



## **re:connect** Awakening

5pm & 7:30pm Saturday 5 December  
Streaming online from Thursday 10 December

Academy of St Martin in the Fields  
Ryan Wigglesworth, conductor



[asmf.org/reconnect](https://asmf.org/reconnect)

## PROGRAMME

### **Sibelius**

Nocturne from Belshazzar's Feast

### **Nielsen arr. Abrahamsen**

Three Piano Pieces Op.59 - recomposed for 10 instruments

### **Wagner**

Siegfried Idyll

### **Mozart**

Symphony No. 34, K.338

## ACADEMY OF ST MARTIN IN THE FIELDS

**Ryan Wigglesworth**, conductor

**Tomo Keller**, leader

### **Violin I**

Tomo Keller  
Rebecca Scott  
Gabrielle Painter  
Fiona Brett

### **Violin II**

Jennifer Godson  
Catherine Morgan  
Amanda Smith

### **Viola**

Robert Smissen  
Alexandros Koustas

### **Cello**

Stephen Orton  
Will Schofield

### **Bass**

Lynda Houghton

### **Flute/Piccolo**

Michael Cox

### **Oboe**

Tristan Cox  
Rachel Ingleton

### **Clarinet**

Nicholas Carpenter  
Emma Burgess

### **Bassoon**

Julie Price  
Graham Hobbs

### **Horn**

Stephen Stirling  
Joanna Hensel

### **Trumpet**

Mark David  
William O'Sullivan

### **Timpani**

Tristan Fry

In this concert we awaken from the brooding nightscape of Sibelius's Nocturne and travel through to the radiant ebullience of Mozart's Symphony 34. The musical work probably most famously associated with waking is Wagner's Siegfried Idyll. Composed as a morning serenade to surprise his beloved wife Cosima as she rose on her birthday, it is filled with music and sentiment of the upmost tenderness and intimacy. In music the key of light is considered to be C major. Mozart's Symphony 34 in C is the quintessence of C major work, brimming, as it does, with bonhomie, wit, invention and joy.

Michael Cox

### **Jean Sibelius (1865 - 1957)**

Nocturne from Belshazzar's Feast

Sibelius' Belshazzar's Feast, is incidental music written to accompany a play of the same name by Hjalmar Fredrik Eugen Procopé. The first performance was conducted by the composer in 1906 at the Swedish Theatre in Helsinki. The Nocturne is a prelude to Act II. In 1907 Sibelius arranged the ten movements of Belshazzar's Feast into a four-movement orchestral suite, which was well received by critics.

Sibelius was inspired and fascinated with orientalism, which was becoming increasingly popular in Nordic countries during the early 20th century. Belshazzar's Feast features some of Sibelius' most haunting and captivating music. It is a story of tragedy and seduction. Sibelius creates chilling tension and unsettling atmospheres for characterful portrayals of the story. The solo flute in the Nocturne reveals the torment and suffering of Leschanah, a woman who was sent to assassinate Belshazzar.

### **Carl Nielsen (1865 - 1931) arr. Hans Abrahamsen (b.1952)**

Three Piano Pieces Op.59 - recomposed for 10 instruments.

Nielsen is widely acknowledged to be Denmark's greatest composer as Hans Abrahamsen is its greatest living composer. Abrahamsen's pointillistic recomposition of Nielsen's 3 Piano Pieces Op 59 is a richly imagined homage to his illustrious

predecessor. Although Nielsen's adventurous music frequently features dark and turbulent episodes, his stated wish was that people be left with a sense of positivity and optimism.

### **Richard Wagner (1813 - 1883)**

Siegfried Idyll

Wagner's Siegfried Idyll is a symphonic poem; a piece of music in which a scene, landscape, painting or content of a poem, short story or novel is portrayed.

It was originally titled 'Tribschen Idyll with Fidi's Birdsong and the Orange Sunrise, a Symphonic Birthday Greeting. Presented to his Cosima by her Richard.' It was composed as a birthday present for Wagner's second wife, Cosima, after the birth of their son, Siegfried (nicknamed Fidi). On Christmas Day 1870 Cosima woke to the sound of 13 musicians, from the Tonhalle Orchester Zurich, performing her symphonic birthday poem on the stairs of their home. It was intended to be a private piece, however due to financial difficulties Wagner increased the orchestration and sold the score for publication, titled Siegfried Idyll.

Several themes that are heard in Siegfried Idyll also appear in Wagner's epic opera cycle, The Ring. Unlike his dramatic operas, Siegfried Idyll is intimate and restrained, with an air of gentleness and beauty. The birdsongs and horn calls reflect the work's original title, evoking images of nature. Siegfried Idyll has entwined the private and public life of one of opera's most revolutionary 19th century composers and it is the only instrumental work by Wagner that is regularly played.

### **W.A. Mozart (1756 - 1791)**

Symphony No. 34 in C Major, K.338

1. Allegro vivace
2. Andante di molto
3. Finale - Allegro vivace

Written at the young age of 24 and in a state of frustration with his career as Concert Master of the Salzburg Court Orchestra and

the lack of recognition he received for his musical talents, this was the last symphony Mozart wrote in Salzburg.

Feeling restricted by the Salzburg conservative taste, Mozart may have felt he could not escape what could be described as the 'Salzburg slavery' of these traditions and those of his Archbishop. Mozart left Salzburg to pursue his dream of writing operas, sophisticated symphonies and to awaken his independent career in Vienna and beyond.

Despite his frustrations and the constraints at the time of writing Symphony No. 34, it became one of Mozart's most irresistibly charming and energetic works. Under the influence of the progressive European cities, the maturity of the composition and forward-looking nature of the work is striking.

The symphony features ceremonial trumpet flourishes and fanfares, typical of Austrian symphonic writing. This is Mozart's first symphony to display this character and style of writing but would be revisited in his later symphonies. Despite being so energetic, the cherished slow second movement, Andante, is effortlessly elegant and delicate. It can be described as a 'nocturnal romance'. Drawing on the Opera Buffa genre, 'comic opera', the relentlessly energetic finale is permeated with comic symphonic arguments.

# Ryan Wigglesworth



Ryan Wigglesworth has established himself as one of the foremost composer-conductors of his generation. He was Principal Guest Conductor of the Hallé Orchestra from 2015 to 2018 and Composer in Residence at English National Opera. He held the Daniel R. Lewis Composer Fellowship with the Cleveland Orchestra for the two seasons 2013/15 and 14/15 and was Composer-in-Residence at the 2018 Grafenegg Festival. In close partnership with the Royal Academy of Music, where is Sir Richard Rodney Bennett Professor, he recently founded the Knussen Chamber Orchestra which made its Aldeburgh Festival and Proms debuts in summer 2019.

Recent opera engagements include a new production of *Die Zauberflöte* in the 2019 Glyndebourne Festival Opera season (also performed at the 2019 Proms), Birtwistle's *The Minotaur* for the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, *Così fan tutte*, *Carmen* and Glanert's *Caligula* for ENO, Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Aldeburgh, and widely acclaimed performances of Mark-Anthony Turnage's *The Silver Tassie* with the BBC Symphony at the Barbican and Thomas Larcher's *The Hunting Gun* at the 2019 Aldeburgh Festival.

Recent concerts include the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Finnish Radio Symphony, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, Bamberg Symphony Orchestra, DSO Berlin, Bergen Philharmonic, City of Birmingham Symphony, London

Philharmonic, Philharmonia, BBC Symphony, BBC Scottish Symphony, and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales at the BBC Proms. Forthcoming engagements sees debut visits to the Swedish Radio

Symphony, RSO Vienna, Tokyo, Melbourne and Seattle symphony orchestras, Frankfurt Opera for *The Cunning Little Vixen*, as well as a return to the Hallé and the BBC Proms with both the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Britten Sinfonia. Also active as a pianist, upcoming concerts include *Winterreise* with Mark Padmore, Mozart's Two-Piano Concerto with Paul Lewis, and Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1, directed from the keyboard.

One of the leading composers of his day, his first opera, *The Winter's Tale*, premiered at ENO in February 2017 in a production directed by Rory Kinnear and conducted by the composer. Other recent works include commissions from the Royal Concertgebouw and Cleveland orchestras, BBC Symphony (BBC Proms), song cycles for Sophie Bevan (Wigmore Hall/Grafenegg) and Mark Padmore (Aldeburgh Festival/Wigmore Hall). Further performances of his works have been directed by, amongst others, Sir Andrew Davis, Edward Gardner, Pablo Heras-Casado, Vladimir Jurowski, Oliver Knussen, Jukka-Pekka Saraste and Franz Welser-Möst. Current projects include a piano concerto which was premiered at the 2019 Proms by Marc-André Hamelin, and a large-scale work for chorus and orchestra, co-commissioned by the Bergen Philharmonic and Hallé.

Born in Yorkshire, he studied at New College, Oxford and the Guildhall School of Music & Drama. Between 2007-9 he was a Lecturer at Cambridge University where he was also a Fellow of Corpus Christi College. In October 2019 he was announced as Artist in Association with the Hallé Orchestra

## CONCERTS TO CATCH-UP WITH ONLINE:



re:connect **LOVE, LIES AND JUSTICE**  
Based on *The Ratline* by Philippe Sands

**Programme includes:**

**Bruckner** Adagio for strings

**Mascagni** Intermezzo from *Cavalleria Rusticana*

**Mahler** Piano Quartet in A Minor

Philippe Sands | Simon Wallfisch baritone  
Iain Farrington piano/organ

*Streaming until 11/12*



re:connect **NIGHT**

**Programme:**

**Mozart** Serenade No. 10 'Gran Partita'

**Alberga** Nightscape

Eleanor Alberga conductor (Nightscape)

*Streaming until 26/12*

### UPCOMING CONCERTS

#### A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Festive favourites by Rutter, Handel, Darke and more  
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