

LSO Discovery

# THE KING WHO TRIED TO CHANGE HIS FATE

Family Concert

Sunday 8 March 2026 2.30pm



LSO



supported by the  
ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND



**barbican**  
Resident Orchestra

# TODAY'S CONCERT

What is fate? Is it a force of destiny, or something we create?

This concert brings together Jan Blake, a magical storyteller, and the London Symphony Orchestra. Exploring the storytelling nature of symphonic music, Jan's story about a king and his fate will be brought to life with music chosen especially for its dramatic nature. Featuring works from composers past and present – Giuseppe Verdi, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Louise Farrenc, Ayanna Witter-Johnson, Leonard Bernstein and Samuel Coleridge-Taylor – there is also a brand new song for the whole audience to sing along to, by Paul Rissmann.

A king, a young man, a brave princess and a prophecy – a captivating storyteller and the full force of the LSO. Come along and be swept away into our imagined musical kingdom.



## Share Your Thoughts

Visit [lso.co.uk/survey](https://lso.co.uk/survey) or scan the QR code to complete a short survey about today's concert.

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### Giuseppe Verdi

Overture from 'The Force of Destiny'

### Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

Dance from 'Othello Suite'

### Louise Farrenc

Excerpts from Symphony No 3

### Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Excerpts from Symphony No 4

### Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

Military March from 'Othello Suite'

### Leonard Bernstein

Cha Cha from 'West Side Story'

### Ayanna Witter-Johnson

FAIYA!

### Paul Rissmann

Forest Prelude

What is Fate?

**Karen Ni Bhroin** conductor

**Jan Blake** storyteller

**Belinda McFarlane** presenter

**Angie Newman** BSL Interpreter

**London Symphony Orchestra**

**Karen Ní Bhroin** conductor

Karen Ní Bhroin is one of Ireland's leading young conductors, with a transatlantic career spanning opera and symphonic work. Last season included debuts with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Welsh National Opera and the BBC Proms, a return to the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland and working as Artist in Residence at Mozarteum University Salzburg. A 2024 Taki Alsop Fellow, Karen also leads innovative conducting education through *And Other Duties*.

**Jan Blake** storyteller

Born in Manchester to Jamaican parents, Jan Blake has been performing worldwide since 1986. She specialises in folk tales and myths from the Caribbean, West Africa, North Africa and the Arab regions, cementing a well-earned reputation for dynamic and generous storytelling. Always innovating within the form, Jan has become a prominent figure in international storytelling, leading workshops for schools and universities and contributing to numerous BBC Radio programmes. Her work spans major cultural institutions, bringing stories to life for diverse audiences worldwide.

Jan is also currently story adviser and storyteller/presenter for CBeebies Musical Storyland.

**Belinda McFarlane** presenter

Belinda 'Bindi' McFarlane is a Member of the LSO violin section, and has been involved in the LSO Discovery team from the very start of the programme 30 years ago. Most significantly, she works on the LSO On Track programme, which in recent years has involved her advising on the creation of the LSO East London Academy. This programme aims to foster a connection with – and create opportunities for – young musicians from underrepresented backgrounds in music higher education and the profession.

Bindi has a strong passion for taking music off the page, workshop leading and devising creative music projects for all to experience, both in the UK and abroad. She has worked with musicians of all ages and abilities, training and inspiring the next generation of music makers. She returns regularly to her home country Australia as a director, mentor, tutor and as Animateur for the Australian Youth, Canberra and Adelaide Symphony and Australian World Orchestras. She also sits on the LSO Discovery Advisory Committee.

# WHAT'S NEXT

## Family Concerts

Sunday 28 June 2026 2.30pm  
Barbican

Join us for our next Family Concert in June, *Music from the Movies*, conducted and presented by Tim Redmond.

Visit [iso.co.uk/families](https://www.iso.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 [iso.co.uk/halfsixfix](https://www.iso.co.uk/halfsixfix)

## How to Build an Orchestra

Discover everything about orchestras and their instruments in a beautifully illustrated children's book with online resources and activities. Produced in association with Hachette Children's Group.

Visit [iso.co.uk/digitalactivities](https://www.iso.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 [iso.co.uk/whatson](https://www.iso.co.uk/whatson)

