

THE HALLÉ ORCHESTRA

Britain's oldest professional symphony orchestra performs in Hong Kong



More than a quarter of a million people heard the Hallé orchestra last year. Recognised by *The Times* as one of the finest orchestras in the British Isles, the Hallé will be performing two concerts in Hong Kong on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th March, showcasing a wide range of British music.

The orchestra, Britain's longest established permanent professional symphony orchestra, was founded in Manchester by Sir Charles Hallé in 1858 and has been performing classical music in Manchester, around Britain and abroad for more than 150 years. This will be their third time at the Hong Kong Arts Festival after performances in 1976 and 1981.

Its programmes in 2011 focus on great British masterpieces, for which the Hallé has an unrivalled reputation as acknowledged interpreters, as well as the music of Prokofiev. It performs over 70 concerts a year attracting large and enthusiastic audiences both in Manchester and beyond. Its reputation for artistic excellence and versatility has led to many international tours as well as frequent broadcasts and televised performances.

The orchestra was founded by German pianist and conductor Charles Hallé, and has blossomed under Hans

Richter and Sir John Barbirolli, to champion works by Elgar, Sibelius and Mahler. Performances of the latter were believed to have exceeded illustrious orchestras such as the Berlin Philharmonic, which in turn boosted the Hallé's Austro-German tradition enormously.

Sir Mark Elder, who was knighted for services to music in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2008, became Music Director in 2000 after 14 years as Chief Conductor at the English National Opera. He is said to have re-energised the Hallé since his appointment, further raising the orchestra's international fame.

The Hallé's reputation is at its peak under Sir Mark Elder's galvanising baton, *The Sunday Times* claims, confirmed with the receipt of two fantastic accolades at the 2010 Gramophone Awards, known as being among the most important awards in the classical CD world. Recognition for Sir Mark Elder, the orchestra and its record label came in the form of the coveted Opera award, and an award for their recording of Elgar's Violin Concerto. This double win follows the orchestra's success with their live recording of Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*, which won the 2009 Gramophone Choral Award.



In 2003 the Hallé launched its own CD label featuring, in particular, the music of Elgar, Richard Strauss, Colin Matthews, Debussy, Wagner, Nielsen and Shostakovich. The latest releases include a complete 2-CD set of Debussy's piano preludes orchestrated by its Associate Composer, Colin Matthews and Elgar's *The Kingdom*.

Cellist Alban Gerhardt will join the ensemble for a performance of Elgar. Gerhardt has had a flourishing career collaborating with the world's leading orchestras, including the Leipzig Gewandhaus, since making his debut performance with the Berlin Philharmonic. He has also worked with many great conductors including Sir Colin Davis and Kurt Masur. One of the world's most sought-after cellists, he is known for his highly original interpretations and for his acclaimed recordings.

The Hallé will perform two concerts in Hong Kong. The first evening is an all-British fare, precluding with selected dances from Thomas Adès's chamber opera, *Powder Her Face*. Elder then demonstrates his pronounced affinity for Edward Elgar, with his famous cello concerto, and Ralph Vaughan Williams's London Symphony. The second evening will include *Tintagel*, most possibly Arnold Bax's most famous work, and a performance of *Four Sea Interludes and Passacaglia* from fellow British composer Benjamin Britten's Peter Grimes. The Orchestra will culminate their third visit to the Festival with Jean Sibelius's First Symphony; for which *The Guardian* commented they are "the ideal orchestra."

Date: 3 March, 8:00pm
4 March, 8:00pm
Venue: Concert Hall, HK Cultural Centre
Price: Adult – \$780, \$620, \$520
\$420, \$320, \$240
Student – \$310, \$260, \$210
\$160, \$120



"[The Hallé's] form under Mark Elder is rock solid, splendiferous in ensemble and tone"

The Times

Photo by Simon Dodd

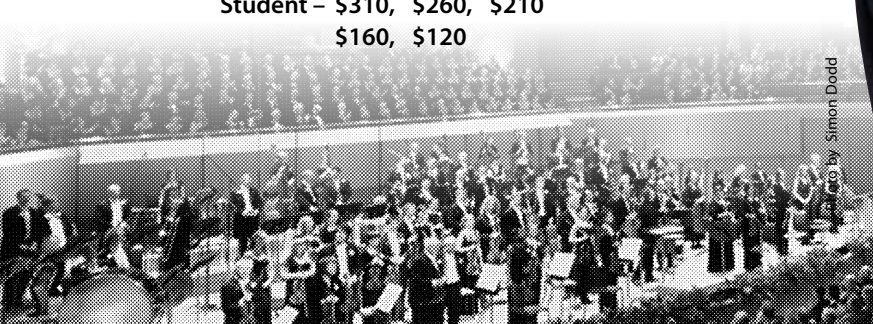




Photo by Bill Cooper

18 Feb 7:30pm
19 Feb 2:30pm and 7:30pm
20 Feb 7:30pm
Grand Theatre, HK Cultural Centre

Based on Harold Brighouse's stage play of the same name, *Hobson's Choice* is an uplifting ballet which tells the tale of Will Mossop, a humble shoe maker whose talent could take him far - if only someone would push him firmly in the right direction. Maggie Hobson is the girl for the job, but she must outmanoeuvre her equally stubborn father.

Birmingham Royal Ballet's Artistic Director David Bintley translates the affectionate rags-to-riches comedy into a series of memorable dances, each with its own individual charm and character.

With Bintley's comic choreography and Paul Reade's sparkling

score, *Hobson's Choice* offers something special for all the family and guarantees to "send you out with a sigh of happiness" (*The Stage*).

Approximately 2 hours 20 minutes including two intervals

"Pure theatrical and choreographic brilliance" *Sunday Express*

"A feeling of a good musical: light, bright and unflagging in its cheerfulness" *The Times*

"Exceptionally lively dance, expressive and comic"

The Independent

MARIANNE FAITHFULL

7, 8 Marh 8:00pm
Concert Hall, HK Cultural Centre

Pioneering British music legend Marianne Faithfull comes to Hong Kong for the first time to perform her latest concert: *Eternity*.

From her early work in the Swinging Sixties, to the brilliant and critically acclaimed *Broken English* album in 1979, to her recent introspective work, Faithfull continues to keep her audience enthralled. Her personal and musical reinventions, coupled with poignant live performances, have commanded respect with every generation.

Many great artists have collaborated with her including The Rolling Stones, The Beatles, Nick Cave, Tom Waits, David Bowie and Jarvis Cocker. As a pioneering female rock singer, she paved the way for many performers today and was given the World Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement at the Women's World Awards in 2009.

Drawing on a life lived to the full, Faithfull dominates the stage with her music and words, fusing important social issues and



Photo by Universal/Decca

personal life lessons. However, it is the voice that truly transfixes. You hear only honesty in her raw vocals, and it is this rare quality that distinguishes her.

"Marianne is an expressionist Diva" *La Repubblica*

"Intense...elegant...moving..." *Rumore*

39th  **香港藝術節**
Hong Kong
Arts Festival
 17.2-27.3.2011

Throughout February and March, the Hong Kong Arts Festival features the best of Asian and local talents alongside top artists from around the world. This year's Festival brings an array of top British talent to the stage in Hong Kong.



ELVIS COSTELLO

5 March 8:00pm
Concert Hall, HK Cultural Centre

After 30 years, Hong Kong finally gets to hear the musically versatile, one-man hit-machine Elvis Costello, delivering some of his greatest songs live on stage.

A spearhead of British new wave music, Costello harnessed the explosive energy of punk and channelled it into heartfelt songs on love, life and society. He has a string of memorable hits to his name including *Oliver's Army*, *Alison* and *Chelsea*. Celebrated among his peers as the ultimate musician's musician, he has garnered huge respect for his songwriting skills and has received many awards including a Grammy, two Ivor Novellos, an Edison, a BAFTA and an Oscar nomination.

Costello's restless creativity and willingness to push accepted boundaries have led him to delve successfully into a wide spectrum of genres, exploring reggae, soul, jazz and classical music, with collaborations ranging from Burt Bacharach and Paul McCartney to the Brodsky Quartet, the Charles Mingus Orchestra and Anne Sofie von Otter.

This much-anticipated Hong Kong debut promises to be an intimate encounter with the master singer/songwriter. Connect with the purest, undiluted essence of Elvis Costello's musical prowess in this one-off solo show.

"Master of reinvention" *The Observer*

ELIAS STRING QUARTET

16 March 8:15pm
The Hong Kong Jockey Club Amphitheatre, HKAPA

2010 Borletti-Buitoni award-winner Elias String Quartet is one of the most intense and vibrant quartets of their generation. Founded in 1998, they were mentored by the Alban Berg Quartet, György Kurtág and Henri Dutilleux, and before long had residencies at Wigmore Hall in London and Sheffield's Music in the Round.

This leading young quartet has received numerous accolades from competitions and publications including BBC Music Magazine's "Newcomer of the Year" (2010) for their performances and recordings. Their recent album of Britten's string quartets received critical acclaim from major UK publications including Gramophone, The Strad and The Sunday Times.

The Elias String Quartet have emerged "unheralded and unexpected, as a complete surprise: [with] sterling technique delivering beautifully formed interpretations" (Carl Vine). Known for their deep affinity to Mozart and as "natural Brittenists", they will present works including Mozart's *Dissonance* and Britten's third string quartet.

"Imaginative, full-blooded playing and impeccable ensemble... triumphantly dramatic" *Classic FM Magazine (Editor's choice)*

"Sophisticated phrasing, subtle colouring and impeccable tuning" *The Independent on Sunday*

"The Elias is the best young quartet I've come across in years" *Paul Driver, The Sunday Times*



MICHAEL BUBLÉ'S CRAZY LOVE TOUR

The Grammy award-winning Canadian singer, Michael Bublé, will debut in Hong Kong on Friday March 11th at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre.

Likened in vocal style to Frank Sinatra, Bublé has won several awards, including two Grammy awards and multiple Juno awards.

Michael Bublé debuted in 2003 and achieved worldwide success in 2005 with the album *It's Time*. *Call Me Irresponsible* in 2007 was an even bigger success, reaching number one worldwide.

His fourth album, *Crazy Love* debuted at Number 1 on the Billboard 200 chart last year. Aside from discovering a fresh way to deliver the live authentic feeling musical goods he is known for, his choice of material shows an artist still hungry to innovate and make his mark both as a stylist, but also as a songwriter. Bublé co-wrote the album's two singles, *Haven't Met You Yet* and *Hold On* with former collaborators Alan Chang and Amy Foster. Soon to be released, the 2-CD deluxe *Crazy Love Hollywood Edition* features the original *Crazy Love* album plus a second disc containing four brand new studio recordings and four live songs recorded during his Crazy Love Tour.



Michael Bublé Crazy Love Tour – Live In Hong Kong

Date: 11 March 2011

Venue: Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre Hall 5BC

Time: 8.00pm

Tickets: HK\$1588, HK\$1188, HK\$788, HK\$588

HK Ticketing & All Tom Lee Outlets

Bookings Hotline: (+852) 31 288 288

Web bookings: www.hkticketing.com

Enquiries: (+852) 2629-6240

THE SCRIPT LIVE IN HONG KONG



World Music Award's "Best Selling Irish Act" The Script will play their first-ever gig in Hong Kong at Star Hall on Thursday April 14th.

Hailing from Dublin, The Script's eponymous debut album was released in 2008, and became a global smash hit, selling 1.8 million copies worldwide. The album went straight to Number One in the UK and Ireland which led to the trio being personally asked by Paul McCartney to support him at a number of US stadium shows. The Script had also played stadium shows along with U2 and Take That and went on to win Best Live Performance at the 2010 Meteor Awards, beating their mentors U2.

A highly anticipated follow up album, *Science & Faith* was released last September. An addictive blend of hip hop rhythms, flowing melodies, sparkling hooks and poignant, story-spinning lyrics, *Science & Faith* is far from a difficult second album. First single *For the First Time* is a thought-provoking song written upon the band's return to Dublin after their monumental success.

The Script Live in Hong Kong

Date: Thursday, April 14th 2011

Time: 8pm

Venue: Star Hall, 3/F KITEC

Kowloonbay International Trade & Exhibition Centre

1 Trademart Drive, Kowloon Bay

Tickets: HK\$680 (standing) / HK\$480 (seated)

Tickets available from HK Ticketing and Tom Lee Music Stores

Ticketing hotline: 31 288 288

On-line ticketing: www.hkticketing.com