



**PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE USE**

## **World-leading violinist comes to Edinburgh to conduct and perform with Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**

**Royal Philharmonic Orchestra with Pinchas Zukerman**  
**Sunday Classics at the Usher Hall, Edinburgh**  
**3:00pm, Sunday 7 April 2019**

**Vaughan Williams** - Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis  
**Elgar** - Enigma Variations  
**Beethoven** - Violin Concerto



**Images available to download [here](#)**

### **World-renowned violinist plays Beethoven's heroic Concerto, plus visionary British classics**

**Pinchas Zukerman:** one of the world's pre-eminent violinists, now equally respected as a conductor, he has dazzled listeners for decades with his effortlessly natural musical talents.

Principal Guest Conductor of the **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**, Zukerman joins the pioneering UK ensemble as soloist and director at the premiere concert venue in Scotland, the Usher Hall in **Beethoven's** heroic ***Violin Concerto*** – from the dramatic insights of its profound opening movement to the wit and virtuoso fiddle fireworks of its dancing, folksy finale. While now regarded as one of the great pieces in the violin repertoire, it wasn't always so. Unlike many of his writings, the



piece wasn't received with immediate praise. It had something of a rushed premiere within days of its completion on 23 December 1806, with the soloist not even having time to learn his part!

There's plenty more wit on display in the well-loved ***Enigma Variations*** – Elgar's miraculous transformations of a mysterious, unknowable theme into sly portraits of his friends and family. From the profoundly moving *Nimrod*, with which we now remember those fallen in battle, to gently stuttering *Dorabella* and even grumpy bulldog Dan tumbling into a river, Elgar's musical portraits are as poignant as they are comic.

Zukerman opens with English music at its most mystical. **Vaughan Williams'** luminous ***Tallis Fantasia*** transports you to a world of ritual and meditation, through its visionary fusion of folksong and ancient sacred music – almost transforming its string orchestra into a choir of ecstatic voices. Williams blends the instrumentation beautifully, creating a distinctly British sound that really cemented the composer's reputation at home and throughout Europe.

For more than seven decades the **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra** has been at the forefront of music-making in the UK. Its home base since 2004, London's Cadogan Hall serves as a springboard for seven principal residencies as well as more than forty-five concerts per year in long-term partnership venues across the country, often in areas where access to live orchestral music is very limited. With a wider reach than any other UK large ensemble, the RPO regards itself as Britain's national orchestra and we are hugely excited to have them as guests as part of the Sunday Classics season at Scotland's only 5 star concert venue, The Usher Hall.

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**Media enquiries:**

Will Moss / The Corner Shop PR / 0131 202 6220 /07443334085

**Listings information:**

**Royal Philharmonic Orchestra with Pinchas Zukerman**  
**Sunday Classics at the Usher Hall, Edinburgh**  
**3:00pm, Sunday 7 April 2019**

**Door time: 2:00pm**

**Programme:**

**Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**

**Pinchas Zukerman** - Conductor & Violin

**Vaughan Williams** - Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis

**Elgar** - Enigma Variations

**Beethoven** - Violin Concerto



**Tickets available at [www.usherhall.co.uk](http://www.usherhall.co.uk)**

### **Prices**

£35 | £29 | £24 | £18 | £13.50

Full time students are entitled to tickets for £10 which can be booked in advance

Under 16s are entitled to free tickets when booked with a paying adult

Concessions available

**\*\*Please note a £1.50 transaction fee applies on the overall booking when purchasing online or over the phone (non-refundable)\*\***

### **THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**

For more than seven decades the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) has been at the forefront of music-making in the UK. Its home base since 2004 at London's Cadogan Hall serves as a springboard for seven principal residencies as well as more than forty-five concerts per year in long-term partnership venues across the country, often in areas where access to live orchestral music is very limited. In London, the Orchestra's regular performances at Cadogan Hall are complemented by a distinguished series at Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall and a hugely popular series at the Royal Albert Hall. With a wider reach than any other UK large ensemble, the RPO has truly become Britain's national orchestra.

Alongside its concert series, the RPO embraces twenty-first-century opportunities, including appearances with pop stars and on video game, film and television soundtracks, whilst its artistic priority remains paramount: the making of great music at the highest level for the widest possible audience. This would have been lauded by its Founder and first conductor, Sir Thomas Beecham, who set up the RPO in 1946, leading a vital revival in the UK's orchestral life after World War II. Since then, the Orchestra's principal conductors have included Rudolf Kempe, Antal Doráti, Walter Weller, André Previn, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Yuri Temirkanov, Daniele Gatti and Charles Dutoit; and its repertoire has encompassed every strand of music from the core classical repertoire to music of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, and works by leading composers of recent years, such as Sir Peter Maxwell Davies and Sir John Tavener.

The RPO's commitment to working with the finest conductors continues and in July 2018, the RPO announced Vasily Petrenko as the Orchestra's new Music Director, assuming the title of Music Director Designate in August 2020 prior to commencing the full role in August 2021. Vasily Petrenko joins the RPO's roster of titled conductors, which includes Pinchas Zukerman (Principal Guest Conductor), Alexander Shelley (Principal Associate Conductor) and Grzegorz Nowak (Permanent Associate Conductor).

International touring is vital to the Orchestra's work, taking it to many prestigious destinations worldwide. Recent engagements include concerts at the festivals of Montreux, Lucerne and Granada, an extensive tour of the USA, and visits to central Europe and the Far East, including South Korea and China.



In 2018, RPO Resound, the Orchestra's community and education programme, marked its twenty-fifth anniversary. Throughout its history it has thrived on taking music into the heart of the regions that the Orchestra serves. From Azerbaijan to Jamaica and from Shanghai to Scunthorpe, the team – comprising the majority of the Orchestra – has worked with young people, the homeless, recovering stroke patients (in the award-winning STROKESTRA project in Hull) and in settings ranging from the Sea Life London Aquarium to hospitals, orphanages and children's hospices.

In 1986, the RPO became the first UK orchestra to launch its own record label. The Orchestra has embraced digital advances and continuing its tradition of entrepreneurial innovation, in 2017 the RPO teamed up with the concert-enhancing app, EnCue by Octava, becoming the first orchestra in Europe to offer its audiences real-time programme notes for selected performances delivered to their mobile or tablet devices. The Orchestra has become increasingly active on social media platforms, inviting audiences to engage informally on Facebook and Twitter (@rpoonline) and to enjoy behind-the-scenes insights on the RPO website (www.rpo.co.uk), YouTube (RPOOnline) and Instagram (@RPOOnline).

As the RPO proudly looks to its future, its versatility and high standards mark it out as one of today's most open-minded, forward-thinking symphony orchestras.

## **PINCHAS ZUKERMAN**

With a celebrated career encompassing five decades, Pinchas Zukerman reigns as one of today's most sought after and versatile musicians - violin and viola soloist, conductor, and chamber musician. He is renowned as a virtuoso, admired for the expressive lyricism of his playing, singular beauty of tone, and impeccable musicianship, which can be heard throughout his discography of over 100 albums. A devoted teacher and champion of young musicians, he has served as chair of the Pinchas Zukerman Performance Program at the Manhattan School of Music for twenty-five years. As a mentor he has inspired generations of young musicians who have achieved prominence in performing, teaching, and leading roles with music festivals around the globe. He singularly pioneered the use of distance-learning technology with the first technological installment at the Manhattan School and has established an advanced training program for gifted young artists as part of the National Arts Centre in Ottawa.

During the 2018-2019 season, Pinchas Zukerman's marks his tenth season as Principal Guest Conductor of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London and his fourth as Artist-in-Association with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra in Australia. He leads the RPO on a tour of the United Kingdom and Ireland, conducting works by Mozart and Vaughan Williams and performing as soloist in Beethoven's Violin Concerto. Zukerman joins the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra in performances of Bruch's Violin Concerto in G Minor, on tour in Germany, the Netherlands, and Switzerland. He appears as soloist and conductor with the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa and the symphony orchestras of Toronto and Indianapolis. Mr. Zukerman makes concerto appearances in North America with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Colorado Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, New World Symphony, and in Europe with the Gulbenkian Orchestra, Orquesta Nacional de España, NDR Radiophilharmonie, Salzburg Camerata, and Moscow State Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Zukerman conducts the Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz, and conducts and is soloist with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra on a tour of South Korea.



As a founding member of the Zukerman Trio, along with cellist Amanda Forsyth and pianist Angela Cheng, Pinchas Zukerman appears in Baltimore and New York's 92nd Street Y, tours Italy, including Bologna, Milan, and Naples, and gives performances in Germany, at Villa Musica in the Rhineland-Palatinate and in Mönchengladbach. Zukerman and Forsyth join the Jerusalem Quartet in a program of Strauss, Schoenberg, and Tchaikovsky sextets in Chicago, Houston, Atlanta, Princeton, Berkeley, and Vancouver. Mr. Zukerman also appears with Ms. Forsyth in performances of the Brahms Double Concerto with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and joins violinist Viviane Hagner and the National Centre Arts Orchestra for performances of the Mozart Sinfonia Concertante.

As part of the 70th-birthday celebrations honoring Mr. Zukerman during the 2018-2019 season, the Manhattan School of Music marks the 25th anniversary of the Pinchas Zukerman Performance Program with a special tribute: a "25-70" concert of chamber and orchestral music performed by distinguished colleagues, former and present students. Zukerman, who initiated the National Arts Centre Institute for Orchestral Studies in Ottawa, an apprentice program for string players, serves as artistic director of the Young Artist Program and returns each summer to teach and lead master classes. He has taught prominent music educational programs in London, Israel, and China, among others, and was appointed as the first instrumentalist mentor in music of the prestigious Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative.

Pinchas Zukerman has been featured in numerous television specials and national talk shows. He has been a performer and presenter at both the Kennedy Center Honors and the Grammy Awards ceremony and appeared with the Chicago Symphony on the PBS special *Mozart by the Masters*. In 2004, the CBC recorded a ten-segment series entitled "The Concerto According to Pinchas" which continues to be broadcast and re-broadcast around the world. A frequent performer on *Live from Lincoln Center*, Mr. Zukerman has collaborated with the English filmmaker Christopher Nupen on several projects including the *Here to Make Music* series, a Brahms series, a Schubert series and a documentary on Nathan Milstein. He appeared on CBC Television's nationwide broadcast celebrating the opening concerts of the National Arts Centre's 30th-anniversary season. *Crossing Bridges*, a documentary by Niv Fichman, followed his tour to the Middle East with the NAC Orchestra, and was awarded the prestigious Gold World Medal at the 2001 New York Festival. Mr. Zukerman's violin playing can be heard on the film soundtracks for *Prince of Tides* and *Critical Care*.

Born in Tel Aviv, Pinchas Zukerman came to the United States where he studied at the Juilliard School with Ivan Galamian as a recipient of the American-Israel Cultural Foundation scholarship. An alumnus of the Young Concert Artists program, Mr. Zukerman has also received honorary doctorates from Brown University, Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, and the University of Calgary. He received the National Medal of Arts from President Ronald Reagan and is a recipient of the Isaac Stern Award for Artistic Excellence in Classical Music. Pinchas Zukerman's extensive discography includes more than 100 titles, for which he gained two Grammy® awards and 21 nominations. His complete recordings for Deutsche Grammophon and Philips were released in July 2016 in a 22-disc set comprising Baroque, Classical, and Romantic concertos and chamber music. Recent albums include *Baroque Treasury* on the Analekta label with the National Arts Centre Orchestra, cellist Amanda Forsyth, and oboist Charles Hamann in works by Handel, Bach, Vivaldi, Telemann and Tartini; Brahms's *Symphony No. 4* and *Double Concerto* with the National Arts Centre Orchestra and Ms. Forsyth, recorded live at Ottawa's Southam Hall; and a critically acclaimed album of works by Elgar and Vaughan Williams with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.



## USHER HALL

The Usher Hall is Scotland's only five-star concert hall hosting a range of concerts from rock, pop, classical, jazz, world and folk music. The venue has hosted concerts and events since it opened way back in 1914! A beautiful Edwardian building with a modern twist, which is well loved by performers and audiences all over the world due to its magnificent acoustics.

It is said that Andrew Usher sparked the idea of a 'concert hall for Edinburgh' whilst chatting away over the counter of his jewellers in Rose Street. His 'desire and intention' was that this Hall 'should become and remain a centre and attraction to musical artistes and performers and to the citizens of Edinburgh and others who may desire to hear good music...'

On 23 June 1896 it was formally announced that Andrew Usher had gifted £100,000 to The City of Edinburgh. The purpose of the money was to provide a City Hall, to be used for concerts, recitals, or other entertainments or performances of a musical nature, and for civic functions, or such other performances as the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Council saw fit. Above all it was to be about the music. Edinburgh was very much lacking a hall for such musical and civic purposes, as stated in the Scotsman the following day; 'The necessity for a great hall in Edinburgh under city management has been pressed upon the attention of the public for many years.' Sadly Andrew Usher died before his dream was realised.

### **Today**

Today, **the much-praised acoustics make it one of the best concert halls in Europe with many of the world's finest musicians performing here.** The Usher Hall is the city's key venue for visiting national and international orchestras and has been the main venue for the Edinburgh International Festival since 1947, hosting legendary artists such as composers Benjamin Britten and Dmitri Shostakovich, contralto singer Kathleen Ferrier and cellist Jacqueline Du Pre to name but a few.

The venue is a centre of excellence embracing the widest range of music and events, including rock, pop, jazz, world and blues. It is Edinburgh's go-to venue for today's mid-large scale rock and pop acts, with the likes of Queens of the Stone Age, The National, Radiohead's Thom Yorke, George Ezra and Echo & the Bunnymen having performed on its stage. Usher Hall also hosts a broad spectrum of comedy, talks, school concerts, conferences, sponsorship events, ceremonies, lectures and recording sessions.