

Royal Liverpool Philharmonic

Review of the Year 2024





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The Rt Hon the Earl of Derby DL

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A Message from the Chair

Dear Friends,

2024 has been another great year of achievement for Liverpool Philharmonic. In all, we presented over 400 performances by the Orchestra, our ensembles, and the hundreds of guest artists performing in the Hall and Music Room. We are proud to represent Liverpool and to play a role in the success, health and quality of life of the city through our music, learning and community outreach programmes.

This year we were honoured to receive the Royal Patronage of His Majesty The King and proud to see our Chief Executive Michael Eakin receive a much-deserved OBE in The King's New Year's Honours List for services to music and to the community in Liverpool. Our home, the Grade 2* listed Liverpool Philharmonic Hall has undergone a major redevelopment of the stage. These improvements have not only enhanced the acoustic capability but created a more accessible space for our musicians and choir. Also this year, we officially launched our partnership in Barrow-in-Furness and have delivered over 84 performances, bringing live orchestral music to over 4,000 Barrovians. We look forward to continuing this exciting and important work and are grateful to Arts Council England and our partners in Barrow for their continued support.

We are now in our fourth season under the leadership of Chief Conductor Domingo Hindoyan. He and the Orchestra completed an acclaimed seven-concert tour of Japan with pianist Nobuyuki Tsujii, further promoting the city and Orchestra internationally. Our orchestral work this season has spanned the breadth of the classical repertoire and included commissions

and premieres by leading contemporary composers such as Eleanor Alberga and Joanna Marsh. We brought major international artists to Liverpool including Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Danny Elfman, Sonya Yoncheva, Angela Hewitt and Sarah Wegener, among many others.

We continued to attract major artists from across musical genres, comedy and spoken word. In the Hall this year, we were thrilled to welcome the likes of Robert Plant, Bernie Sanders, Suzi Quatro, Frank Skinner, Barbara Dickson and The Real Thing. The Music Room continues to strengthen its position as the leading small music venue in the city, programming an exciting array of established, emerging and local artists including Ian Prowse, Vonda Shepard, Lindisfarne, Eleanor McEvoy, Motel Sundown, and The Ayoub Sisters.

Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Company provides opportunities for young people across 10 different ensembles. The Youth Company's distinguished history, and the impact it has had on so many lives, was evidenced in the reunion concert of the Liverpool Philharmonic (formerly Merseyside) Youth Orchestra in which former member Sir Simon Rattle conducted past and present members in a joyous concert in front of a sold out audience. This year, members of Youth Orchestra embarked on their first overseas tour in over 10 years, performing in a variety of venues in Italy as part of the Festival Orchestre Giovanili.

Our ground-breaking In Harmony programme celebrated its fifteenth year working in North Liverpool, and we announced Alder Hey Children's Hospital and Charity as a partner in the Music and Health programme. We now work with 6 NHS organisations in the Liverpool City

Region. Being able to expand our support for children and young people is very important to us.

We can only do this work if we have a strong financial base, and the support and generosity of our audiences, sponsors, donors, and our Principal Funders – Liverpool City Council and Arts Council England. This year we were humbled to receive significant funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation to enable us to expand our Youth Company and In Harmony Liverpool Youth Hubs in the years to come.

I wish to thank my fellow Board members for the support they have given me, and for their contribution over the last year. On behalf of the Board, I wish to thank all our partners and funders, our staff and musicians, members of the Choir and Youth Company, our volunteers and everyone who has joined us as an audience member or participant, for their support of Liverpool Philharmonic throughout the year.

Louise Shepherd CBE
Chair, Board of Directors



Our Impact

Royal Liverpool Philharmonic is one of the country's leading music organisations with a mission to transform lives through music. This year we have continued to reach vast audiences.



Home to a world-class orchestra

The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra represents Liverpool at home and abroad. This year they performed over 60 concerts in Liverpool to over 68,000 people



One of the UK's leading music venues

Presenting over 360 concerts this year, enjoyed by over 250,000 people in Liverpool Philharmonic Hall and Music Room



Grassroots venue platforming local and emerging artists

The Music Room hosted over 140 events this year and worked with 6 Liverpool-based diverse cultural organisations. We presented major international artists across a range of genres, and were a home for local and emerging artists, promoters and festivals



Enabling Careers Development

Young people wishing to pursue their music to a higher level can access additional specialist support through the In Harmony Talent Development programme and progress into local Music Hub provision, Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Company and also access support through our annual Music Industry Careers Fest.





Inspire and empower the next generation of musicians

Providing regular musical training to over 2,000 young people through Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Company and In Harmony.



Creating a community of young musicians

400 young musicians take part in ten different Youth Orchestras, Bands and Choirs. 100% bursaries are available, so no young person will ever miss out due to financial circumstances.



Health and Wellbeing

To date, the Music and Health programme has supported over 21,500 adults and young people experiencing physical or mental ill health.



Platforming new works

This year we have held world and UK premieres by over 12 composers, with 50% being women or composers of colour.



Emerging Musicians and Composers

Year-long paid professional development scheme for early career musicians and composers.



Positive social change

Our learning programmes reach almost 60,000 people each year.



In Harmony Liverpool

Since 2009, In Harmony has benefitted over 4,500 children and families in Everton and Anfield, and over 300 professional musicians, artists, school teachers, and staff.



Opening doors for students

Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra Schools' Concerts welcomed 11,500 school children and their teachers from across Liverpool City Region and beyond to Liverpool Philharmonic Hall.



Awards

We are proud that Liverpool Philharmonic's work was shortlisted for a number of awards this year.



Winner of a Gramophone Orchestral Award 2024 for our recording of Vaughan Williams' *Job: A Masque for Dancing* with our Principal Guest Conductor Andrew Manze.



Winner of an ABO Classical Music Award for our Music and Health programme.



Music Room; a member of the nationwide grass roots music venue community which was awarded collectively this year's Music Venue Trust Outstanding Contribution Award.



Special Commendation for Entertainment Venue of the Year at the 2023 LCR Tourism Awards.



Highly Commended in the Top Team category of the Liverpool Hospitality People Awards.



Shortlisted for Venue of the Year at the LIVE Awards, the Best Arts & Culture Social Prescribing Project in the Social Prescribing Awards, and the Outstanding Musical Initiative category at the Music and Drama Education Awards.

Orchestra Highlights



Beethoven's Symphony No.5

In January, Domingo Hindoyan and the Orchestra presented the four most famous notes in history in Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. The concert also included Beethoven's *Overture, Egmont* and Strauss' fantastical retelling of the escapades of *Don Quixote*, featuring Jonathan Aasgaard on cello and Nicholas Bootiman on viola.

"As always, Domingo Hindoyan and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra were magnificent and an incredible jewel our city cannot shout loudly enough about."

Liverpool Echo

On Tour

The Orchestra promotes Liverpool's culture nationally and internationally, and this year they have toured extensively across the UK and beyond.

In May they embarked on a seven-concert tour of Japan. This was the Orchestra's third visit to the country and their first international tour under the baton of Domingo Hindoyan. They performed works by Walton, Rachmaninov, Tchaikovsky, Roussel and Shostakovich in Tokyo's legendary Suntory Hall and other major concert halls in Saga, Osaka, Omiya, Niigata and Nagano. Renowned Japanese pianist Nobuyuki Tsujii joined the Orchestra for Rachmaninov's *Piano Concerto No. 2* and *No. 3* to critical acclaim.

In June, the Orchestra opened the 2024 Flâneries Musicales de Reims Festival in the beautiful Basilique Saint-Remi. Conducted by Andrew Manze, the Orchestra performed Elgar's *Enigma Variations op.36* after being joined by pianist Jean-Efflam Bavouzet for Ravel's *Piano Concerto in G*.

The Orchestra has also performed extensively across the UK and other venues across Liverpool including the closing concert of the Cheltenham Music Festival and accompanying the finals for the Leeds International Piano Competition.



Windrush, The Journey

In partnership with Pegasus Opera and conducted by Jeri Lynne Johnson, *‘Windrush, The Journey’* paid tribute to the Windrush generation, with performances in Liverpool and London. It featured works by contemporary Black classical composers Richard Thompson and Des Oliver alongside extracts of Chevalier de Saint-George’s opera *L’Amant Anonyme*.

“An innovative celebration of the Windrush Generation and the contributions Black musicians have made to classical music”

A Youngish Perspective



Sheku Kanneh-Mason performs Weinberg

We were delighted to welcome Sheku Kanneh-Mason back to the Hall to perform Weinberg’s *Cello Concerto in C minor op.43*. Not only did he provide audiences with a performance of “spellbinding intensity”, but it was also Sheku’s 25th birthday and the Orchestra and audience surprised him with a round of ‘Happy Birthday’. Conducted by Principal Guest Conductor Andrew Manze, the Orchestra also performed *Ballade* by Coleridge-Taylor and Elgar’s *Symphony No.1*.

“A shrewd programme and choice of soloist made for a stirring performance to a near sell-out audience for this Royal Liverpool Philharmonic concert.”

Bachtrack

World Premiere of Eleanor Alberga’s Piano Concerto

As the Orchestral partner of the Leeds International Piano Competition we were thrilled to welcome the 2021 winner Alim Beisembayev, whose prize included the commission of a new work to be performed at Liverpool Philharmonic Hall. Beisembayev premiered a new piano concerto by Jamaican-born British composer Eleanor Alberga conducted by Domingo Hindoyan.

Eleanor Alberga’s *Piano Concerto* (world premiere) was supported by the Vaughan Williams Foundation.

“Throughout the piece there are echoes of the past, yet it always sounds remarkably fresh. There’s an elusive quality to Alberga’s music but a spirit of fun too, and the orchestration is full of colour and interest”

The Times



Cunard Naming Ceremony

The Orchestra was chosen to perform alongside world-renowned Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli and legendary Liverpoolian TV personality and DJ Craig Charles for a unique collaboration at the official naming ceremony of Cunard's Queen Anne. The naming ceremony concert was conducted by Richard Balcombe and the evening concert by our Principal Horn Timothy Jackson, and the Orchestra was proud to be a part of this important piece of Liverpool history.



A Celebration of Puccini

We were thrilled to welcome back soprano Sonya Yoncheva for an evening of some of the most passionate music ever written by one of the greatest opera composers of all time, Giacomo Puccini. Conducted by Domingo Hindoyan and featuring tenor Riccardo Massi, the concert featured arias from *La Bohème*, *Madame Butterfly*, *Manon Lescaut*, *Le Villi* and *Capriccio Sinfonico*.

This concert was sponsored by David M Robinson.

“The orchestra was, as ever, impeccable: they were note- and tone-perfect, able to soar when required and at other times become such subtle background to the opera singers as to be almost unnoticed (the highest of compliments)”

A Youngish Perspective

Season Opening Concert

Conducted by Domingo Hindoyan, the 2024-25 Season opened with Mahler's gripping and joyful *Symphony No.1*. The audience was enthralled as the brass section took to their feet in the final movement. Domingo also brought us a gift from his native Venezuela – Juan Bautista Plaza's *Vigilia* – and we were delighted to welcome German soprano Sarah Wegener in Richard Strauss' heart-melting *Four Last Songs*.

This concert was supported by Rathbones Incorporating Investec Wealth and Investment UK.

“The joyous peroration of D major in the last minutes, with horns on their feet, made for a riotous end to a hugely enjoyable concert.”

Bachtrack



Sir Bryn in Belshazzar's Feast

This season's focus on music for the voice continued with the return of Sir Bryn Terfel in *Belshazzar's Feast* alongside the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir. Audiences were blown away by the power of the Orchestra and Choir, accompanied by two brass bands placed in the auditorium. We also surprised Sir Bryn with a rendition of 'Pen Blwydd Hapus' in honour of his birthday. Conducted by Adam Hickox, the evening also featured Anna Meredith's *Nautilus* and Mendelssohn's gorgeous *Violin Concerto* with international violin sensation Ning Feng returning as soloist.

“Terfel was not only a formidable orator of the piece; he gave a real characterisation, bringing his larger than life personality to Walton's work. When needed, he brought subtlety and expression, flawless diction and intonation, and the warmth of his voice was everything we've come to expect from him.”

Bachtrack



Danny Elfman comes to Liverpool

We were lucky to have Hollywood composer Danny Elfman back in Liverpool this winter. After recording with the Orchestra in September 2023, Danny Elfman was present for the performance of his dazzling *Percussion Concerto* by the Orchestra, percussionist Colin Currie and conductor JoAnn Falletta. The concert also featured works by great American composers Copland and Gershwin. During his visit, Elfman also worked with the Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and Children's Choir ahead of their performance of *Wunderkammer*. We also enjoyed a concert of his music from the films of Tim Burton. Conducted by Anthony Gabriele, the Orchestra brought to life works from *Beetlejuice*, *Batman*, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Edward Scissorhands* and more.

"It looked monumental and sounded stereophonically cinematic."

Arts City Liverpool



Pops Concerts

We were delighted to take audiences on a night out at the movies with 'The Best of John Williams' conducted by Hollywood maestro Richard Kaufman. Aled Jones hosted the Classic fm Hall of Fame concert in which conductor David Perry and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir presented some of the world's favourite classical pieces. Also this year, on the anniversary of his death, we were honoured to pay tribute to legendary songwriter Burt Bacharach. Conducted by Richard Balcombe, with Natalie Davies as BSL Interpreter, the Orchestra was joined by an all-star cast of vocalists: Graham Bickley, Abbie Osmon, Katie Birtill and Laura Tebbutt.



Family Concerts

This year we've been delighted to bring our music to the youngest of audience members with a series of Family and Under 5s concerts. In March we performed an animal adventure, presented by Lucy Drever and conducted by Kaapo Ijas. The Orchestra performed music from Saint-Saëns, Debbie Wiseman and Rimsky-Korsakov. Presenter and producer Claire Henry hosted action-packed concerts for under 5s with musicians from the Orchestra, and Christmas wouldn't be complete without a visit from Santa. The annual 'Santa Comes to Town' concert, presented by Alasdair Malloy, featured music from Jonathan Dove's *Gaspard's Christmas* and a host of festive favourites.

Artists in Residence

Johan Dalene

This year, we were delighted to welcome our Young Artist in Residence, Johan Dalene, to the Hall for a captivating performance of Korngold's *Violin Concerto* and Nielsen's *Violin Concerto*, performed "with astonishing flair and musicality."

"Almost every instrument in the orchestra seemed to have its moment in the spotlight and individual solos were taken superbly."

Bachtrack



Simone Lamsma

Our 2023-24 Artist in Residence Simone Lamsma brought a "simply mesmerising" rendition of Sibelius' *Violin Concerto* to the Hall this year. Simone also directed the Orchestra's strings in a concert that spanned both continents and centuries – *Four Seasons of Buenos Aires* was performed at home in Liverpool and in Barrow.

"Hindoyan ensured that the balance was just right, giving soloist Simone Lamsma the right support and evoking Sibelius' magical sound world. Every note served to communicate the music. She expressed the deep feeling of the slow second movement in a way I have rarely heard. The finale was simply mesmerising."

Bachtrack

Domingo Hindoyan

Chief Conductor Domingo Hindoyan is now in his fourth season with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and continues to be a dynamic and popular ambassador for the organisation.

In the Hall, Domingo started 2024 with a bang, leading the Orchestra in Beethoven's incomparable Fifth Symphony and Richard Strauss' fantastical retelling of the escapades of *Don Quixote*. He has also continued his exploration of Bruckner, bringing us the majestic Seventh Symphony. Other highlights this year included an evening of Puccini with one of opera's most celebrated stars Sonya Yoncheva, Roussel's whirlwind *Bacchus and Ariadne* (fast becoming a Domingo Hindoyan signature following the release of his critically acclaimed first album in 2022) and a thrilling opening to the 2024-25 season with Mahler's First Symphony.

Working with young people through our In Harmony Liverpool programme and our Emerging Musicians Fellowship, Domingo has shown his commitment to encouraging new talent and inspiring the next generation of musicians.



“A stirring, sophisticated interpretation from an Orchestra and a conductor whose partnership seems to have been fully formed from the off”

The Spectator,
January 2023

“If the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra’s opening concert of the season is the benchmark, then prepare for lots of fun and to be swept off your feet. It was a programme of music that left no corner of the orchestra untouched. Every player had their moment to shine as Hindoyan led them, fresh from their performance at the Royal Albert Hall for the BBC Proms.”



Liverpool Echo



Recordings, Streaming and Broadcasts

This year, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra performances have reached thousands of listeners through recordings, streaming, TV and radio broadcasts.

Domingo Hindoyan: Music from the Americas I: Venezuela!



“Conductor Domingo Hindoyan offers a collection of brilliant colours and pulsating rhythms in their orchestral tone poems, well played and recorded here.”

Financial Times

Domingo Hindoyan: Bruckner: Symphony No. 4



“The playing is first rate in every way. Solo work throughout is sensitively dispatched and string articulation and unanimity is superb.”

The Classic Review

Dani Howard: Orchestral Works



“There is an uplifting quality, energising, even ecstatic, which comes from motor rhythms pulsating in the orchestra”

Financial Times

Danny Elfman: Percussion Concerto and Wunderkammer



“This is a virtuoso piece which will attract more performances. The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, conducted by JoAnn Falletta, captures its colourful popular appeal.”

Financial Times

Leeds International Piano Competition 2024



Broadcast by *Medici TV* on Friday 20 and Saturday 21 September 2024. Broadcast by *BBC Four* television on Sunday 27 October and available on *BBC iPlayer*. Conducted by Andrew Manze, the concert featured concertos by the 2024 winner Jaeden Izik-Dzurko and the finalists Junyan Chen, Kai-Min Chang, Khanh Nhi Luong, and Julian Trevelyan. Kai-Min Chang was also the winner of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society Prize, for which they will receive a new commission in the 2026/27 season.

Shostakovich's Symphony No.5



Broadcast by *Medici TV* on Saturday 11 May 2024; to date, the video has over 17,000 views on the platform in 84 countries. Conducted by Domingo Hindoyan, the concert also featured Roussel's *Bacchus and Ariadne, Op.43: Suite 2* and the world premiere of Eleanor Alberga's *Piano Concerto* with Alim Beisembayev.

Sir Bryn in Belshazzar's Feast



Broadcast by *BBC Radio 3* on Monday 2 December. Conducted by Adam Hickox the concert featured Sir Bryn Terfel and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir in *Belshazzar's Feast*, Ning Feng in Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto* and Anna Meredith's *Nautilus*. Paul Whittaker OBE provided BSL Interpretation.

This year, The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra has reached almost 7 million listeners on Spotify with over 26 million streams across 179 countries.

New Music

The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra is committed to contemporary music through commissioning and premiering new works frequently throughout the season.

This year featured 12 world or UK premieres from composers including Eleanor Alberga, Stephen Pratt and Phoenix Rousiamanis who was Highly Commended in the 2024 Rushworth Composition Prize.

Liverpool Philharmonic's contemporary music group, Ensemble 10:10, performed three very well-received concerts at the Tung Auditorium in the Yoko Ono Lennon Centre, platforming new works by contemporary composers.

17 February

Samy Moussa *Violin Concerto* (UK Premiere)
Jaques Hétu *Symphony No.3* (UK Premiere)

17 April

Liverpool Philharmonic New Works Concert featuring works by Youth Company members Cassie Worsley, Tallulah Gustafsson-Green, Grady Renshaw, Solomon Wetherall, Sofia Lotto, Matthew Simpson, Maia Nijak-Bryndal

19 June

Jack Sheen *A line, a curve, or figure, Études* (World Premiere)
Sky Macklay *Microvariations* (UK Premiere)
Timothy Jackson *Traffic Jams and Anagrams* (UK Premiere)
Stephen Pratt *Noting the Landscape* (World Premiere)

20 November

Phoenix Rousiamanis *Places I'm starting to forget* (World Premiere)

4 March

Personal Best, words by Mandy Ross and music by Timothy Jackson (commissioned for the 2024 Schools' Concerts)

25 April

Eleanor Alberga *Piano Concerto* (World Premiere)

3 November

Robin Haigh *Concerto for Orchestra* (UK Premiere)

Chamber Music

Chamber Music concerts this year included Kathryn Stott's very last public piano recital *Musical Postcards*, where she bid farewell with some of her favourite pieces. We were also delighted to welcome recitals from Japanese pianist Nobuyuki Tsujii, the Chilingirian Quartet, and the Pavel Haas Quartet.

Our informal **Lunchtime** and **Close Up** concerts held in the Music Room included performances by many Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra musicians and ensembles, such as Equilibrium, Liverpool String Quartet, Klezmer-ish, Liverpool Wind Quartet, Grosvenor String Quartet and the Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Brass Band.



“[Kathryn Stott] bows out with an exquisite finale. This farewell recital was a victory lap, retracing her joyful journey through music, across a career spanning four and a half decades.”

The Times





Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir

Led by Director of Choirs and Singing Matthew Hamilton, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir delivered spectacular concerts this year, including festive favourites 'Spirit of Christmas' and Handel's *Messiah*, as well as Poulenc's *Gloria*, Holst's *The Planets* and Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast*.

The Choir also had their debut performance at the Tung Auditorium, with Matthew conducting Brahms' *Requiem*, performed with double piano. In October, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir appointed Jenny Rust as resident Vocal Coach, who will be working with the group on a regular basis from January 2025.

Jenny will be working on general vocal health and technique, as well as seeing members for 1:1 sessions to focus on personal vocal goals. The Choir are currently recruiting and are looking forward to auditioning 45 prospective new members in the new year.



Liverpool Philharmonic in Barrow



This year, we officially launched our partnership in Barrow-in-Furness. The partnership places the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and its musicians at the heart of Barrow's musical life and community development. We have committed to working in close collaboration with local cultural, musical, and community partners to complement and enhance their work, as well as to help meet their locally identified needs.

84 performances
in Barrow

Over **4,000**
Barrovians reached

48 pop-up
performances

Over **500**
children enabled
to experience live
music in their
schools

24 unique locations

Every ticketed
performance sold out

An estimated
2,000 community
members attended
free pop-up
performances

Live Orchestral Concerts

Our first season featured a range of orchestral performances with Chief Conductor Domingo Hindoyan, Artist in Residence Simone Lamsma, as well as concerts led by Orchestra Leader Thelma Handy, Section Leader Oboe Helena Mackie, Learning Specialist Claire Henry, and renowned sitar player Jasdeep Singh Degun. All performances were sold out, and the opening night featured a flashmob performance in the Forum foyer and a specially commissioned film of Barrow and the surrounding coastal landscape, which accompanied the Orchestra's performance.

“There has been nothing but incredible feedback from Saturday and this is one of those uplifting moments that makes you proud to do what you do”

Steph Cordon, Director of Thriving Communities, Westmorland & Furness Council

Community Engagement

This year, we launched the ‘Listening Club’, informal gatherings that bring people together to listen to and discuss their favourite works. We also introduced ‘Go & Sees’, a programme of coach trips to Liverpool Philharmonic Hall to introduce people from Barrow to our organisation and to attend concerts and events, including those featuring the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

“The best thing that’s happened in this town”

Mark Curwen, BarrowFull Community Advisor

Free Pop Up Performances

Our musicians performed in community spaces around Barrow, including the Library, Market, Dock Museum, North West Music Academy, and four care homes across the town. We offered a variety of music in a range of locations, as well as opportunities for the community to meet and engage with the musicians. This included a fantastic day in Barrow commemorating D-Day and welcoming thousands of bikers into the town to pay tribute to the late Hairy Biker Dave Myers.

“One of the loveliest library experiences I’ve ever had. A lunchtime concert with @liverpoolphil at Barrow Library. A packed house – swept away by the music of the sea @WandFCouncil”

Isobel Hunter, Chief Executive, Libraries Connected

Children and Young People

This year also saw the implementation of several Learning initiatives, delivered in partnership with the Cumbria Music Education Hub and Liverpool Philharmonic's award-winning Learning team, to increase young people's access to live orchestral music. We hosted concerts for children under 5, as well as school ensemble visits.

“St James’ School is situated in a very deprived area, so giving our pupils the chance to experience hearing your talented performers is simply wonderful. All of the members of staff enjoyed seeing the children engaged and I thought it was lovely when the Year 4s joined in singing with your Taylor Swift rendition.”

Amanda Stephens, Music Coordinator, St James’ CE Junior School



Liverpool Philharmonic in Barrow is supported by Arts Council England. This partnership is an important part of our work, and we are proud to be part of the community's cultural offering.



Liverpool Philharmonic Hall and Music Room

Liverpool Philharmonic Hall is the most prestigious music venue in the city. In addition to our orchestral programme, this year we have presented 116 concerts from internationally acclaimed artists from a wide range of genres, including pop, rock and comedy to perform on the iconic stage.

The intimate Music Room is a grass roots venue that gives audiences the chance to get closer to live music and experience local and emerging artists. This year we have presented 144 performances.

Almost 132,000 people attended non-orchestral concerts and events in our two venues this year. We have promoted 64 shows in-house and co-promoted 4 shows at The Tung Auditorium including local artist Robert Vincent and Senegalese kora maestro and singer Seckou Keita.



Music

This year we were delighted to welcome Robert Plant who performed a unique blend of folk, Americana, and blues with his cooperative Saving Grace featuring Suzi Dian. Barbara Dickson, who first performed in the Hall in 1977, returned to perform with us one last time on her farewell tour. Other highlights this year include Graceland Reimagined by the London African Gospel Choir, rock icon Suzi Quatro, Vonda Shepard, John Grant, The Pretenders, Jamie Cullum and noughties pop band Blue.

The Real Thing: Liverpool Citizens of Honour

Before this pair of local legends stepped onto the stage to a packed Hall, we were delighted to welcome Lord Mayor Cllr Richard Kemp CBE to present Chris Amoo, Dave Smith and the families of Eddie Amoo, Ray Lake and Kenny Davis with the Roll of Citizens of Honour. The Real Thing were the first black British band to have a UK number one single. Their impact on music and the community has been profound and long lasting and we were delighted to pay tribute in a fantastic evening of music.

“They brought hope, vitality and reassurance to a generation of young black people in Liverpool.”

Lord Mayor, Cllr Richard Kemp CBE



Brad Kella

Fresh from winning season 2 of *Channel 4's The Piano UK*, local virtuoso Brad Kella performed to a sold out Philharmonic Hall in his first ever ticketed concert. Within a fantastic set he included his new single 'Home to Me' written to pay tribute to Liverpool FC, the city and people who helped him follow his dreams.

“Brad was given a standing ovation by his hometown crowd who were moved to tears by his music and words on stage. Brad said “the crowds were absolutely unbelievable to support me the way they did. I’m just so grateful for how the night went. It was wonderful.”

Liverpool Echo

Spoken Word and Comedy

This year, we hosted comedy greats including Frank Skinner, Lucy Beaumont, Tommy Tiernan and Julian Clary. We were also honoured to welcome US Senator Bernie Sanders who along with Maxine Peake discussed why it's OK to be angry at capitalism. Monty Don shared his career highlights and gardening expertise and Sandi Toksvig brought audiences silly stories and profound truth about what it really means to be a 'Friend of Dorothy'.

Local Artists

We are proud to platform local artists and co-produce a diverse range of events with Liverpool cultural organisations including Africa Oyé, Liverpool Arab Arts Festival, LUMA Creations, Milapfest, and Pagoda Arts. This year we celebrated a number of local artists including first time appearances in Philharmonic Hall from Wirral resident Bill Ryder-Jones, and former lead singer of Shack and the Pale Fountains, Michael Head. We also welcomed Liverpool fiddler Mikey Kenney for his debut performance in the Music Room.

We have been host to a number of career milestones including a residency from Merseyside hero Ian Prowse who sold out 4 nights in the Music Room celebrating his 60th birthday with 3 special shows honouring his career in music, plus his annual summer show. Dan Astles held his second annual Christmas show in the Music Room in addition to supporting Michael Head in the Hall for the very first time. Motel Sundown returned to the Music Room following a hugely popular set at our Open Day.

Stewart Lee: Basic Lee

Returning to Philharmonic Hall after selling out in 2023, Stewart Lee delivered another evening of ground-breaking comedy.



“Comedy legend was at his brilliant best at the Philharmonic Hall. He had the crowd in fits of laughter throughout the evening with another perfectly constructed night of stand up.”

Liverpool Echo



LIVERPOOL STORY

Portrait of a city

Liverpool Story

“One of an exciting community of homegrown filmmakers on Merseyside, his production company *Shut Out The Light Films* is admirably self-funded, using the profits made from one film to mount the next. A fluid and authentic love letter to the city he calls home, *Liverpool Story* once again marks Draper out as both a remarkable documentarian and a cinematic artist.”

The Geek Show

Films

Watching a film at Liverpool Philharmonic Hall is a unique experience. Audiences can enjoy fantastic films on the world’s last remaining working Walturdaw cinema screen, with an organ introduction from resident organist Dave Nicholas.

This year we were delighted to screen some of the recent blockbuster movies including *Maestro*, *Marley: One Love*, *Dune Part II* and *Back to Black*, as well as celebrating the 60th anniversary of *A Hard Day’s Night* and hosting the premiere of *Liverpool Story* – a year-in-the-life documentary portrait of the city and its people over the passing seasons.



16 February – Barbara Dickson Farewell Tour



20 February – Bernie Sanders



5 April – Graceland Reimagined by the London African Gospel Choir



16 April – Blue



21 April – Ni Maxine's 'Ode to Billie Holiday'



28 April – Julian Clary



20 July – The Ayoub Sisters



24-27 July – Ian Prowse



20 March – Frank Skinner



26 March – Robert Plant



4 October – The Real Thing



8 October – Sandi Toksvig



16 October – The Best of Vonda Shepard



18 November – Suzi Quatro



26 November – Jamie Cullum



27 November – Lucy Beaumont



29 November – Brad Kella

Learning

Liverpool Philharmonic's Learning programme is recognised as a leader in its field for quality, scope and impact. This year around 60,000 people have been reached by our extensive learning and community outreach activities.

Our programmes provide access to opportunities that enable people of all ages to experience live music and music making, and explore the wide range of possibilities within the industry. These opportunities include learning new skills, understanding various career pathways, discovering the wellbeing benefits of music, achieving musical excellence, collaborating with some of the most skilled and prestigious musicians and industry experts, and finding a community of like-minded individuals to make new friends and connections.



Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Company

Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Company is the largest community of young musicians and singers in the North West, working with over 400 individuals annually through 10 ensembles. These range from choral singing and symphony orchestras to a brass band and session orchestra playing a wide range of musical genres, as well as programmes for young composers and songwriters. The Youth Company provides a safe and welcoming space for young people to develop holistically as aspiring artists. It develops talent, offering musical pathways and unrivalled experience for young people in the region.

“There is no feeling like being a part of Youth Orchestra. It is by far the highlight of my week and I wake up every Sunday feeling excited that I’ve got rehearsals. Just the feeling of making the music with everyone is incredible – being surrounded by people who love it just as much as you makes it so much more fun!”

Lana, aged 16, Youth Orchestra violinist



“My child has become more confident socially, and talks enthusiastically about the friends he has made at Melody Makers. Singing and performing together is a bonding experience, and it’s great that the children in the choirs can experience the joy of that at such a young age.”

Parent of a Melody Maker

In Harmony

In Harmony Liverpool uses orchestral music-making to improve the life chances of children by increasing confidence, wellbeing, skills, and resilience, enhanced by opportunities to travel, learn, perform, and collaborate with professional musicians, international artists, and other young people. Every week, nearly 1,800 children and young people are learning music, free of charge.

This year has been as busy as ever: we celebrated the 15th Anniversary of In Harmony Liverpool with a special concert featuring performances from over 600 young people from Everton and Anfield; took our young musicians back into the community for a series of pop-up performances in public and community settings; presented a creative showcase for our year 6 participants at The Tung Auditorium; and performed a collaborative concert with In Harmony Opera North at the Leeds International Piano Competition Pianodrome. We were also honoured that our In Harmony participants were chosen to open the Creative Futures Pavillion at the Labour Party Conference. Our Chamber Stars String Quartet not only performed to leading Government figures but also spoke about the positive impact that the programme and music-making has had on their lives.

Now in their second year, Liverpool Philharmonic's In Harmony Youth Hubs continue to grow, providing safe spaces for 11-18 year-olds to access music-making, skills development and friendships outside of school free of charge. This year, we were delighted to welcome Isata and Sheku Kanneh-Mason for an intimate performance for our Youth Hub participants.

“It’s given me the opportunity to meet new people, expand my social circle, develop life skills, grow more confidence. It helped me to focus and know what I want to do with my life and feel able to do it my way without pressure from anyone else. It changed me.”

Young Person

In Harmony Liverpool is supported by Arts Council England, charitable trusts and foundations, participating schools and Liverpool Philharmonic donors and supporters.



Music and Health

Our Music and Health programme has supported over 21,500 people in the region and continues to demonstrate the long-term positive impact music and creativity have on improving the physical and mental health outcomes of patients and participants.

Now one of the longest-running and largest arts and health programmes in the UK, we work in community and inpatient adult mental health, perinatal mental health, paediatrics, cancer care, neurology and neurosurgery, addiction recovery, and with people living with dementia, brain injuries, and learning disabilities. Music and Health also includes a Social Prescribing and Community Wellbeing programme, open for referrals from GPs, Link Workers, and community groups across the region.

“Those of us connected to this partnership have witnessed first-hand the phenomenal impact that music has had upon the recovery journey of literally thousands of service users across all parts of our organisation. These programmes have delivered a truly humanising process and we have successively seen the programmes deliver very real and transformative recovery and wellbeing outcomes.”

Michael Crilly, Director of Social Health & Community Inclusion at Mersey Care

“After a very long period of disengaging from community activities of interest, and expressing feeling very low in confidence, she [a Music Mondays attendee] shared that she had enjoyed the event enormously, and that she was even able to have a dance! She now has plans to join the Access Scheme for other venues and take further opportunity to attend events that ‘help me to remember who I am’”

Support worker



Rushworth Composition Prize

The Rushworth Composition Prize, in association with the Rushworth Foundation, provides an exceptional range of opportunities for an early-career composer who writes original music. We are in our 10th year of awarding this prize.

The Prize offers composers aged 18+, with no upper age limit, the opportunity to build a long-term collaborative and creative relationship with Liverpool Philharmonic. £1,000 is awarded to the winner to write a new piece to be premiered by Ensemble 10:10, and mentoring and support is provided throughout the year.

The winner of this year’s Rushworth Composition Prize will be announced in January 2025 alongside the world premiere of *Danu’s Rhapsody*, composed by 2023 winner Sam Kane.

Emerging Musicians Fellowship

The Emerging Musicians Fellowship is a paid programme aimed at attracting and training a diverse range of outstanding early-career orchestral musicians. With no upper age limit, the Fellowship removes barriers to access and empowers early career artists to achieve a step change in their career. Four musicians are selected each year to immerse themselves in a unique professional orchestral experience, both on and off the stage, over the course of a year, gaining the opportunity to perform both in rehearsals and concerts. We are delighted to announce the appointment of this year's musicians: Emily Douglas (French Horn), Emily Ambrose (Bassoon), Imogen Timmins (Trumpet), and Daniel Lewis (Violin).



This year, former member of the Emerging Musicians Fellowship, Matthew Brett joined the Orchestra as Section Leader Percussion.

“It is an absolute honour to be part of an organisation with such an amazing musical history, and one that has contributed directly to my musical development, having been an Emerging Musicians Fellow with the orchestra in 2022-23. I’m really delighted to be embarking on a career in this wonderful city and I feel privileged to be playing alongside such talented musicians.”

Higher Education Partnerships

We are pleased to have continued and developed our strategic partnership with University of Liverpool. We have worked together to deliver the MA Music Management and also across the Undergraduate and

Post Graduate taught programmes. Our musicians have worked collaboratively with the School of Music to support students throughout their studies. Ensemble 10:10 performed new works composed by Audio Visual Masters students and Artists in Residence including Danny Elfman ran workshops and talks throughout the year. Our research partnership with University of Liverpool has included the completion of the Arts & Humanities Research Council funded Community Innovation Practitioner research project, led by Music & Health Lead Musician Georgina Aasgaard. We are proud to be a part of Music Futures (a UKRI funded Creative Cluster) – helping establish the Liverpool City Region as a music research and development powerhouse over the next 5 years.

Schools' Concerts

This year we welcomed over 11,500 students and teachers into the Hall for our annual Schools' Concerts. Hosted by Alasdair Malloy and conducted by Michael Seal, the Orchestra presented an inspirational and fun live music experience celebrating the 2024 Paris Olympics, exploring the themes of sport and health in music. Our Schools' Concerts are designed for Key Stages 1,2 and 3, are fully accessible (with BSL interpretation at all shows), cross-curricular, interactive, and encourage a lifelong love of music.

“The children thoroughly enjoyed it. For some, it was their first time attending a concert. The look of sheer delight was plain to see. It gave me goose bumps.”

Teacher, March 2024



Highlights

Youth Orchestra Reunion Concert

In February, we were proud to host a reunion of hundreds of past Merseyside and Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra members. First established in 1951, the group was founded by William Jenkins and to date has seen 4,000 musicians pass through its ranks. Current and former Youth Orchestra members united to perform under the baton of previous conductors Clark Rundell, Timothy Reynish and the patron of the Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra – and former Youth Orchestra member – Sir Simon Rattle. The present Youth Orchestra performed Mozart's Overture to *The Magic Flute*. Then alumni members from the past 73 years performed music by Elgar, Shostakovich and Bernstein, with Sir Simon on percussion.

“Band of brothers and sisters: Sir Simon Rattle leads a jubilant reunion concert in Liverpool”.

Bachtrack



Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra Tour to Florence

The Youth Orchestra embarked on its first overseas tour in over 10 years. The young musicians performed a series of concerts as part of the Festival Orchestre Giovanili – Florence Youth Festival. We were so proud of our young musicians for all they have achieved and are glad to be able to provide these once-in-a-lifetime experiences. This tour was made possible by the generosity of two local philanthropists who made a significant donation to enable the tour to take place.

Alder Hey Children's Hospital joins the Music and Health programme

We are delighted to be working with Alder Hey Children's Hospital. Being able to expand our support to children and young people is very important to us. We will work in partnership to improve the health and wellbeing of children, young people, their families, carers, and Alder Hey staff. The partnership will involve weekly music-making sessions for patients on wards, working with staff, volunteers, children, and young people. The initiative will be funded by Alder Hey Children's Charity, which supports the coordination of all Arts for Health projects across the hospital.

In Harmony Birthday – 15 years

In Harmony celebrated its 15th Birthday in March. 600 musicians aged 7-11 from schools in Anfield and Everton came together with Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra musicians to present an exciting programme, culminating in a joyous finale of massed choir and orchestra.

To mark 15 years of In Harmony we also teamed up with the University of Liverpool to publish a new study: 'How does In Harmony Liverpool promote Resilience amongst its Families?' The study found that In Harmony Liverpool promotes resilience in its children and families via the promotion of intrinsic and extrinsic resources, such as building confidence, learning skills, self-knowledge and self-efficacy as well as increasing social skills and family relationships.

In Autumn 2024 we published the findings of a research study undertaken with a small sample of In Harmony alumni – young people aged 18+ who took part in the programme at school. The study found that participating in In Harmony supports employability and skills development beyond music, with all those surveyed confirming it helps develop confidence, pride and self-belief

“Employers want to employ people that stand out and have extra layers to them, playing an instrument has added that”

“I will always remember In Harmony. It was such a cool experience; I would have never ever been able to learn an instrument in the area I was in.”

“...it gave me the ambition and drive to believe in myself.”

Careers Fest

We continue to host our annual Music Industry Careers Fest, the largest annual music industry careers event for young people in the north of England. Careers Fest offers young people aged 14-21 the chance to learn more about careers in music, network with leading industry professionals and meet other like-minded people. The event in February 2024 welcomed over 400 young people and included a series of inspiring panel discussions from leading industry professionals, hands-on workshops and a free careers marketplace. Our keynote speaker this year was Operatic bass-baritone Davóne Tines and we welcomed speakers including *BBC Radio Merseyside* presenter Jade Burns, hosts from podcasts *Things Musicians Don't Talk About* and *Sodajerker*, radio presenter Ellie Ajao, EMI North's Josh Daniel, conductor Robin Wallington, Dr Simon Rowbottom clinical psychologist and lead singer, guitarist and songwriter of The Boo Radleys and many more.





Updates

Building Improvements

This year has also seen an exciting improvement to our home, the Grade 2* listed Liverpool Philharmonic Hall.

Liverpool Philharmonic Hall Stage

This summer, we undertook a major redevelopment of the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall stage and choir area. The work has enhanced the working conditions and performance space for the Orchestra and Choir, improving the acoustics on stage for our musicians, and increasing accessibility with step-free access to all levels of the stage. The new risers are independently supported to isolate vibrations and can retract under each other, ensuring a quicker and smoother reset of the configuration. The back wall has been updated to improve the acoustic qualities of the stage, with features designed for sound absorption and specially crafted oak panelling for reflection and dispersion, particularly at chorus frequencies.

We are grateful for the work of our project manager Ridge LLP, main contractors GF Holdings, acousticians and engineers Anne Minors and Bob Essert from Imagine Sound Ltd, acoustic subcontractor Sound Solutions, stage engineers: Centre Stage Engineering and Inventive Creative, structural engineers Heyne Tillet Steel and Nicholas Hare Architects.

1840 Lounge

This year, the 1840 Room underwent an Art Deco-inspired redesign, transforming the space into an exclusive pre-show and interval retreat to enhance the customer experience that perfectly complements the world-class performances at Liverpool Philharmonic Hall.

The 1840 Lounge offers audiences the opportunity to book a private table and indulge in a carefully curated selection of premium beverages before the concert and during the interval. The redevelopment has expanded our offering to audiences, providing a brand-new space for them to enjoy their evening at the Hall.

We are grateful to our Food and Beverage, Front of House, and Facilities teams for all their hard work in creating this new space.

Royal Patronage

This year, King Charles III, a lifelong supporter of the arts and classical music, accepted the patronage of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society, Orchestra, and Choir. Buckingham Palace made the announcement following a review of Royal patronages conducted by the Royal Household, after His Majesty's Accession.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II served as Patron of the Liverpool Philharmonic Society and Orchestra from 1957 until her passing in 2022. Liverpool Philharmonic was the first orchestra outside London to be granted the honour of using the word 'Royal' in its title. The late Queen visited Liverpool Philharmonic Hall on several occasions, including many Royal Gala concerts, such as the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic's 150th anniversary concert in 1991. Her Majesty also visited Liverpool Philharmonic Hall in 2008 during her visit to the city, which was celebrating its designation as the European Capital of Culture.



Anniversaries and Team Updates



This year, our Chief Executive Michael Eakin announced his plans to retire. After more than 16 years of leadership, Michael will step down in March 2025. His tenure has been nothing short of transformative, and we are deeply grateful for his exceptional leadership. We look forward to giving him a fitting send-off in the new year.

After 19 years with the organisation, Executive Director of Audiences and Development Millicent Jones has moved on to a new chapter in her career. Millicent has been a vital member of the team, playing an integral role in a period of remarkable growth and development. She will be sorely missed by all at Liverpool Philharmonic.

Four long-standing musicians—Rob Shepley, Richard Wallace, Alexander Marks, and Jonathan Small—retired from the Orchestra this year. Together, they have a combined total of more than 160 years of service with the Orchestra, and we are deeply grateful for their contributions.

“After joining the orchestra in 1979, it soon became clear that this was a city I could happily spend my career and life in. Over the years it has been an enormous pleasure and privilege to have shared the stage with so many wonderful musicians, past and present, and to have helped forge a close relationship with a remarkable audience. I look forward to crossing the stage and joining the audience from next season.”

Richard Wallace, speaking with the Liverpool Echo

This year we celebrated a series of long-service anniversaries across the organisation:



Gethyn Jones
40 years



Ruth Davies
30 years



Jonathan Aasgaard
25 years



Kate Richardson
25 years



Ruth Owens
20 years



Ruth McNamara
20 years



Concettina Del Vecchio
20 years



Neil Hitt
20 years



Rachel Jones
20 years



Moira Hall
20 years

This year we were delighted to welcome the following new musicians to the Orchestra:



Sophie McQueen
Associate
Principal Second
Violin



Joana Correia Rodrigues
Second Violin



Matthew Brett
Section Leader
Percussion



Fábio Brum
Section Leader
Trumpet



Miquel Ramos Salvadó
Section Leader
Clarinet



Nadia Debono
Associate
Principal Viola



Anna Crawford
Cello



Angus McCall
Cello



Peter Liang
No.4 1st Violin



Inclusivity, Relevance and Sustainability

Inclusivity and Relevance are fundamental to our identity as a music organisation. Our strategic goal is to be a truly representative organisation—across our Board, staff, Orchestra, ensembles, and Youth Company—reflecting the diversity of our local communities while bringing the best talent in their fields to Liverpool.

To underpin our commitment to sustainability and inclusivity we have implemented an Environmental Sustainability and an Inclusivity and Relevance Policy and Action Plan. Each is monitored by a cross-organisation steering group to ensure and monitor the delivery of our objectives.

Artistic Partnerships

Creative partnerships are a vital and valued part of Liverpool Philharmonic. From collaborating with community and music organisations across the city for events like Open Day and Careers Fest, to hosting musical takeovers and arts festivals such as Luma Creations, Pagoda Arts, and the Liverpool Arab Arts Festival, artistic partnerships are integral to our programme. We are also proud to further support local aspiring musicians through ongoing collaborations between the Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Company and LIMF Academy.



Leap into Live Music!

Leap into Live Music! is designed to give individuals who have never attended a concert or event at Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, and who might not typically have the opportunity, the chance to enjoy live music without the concern of cost. Launched in 2013, the programme aims to develop new audiences by engaging more closely with community groups, employers, and families across Liverpool. This year, we distributed over 1000 free and discounted tickets through this initiative.

Rushworth Young Composers and Songwriters

The Rushworth Young Composers and Songwriters scheme offers musicians and Youth Company members aged 14 to 18 the chance to develop their composing and songwriting skills. Participants work with mentors to develop their creative and musical voice, writing for an ensemble from the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, and hearing their music performed in a concert in the Music Room. In April, seven young musicians from the Rushworth Young Composers and Songwriters programme had their works performed by the Equilibrium String Quartet. The concert featured several world premieres from the newest generation of contemporary composers.



Accessibility

Over 4,500 people with disabilities are members of our Access Scheme, which provides support to help them attend concerts safely and comfortably. Liverpool Philharmonic has been awarded Gold by Attitude is Everything (the national disability in music organisation), reflecting the quality of our customer service and access for disabled people. To further increase ease of movement we have implemented enhanced facilities to improve accessibility in all parts of the auditorium. In 2024, we worked with the Pocklington Trust and Sight Loss Council to complete an audit of our spaces at events to look at how accessibility for people with visual impairments could be improved.

We also continue to programme work that supports people with different needs such as British Sign Language performances. This year we incorporated BSL in Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra Concerts: 'Sir Bryn in Belshazzar's Feast', 'What The World Needs Now: A Tribute to Burt Bacharach' and Handel's *Messiah* with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir.

Recruitment

Recruiting Classical is a national scheme to address the underrepresentation of global majority professional musicians in UK orchestras through auditions and a range of support including professional development workshops. Liverpool Philharmonic is one of a number of leading professional orchestras working in partnership with Black Lives in Music on the scheme.

This year we have partnered with Steps at Strawberry Fields, based in the City Region, and are working with the charity to offer work placements to 18+ young people to get a step into employment. These placements help remove some of the employment barriers that young people face today. We are pleased to announce we have recently recruited a Strawberry Fields placement into a permanent position with Liverpool Philharmonic.

Environmental Sustainability

We have rolled out carbon literacy training for all 300 members of our team. To ensure our commitment to sustainability, ethics, and responsible practices, our environmental committee meets quarterly to review and share initiatives. We take pride in partnering with suppliers who share our vision for sustainability and ethics, prioritising their environmental impact, including B-CORP Ice Cream brand Marshfield, Northumberland Water Farm, Marlish - whose products are minimal intervention and sugar-free, local coffee suppliers Adams & Russell - who collect our waste coffee after use for recycling and compost, and refillable Sapling Vodka – who plant a tree for every bottle equivalent we sell. We are working towards eliminating carbon-inefficient glass across the organisation and offering an exclusively vegetarian and plant-based menu in our kiosk. Additionally, we encourage our tours to consider green riders to minimise waste.

This year, Liverpool Philharmonic has extended our commitment to sustainability into our creative programme. We commissioned two major new pieces. ‘Plastic Theatre’ by Joanna Marsh was performed by the Orchestra, Youth Choir and Children’s Choir, conducted by Elie Slorach. ‘The Silent Planet’ by Delia Stevens and Will Pound was performed by the Orchestra with musicians from the Royal Northern College of Music, conducted by Clark Rundell and featuring climate speaker Phoebe Hanson from Force of Nature. Both concerts used the power of music to amplify unheard voices around climate change, urging listeners to recognise the environmental issues we face today.



In Memory

In April this year, we were deeply saddened by the loss of Sir Andrew Davis CBE, one of Britain's most distinguished conductors of his generation. In 2015 we were delighted that he accepted the honorary title of Conductor Emeritus of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. Sir Andrew's association with the Orchestra dates back to the 1960s and the start of his career with the support of Sir Charles Groves.

Sir Andrew returned many times, most notably for the Orchestra's 150th Anniversary Concert in 1991 with Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, for a concert in memory of former Principal Conductor Sir Charles Groves in 1992, and in 2008 during Liverpool's European Capital of Culture year, when he led the Orchestra in a special performance attended by our then Patron, Her Majesty The Queen. His final performance in Liverpool was in 2019, when he conducted Duruflé's *Requiem* with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir.

Our heartfelt condolences to Sir Andrew's family, friends and colleagues around the world.



Sadly, we lost two former Chairmen of the Society in 2024. Peter Johnson served from 1996-2000 and John Last CBE 1977-1981, 1986-1987 and 1988-1992. We wish to pay tribute to the contributions they made during their service.

Our Supporters

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our loyal donors, corporate supporters, trusts and foundations, and our wonderful audiences for their ongoing support. This includes those who have generously left us bequests in their wills, a growing number of supporters who are helping secure the future of Liverpool Philharmonic. We also extend our thanks and remember with gratitude those loyal customers and donors we lost this year.

Paul Hamlyn Foundation

This year, we were honoured to receive a transformative gift from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation to support music opportunities for children and young people across the Liverpool City Region. This incredible gift includes a £3.5 million endowment, with the investment gains being used exclusively to sustain our long-term commitment to inspiring and nurturing the musical talents of young people. In addition to the endowment, the Foundation has awarded us a £500,000 grant to be used over the next five years to expand Liverpool Philharmonic's In Harmony Youth Hubs into new areas of the city.

We are deeply grateful for their generosity and for recognising the impact of our work. This dedicated funding will allow even more local young people to engage with music, learn instruments, sing, perform, and make lasting friendships, all while enhancing their skills and wellbeing.

This unprecedented gift is a historic milestone for Liverpool Philharmonic, marking the largest single donation in our 184-year history, and represents a targeted investment in the future of Liverpool's young people.

phf Paul Hamlyn Foundation

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Liverpool City Council

We are grateful to Arts Council England and Liverpool City Council for their invaluable contribution to our work across the organisation.

Premier Sponsors

DMR

DAVID M ROBINSON

David M Robinson became a Premier Sponsor in 2021 and has been a long-term supporter for many years. This year, David M Robinson sponsored concerts such as 'The Best of John Williams', 'A Celebration of Puccini', 'Rachmaninov's Symphony No.2' and continued to support our annual Spirit of Christmas concerts. David M Robinson is also a long-standing supporter of our In Harmony programme.

RATHBONES

Incorporating
Investec Wealth &
Investment (UK)

Rathbones Incorporating Investec Wealth and Investment (UK) have generously supported Liverpool Philharmonic as Principal Partner since 2005. Investec Wealth and Investment (UK) is now transitioning to be a part of Rathbones Group Plc, creating the UK's leading discretionary wealth manager. Both Investec Wealth & Investment (UK) and Rathbones share a client-centric approach, and are proud of the direct, personal service offered by both firms. This shared philosophy, along with their close cultural fit, was at the heart of the decision to bring the two businesses together. Their Liverpool offices aim to build strong and supportive relationships with local cultural and charitable organisations, and we are proud to continue to work in partnership with them. This year they have sponsored three concerts: 'Classic FM Hall of Fame', Season Opening Concert and 'Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No.1'.

Our Sponsors



In addition to support from our Premier Sponsors, we were grateful for support from The Rushworth Foundation, Weightmans, Maestro! Touring and Allianz Musical Insurance.

The Rushworth Foundation supports the Rushworth Composition Prize, Rushworth Young Composers, and the Rushworth Scholarships for MA Classical Music Industry. They have also supported numerous concerts including the Youth Orchestra Reunion Concert and have been long-term supporters of our In Harmony programme.

Weightmans are an award-winning national law firm, which was established in Liverpool in 1827 and remains

headquartered in the city. The firm is particularly supportive of Liverpool Philharmonic's Music and Health programme, which is now in its 15th year. Weightmans are now the headline sponsor of a new series of accessible rehearsal visits during the 2024-2025 concert season.

Maestro! Touring supports Liverpool Philharmonic as part of our lunchtime concert series and as our chosen travel partner.

We are grateful to Allianz Musical Insurance who have sponsored 'Music Mondays' in support of our Music and Health programme.

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Corporate Members

We are grateful for the support of our Corporate Members: Rathbones: Incorporating Investec Wealth and Investment (UK), David M Robinson, MGMA Architects, R S Clare & Co. Ltd and Kimpton.



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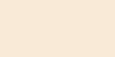
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