder (Six Songs)
Scriabin Symphony No.3 'The Divine Poem'

Wednesday 10 May 2023, 7.30pm
Royal Festival Hall, London

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Arabella Steinbacher** violin | **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**

Jennifer Higdon *blue cathedral*
Prokofiev Violin Concerto No.2
Berlioz *Symphonie fantastique*

RPO TOUR MAY 2023

Saturday 20 May Fukuoka, Sunday 21 May Osaka, Monday 22 May Tokyo, Tuesday 23 May Takasaki,
Wednesday 24 May & Friday 26 May Tokyo, Saturday 27 May Nagoya, Sunday 28 May 2023 Tokorozawa

Wednesday 7 June 2023, 7.30pm
Royal Festival Hall, London

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Nobuyuki Tsujii** piano | **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**

Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No.1
Shostakovich Symphony No.8

Thursday 15 & Friday 16 June 2023, 7.30pm
Sala Sinfónica, Valladolid

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Javier Comesaña** violin | **Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León**

Wagner *The Flying Dutchman* overture
Mendelssohn Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in E minor
Bartók Concerto for Orchestra

Saturday 24 June 2023, 8pm
Auditorio Alfredo Kraus, Las Palmas

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Orquesta Filarmonica de Gran Canaria**

Rachmaninov Symphony No.3
Stravinsky Symphony for wind instruments
Respighi *Ancient airs and dances*, Suite No.2

MUNICH OPERA FESTIVAL
Tuesday 4 July 7.30pm & Thursday 6 July 2023 7pm
Nationaltheater, Munich

Vasily Petrenko conductor | **Calixto Bieito** production | **Ildar Abdrazakov** Boris Godunow | **Daria Proszek** Fjodor | **Emily Pogorelc** Xenia | **Christina Bock** Xenias Amme | **Maxim Paster** Fürst Schuiskij | **Sean Michael Plumb** Andrej Schtschelkalow | **Vitalij Kowaljow** Pimen | **Dmytro Popov** Grigorij Otrepjew | **Ryan Speedo Green** Warlaam | **Brenton Ryan** Missail | **Lindsay Ammann** Schenkwirtin | **Kevin Connors** Gottesnarr | **Roman Chabaranok** Nikititsch | **Granit Musliu** Leibbojar | **Thomas Mole** Mitjucha | **Bayerisches Staatsorchester** | **Chorus, extra chorus and children's chorus of the Bayerische Staatsoper**

Mussorgsky *Boris Godunov*