

LSO Discovery

RAMAYANA: THE STORY OF DIWALI

Family Concert

Sunday 26 November 2.30pm



Supported by public funding from
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Resident Orchestra

LSO

TODAY'S CONCERT

Welcome to this afternoon's Family Concert at the Barbican. Today, our presenters Sita Thomas and Kuljit Bhamra will take us on an adventure, with help from the London Symphony Orchestra, LSO Discovery Choirs and special guests performing on traditional Indian instruments.

In this concert we'll discover the ancient story of Ramayana, featuring our friends Prince Rama and Princess Sita. Rama was supposed to become king, but jealous people in the kingdom banished him and Princess Sita to live deep in the jungle.

Far away on an island called Lanka, there lived a Demon King with ten heads called Ravana. Ravana wanted to steal Princess Sita and make her live on the island with him. With the help of King Hanuman, and you as his monkey army, we will help rescue her today.

This concert has been curated by Bindi McFarlane, LSO Second Violin, and Kuljit Bhamra, and is conducted by Tim Redmond.

Our Family Concerts are presented by LSO Discovery, which for over 30 years has been at the heart of the London Symphony Orchestra's mission to bring great music to everyone. We hope you enjoy the concert, and that we'll see you again soon.

DIWALI

- Kuljit Bhamra** Bhangra Mystic
Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges
Allegro Presto from Symphony No 2
Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov
The Young Prince and the Young Princess
from 'Scheherazade'
William Walton Charge and Battle from
'Henry V'
A R Rahman arr Bhamra & McFarlane
Jai Ho Song
George Frideric Handel arr Leach
La Réjouissance from 'Music for the
Royal Fireworks'
Elena Kats-Chernin Moon Feather Magic
A R Rahman arr Bhamra Jai Ho

Lee Reynolds conductor
Dr Sita Thomas presenter
Kuljit Bhamra tabla
Joley Cragg Indian percussion
Jonathan Mayer sitar
Angie Newman BSL interpreter
LSO Discovery Junior & Senior Choir
prepared by **Lucy Joy Morris**
London Symphony Orchestra

Bindi McFarlane creative concept & direction
Kuljit Bhamra creative collaborative lead
Rachel Leach, Dr Sita Thomas,
Yinka Williams creative advisors
Christopher Corr illustrator

Lee Reynolds

Lee Reynolds is an RPS Award and Sky Arts Award-winning conductor with a reputation for bringing intensity and exceptional detail to his performances.

Highlights include a production of Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges* with VOPERA and the LPO, Kurt Weill's *Street Scene* at the Opéra de Monte Carlo, productions of Giacomo Puccini's *La bohème* with Welsh National Opera, Georges Bizets *Carmen* at Opera Holland Park, as well as performances with the LSO, Philharmonia, CBSO, Glyndebourne, BBC Philharmonic, Orchestra of Opera North, Beethoven Academy Orchestra in Kraków. Lee has a huge catalogue of recordings which have been lauded in the international press.

Kuljit Bhamra

Kuljit Bhamra is best known as a pioneer of the British Bhangra sound and for his many collaborations with musicians from different cultures. He has recorded and produced over 2,000 songs and is the recipient of many awards. His cutting-edge projects and ground-breaking educational work earned him the prestigious honour of MBE in 2009.

Kuljit is passionately committed to promoting the understanding of Indian instruments, and broadening their use in all types of music. He recently created the world's first electronic tabla and universal Indian drum notation system.

Dr Sita Thomas

Dr Sita Thomas is a presenter, director and producer based in Cardiff. She is currently Artistic Director and CEO of Fio theatre company. Thomas is passionate about championing and creating opportunities for Global Majority creatives. She holds a PhD from the University of Warwick and a Masters in Movement Direction from Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

Sita is a trustee of Emergency Exit Arts and formerly of the Young Vic. She was a children's TV presenter of Channel 5's milkshake! from 2015 to 2023.

Belinda (Bindi) McFarlane

From Adelaide, South Australia, Bindi McFarlane came to London as Leader of the Australian Youth Orchestra for the BBC Proms. She liked it so much, she stayed – and continued further studies. After a period of freelancing and busking, Belinda joined the Second Violin section of the LSO.

A passionate advocate of the power of communication through music, Bindi has led workshops for LSO Discovery and with her piano trio fiorini around the world, and returns frequently to Australia to direct orchestras and training workshops. Bindi was a member of the LSO Board at one time in the position of Vice-Chair. She now serves on the LSO Discovery Advisory Committee.

WHAT'S NEXT

NEXT LSO FAMILY CONCERTS

Sunday 17 March 2024

2.30pm

HEROES, OUTLAWS & VILLAINS

Explore Aaron Copland's Wild West-inspired *Billy the Kid* alongside other musical rogues and scoundrels, with perhaps a hero or two swooping in to save the day!

Sunday 2 June 2024

2.30pm

Theme to be announced

Visit lso.co.uk/families

HALF SIX FIX

Half Six Fix is a short burst of music in the early-evening. Hear directly from the conductor and learn all about what makes the music so great.

Selected Wednesdays at 6.30pm

Visit lso.co.uk/halfsixfix

ONLINE ACTIVITIES: ALICE SOUND

Delve into the captivating world of Lewis Carroll's Alice books and hear brand-new music created by composer Paul Rissmann, performed by the LSO.

Sing and play along, and explore a range of resources and activities from professor Kiera Vaclavik in this online activity.

Visit thealicesound.com

Discover more online activities at lso.co.uk/digitalactivities

£6 TICKETS FOR UNDER 18S

Under 18s can get tickets to most LSO concerts at the Barbican, including our Half Six Fix series, for just £6. There are always lots of opportunities through the year to experience the joy of live music.

Visit lso.co.uk/whatson