

PERFORMANCES & EVENTS

Presenting live performances and archived reviews of performances available online, including Pierre Boulez from Cologne, French sparkle in Berlin and MTT 'keeping score'

Metropolitan Opera, New York & cinemas worldwide

Roberto Alagna stars in *Manon Lescaut*, March 5

Richard Eyre's new production of Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* is set in the 1940s, and reunites him with set designer Rob Howell (with whom he collaborated on the Met productions of *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Werther* and *Carmen*). It's strongly cast, with Roberto Alagna (replacing Jonas Kaufmann) and Kristine Opolais as the ill-fated lovers at the centre of the opera, and it also stars Massimo Cavalletti and Brindley Sherratt. Met Principal Conductor Fabio Luisi is in the pit. metopera.org/uk

Royal Festival Hall, London & BBC Radio 3

Jurowski conducts Rachmaninov and Zemlinsky, March 9

A characteristically imaginative programme from the London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Vladimir Jurowski. First up, Marc-André Hamelin in Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 3. Then comes Zemlinsky's orchestral tone-poem of 1901, *Die Seejungfrau* ('The Mermaid'), based on the Hans Christian Andersen fairy-tale. The concert will be broadcast live on Radio 3, then available online in the UK for the next 30 days via iPlayer. lpo.org.uk • bbc.co.uk/radio3

Brangwyn Hall, Swansea, Cheltenham Town Hall & BBC Radio 3

Rachel Podger in BBC NOW's violin season, March 11 in Swansea & live on Radio 3, March 12 in Cheltenham

The second concert in the BBC National Orchestra of Wales's violin season not only explores the instrument as soloist but also the role of player-conductor, as violinist Rachel Podger leads the orchestra in historically informed performances of works including Biber's *Battalia* and JS Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No 2*. Also appearing are violinist Lesley Hatfield and trumpeter Philippe Scharz. bbc.co.uk/bbcnow/events • bbc.co.uk/radio3

Grosser Saal, Zurich & Swiss Radio SRF2 Kultur

Lionel Bringuier conducts Yefim Bronfman in Beethoven, March 16 live, then broadcast on March 31

Chief Conductor and Artistic Director Lionel Bringuier conducts the Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 4 with Yefim Bronfman, and Bartók's Concerto

ARCHIVE REVIEW

François-Xavier Roth conducts Pierre Boulez's *Notations* in Cologne



Boulez

In this film of François-Xavier Roth's first concert as Music Director of Cologne's Gürzenich Orchestra, the five orchestrated *Notations* (Nos 1-4 and 7) of Pierre Boulez form a glittering centrepiece between the more earnestly directional progress of Schoenberg's First Chamber Symphony and Bruckner's Fourth.

Within a strong pulse, Roth finds a ritualistic quality to these densely packed but brilliantly orchestrated miniatures – comprising a pocketbook of Boulezian style – which the composer himself eschewed in performance. Berg looms larger (especially at the climax of No 3, which quotes directly from the March of the *Three Orchestra Pieces*) than Debussy,

as one might expect from an orchestra well-schooled in the Second Viennese repertoire by Markus Stenz. The later reinvention of the Seventh sounds more chilled-out and soft-centred than ever next to the precipitate mood-changes of its companions, before the Second sweeps away all lethargy with the adrenalin-rush of a ride on a magic carpet.

The filming is naturally very busy but does not always reach the right instrument at the right time. A 'making of' feature offers useful compensation by showing sectional rehearsals intercut with players arriving from parts of Cologne as if for a new term at school. **Peter Quantrill**
Available free to view
[at en.guerzenich-orchester.de/go-plus](http://en.guerzenich-orchester.de/go-plus)

for Orchestra. Most interesting of all, however, should be Jörg Widmann's 2007 work *Armonica*, scored for large orchestra and glass harmonica, the extraordinary, ghostly-sounding 18th-century instrument we hear so little from these days. Taking the soloist's role for that one will be Christa Schönfeldinger. tonhalle-orchester.ch • srf.ch/radio-srf-2-kultur

Vienna State Opera & The Opera Platform

Peter Eötvös conducts *Tri Sestri*, March 18
For those who haven't yet heard of The Opera Platform, launched last May, it's an opera streaming platform which partners Opera Europa (representing 160 opera companies and festivals), the cultural broadcaster ARTE and 15 theatres across Europe. The Vienna State Opera's new production of *Tri Sestri*, Hungarian composer and conductor Peter

Eötvös's loose adaptation of Anton Chekhov's *Three Sisters*, will be conducted by Eötvös himself, with a cast led by Russian soprano Aida Garifullina and mezzo-sopranos Margarita Gritskova and Ilseyar Khayrullova. Yuval Sharon directs. After the live relay, it will be available for viewing for six months. wienersstaatsoper.at • theoperaplatform.eu

Knight Concert Hall, Miami & WCLV 104.9

Jean-Yves Thibaudet performs Liszt's Piano Concerto No 2, March 19
Swapping the chill of Ohio in March for the warmth of Florida, Giancarlo Guerrero conducts the Cleveland Orchestra at Miami's Arsht Center. In addition to Jean-Yves Thibaudet performing Liszt's Piano Concerto No 2, the concert will also feature Mahler's Symphony No 1. Opening the programme, the world