

# Connecting Darley

**Britain's biggest free outdoor classical concert continues to reach new heights as the theme turns to celebrating in music some of Derby and Derbyshire's greatest sons and daughters... and for cryptic crossword fans, a programme that presents that ever-popular challenge of 'spot the connections'!**

Before we go on, a literary 'health warning' - if you prefer not to know the musical connections ahead of the concert, don't read page 2 of this newsletter!..

Sunday September 5th sees the spectacular Darley Park Concert - an annual music event that has become a landmark in the life of the City of Derby. Drawing crowds in excess of 30,000 people from all over the country, it's more than just a classical concert - it's a celebration of community; a chance for music lovers, friends and families to get together in the picturesque setting of Derby's most attractive park, relax and enjoy the great atmosphere. Add to the scene the endless sea of blanket-bourne picnickers (tables and chairs for the more comfort-loving!), the occasional popping of champagne corks, the glow of lanterns as twilight emerges and the speckled dusting of stars (and later fireworks) overhead and it all adds up to a very special evening indeed in the life of Derby.

Fittingly then, this year the theme of the music turns to Derby and Derbyshire itself - the people and industries from past and present that have made the area famous in the wider world. The charismatic figure of **James Holmes** returns as conductor and musical connection-maker with a programme of something for every outlook, all tastes and ages. Joining him as soloist this year is the accomplished operatic tenor **Philip O'Brien**.



Philip, who will be making his Darley debut, is raring to get on stage with sinfonia ViVA and look out on tens of thousands of concert-goers faces, as he explained when asked recently how the preparation was going...

**Philip O'Brien** - "A friend asked me the other day 'What does it feel like singing in front of 30000 people?' ... As an artist the thought of singing in front of a 30,000 plus audience is truly thrilling - let's face it ...it's why I went into singing in the first place! Earlier in the year I had the fortune to sing Don Jose in Carmen at the O2 Arena in front of 12,000 people. Previously I had sung at the Seattle Opera House in front of 4,000 people... now 30,000?"

In preparing to go on stage in front of a massive outdoor audience I think you have to trust in yourself, concentrate on the job in hand and try to draw people into your world! Dealing with nerves is very important but you hope that the adrenalin rush as you walk on stage will help these to disappear. Obviously an enthusiastic audience makes the job a lot easier.

In choosing repertoire for Darley I tried to put myself into the place of an audience member. I wanted pieces that show what I can do but would also entertain a Sunday afternoon audience at Darley Park.

As a tenor I think Verdi and Puccini is hard to beat so have chosen *La donna e mobile* from *Rigoletto* and the very popular *Nessun Dorma* from *Turandot*. Add to that some operetta in the form of Lehar and there is something classical for everyone - I have included a couple of lighter pieces as well!

So looking forward to Darley Park; I am sure it will be a memorable occasion and hope that the audience will enjoy it as much as me."



**INSIDE ~ ~ ~ Secrets of the Darley Park programme... Mike Wheeler reviews the Derby culmination of the Floratorio project... ViVA welcomes a new member of staff... PLUS 3 months of ViVA concerts in full detail ~ ~ ~**



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ENGLAND**

### Wagner - Flying Dutchman Overture

**What's the connection?** In the 1868 General Election, Samuel Plimsoll (responsible for the Plimsoll Line safe loading indicator for shipping) was elected as MP for Derby.

### Wagner (arr. Hall) - Spinning Chorus (orchestral version)

**What's the connection?** Jedediah Strutt who, along with Richard Arkwright were the main pioneers of the cotton spinning industry in Derbyshire.

### Mendelssohn - Hebrides Overture

**What's the connection?** Samuel Johnson, poet, essayist and lexicographer, who was born in Litchfield, the son of a book seller who himself was born in Great Cubley in Derbyshire. He visited Derbyshire on many occasions, sometimes staying with his friend Dr John Taylor who lived at 'The Mansion' in Church Street, Ashbourne. With James Boswell, who was later to become his biographer, he travelled in Scotland and published his observations in 'A Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland'.

### Verdi - La Donna e Mobile

**What's the connection?** Florence Nightingale. On 22 August 1853, Nightingale took the post of superintendent at the Institute for the Care of Sick Gentlewomen in Upper Harley Street, London. The UK premiere of Rigoletto took place on 14 May 1853 at what is now the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in London.

### Elgar - WN and Nimrod from Enigma Variations

**What's the connection?** Rolls-Royce engines power Nimrod aircraft.

### Puccini - Nessun Dorma

**What's the connection?** Steve Bloomer. The tune became the footballers' operatic aria of choice when Pavarotti sang it in Rome for the 1990 World Cup.

### Coates - Dambusters

**What's the connection?** Composer Eric Coates was born in Hucknell, where until 1971 there was a Rolls-Royce test flight facility. Some of the bombing practice by the 633 Squadron was done at Ladybower Dam.

### Steiner - Charge of the Light Brigade Main Title

**What's the connection?** Florence Nightingale's work in the Crimean War.

### Duncan - March from Little Suite

**What's the connection?** Florence Nightingale again! This tune was used as theme for Dr. Finlay's Casebook.

### Lehar - Girls were made to Love and Kiss

**What's the connection?** The Grand Theatre, Derby. Richard Tauber, who was famous for singing "Girls were made to love and kiss", sang there in 1942.

### Botsford - Black and White Rag

**What's the connection?** Joe Davis. World champion snooker player many times over, was born in the mining village of Whitwell in Derbyshire on April 15th 1901.

### Strauss - Bahn Frei

**What's the connection?** The term refers to goods that travel by rail. Celebrating the City's railway heritage.

### Lennon/McCartney - Yellow Submarine

**What's the connection?** Rolls-Royce submarine business.

### Strauss - Music of the Spheres

**What's the connection?** John Flamsteed who ranks as one of Britain's finest astronomers. He was the first 'Astronomer Royal', and occupied the Royal Observatory built by King Charles the Second at Greenwich for some 44 years, seeing astronomy emerge from the mysteries and myths of the middle ages, to become a modern, mathematical and scientific discipline. A small plaque on a large modern house in Denby, Derbyshire, reminds one of his birthplace in an isolated house overlooking the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin. The local comprehensive school bears his name.

### Løvland/Graham - You Raise Me Up

**What's the connection?** And we're back with... Florence Nightingale! The song was originally written as an instrumental piece and titled "Silent Story." The melody is based on a traditional Irish tune (especially the opening phrase of its chorus), the Londonderry Air, which is best known as the usual tune to the 1910 song *Danny Boy* - that being the year Florence died.

### Freedman/Myers - Rock around the Clock

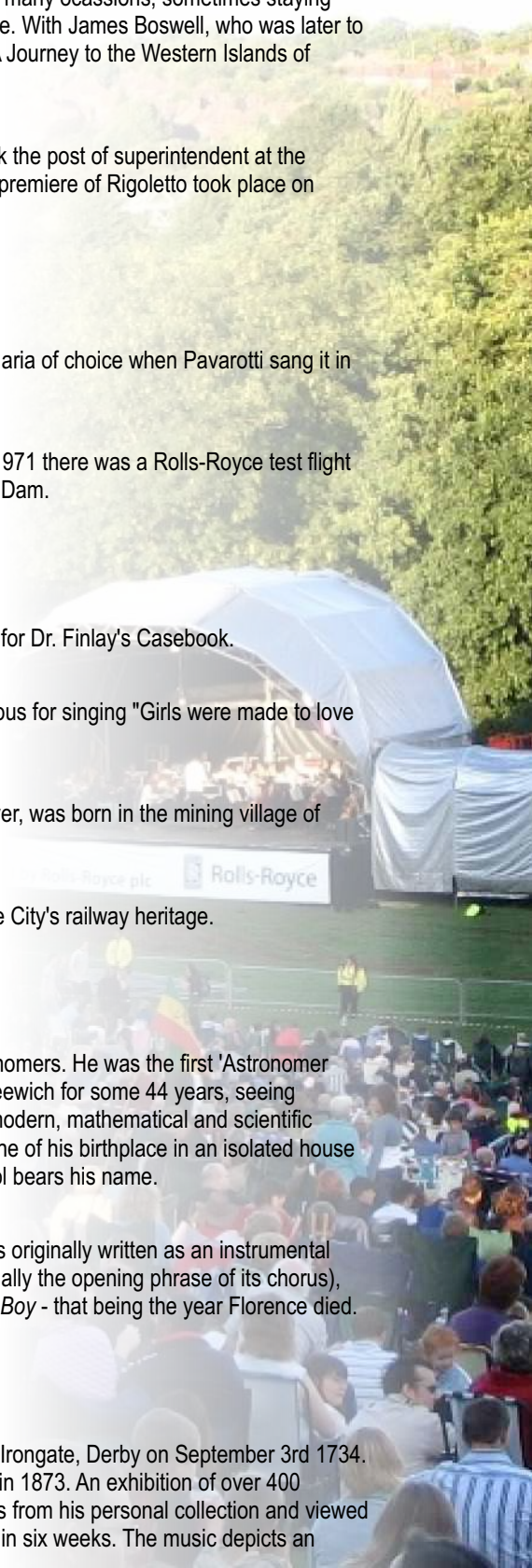
**What's the connection?** Famous clockmakers Smiths of Derby.

### Mussorgsky- Babyaga and Great Gate of Kiev (from Pictures at an Exhibition)

**What's the connection?** Joseph Wright, the Derbyshire painter, was born at No.28 Irongate, Derby on September 3rd 1734. It was probably in 1870 that Mussorgsky met artist Viktor Hartmann. Hartmann died in 1873. An exhibition of over 400 Hartmann works was organised in February and March 1874. Mussorgsky lent works from his personal collection and viewed the show in person. Fired by the experience, he composed *Pictures at an Exhibition* in six weeks. The music depicts an imaginary tour of an art collection.

# The Darley Puzzle

## How the (musical) pieces fit





Saturday 14th Aug

Meridian Park, Cleethorpes at 5.30pm  
 Tickets: £12 Box Office: 0844 847 2426

[www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-08-14-cleethorpes.shtml](http://www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-08-14-cleethorpes.shtml)

## ||| sinfonia ViVA: Meridian Classics in Cleethorpes

The programme (subject to change) includes -

Tchaikovsky:	Polonaise (Eugene Onegin)
Bizet:	Toreador Song (Carmen)
Mozart:	La ci darem (Don Giovanni)
Saint-Saëns:	Mon coeur s'ouvre a ta voir (Samson et Dalila)
Delibes:	Flower Duet (Lakmé)
Smetana:	Dance of the Comedians
Camilla Kerslake Set - - -	She Moved Through The Fair - How Can I Keep From Singing? I Can't Help Falling In Love - Rule The World (Il Mondo e Nostro)
Suppé:	Light Cavalry Overture
Bizet:	Habanera (Carmen)
Massenet:	Vision Fugitive (Herodiade)
Bernstein:	Tonight (West Side Story)
Lloyd Webber:	All I Ask of You (Phantom of the Opera)
Offenbach:	Barcarolle (Tales of Hoffman)



The Meridian Classical concert returns to Cleethorpes' Meridian Park on Saturday 14th August promising an exceptional evening of classical music starring the vocal excellence of **Camilla Kerslake** along with **Tim Hamilton** and **Kate Warshaw**, plus sinfonia ViVA with engaging conductor **James Holmes**. The popularity of Meridian Classical continues to grow year-on-year and is fast becoming Cleethorpes' very own proms. This open-air evening of wonderful music and entertainment for the whole family ends the night with a spectacular firework display. Terrific music, and a real outdoor spectacular - come and be part of the great atmosphere!

Supported by sinfonia ViVA and Arts Council England

Sunday 5th Sept

Darley Park, Derby - event starts 6.00pm  
 Admission is FREE: parking and other restrictions apply

[www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-09-05-derby.shtml](http://www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-09-05-derby.shtml)

## ||| The Darley Park Concert

The programme (subject to change) includes:

Wagner:	Flying Dutchman Overture
Wagner (arr. Hall):	Spinning Chorus
Mendelssohn:	Hebrides Overture
Verdi:	La Donna e Mobile
Elgar:	Variation V111 "W.N." and Variation IX "Nimrod" from Enigma Variations
Puccini:	Nessun Dorma
Coates:	Dambusters March
Steiner:	Charge of the Light Brigade
Duncan:	March from Little Suite
Lehar:	Girls were made to Love and Kiss
Botsfor (arr. Hall):	Black and White Rag
Strauss:	Bahn Frei
Lennon/McCartney:	Yellow Submarine
Strauss:	Music of the Spheres
Løvland/Graham:	You Raise Me Up
Freedman/Myers:	Rock Around the Clock
Mussorgsky:	Babayaga and Great Gate of Kiev



What a great way to end the summer holidays! The Darley Park Concert - the biggest FREE concert of its kind in the whole of Britain - is here to raise the spirits with a sparkling selection of favourite classics and a peppering of musical surprises... This year's theme is famous people associated with Derby so expect tributes to the likes of Joseph Wright, Florence Nightingale, Samuel Plimsoll, Steve Bloomer and Samuel Johnson. Come along and see if you can work out the musical connections! **James Holmes** returns to conduct sinfonia ViVA in this annual spectacular concert and they are joined by guest singer **Philip O'Brien**. Events start at 6.00pm and the whole evening is wrapped up with the traditional music and firework display as the sun sets over the perfect natural setting that is Darley Park. Come along and be part of a musical celebration of Derby's famous sons and daughters!

PLEASE OBSERVE PARKING AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS. Car Parking £5 at St. Benedict's School on Duffield Road. In the interests of safety, please do not bring barbecues, sparklers, animals (a firework display is scheduled to take place as part of the evening) tents or gazebos to the park. A torch and suitable outdoor clothing may be useful. Help to keep the park tidy by disposing of your rubbish carefully. Further details from Derby Tourist Information Centre 01332 255802 Minicom 01332 256666.

Supported by Rolls-Royce plc, Derby City Council, Derby LIVE, RAM FM, East Midlands Trains and Arts Council England

Saturday 2nd Oct

Djanogly Recital Hall, Lakeside Arts Centre, Nottingham at 7.30pm  
 Tickets: £15 (£12 concessions) from the Box Office: 0115 846 7777  
[www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-10-02-nottingham.shtml](http://www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-10-02-nottingham.shtml)

Wednesday 6th Oct

Lincoln Drill Hall at 7.30pm  
 Tickets: £12 (£10 concessions / £7 students) accompanied under 16s free Box Office: 01522 873894  
[www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-10-06-lincoln.shtml](http://www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-10-06-lincoln.shtml)

## ||| sinfonia ViVA with Colin Currie

**Stravinsky:** Apollo (version for string orchestra)  
**Schwertsik:** Now You Hear Me, Now You Don't  
**Mozart:** Divertimento K136

sinfonia ViVA directed by **Benedict Holland** renews its long association with the amazing talent that is percussionist **Colin Currie** in this exciting visit to two venues with a programme of compelling classics.

Commissioned to write a ballet on any theme of his choosing for a forthcoming music festival at the Library of Congress and underwritten to the tune of \$1000 by musical philanthropist Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge, Stravinsky gravitated to Greek mythology and elected to centre his luscious composition on Apollo, the leader of the muses. Originally titled Apollon Musagète (Apollo, conductor of the Muses), the work was begun in 1927 and premiered the following year. The stateside production



Photo credits: top right - Ben Phillips: above - Chris Dawes



choreographed by Adolph Boam was quickly surpassed in Europe by that of George Ballanchine which featured Stravinsky himself conducting, and it was this first collaboration between Ballanchine and Stravinsky by which the work achieved wide popularity. Stravinsky would later make small changes to the score in 1947, and Ballanchine a major revision in 1978 which omitted the prologue. Tonight's version is that for string orchestra.

Kurt Schwertsik is the Austrian-born founder of the Third Viennese School and composer of orchestral, stage, vocal and chamber music. Colin Currie performed the premiere of his Marimba Concerto in London in February 2009. The work's title *Now You Hear Me, Now You Don't* reflects the coming-and-going part of the marimba - in places, the instrument is prominent while in others it fades into the background with just a base line or even single notes - throughout the five gorgeous movements of this bright, engaging and mesmerising work.

Mozart's Divertimento K136 is one of a collection of three divertimenti he wrote in Spring 1772. Its involving and warmly resonant themes have a youthful nature, and the piece displays a lively energy. Musical beauty personified...

Gorgeous classical melodies and virtuosic performances... Come and be entertained by sinfonia ViVA!

Djanogly concert supported by Rolls-Royce plc, Orchestras Live and Arts Council England. Lincoln concert supported by Rolls-Royce plc, sinfonia ViVA, Lincoln Drill Hall, Lincoln City Council, Orchestras Live and Arts Council England.

### **Audience comments from ViVA's concert at Lincoln Drill Hall in February 2010, Benedict Holland (director)...**

*"Enjoyed the wonderful, informal, relaxed, unpretentious evening of music beautifully played by ViVA."  
 - Judith O'Laughlin / Peter Duxbury*

*"Most enjoyed the energy, verve and enthusiasm of the musicians."  
 - Bonny Ambrose*

*"Enjoyed the selection of the music and the jovial, relaxed, polished way that it was presented. A magical evening!"  
 - name supplied*

Saturday 16th Oct

The Palace, Ibstock, Leicestershire at 7.30pm

Tickets: £15, available from Halls of Ibstock, 10-16 High Street, Ibstock or on 01530 260460 during shop hours 9.00am - 5.30pm Mon - Sat  
[www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-10-16-ibstock.shtml](http://www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-10-16-ibstock.shtml)

## **sinfonia ViVA in Ibstock**

Photo: Marco Borggreve

**Bach:** Brandenburg Concerto No.3  
**Pachelbel:** Canon and Gigue  
**Handel:** Concerto Grosso Op6 No.7 in Bb  
**Mozart:** Divertimento K136  
**Vivaldi:** The Four Seasons

Leader **Benedict Holland** directs from the violin as sinfonia ViVA comes to The Palace in Ibstock for the first time with a terrific programme of popular orchestral classics.

Bach wrote the six Brandenburg Concertos between 1718 and 1721, a period during which he served as Kappellmeister in the small German town of Köthen whilst also having control of a small orchestra. Concerto No.3, for strings alone, features dramatic and complex interaction between the different instruments. Pachelbel's Canon and Gigue, part of his G major Partita for Strings, has become one of the most popular of the composer's pieces. In 1739, Handel composed a total of twelve Concerti Grossi, No.7 of which is being performed in tonight's concert. They have been described as 'the highest manifestation of Handel's compositional skills'. Mozart's lovely Divertimento K136 draws the listener in with its charm and warmth.

After the interval, it's on to Vivaldi's The Four Seasons - a work that needs little introduction; it was composed as the title suggests to reflect musically the different states of nature, each movement of the four concerti on the original score being preceded by a scene-setting sonnet in Italian - attached, it is believed, by the composer himself.

Come along and savour this programme of radiant and charming pieces!

Supported by Orchestras Live, North West Leicestershire District Council and Arts Council England.



## sinfonia : 1000 Club

An invitation from  
sinfonia ViVA's  
Fundraiser  
Sally Anne Tye



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- The opportunity to meet André de Ridder and our musicians during post-concert drinks
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- Credit on the **ViVA 1000 Club** Supporters page on our website

Please note that for Gift Aid purposes the commercial value of the Member's benefits is up to £380 (plus £66.50 VAT). The balance of £553.50 will be treated as a voluntary donation and is eligible for Gift Aid.

To find out more call **Sally Anne Tye** on **01332 207566** or email [sally@vivaorch.co.uk](mailto:sally@vivaorch.co.uk)

sinfonia *VIVA!* **New Year's Eve Classical Gala 2010**

**Friday 31st December 2010, 7.30pm Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham**

# Land of the Midnight Sun

## Featuring

Grieg	Piano Concerto in A minor, Op 16 & In the Hall of the Mountain King
Wagner	Ride of the Valkyries
Sibelius	Finlandia
Nielsen	Maskarade Overture

**plus a seasonal selection of Strauss pieces !**

*Photo courtesy of Patrick Kelley / US Geological Survey*

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**Ticket Prices: £31 to £9**

\*Vouchers sent with tickets and redeemable at concert on 31st December only Conditions apply - ask at time of booking



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# In Review

**Floratorio**  
Assembly Rooms, Derby, 22nd June 2010  
reviewed by Mike Wheeler



## With Total Confidence

Two years ago it was *Bess of Hardwick*. This year Derbyshire's been marking the centenary of the death of another of the county's great historical figures, Florence Nightingale.

Peter Roberts must be feeling practically on first-name terms with her by now. Not only did he write Derby Youth Theatre's recent show *A Lady With a Lamp*, but he has also written the libretto for sinfonia VIVA's summer schools' project, *Floratorio* (Assembly Rooms, Derby, UK, 22 June 2010).

With children from six local primary and junior schools (two of them from the area around Florence's family home) contributing their own songs, James Redwood's score draws on a range of other music. The first thing we hear, quoting the nightingale from Messiaen's *Reveil des Oiseaux* sets the scene of rural tranquility from which Florence was to journey so far (as well as having obvious emblematic significance); a minuet by Boyce represents the social life of her family home, Victorian popular songs colour the story's later stages. With both his amazing ability to hold this disparate range of material together, and the imagination and skill of his own music, Redwood does not put a foot wrong.



Soprano Claire Surman, as Florence, and baritone Robert Davies as narrator and the various men in her life, sang their solo roles with operatic vividness. Conductor David Lawrence held it all together with his usual flair.

But the evening really belonged to a bunch of enthusiastic, fired-up kids who not only contributed their own enjoyable and often witty songs, but sang the often quite challenging music Redwood had written for them with total confidence.



**Mike Wheeler**

Images: Top right - the performance in full flow at the Assembly Rooms. Bottom left - James Redwood and VIVA musician Jack Ross on location (this photo - credit Hannah Fox).

## The Chief Points from Peter Helps



On behalf of all of us at VIVA I'd like to welcome a new member to the management team of the Orchestra. Sally Anne Tye joins us as our Fundraiser - a task of crucial importance to the organisation's continued development in this world of shifting economic sands, as my recent writings here have made clear. Sally's wide-ranging experience in the Arts has been the best possible preparation for the undoubted challenges she faces in the coming months. You can find out more about her by reading her biography on the VIVA website at [www.vivaorch.co.uk](http://www.vivaorch.co.uk). Suffice for now to wish her every success!

Here we are with August on the doorstep - high time for me to mention that

our New Year's Eve 2010 concert is now on sale at Nottingham's Royal Concert Hall Box Office! Prepare to be swept away by a powerful selection of great classics and a fantastic atmosphere...

**Land of the Midnight Sun** says it all... the brilliant Timothy Redmond conducts and introduces as we go along Grieg's timelessly gorgeous *Piano Concerto in A minor* (with the terrific Ian Buckle returning as soloist), Wagner's magnificent *Ride of the Valkyries*, Sibelius' beautiful and evocative *Finlandia*, the compelling *Maskarade Overture* from Nielsen plus a generously seasonal helping of energetic and fun Strauss pieces to send everyone home with a smile! Premium Seat purchasers get the bonus of the best seats in the house, a programme booklet and a £4 bar voucher to add to their enjoyment. Full details of programme, prices and conditions are on our website. This popular concert always sells quickly, so... Why not buy your tickets early and look forward to a real treat as you (and friends / loved ones!) settle down to a thoroughly enjoyable evening of music with sinfonia VIVA!

**Peter Helps**

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sinfonia



Principal Conductor  
André de Ridder