



125 years of the
ROYAL SCOTTISH
NATIONAL ORCHESTRA



John Barbirolli, with members of the Orchestra, 1934

125 years of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra

COMPACT DISC ONE

Richard Wagner (1813–1883)

1

Prelude to 'Tristan und Isolde', WWV 90

6:37

Langsam und schmachkend

William Chandler leader

Neeme Järvi

(CHSA 5126)

Hamish MacCunn (1868–1916)

2

Land of the Mountain and the Flood, Op. 3

9:49

Concert Overture

Sir Alexander Gibson

(CHAN 10412 X)

Carl Nielsen (1865 – 1931)

3 **from Symphony No. 4, Op. 29, FS 76 'Det Uudslukkelige'**
(The Inextinguishable) 10:05

IV Allegro – Glorioso – Tempo giusto

Edwin Paling leader
Bryden Thomson
(CHAN 9163 – 5 – download only)

George Enescu (1881 – 1955)

4 **Romanian Rhapsody, Op. 11 No. 1** 13:22

in A major

Modéré – Très vif

Edwin Paling leader
Neeme Järvi
(CHAN 6625)

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| | Anton Webern (1883–1945) | |
| 5 | Passacaglia, Op. 1 for Orchestra Edwin Paling leader Matthias Bamert (CHAN 8619 – download only) | 10:55 |
| | Richard Strauss (1864–1949) | |
| 6 | from 'Vier letzte Lieder', Op. posth. | 4:16 |
| 2 | 'September' Dame Felicity Lott soprano Edwin Paling leader Neeme Järvi (CHAN 9054 – download only) | |

Gustav Holst (1874 – 1934)

from 'The Planets', Op. 32 **14:49**

- | | | | |
|-----|---|---------------------------------|------|
| [7] | 1 | Mars. The Bringer of War | 7:20 |
| [8] | 4 | Jupiter. The Bringer of Jollity | 7:28 |

Edwin Paling leader
Sir Alexander Gibson
(CHAN 2026)

Sergey Sergeyevich Prokofiev (1891 – 1953)

[9] **from 'Alexander Nevsky', Op. 78** **13:00**

Cantata for mezzo-soprano, chorus, and orchestra
from the music to the film

- V The Battle on the Ice
Scottish National Orchestra Chorus
Roger Bevan Williams chorus master
Olga Gordon Russian language coach
Edwin Paling leader
Neeme Järvi
(CHAN 10482 X)

TT 83:00

COMPACT DISC TWO

Felix Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847)

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | The Hebrides, Op. 26 (‘Fingal’s Cave’) Overture Sir Alexander Gibson (CHAN 10412 X) | 10:16 |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|

Alexander Konstantinovich Glazunov
(1865 – 1936)

from ‘The Seasons’, Op. 67 **6:58**
Ballet in One Act and Four Scenes by Marius Petipa

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------|------|
| 2 | Introduction – | 1:44 |
| 3 | Scene 1. L’Hiver – | 1:22 |
| 4 | Variation 1. Le Givre – | 0:54 |
| 5 | Variation 2. La Glace – | 1:53 |
| 6 | Variation 3. La Grêle | 1:02 |

Neeme Järvi
(CHAN 8596)



Sir Alexander Gibson, Last Night of the Scottish Proms, Kelvin Hall



Neeme Järvi, Bryden Thomson, and Sir Alexander Gibson

| | | |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Camille Saint-Saëns (1835 – 1921) | | |
| 7 | Danse macabre, Op. 40 Symphonic Poem Sir Alexander Gibson (CHAN 6503) | 6:56 |
| Dmitri Shostakovich (1906 – 1975) | | |
| 8 | from Concerto No. 2, Op. 129 in C sharp minor for Violin and Orchestra I Moderato Lydia Mordkovitch violin Edwin Paling leader Neeme Järvi (CHAN 10864 X) | 13:02 |

Achille-Claude Debussy (1862 – 1918)

9 **from 'Nocturnes'** 10:14

III Sirènes

Modérément animé – Un peu plus lent –
En animant, surtout dans l'expression –
Revenir progressivement au Tempo I –
En augmentant peu à peu – Tempo I –
Plus lent et en retenant jusqu'à la fin

Women of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra Chorus

Timothy Dean chorus master

James Clark leader

Stéphane Denève

(CHSA 5102(2))

Sergey Sergeyevich Prokofiev

10 **from 'Lieutenant Kije', Op. 60** 3:08
Symphonic Suite

IV Troika

Edwin Paling leader

Neeme Järvi

(CHAN 10481 X)

Jean Sibelius (1865 – 1957)
III **from Symphony No. 5, Op. 82** **9:01**
in E flat major
III Allegro molto
Edwin Paling leader
Sir Alexander Gibson
(CHAN 6559(3) – download only)

Bohuslav Martinů (1890 – 1959)
III **from Symphony No. 1, H 289** **8:13**
Largo
Edwin Paling leader
Bryden Thomson
(CHAN 10316(3) X)

John Adams (b. 1947)

13

from 'Harmonielehre'

11:27

III Meister Eckhardt and Quackie

Slowly rocking (♩ = 48) - ♩ = 156 -

Precise, spirited, but not heavy ('scherzando')

James Clark leader

Peter Oundjian

(CHSA 5129)

TT 79:21



Royal visit to the Scottish National Orchestra



Rescuing timpani from St Andrew's Halls, 1962

Royal Scottish National Orchestra

125th Anniversary

In the 2015 / 2016 Season, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra celebrates a proud 125-year history of bringing the best in classical music performances to audiences right across Scotland and beyond.

Since our official founding, in 1891, as the Scottish Orchestra, we have worked with some of the world's most respected composers, conductors, and soloists – among them Gustav Holst, Richard Strauss, Artur Rubinstein, Aaron Copland, Luciano Pavarotti, and Elmer Bernstein – and we have played a crucial role in shaping the musical life of the nation.

Our early Principal Conductors included such eminent figures as Sir John Barbirolli, George Szell, and Walter Susskind, under

whose tenure we became a permanent, year-round ensemble and changed our name (in 1950) to the Scottish National Orchestra.

The figure with arguably the profoundest influence on our activities was Sir Alexander Gibson, Principal Conductor for a remarkable twenty-five years, from 1959 to 1984, who launched a pioneering Sibelius series and led the Orchestra on acclaimed tours of Europe and North America. More recent figures – Neeme Järvi, Bryden Thomson, the recently departed Walter Weller, Alexander Lazarev, and Stéphane Denève – are remembered fondly for their huge contributions to the Orchestra, in live concerts, acclaimed recordings, and extensive tours.

Despite the challenges of the Depression of the 1930s, we continued to provide exceptional concerts, and during the Second World War, even under constant threat from air raids, we successfully doubled our number of Season concerts, from twenty-seven to fifty-three. We performed at the first Edinburgh International Festival, in 1947, and for the inaugural production of the newly established Scottish Opera, in 1962. We survived a devastating fire at our headquarters in St Andrew's Halls the same year, moving first to City Halls in 1968, then to Henry Wood Hall in 1979.

HM The Queen became our Patron in 1977, prompting a name change in 1991 to the Royal

Scottish National Orchestra. We performed at the opening of Edinburgh's Scottish Parliament building, in 2004, and our special status in Scottish cultural life was cemented in 2007 when we were recognised as one of the nation's five national performing companies, supported directly by the Scottish Government.

We are proud of our 125-year history of exceptional performances in Scotland, and of taking the best in Scottish music making to international audiences. We look forward to the fresh opportunities that our new home in the RSN0 Centre will offer us, and the people of Scotland and beyond, over the next 125 years.

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SNO Chorus on tour to Israel, 1972



SNO Junior Chorus, with its founder, Jean Kidd

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Eric Richmond

Matthias Bamert



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Back cover Photograph of Peter Oundjian by Sian Richards

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Stéphane Denève

CHANDOS DIGITAL

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Conductors: Neeme Järvi, Sir Alexander Gibson, Bryden Thomson, Matthias Bamert,
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