



Noisy Kids

Trick or Treat?

Presented by **Tim Steiner**
and featuring musicians from the **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 2020, 10.30AM AND 2.30PM • THE HEXAGON, READING

Grab your Halloween masks and get ready for a spooktacular musical feast with eight musicians from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra! We'll explore the magical, the mischievous and the unknown through a range of orchestral favourites, and we'll also need your help writing a brand new piece of music about everyone's favourite venue, The Hexagon.

Promenade from Pictures at an Exhibition

Modest Mussorgsky, arr. Pope

The band's all set and it's time to give a proper welcome to our fearless leader, Tim Steiner. Part of a larger piece called 'Pictures at an Exhibition', this short movement mimics someone walking between works of art in a gallery. Can you feel the motion in the music?

Flight of the Bumblebee

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, arr. Pope

It's a frantic start to our next piece, with this favourite by Russian composer Rimsky-Korsakov. Keep an eye on the violin and then the marimba as they try and keep up with the furious flight of the bumblebee. How many notes do you think they're playing each second?

Libertango

Astor Piazzolla, arr. Pope

We're off to Argentina for a dance piece blending jazz flavours with tango music that is sure to get you moving in your seat. Tap your feet along with the double bass which keeps the rock solid tango rhythm going throughout, and listen out for the bongos which give the piece a classic Latin feel.

March from The Soldier's Tale

Igor Stravinsky

Our next piece comes from a theatrical piece about a young soldier who runs into the devil and trades his violin for a magical book that tells the future. Listen out for the changing pulse – or where you feel your foot tapping – which gives the piece a slightly unsteady feel.

In the Hall of the Mountain King from Peer Gynt

Edvard Grieg, arr. Pope

Get ready to tiptoe past trolls and run for your life as you try and escape from the mischievous Mountain King. Based on a Norwegian tale about a young boy, Peer Gynt, who leaves home for a range of adventures, this music imitates his daring escape from a gang of trolls. Notice the double bass and violin using their fingers to pluck their strings during the sneaky opening section.

Flower Duet from Lakmé

Léo Delibes, arr. Pope

Now for a gentler melody that frequent flyers will recognise as the theme tune for British Airways. This piece features the clarinet and flute playing a lovely duet which sounds like two ballerinas dancing together. The piece actually comes from an opera about a love story set in India.

Caravan

Duke Ellington, arr. Street

Next we have a mysterious sounding jazz tune by famous American musician Duke Ellington and his band. This piece gives the musicians the chance to improvise, which means making up their own tunes that aren't written down. Check out the cup mutes the trumpet and trombone sometimes stick in the ends of their instruments to give them different sounds.

Dance of the Cygnets from Swan Lake

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, arr. Pope

Our next piece comes from a ballet about a beautiful princess who is turned into a swan by a wicked witch. This section imagines a group of cygnets – or baby swans – dancing together at night. The bassoon lays down a bouncy bass line before trumpet and trombone with straight mutes (a cousin of the cup mutes in Caravan) introduce the main dance tune.

Dead Elvis

Michael Daugherty

We're joined by a very special guest for our final piece which features the bassoon in a silly tribute to the King of Rock 'n Roll himself, a ghostly Elvis. This funky piece also features some unusual percussion instruments, including a big metal object that is supposed to sound like hitting the brake drum of a car with a hammer!

WHO'S WHO ON STAGE TODAY?

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Violin: Sali-Wyn Ryan
Double Bass: Ben Wolstenholme
Flute: Joanna Marsh
Clarinet: Katherine Lacy
Bassoon: Fraser Gordon
Trumpet: Toby Street
Trombone: Rupert Whitehead
Percussion: Martin Owens

The **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra** is one of the UK's favourite orchestras. In normal times, you can find the musicians playing a sold-out show at the Royal Albert Hall, recording blockbuster film soundtracks, hopping on a plane for a quick concert abroad, and working in a range of community settings from schools to hospitals and anywhere in between. In recent months, we've taken most of our projects online or into the streaming studio, and so are especially delighted to be able to perform live for you today! Check out our recent projects on www.rpo.co.uk/rpo-resound/in-action.

Tim Steiner

Presenter

Tim Steiner is a composer and presenter whose work takes him around the globe where he collaborates with local communities to create brand new pieces of music. From directing a 100-piece rock band in Portugal to helping students devise farm-inspired pieces in Cambridgeshire, 'boring' is not a word in his vocabulary. Tim is thrilled to be back in front of the Orchestra and a live audience at The Hexagon today, and is ready to lead us all in a wicked good time.