

LSO DISCOVERY SHOWCASE

Voices of Creation: The Artist's Journey

Thursday 26 June 2025
Barbican

7.30pm

Hector Berlioz

Movement 4 from 'Symphonie fantastique'

LSO Next Generation & Rachel Leach

Inspiration: Tension: Connection: Legacy

Pete Churchill

Dig Deep (for Choir & Orchestra)

Trad arr Reginald Unterseher

Wayfarin' Stranger (for Choir & Orchestra)

George Harrison arr Podd Brothers

Here Comes The Sun (for Choir & Orchestra)

Mark Withers orch Rachel Leach

with **LSO Create**

ReMBRANDT

Karen Ní Bhroin conductor

LSO Next Generation

LSO Discovery Choirs

LSO Create

Angie Newman BSL interpreter

Concert finishes at approximately 8.45pm

Welcome



We are delighted to welcome you to this evening's LSO Discovery Showcase, uniting participants from across our Discovery programme with the LSO in performance. It is a pleasure to have Karen Ní Bhroin return to the Barbican stage, following her appearance last week conducting Holst's *The Planets* in the LSO Family Concert.

This showcase explores themes of creativity and the role of the artist. Tonight, we will hear new works from LSO Next Generation and

LSO Create, the latter inspired by Rembrandt's artistic legacy, as well as performances by LSO Discovery Choirs and a movement from Berlioz's evocative *Symphonie fantastique*.

The LSO Discovery programme is recognised for its breadth and depth. It encompasses a wide range of initiatives, including workshops for young people, support for emerging artists and community-led activities, all designed to make the transformative power of music accessible to diverse audiences and participants. I would like to thank all those whose generous support has made our LSO Discovery work possible.

We hope you enjoy this concert and that you will be able to join us again soon. In July, Sir Antonio Pappano, the LSO's Chief Conductor, brings the 2024/25 season to a close with performances of Strauss' opera *Salome* – the first of his summer concert operas with the LSO – featuring Asmik Grigorian in the title role. Looking ahead, the LSO opens its 2025/26 season in September with Sir Antonio Pappano conducting 20th-century American symphonies by Bernstein and Copland. We hope to see you there.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathryn McDowell". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dame Kathryn McDowell DBE DL
Managing Director

About Today's Showcase

Good evening, and a very warm welcome to the Barbican Hall for this year's LSO Discovery Showcase. We're so pleased you could join us for what promises to be a moving and inspiring evening.

This special event is a celebration of creativity, giving our Discovery musicians the opportunity to perform alongside the London Symphony Orchestra and to share the incredible work they've developed over the past year. This concert is a real highlight of our season and we always look forward to performing on stage with these remarkable musicians.

While we wish we could showcase every group involved in the Discovery programme, tonight we are delighted to present performances by participants from LSO Next Generation, LSO Discovery Choirs, and LSO Create.

Together, they will take us on a journey exploring the transformative power of music, and the vital role of the artist in making sense of the world around us. The performances take us through different stages in the artist's journey – from introspective beginnings to bold expressions that reach far beyond the self.

We begin this evening with the LSO performing a movement from Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*, subtitled 'Episodes in the Life of an Artist'. This emotionally charged work, inspired by Berlioz's unrequited love for the

Irish actress Harriet Smithson, sets the tone for a night that is all about transformation and finding your artistic identity.

Following this, LSO Next Generation presents a newly devised instrumental piece, also inspired by the theme of the artist's journey. They are followed by our LSO Discovery Choirs, who perform alongside the Orchestra, celebrating the sense of belonging and shared expression that music can create. We then welcome LSO Create, who share a piece inspired by Rembrandt's own creative path, drawn from his paintings housed in the National Gallery.

As both a violinist in the LSO and Chair of the organisation, I've had the privilege of working alongside and watching our Discovery participants grow over the past year – not only as musicians, but as artists with something meaningful to say.

Our Discovery programme exists to not only nurture creativity in people, but also to inspire confidence. It's a reminder that the journey of an artist isn't about perfection – it's about finding your voice and having the courage to share it. And that's exactly what tonight is about. Thank you for being part of it.

Sarah Quinn

Chair of the Board, Sub-Principal Second Violin

**Please switch off all phones.
Photography and audio/video recording
is not permitted during the performance.**

Details correct at time of going to print.

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Share Your Thoughts

Visit iso.co.uk/survey or scan the QR code to complete a short survey about tonight's concert.



DISCOVERY

LSO Discovery enriches lives through the transformative power of music, with a year-round programme of inspiring, inclusive opportunities for performers, creators and listeners of all ages. Every year we reach 60,000 people through nearly 1,000 workshops and events, using the power of music to enhance wellbeing, and sharing the knowledge and experience of the LSO family to encourage creativity, potential and talent to flourish.



Creative music for young people

We aim to ensure all young people have access to inspirational opportunities to learn about, listen to and participate in music, instilling a lifelong love for the artform.

Workshops and concerts for under-5s allow little ones to get up close to the instruments of the orchestra, and to enjoy moving to new sounds and songs. For older children, our fun, participatory Family Concerts and Key Stage Concerts at the Barbican introduce music and the instruments of the orchestra through a theme.

We also have an ever-growing range of digital resources available for use in the classroom or at home, and our Continuing Professional Development programme supports teachers in delivering a creative music curriculum.



Young people can get actively involved in music-making through LSO On Track, our programme of activity in partnership with East London Music Services, and their Music Hub, which includes opportunities in mainstream and special education school settings, through to high-level coaching, mentoring and performance opportunities for young instrumentalists. Our LSO Discovery Choirs encourage young people of all abilities to find their voice and experience the joys of singing.



There are major opportunities too for early-career composers through the LSO Helen Hamlyn Panufnik Composers' Scheme, Soundhub and Jerwood Composer+ programme, where participants are encouraged to experiment with and develop their writing for a full orchestra or chamber ensemble. Meanwhile the biennial Donatella Flick LSO Conducting Competition bridges the gap between conservatoire training and professional life for early-career conductors.

Music skills for the next generation

Through practical guidance, mentoring and coaching, we are helping to build a future generation of musicians that reflects the society we live in. The LSO Conservatoire Scholarships programme aims to ensure that musicians from all backgrounds have access to conservatoire training. The Pathways scheme nurtures the personal and professional development of aspiring orchestral players who may have faced barriers to their progress, while our close collaboration with the Guildhall School of Music & Drama on their Orchestral Artistry programme supports master's students seeking a career in orchestral playing.

We also work with string players at the start of their career, providing opportunities to gain professional concert experience with the LSO, through the String Experience scheme.



Music in our community

Through music we can enrich lives, and help people connect with each other and their communities. Our musicians make visits throughout the year to hospitals, community and children's centres, using music to respond to health and wellbeing challenges. Further specially tailored activities include LSO Create for neurodiverse and/or disabled adults, their carers and supporters, who are performing in this evening's concert.

We work closely with community partners to deliver projects that have the greatest impact for local people, such as LSO Connect, which aims to bring live music to sometimes isolated older local residents. We also support community-led initiatives including the Community Gamelan Group and the St Clement's Community Choir.

Finally, everyone is invited to discover more about music as a listener in our Free Lunchtime Concert series at LSO St Luke's, which includes specially tailored performances, particularly suitable for people more comfortable attending a concert in a relaxed environment where they are free to move around and make noise.



Through LSO Discovery we work with 60,000 people every year from all backgrounds, and we invest around £2.7m a year to ensure our community and learning projects can be enjoyed at little or no cost to participants. Your support can help us do more, and to keep making a transformative impact through music.

Email **development@lso.co.uk** to find out how you can make a difference.

Before the Showcase

Across the Barbican Foyers



Enjoy live music performances and installations by participants from across LSO Discovery.

Scan the QR code to find out more about the music and performers.

What's on and where?

Installations: Soundhub Composer Scheme

Level G Studio

6pm

Clarion Trio

Freestage

6pm and 6.35pm

Meadow Brooks & Francesca Collyer-Powell: Marimba & Trumpet duo

Freestage

6.20pm

Hackney Music Service:

Classical Meets Jazz

Clubstage

6.45pm and 7.05pm

Orchestral Artistry Students & LSO Brass Fanfares

Foyers Balcony

6.55pm

LSO Soundhub is generously supported by Susie Thomson.

Movement 4 from ‘Symphonie fantastique’

Hector Berlioz

Programme note by **Rachel Leach**

Hector Berlioz (1803–69) was one of the most flamboyant composers of the Romantic period. He lived in France and was hugely influenced throughout his life by Beethoven, Shakespeare and the Romantic literature of the day (Victor Hugo, Byron, Shelley etc). He led an emotionally charged life and his music reflects this. It is big, loud and rich. His most famous (and controversial) piece by far is *Symphonie fantastique*. Written in 1830, this epic symphony catapulted young Berlioz to fame.

‘Hector Berlioz was one of the most flamboyant composers of the Romantic period.’

idée fixe ▷ A recurring theme that forms the basis or structure of a composition

Symphonie fantastique

Berlioz was a young struggling composer in Paris when he saw a travelling English Theatre company perform Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*. On stage was a beautiful young Irish actress called Harriet Smithson playing the title role. Berlioz fell in love with her at first sight and subsequently spent the following five years pursuing her. He wrote her letters, followed her around Paris, saw all her performances and continually asked her to marry him. In short – he stalked her. He described this period as the ‘grand drama’ of his life.

In despair, he wrote *Symphonie fantastique* which tells an alternate story of his love for Harriet and includes a beautiful tune that occurs in every movement and represents her. After this piece became successful, Harriet was so flattered (despite being cast as an ugly witch in the final movement) that she married him, but the marriage was a disaster.

Movement 4: March to the Scaffold

This is the point in the symphony where fiction takes over. The first three movements portray an artist in love. In Movement 1, we encounter Harriet for the first time and hear her tune (the **idée fixe** ▷) in many variations as she moves through Paris. Movement 2 takes her to the glittering ballroom and Movement 3 is set in the countryside. But then Berlioz’s troubled inner world takes over. After dreaming he has killed his beloved, Berlioz imagines himself marching through the streets of Paris to his own execution. We hear a forlorn descending march depicting his journey, alternating with a stirring, spritely ascending march depicting the cheering crowds lining the route. At the climax and at the guillotine, a fragment of the *idée fixe* – one last thought of Harriet – appears before the blade falls. All of this perfectly described in Berlioz’s vivid music.



LSO Next Generation

Inspiration: Tension: Connection: Legacy



Composed by **LSO Next Generation**

Transcribed and scored by **Rachel Leach**

- 1 **Inspiration**
- 2 **Tension**
- 3 **Connection**
- 4 **Legacy**

Programme note by **Rachel Leach**

Inspiration: Tension: Connection: Legacy is a piece of music about the creation of a piece of music. It is inspired by the subtitle of Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*: 'Episodes in the life of an artist' and four words that encapsulate that journey – inspiration, tension, connection, legacy.

We begin with the stress of inspiration. The clock is ticking and all of our ideas burn out and come to nothing, stress levels increase. The orchestra behind us makes its presence known. As we grasp for an idea we feel tension and this explodes into a large dissonant chord – this time the orchestra saves us. Our third section, connection, is a *passacaglia* – one chord scheme, one tune performed over and over in different variations until all the performers on stage are connected. And finally, legacy – a stream of solos from some of our Next Generation players showcasing their confidence and musicianship.

All of the music has been created by the participants. I simply brought a tone row, derived from the words, a loose structure and a chord scheme. Everything else – every single note, rhythm and dynamic – is theirs.

On Stage

Violins

Muazzaz Ahmed
Amalia Baciú
Joshua Bulindi Gomez
Thomas Griffiths
Daisy Elliott
Stanislas Kamande
Amelie Mudanohwo
Fiamma Solinas
Newark
Valentina Toro Arteaga
Orel Twesigye

Cellos

Sienna Brown
Jason Huang
Phoebe Secher

Double Basses

Yannis Sissuh
Helena Thomson

Flutes

Anisa Campbell
Krish Kainth
Jason Robinson
Elizabeth Varkey
Victor Wojciech
Conor Wynne

Clarinets

Beatrice Branscombe
Ianna Celibio
Paul Damian
Luca Edward
Baumslag-Grisi
Ethan John-Lewis
Si ying Lin

Bassoons

Mouyuan Liu
Finn Malcolm-Norris

Saxophone

Jedidiah Olawunmi

Horn

Elza Staniuk

Trumpets

Rafael Ferreira
Jess Mellon
Rudi Wood

Trombones

Jethro Nanjo
Nilufer Ucar

Percussion

Oluwajuwonlo Asoto
Alisha Bibi
Toby Carpenter
Alistair Colkett
Lidia Rotolo

LSO Musicians

Belinda McFarlane

Guest Musicians

Jacob Brown
Judith Herbert
James Maynard

About LSO Next Generation

Next Generation is a creative ensemble that gives young musicians from East London the opportunity to work with LSO musicians to develop new music, this year led by LSO Animateur Rachel Leach. Beginning by learning and developing fragments of musical material by ear, young musicians improvise new musical ideas using their instruments. With the guidance of LSO musicians, they negotiate and make compositional decisions about what material to keep and how to develop it. The project creates an environment where it is safe to take risks, and which enables young musicians to thrive and excel in ways they did not expect.

Next Generation is part of LSO On Track, a partnership with ten East London Music Services, and their Music Hubs, which aims to reflect the diversity of the community in East London.

This project is generously supported by the Kirby Laing Foundation.

‘I set a goal for myself to make new friends and I feel less insecure about playing in front of others.’

LSO Next Generation participant

LSO ST

Reopening this Autumn

Chamber music, activities for families, new music and more.

lso.co.uk/stlukes



LUKES

Friday 7 November 12.30pm

Free Friday Lunchtime Concert

Thursday 20 November 1pm

Friday 21 November 1pm

**BBC Radio 3 Lunchtime Concerts:
Spotlight on Antoine Tamestit**



Saturday 15 November 10.30am & 12pm

Musical Storytelling for Under-5s

Friday 28 November 12.30pm

Relaxed Free Friday Lunchtime Concert

LSO Discovery Choirs



Pete Churchill

Dig Deep (for Choir & Orchestra)

Trad arr Reginald Unterseher

Wayfarin' Stranger (for Choir & Orchestra)

George Harrison arr Podd Brothers

Here Comes The Sun (for Choir & Orchestra)

The LSO Discovery Choirs have had a bumper year, full of change. In the autumn, they kicked off with a new conductor, Imogen Parry, who has led them expertly through the season.

In November, we said goodbye to LSO St Luke's (as it closed for renovations) with our annual Sing Stars concert. Our singers were at the centre of this project – Senior Choir members presented the concert, sang solos accompanied by a professional band, and helped to pull the event together, while our Junior Choir brought the house down with favourites *Sparkle and Shine* and *Let It Go*. In January, they moved into their temporary home at Central Foundation Boys School, Old Street, and started work on their performance of *The Lost Thing* by Paul Rissmann – a 20-minute choral suite which was originally written for the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. They performed this alongside the Clerkenwell Community Choir at the LSO Family Concert in March at the Barbican Hall. The composer was delighted with the Discovery Choirs' contribution to the piece and said it had made all his wishes for the composition come true.

The Choirs have been working on the songs you will hear them sing tonight since January. *Dig Deep* by Pete Churchill is a favourite, and one of the highlights of this term has been Pete coming to our rehearsal in June to work on it with them. The arrangement of *Poor Wayfarin' Stranger* has been orchestrated for tonight's performance by Ben Smith, our regular pianist, and *Here Comes the Sun* has been a more challenging piece for the choirs to get their teeth into.

At the Discovery Choirs, we are focused on providing young people in the local area access to music making with the LSO, and making sure their voices are heard strong and proud. They have worked incredibly hard over the past year, and hope you enjoy their performance.

On Stage

LSO Discovery Junior Choir

Luna de Andrade
Riebel
Ylva Auty
Enzo Bennett Shaw
Maggie Brown
Oscar Compton
Annabelle Dale
Gloria Falcioni
Vera-Laine
Farahmand
Joseph Gillinson-
Geach
Josiah Harrison
Samuel
Keira Kan-Edwards
Oliver Kazimierczuk
Maya Kritikou-Taylor
Nina Kritikou-Taylor
Orrin Macleod
Beth Mangan
Annie Mary
Charlotte Mary
Olive McAdoo
Mahe McCullough
Charlie McGowan
Emma Meneguzzo
Mia Milczanowska
Grace Newman
Teodora Panic
Emmeline Phillips
Gabriella Smith
Uma Smith
Noa Yamakawa
George Zhang

LSO Discovery Senior Choir

Markus Askheim
Eva Beets
Pip Burton
Michelle Calpane
Bradford Cheung
Elise Curtis
Danielle Eatock
Matteo Falcioni
Colette Gritschke
Pamela Harrison
Samuel
Olli Heaphy
Gabriela Hunt-
Montoya
Fenna van Kasteren
Evelyn Mary
Ellen Morton
Kat Morton
Susannah Osborne
Lois Parker
Ruslana Romanovska
Margot Scott
Kitty Sinclair
Kira Siu
Julius Steele-
Kendrick
Maximilian Ticheli
Lennie Wakefield
Nathan Withers
Lara Zaroslinski

About LSO Discovery Choirs

The LSO Discovery Choirs offer the opportunity for young people of all abilities and backgrounds to find their voice and experience the joy of singing and music-making together. Regular rehearsals during term time build up to the Choirs' concerts at LSO St Luke's and the Barbican. The choirs have been under the direction of Imogen Parry since September 2024.

The LSO Discovery Choirs are generously supported by D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust.

**'We all had a
fantastic time,
and it's been a
truly inspiring
and empowering
experience for my
daughter.'**

LSO Discovery Choir parent

Dig Deep

Pete Churchill

Funny how life can pass you by,
Here and gone in the blink of an eye.
And we only get one chance to fly,
Before it slips away.

And you wonder where the years all go,
Years that seemed to move so slow.
I wish I knew then what now I know,
Make the most of ev'ry day.

You got to Dig Deep!
It's within you.
A fire inside your heart.
If you're lookin' to find the strength to continue,
That's where you've got to start.

You got to Dig Deep!
Find the power
To carry you on your way.
Think of all of the things that you said you'd do
And remember the change
has to come from you.
Plant a seed, let it grow,
Ev'ry seed that you sew,
You will surely reap.
But you got to Dig Deep!
Dig Deep!

Why be burdened with regret
When the race of life isn't over yet.
You've got to take ev'ry chance you get
Don't be afraid to try.
Got to seize the day and don't look back
Face your fear and take up the slack,
Lift your head, look down the track,
Soon you're gonna fly.

You can't buy it in a bottle,
You can't get it on the street,
It's a natural high that money can't buy
That gets you on your feet!
Can't buy it over the counter,
You can't get it off the shelf,
'Cause the stuff that you need
To help you succeed
Is deep inside yourself.

You got to Dig Deep!
It's within you.
A fire inside your heart.
If you're lookin' to find the strength to continue,
That's where you've got to start.
You got to Dig Deep!
Find the power
To carry you on your way.
Think of all of the things that you said you'd do
And remember the change
has to come from you.
Plant a seed, let it grow,
Ev'ry seed that you sew,
You will surely reap.
But you got to Dig Deep!
Dig Deep!

© Pete Churchill 2012

Wayfarin' Stranger

Trad arr Reginald Unterseher

I'm just a poor wayfarin' stranger,
A travellin' through this world of woe,
But there's no sickness, toil, or danger,
In that bright land to which I go.

I'm goin' there to see my father,
I'm goin' there no more to roam;
I'm only goin' over Jordan,
I'm only goin' over home.

I know dark clouds will gather o'er me,
I know my way is rough and steep.
But beauteous fields lie just before me,
Where souls redeemed their vigils keep.

I'm goin' there to see my mother,
No more to roam
I'm only goin' over Jordan,
I'm only goin' over home.
I'm only goin' over home.

This 2025 arrangement produced by
permission of Oxford University Press.

Here Comes The Sun

George Harrison arr Podd Brothers

Here comes the sun,
Here comes the sun,
Ooo

Little darlin'
It's been a long, cold, lonely winter
Little darlin'
It feels like years since it's been here

Here comes the sun (Doo-d-doo-doo)
Here comes the sun
And I say, 'It's alright'

Little darlin'
The smile's returning to their faces
Little darlin'
It seems like years since it's been here

Here comes the sun (Doo-d-doo-doo)
Here comes the sun
And I say, 'It's alright'

Sun, sun, sun, here it comes
Sun, sun, sun, here it comes
Sun, sun, sun, here it comes
Sun, sun, sun, here it comes
Ooo

Little darlin'
I feel that ice is slowly melting
Little darlin'
It seems like years since it's been clear

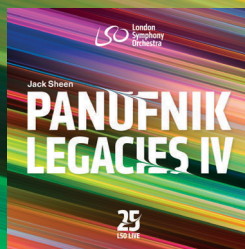
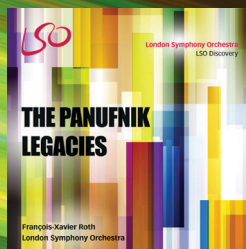
Ooo, here comes the sun
Ooo, here comes the sun
And I say, 'It's alright'
Little darlin'
Here comes the sun
It's alright
Little darlin'
Here comes the sun
And I say, 'It's alright'
Little darlin'
Here comes the sun

Sun, sun, sun
Sun, sun, sun, here it comes

Words and Music by George Harrison
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Jack Sheen conducts the London Symphony Orchestra on the fourth album in the Panufnik Legacies series, presenting fourteen new works from some of the most exciting emerging composers of today.

PANUFNIK LEGACIES IV



'This fourth recording is a tribute both to the composers involved and to the remarkable faith that the LSO has shown in the Helen Hamlyn Panufnik Composers' Scheme over the years.'

Colin Matthews OBE



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LSO LIVE

Album available now at
lsolive.lso.co.uk





Composed by **Mark Withers** and **LSO Create**
Orchestrated by **Rachel Leach**

- 1 **Self Portrait at the Age of 34**
- 2 **A Man Seated at a Table in a Lofty Room**
- 3 **Belshazzar's Feast**
- 4 **Anna and the Blind Tobit**
- 5 **Self Portrait at the Age of 63**

Programme note by **Mark Withers**

The LSO is pleased to be working in partnership with the National Gallery for this project.

THE
NATIONAL
GALLERY

ReMBRANDT is LSO Create's reflection on five paintings that all hang in the National Gallery.

LSO Create have spent time in the galleries learning about and discussing the works, and then in the new Roden Centre for Creative Learning, making the piece you will hear tonight.

Each of the pieces starts and ends with the note D (Re in Sol-fa).

Self Portrait at the Age of 34 opens with a quote from Palestrina's madrigal *Lontan dalla mia diva*, mirroring Rembrandt's painting of himself in Italian renaissance costume. It goes on to celebrate the painter at the height of his powers.

A Man Seated at a Table in a Lofty Room takes us from the peaceful meditation of the man to the captivating patterns of light on the wall above him. This is the only one of the five paintings in the work currently thought not to be the work of Rembrandt but rather of one of his followers.

Belshazzar's Feast is a journey through suspense to panic and terror as Belshazzar, King of Babylon, reads God's judgement on him, written by a hand appearing from a cloud: 'You have been weighed in the balance and found wanting.'

In *Anna and the Blind Tobit*, we hear the unchanging background of the flickering fire and Anna's winding while Anna and Tobit's internal dialogue is answered by that of their distant son, Tobias.

Self Portrait at the Age of 63 depicts the textures of Rembrandt's skin. It contains no new music but rather re-combines all that has gone before, slowly fading to a concluding Re.

On Stage

LSO Create

Alex
Angel
Conor
Dami
Dave
Dolores
Hazel
Jackie
Joe
Jude
Karen
Kwaga
Marcello
Mark
Moishe
Paula
Peter
Sahra
Shaahid
Stephen
Tom

Orchestral Artistry

Lidia Moscoso Bernal
Eryna Kisumba
Hanna Wozniak

Guest Musicians

Judith Herbert
Dániel Mészöly
Julia Rumley
Dorothea Vogel

About LSO Create

LSO Create is a programme for disabled and/or neurodiverse adults, their supporters and carers. United by a love of music, participants compose, improvise and create music together, alongside LSO musicians, workshop leader Mark Withers and assistive music technology lead Dav Shiel with Drake Music.

While the home of the LSO Discovery's learning and community programme LSO St Luke's is undergoing a programme of works and upgrades, LSO Create has toured and partnered with various arts organisations around London such as the Barbican Art Gallery, Cinema and the Oskia Bright Film Festival. The partnership with the National Gallery is the final highlight of the year.

LSO Create is generously supported by 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust, Anthony and Elizabeth Mellows Charitable Settlement, Andor Charitable Trust, David Solomons Charitable Trust, Rix-Thompson-Rothenberg Foundation and the Worshipful Company of Fan Makers.

Karen Ní Bhroin

conductor



Karen Ní Bhroin is an acclaimed Irish conductor with an international career spanning opera and symphonic music.

This season, she debuts with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Welsh National Opera, at the BBC Proms, and conducts the BBC Concert Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall's Christmas concert. A 2024 recipient of the prestigious Taki Alsop Fellowship, she continues her relationship with the London Symphony Orchestra and returns to the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland for a live RTÉ broadcast. She has conducted the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Irish Chamber Orchestra, and appeared at the Bregenz Festival. In North America, she has worked with the Orchestre Métropolitain and Grand Rapids Symphony.

Committed to rethinking conductor training, she created the podcast and course series *And Other Duties*. Karen studied at Trinity College Dublin and Kent State University, has held conducting posts in Ireland and the US, and is currently Artist in Residence at Mozarteum University Salzburg.

Rachel Leach

LSO Next Generation:
project director



Rachel Leach studied composition with Simon Bainbridge, Robert Saxton and Louis Andriessen. Her music has been recorded by NMC and published by Faber. She has won several awards including Honorary Membership of the RCM in recognition of her education work.

Leach has worked within the education departments of most of the UK's orchestras and opera companies. The majority of her work is for the London Symphony Orchestra and the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Alongside this, she is increasingly in demand as a concert presenter. She is the presenter of the LSO St Luke's Free Friday Lunchtime Concert series and regularly presents children's concerts and pre-concert events for LSO, LPO, BBC NOW and RCM.

Rachel is passionate about the value of using classical music in the classroom. As lead tutor on the LSO's On Track teacher training programme, Rachel has trained over 150 teachers and she is the author of many free online classroom resources including LSO Play and BBC Ten Pieces lesson plans.

Recently, she was a keynote speaker at the FOBISIA Music Conference in Singapore and she spent a month as Guest Animateur to the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.

Imogen Parry

LSO Discovery Choirs:
choral conductor



Imogen Parry is a singer and recording artist with experience in classical, jazz, pop and contemporary genres. While studying at the University of Glasgow, Parry pursued her love of musical theatre and played lead roles in numerous shows, including *The Last Five Years* and *Urinetown*, and while studying abroad in the US played Wendla in *Spring Awakening* and Mistress in *Evita*.

After graduating, Parry joined the Grammy Award-winning vocal group The Swingles, with whom she toured internationally and performed in prestigious venues worldwide for five years, including at the BBC Proms in 2024. As a session singer, Parry has contributed to over 100 films, TV shows, video games and commercials. As a backing vocalist, she has sung with Sam Smith for BBC Live Lounge and Ellie Goulding at the Royal Albert Hall, and has also recorded music for Jacob Collier, Gareth Malone and Howard Goodall.

In December 2024, she performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in their *Holiday Pops* concert series in the professional vocal octet. Parry regularly leads workshops and coaching sessions for vocal groups and individuals of all abilities, and is thrilled to have been working with the LSO Discovery Choirs as their conductor since last year.

Mark Withers

LSO Create:
project director



Mark Withers performs and creates music working alongside musicians from all walks of life.

He designs and leads creative outreach projects as well as training programmes for artists, working regularly with Accentus, La Chapelle Musicale Reine Elisabeth, the Amsterdam String Quartet Biennale, Insula Orchestra and the Paris Conservatoire. Withers has helped to establish new programmes with groups including the Hallé Orchestra, the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France and the Orquesta Nacional de España and currently directs ongoing programmes with the London Symphony Orchestra and the Festival d'Aix.

As a performer, he has performed on modern and period instruments with groups such as Orchestre des Champs Elysées, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and the Orquesta de Cadaqués, where he was a member from 1988 to 2001.

Withers has a special interest in music and vulnerable communities. For over 25 years he has led the LSO's programme for children in hospitals and directed LSO Create. He is an advisor to the charity Jessie's Fund, providing music for disabled and life-limited children throughout the UK.

London Symphony Orchestra

On Stage

Leader

Benjamin Marquise
Gilmore

First Violins

Clare Duckworth
Ginette Decuyper
William Melvin
Stefano Mengoli
Elizabeth Pigram
Laurent Quénelle
Harriet Rayfield
Olatz Ruiz de
Gordejuela
Momoko Arima
Rebecca Dinning
Caroline Frenkel
Shuyang Josh Jia
Erzsebet Racz

Second Violins

Thomas Norris
Sarah Quinn
David Ballesteros
Alix Lagasse
Belinda McFarlane
Iwona Muszynska
Paul Robson
Francisca Brito
Ingrid Button
Cindy Foster
José Nuno Matias
Tanya Sweiry

Violas

Malcolm Johnston
Anna Bastow
Sofia Silva Sousa
Robert Turner
Mizuho Ueyama
Lukas Bowen
Michelle Bruil
Fiona Dalglish
Lisa Obert
Annie-May Page

Cellos

Timothy Walden
Laure Le Dantec
Salvador Bolón
Ève-Marie Caravassilis
Amanda Truelove
Henry Hargreaves
Silvestrs Kalniņš
Peteris Sokolovskis

Double Basses

Patrick Laurence
Joe Melvin
Charles Campbell-
Peek
Michael Fuller
William Pühr
Adam Wynter

Flutes

Harry Winstanley
Clare Findlater

Piccolo

Patricia Moynihan

Oboes

Olivier Stankiewicz
Rosie Jenkins

Cor Anglais

Maxwell Spiers

Clarinets

Nicholas Rodwell
Chi-Yu Mo

Bass Clarinet

Ferran Garcerà Perelló

Bassoons

Rachel Gough
Joost Bosdijk
Lorna West

Contrabassoon

Michael Elderkin

Horns

Diego Incertis
Sánchez
Angela Barnes
Jo Withers
Jonathan Maloney

Trumpets

James Fountain
Jon Holland
Adam Wright
David Geoghegan

Trombones

Dudley Bright
Jonathan Hollick

Bass Trombone

Paul Milner

Tubas

David Gordon-Shute
Matthew Lait

Timpani

Nigel Thomas
Ryan Hepburn

Percussion

Sam Walton
David Jackson
Jacob Brown

Harp

Anneke Hodnett

Piano

Iain Clarke

Bass Guitar

Nick Walsh

Drum Kit

Matthew French