

Sensational Soloists!

They are the solo stars in the spotlight... the guest artists who will be taking centre stage in the coming months to add their own special sparkle to sinfonia VIVA concerts. Some are friends of the Orchestra making welcome returns, while for others it's a debut performance. Here's just three of the many to watch out for...

Who **Kala Ramnath**



Kala stands today as a world-famous artist, firmly established amongst the most outstanding instrumental musicians in the North Indian classical genre. Born into a family of prodigious musical talent, she emerged as a child prodigy from the age of three and is now a household name in her native India. Kala has also been experimenting with several genres of music both within the traditions of Indian Classical music and also 'crossovers' to other types of music including Western classical traditions, and has made critically acclaimed forays into fusion and world music.

Kala has performed in some of the most prestigious international festivals internationally which also featured world famous musicians. Her extensive touring includes the United States, Canada, UK, Western and Eastern Europe, Russia, South Africa, Seychelles, Middle East, Far East, Trinidad, Kenya, Tanzania, Australia, Nepal, Bangladesh and Mauritius, and has given concert in prestigious venues including Queen Elizabeth Hall London, Sydney Opera House and Carnegie Hall.

This is Kala's second concert with sinfonia VIVA, the first being her highly successful **Seasons** project Derby in March 2007, which was an exploration of traditional Indian music intermixed with Western Classical styles, and which drew the comment from one audience member: "I wanted to be up there joining in!"

When **Saturday 23rd May** Venue **Kings Place, London** See competition on back page

Who **Victoria Simmonds**



The widely applauded talent of Victoria Simmonds (Mezzo-Soprano) has an extensive number of roles in opera to her credit, including five years with English National Opera. In 2007 she sang the title role in Ravel L'enfant et le sortilèges at the Concertgebouw, and sang the title role in the world première of Jonathan Dove's Pinocchio for Opera North to much critical acclaim.

She appears in recital and concert throughout the UK and Europe and recent concert engagements have included the Philharmonia in the Royal Festival Hall, Janacek Diary of one who disappeared for the Hallé, Ascanius/Les troyens with the London Symphony Orchestra and Sir Colin Davis at the 2003 BBC Proms, Mendelssohn's A Midsummer Night's Dream at the 2005 BBC Proms, de Falla's El sombrero de tres picos with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra under Neeme Järvi at the 2007 Edinburgh International Festival and Mozart Coronation Mass in the Salzburg Festival with the Mozarteum Orchester and Ivor Bolton.

Making her debut with sinfonia VIVA, this concert sees Victoria bringing zest and vocal excellence to the fun atmosphere of the 'Pakefield Proms'.

When **Sunday 14th June** Venue **Pontins, Pakefield, Nr.Lowestoft**

Who **Dame Ann Murray**



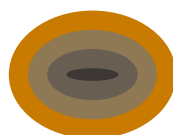
Ann Murray was born in Dublin and studied with Frederick Cox at the Royal Manchester College of Music. She has close links with both English National Opera, for whom she has sung Handel's "Xerxes" and "Ariodante" and Donizetti's "Maria Stuarda", and with the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, where her roles have included Cherubino, Dorabella, Despina, Idamantes, Sifare, the Composer, Octavian, Rosina, Amaltea, Ruggiero and Giulio Cesare.

She has appeared with the world's great orchestras and conductors and in the major concert halls and has been a regular guest at the BBC Promenade Concerts. Her discography reflects not only her broad concert and recital repertoire but also her great operatic roles. She is an Honorary Doctor of Music at the National University of Ireland, a Kammersängerin of the Bavarian State Opera and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music. In the 2002 Golden Jubilee Queen's Birthday Honours she was appointed an honorary Dame Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. In 2004 she was awarded the Bavarian Order of Merit.

Ann's return to the Buxton Festival with a sinfonia VIVA ensemble marks a much-anticipated continuation of what reviewer Mike Wheeler has called "something of a Buxton Festival institution".

When **Sunday 12th July** Venue **St.John's Church, Buxton**

Ann Murray photo credit:
Sian Trenberth



COMPETITION TIME!... See the back page for your chance to win tickets to see sinfonia VIVA and Kala Ramnath in Kings Place, London as the Orchestra makes its first appearance in the capital...



Supported by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Thurs 14th May

Angel Ballroom, Brigg Nr. Scunthorpe)

Tickets: £17 (£15 concessions) on 01469 530561, 01507 603049 or 01652 657053

www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2009-05-14-brigg.shtml

Violin and Cello Duo at Brigg Fiddle Festival

Dotzauer: Duet in G major Op.4 No.2 (1. Allegro Moderato, 2. Adagio, 3. Andantino avec variations).

Sibelius: Canon

Josef Haydn: Duo (1. Adagio non molto, 2. Allegro, 3. Menuetto and 3 variations)

Mike Curtis: Five Huapangos (1. Santa Cruz, 2. Las Islitas, 3. Miramar, 4. Oselia, 5. El Llano)

Handel-Halvorsen: Passacaglia



Photos: Marco Borggreve

The 'Fiddle Fest' started as part of the Brigg Live Arts programme and was originally called 'The Fiddle Workout'. The committee of Brigg Live Arts asked Carol Dawson, the organiser of Wootton fiddle club, if she would be interested in putting on some sort of fiddle event during the Arts week. Delighted by this opportunity and inspired by the Fulbeck Fiddle festival, she and her trusty team (Russ, Lynn and Sue,) called on artists such as Loyko, Gina Le Faux, Robin Garside, and the Old Rope String Band. They put together two fantastic concerts, workshops and street entertainment. The Fiddle Workout was such a success that the following year they decided to create the Brigg Fiddle Festival and the rest is history. The Festival now boasts a busking competition, music sessions, an education programme and five concerts.

Today, ViVA returns to Brigg Fiddle Festival with a Violin and Cello Duo featuring **Clare Bhabra** (violin) and **Deirdre Bencsik** (cello). The concert, forming the first half of the evening's shared bill, features works by composers as diverse as Haydn, Dotzauer and Mike Curtis. Truly a feast!

Supported by sinfonia ViVA and Arts Council England.

Help us spread the word! If you know someone who would like to receive the ViVA Newsletter FREE each month to their email Inbox, just get them to send a request to info@vivaorch.co.uk and we will add them to the list!

Fri 15th May

The Chapel, Oakham School, Rutland 7.30pm

Tickets: £12, (£6 concessions) Box Office: 01572 758820 or email boxoffice@oakham.rutland.sch.uk. Tickets may be purchased online from www.wegotickets.co.uk

www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2009-05-15-oakham.shtml

sinfonia ViVA in Oakham

Parry: An English Suite

Haydn: Violin Concerto in G

Telemann: Don Quichotte

Suk: Serenade

sinfonia ViVA directed by Leader **Benedict Holland** makes a welcome return to Oakham School Chapel with a gorgeous programme celebrating the elegance of strings.

Hubert Parry is often credited with ushering in a 'renaissance' in English music, with enduring tunes such as Jerusalem and I Was Glad guaranteeing his place in the nation's musical history. The programme opens with no less quintessential Parry: the seven movements of An English Suite – beautiful, joyful, yet in part also contemplative music. The complexity of Haydn's Violin Concerto in G, composed with Luigi Tomasini, principal violin of Haydn's own orchestra in mind, pays tribute to the virtuosity of the player – and has continued to draw the best from leading violinists down the ages.

Cervante's novel Don Quixote gave rise to two musical interpretations by the composer Telemann. Tonight we hear his first – the Don Quichotte Suite in G major (or to give it its full title, 'Ouverture burlesque sur Don Quichotte'), the movements of which closely follow the novel's structure. Suk's Serenade is the piece which first brought his name to prominence. Published at the suggestion of Brahms, the optimism of the work is seen by some as atypical of the composer to this point, and may have in part been influenced by his love for Dvorak's daughter Otylka, who Suk married in 1898.

Come and lose yourself in the beauty of timeless classics.

Supported by Orchestras Live and Arts Council England.



Photo: Marco Borggreve

Sat 23rd May

Kings Place, London (Hall 1) 7.30pm
Tickets: £15.50 £20.50 £25.50 Saver Seat £9.50. Box Office: 0207 520 1490.
Online booking available at <http://www.kingsplace.co.uk/music/weekly-themes/bombay-to-buenos-aires>

www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2009-05-23-london.shtm

From Bombay to Buenos Aires

sinfonia ViVA

Benedict Holland - Director/Soloist

David Murphy - Conductor

Kala Ramnath - Violin

As part of an Indian music festival in the marvellous setting of Kings Place, London, sinfonia ViVA makes its London debut in the company of the star Indian violinist **Kala Ramnath**, whose first project with the Orchestra was the critically acclaimed **Seasons** concert in Derby.

Kala Ramnath is one of the leading exponents of Indian violin in the world. Together with sinfonia ViVA, she explores the vibrant colours of Ragas and Tangos, which are vividly contrasted in a unique musical exploration of Piazzolla's Four Seasons of Buenos Aires and Ramnath's own Seasons.

Setting the scene for what is to come, the concert opens with Mozart's delightful Adagio and Fugue in Gm. We move on to Holst's St.Paul's Suite, composed in 1913 whilst teaching at St.Paul's School in London. Argentina-born Astor Piazzolla, who died in 1992, is regarded by many as the pre-eminent composer of tango music during the second half of the last century. A composer whose colourful life involved a childhood in New York (he became known as a child prodigy for his playing of the bandoneon - a concertina-like instrument), time playing in night-club bands, periods of more classical composition, study with Nadia Boulanger in Paris (credited with helping him recognise his talents as a tango composer) followed by decades devoted to the style which became his consuming passion. The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires (Cuatro Estaciones Porteno) is a collection, or perhaps collage is a better description, of four tangos. Written a quarter of a millennium after Vivaldi's Four Seasons with which they are occasionally co-programmed, Piazzolla's artistry is evident throughout and makes for a listening experience which includes the dynamic as well as the sultry! Interspersed with the Piazzolla, and featuring conductor David Murphy's added string compositions, will be Kala Ramnath's contemporary Seasons - depicting a year divided differently to the European notion of seasons in reflection of the Indian climate, giving Spring, Summer, Monsoon, Sharad, Autumn and Winter.

Don't miss this embodiment of the truly international language of music.

Supported by Arts Council England.



Sun 31st May

Civic Theatre, Chelmsford 4.30pm
Ticket details from the Box Office: 01245 606505

www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2009-05-31-chelmsford

The World At Your Feet

sinfonia ViVA

directed by

Percussionist Alasdair Malloy

Following the success of the Pirate Adventures concert in 2008, sinfonia ViVA returns to the Civic Theatre, Chelmsford with percussionist **Alasdair Malloy** to present a family-friendly concert which will take the audience on a musical trip around the world. And you won't need to pack any phrase books - music is a truly international language!

Take off for a whistle-stop tour with celebrations, fiestas and carnivals at every destination! Don't expect to sit still on this spectacular journey as your Trans-Global Tourist Guide, Alasdair Malloy, leads you to countries across the globe.



Photo credit: Geraint Lewis

The concert, which will be most suitable for children aged 7-11 and their families, will include *Farandole*, *The March of the Siamese Children* and Alasdair's Brazilian medley *Carnivale*.

This project has been generously supported by M&G Investments, Orchestras Live, Arts Council England and Chelmsford Borough Council.

Sat 6th June

Royal Concert Hall Foyer, Nottingham 11.00-12.00, 1.30-2.30pm and 3.00-4.00pm
 Tickets: Adults and Children £5 Box Office: 0115 989 5555 www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2009-06-06-nottingham

▶ The Beanbag Proms - *Sparkle! Zap! Ta-Da!*



The Royal Concert Hall Foyer is the place to go down to as **Beanie Bear's Gang** assembles for the latest instalment of the fun that is The Beanbag Proms: a chance for the very young and their carers to share terrific music together - and have some fun along the way! Musical maestro **Alasdair Malloy** leads this enchanting and entertaining hour which will excite and enthrall your child in a relaxed and comfortable setting.

Frequently sold-out long in advance of the performances, The Beanbag Proms are a chance to share terrific music together in an enchanting and entertaining hour which will excite and enthrall your child in a relaxed and comfortable setting.



Each concert includes:

Participation elements - including actions and playing instruments

Dancing

Singalong

Stories

Performances

At the end of the performance there will also be an opportunity for children to have a close look and touch (gently!) the instruments used during the performance. Join Beanie Bear's Gang and enjoy a magical musical adventure that your children will be talking about for a long time to come. Please note: Parents must remain in the foyer area with their children throughout this performance. Video or audio recording of this performance is strictly forbidden. Photographs may be taken at the end of the performance. Please also note that the programme of music is subject to change and alteration. Places are limited for each performance and will be sold on a first come first served basis.

Supported by Arts Council England, Nottingham City Council, Orchestras Live and the Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham. ViVA would also like to acknowledge the generous support of John Lewis, Nottingham, The Whitaker Charitable Trust, Helen Jean Cope Trust, D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust and the JN Derbyshire Charitable Trust.

Press Enquiries? ViVA produces special advance listing details for newspapers, magazines and journals. We can help accredited journalists arrange interviews and supply other concert information by request. Email matthew@vivorch.co.uk for details.

Sun 14th June

Main Ballroom, Pontins, Pakefield Nr. Lowestoft
 Ticket details from the Pontins booking line on 0870 604 5602 www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2009-06-14-pakefield.shtml

▶ Last Night of the Pakefield Proms

Verdi:	Force of Destiny Overture
Faure:	Pavane
Bizet:	Carmen – Prelude, Habanera, Toreador March, Chanson Boheme
Tchaikovsky:	Polonaise (Eugene Onegin)
Rossini:	Non Piu Mesta (Cenerentola)
Suppe:	Light Cavalry Overture
Mendelssohn:	Wedding March from Midsummernight's Dream
Powell:	Pack up Your Troubles
Sherwin:	A Nightingale Sang in Berkley Square
Coates:	Knightsbridge March
Elgar:	Nimrod
Wood:	Fantasia on British Sea Songs
Parry:	Jerusalem
Elgar:	Pomp and Circumstance March No.1



sinfonia ViVA returns to Pontins at Pakefield, Nr Lowestoft for the fifth year. The hugely popular Pakefield Proms weekend culminates in this traditional programme of music including all your Last Night favourites - Rule Britannia, Land of Hope and Glory and Jerusalem. Conductor **Anthony Kraus** joins ViVA for this special occasion along with the fabulous **Victoria Simmonds**, Mezzo-Soprano, as soloist. Join us for a concert of real 'proms'-like stature, with a programme especially chosen to set those flags a-waving! Energy, fun, and finesse intermingle in what is sure to be an enjoyable atmosphere.

Supported by Arts Council England

Weds 24th Jun

Assembly Rooms, Derby 1.15pm

Tickets: £1.50 with accompanying adults free of charge. Contact Camilla Fisher, ViVA Education Administrator on 01332 207602 or email camilla@vivaorch.co.uk if you would like to attend the concert.

www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2009-06-24-derby

Education ViVA: Derby Summer Residency - The Fragile Shell

sinfonia ViVA's annual participatory primary school singing extravaganza *The Fragile Shell* will take place at the Assembly Rooms, Derby on Wednesday 24 June 2009 at 1.15pm.

The Fragile Shell has been written especially for this performance and was inspired by the Ice Age centre Creswell Crags. As well as introducing participants to *The Class Orchestra – Exploring Arrangements* the piece also explores a range of environmental issues featured in the Key Stage 2 curriculum including Rivers and Flooding and Climate Change.

Tickets will be priced at £1.50 per child, with accompanying adults free of charge. Please contact Camilla Fisher, ViVA's Education Administrator on 01332 207602 or email her camilla@vivaorch.co.uk if you would like attend the event.

Supported by Rolls-Royce plc, Derby City Council, Derby LIVE and Arts Council England



A previous ViVA education concert - More Glass Than Wall - in rehearsal at the Assembly Rooms, Derby.

Photo Credit: Robert Day

July 2009

Sun 12th July

St. John's Church, Buxton at 3.00pm

Tickets: £16 Box Office: 0845 1272 190

www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2009-07-12-buxton.shtml

sinfonia ViVA ensemble with Ann Murray

Stravinsky: *The Soldier's Tale* (Suite)

Mahler arr. Tarkmann: *Kindertotenlieder*

Brahms arr. Boustead: *Serenade No. 1 in D* (nonet)



Photo: Sian Trenberth

Making a welcome return to sinfonia ViVA and the Buxton Festival, mezzo-soprano **Ann Murray** joins a sinfonia ViVA ensemble directed by **Benedict Holland** for this intriguing and emotive programme of classics.

Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale* was premiered in 1918, and in reflection of the times (and shortage of performers created by the First World War), was composed for a small number of players and actors. The Suite being performed today is an abridged version of the whole piece, without narration. Mahler's *Kindertotenlieder* ('songs on the death of children') is based upon a series of poems by Ruckert which were written as a result of the death of two of his children within a short period of time. Ironically, Mahler himself was to lose a child shortly after completing the work. The arrangement by Tarkmann is that being performed today. Brahms' *Serenade No. 1 in D* dates from 1857 and, though he reworked it for full orchestra 2 years later, is being performed today in its original, gentler nonet version as arranged by Boustead.

Following last year's sell-out concert, don't miss out on this great opportunity to experience sinfonia ViVA and Ann Murray, who together have become, in the words of reviewer Mike Wheeler "something of a Buxton Festival institution"!

Visit the Buxton Festival website at <http://www.buxtonfestival.co.uk> for more details of the Festival.

Supported by Rolls-Royce plc and Arts Council England



**A pair of tickets for
sinfonia ViVA's London
debut with Kala Ramnath
could be yours!**

As the front page article says, Saturday May 23 sees ViVA's first concert in the capital as the Orchestra renews its association with the acclaimed Indian violinist Kala Ramnath. It's going to be special - **and you could be there!**

We're offering a single prize of a pair of tickets* to the concert. To enter the competition, just answer the following question -

Which city hosted Kala's first concert with sinfonia ViVA?

- A) Derby
- B) Birmingham
- C) Nottingham

Entries by post - send your answer plus your name and address to

**London Tickets Competition
sinfonia ViVA
Suite 17
Beaufort Business Centre
Beaufort Street
Derby
DE21 6AX**

Entries by email - send to info@vivaorch.co.uk

Closing date for us receiving entries is 1.00pm Thursday 14th May

GOOD LUCK!

***Conditions of entry to the competition**

No purchase necessary. One entry per email or postal address. The single prize is one pair of tickets to the London concert on 23rd May 2009. Travel and subsistence not included. No alternative prize will be offered. No responsibility can be accepted for entries that are not received. The winner will be the first correct entry selected at random from all those received by the closing date. Winner will be notified by post. Tickets to be collected on the evening of the concert from the Kings Place Box Office. The decision of the Chief Executive of sinfonia ViVA or his nominated representative in all matters relating to the competition is final. Entry to the competition means you agree to these conditions.

**The
Chief
Points
from
Peter Helps**



First off this month, on behalf of all of us connected with the Orchestra, I would like to congratulate my colleague, ViVA's Education Manager Marianne Quintrell on her wedding last month! We all now have to remember to call her Marianne Barraclough. Those of you who have reason to contact her here at the ViVA offices will be pleased to note that her other contact details, including her email address, are unchanged - to reach her it's still marianne@vivaorch.co.uk

Secondly, I want to flag up another cause for celebration - 23rd May 2009 sees our first ever concert in London. For a regionally-based orchestra such as sinfonia ViVA, this is indeed a significant day. 'Breaking into London' isn't easy. Whether one likes it or not, a great deal of the cultural focus of the media and other organisations is London-centric. In one way this is understandable: there are a lot of musical venues and music-making bodies of every kind in the capital: as a kind of 'centre of excellence', it naturally hosts the premieres and the 'big' stars. But as a corollary, opportunities to show the London-based media - and of course audiences - that organisations which are not based in the City can exhibit similar excellence do not come along every day.

We have waited a long time for this 'first', years during which the Orchestra has developed into a force to be reckoned with alongside any in the professional chamber community. I'm delighted that our chance to showcase the Orchestra comes in the prestigious location of Kings Place. Hopefully, the media will be there to see that geography is no barrier to ambition, and this will be the first of many such appearances in the future.

Peter Helps



Tell us what you think...

We welcome all audience feedback. If you have attended a ViVA concert and would like to express your thoughts, you can contact us using any of the means at the bottom of this page.

Or why not visit the website at www.vivaorch.co.uk/feedbackform and leave your feedback there?

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sinfonia



**Principal Conductor
André de Ridder**