



THE TITAN SINFONIA SUMMER CONCERT 2025

A Dance of Defiance

20 AUGUST • 7.00PM • ST THOMAS CHURCH BRENTWOOD

CONTACT: TITAN.SINFONIAUK@GMAIL.COM

PROGRAMME

20 AUGUST 2025 • 19.00

TCHAIKOVSKY

ROMEO AND JULIET OVERTURE

SRIRAM

TITAN MARCH (PREMIERE)

RACHMANINOFF

SYMPHONIC DANCES

1. NON ALLEGRO

2. ANDANTE CON MOTO

3. LENTO ASSAI - ALLEGRO VIVACE

Conductor

ATHARV GUPTA

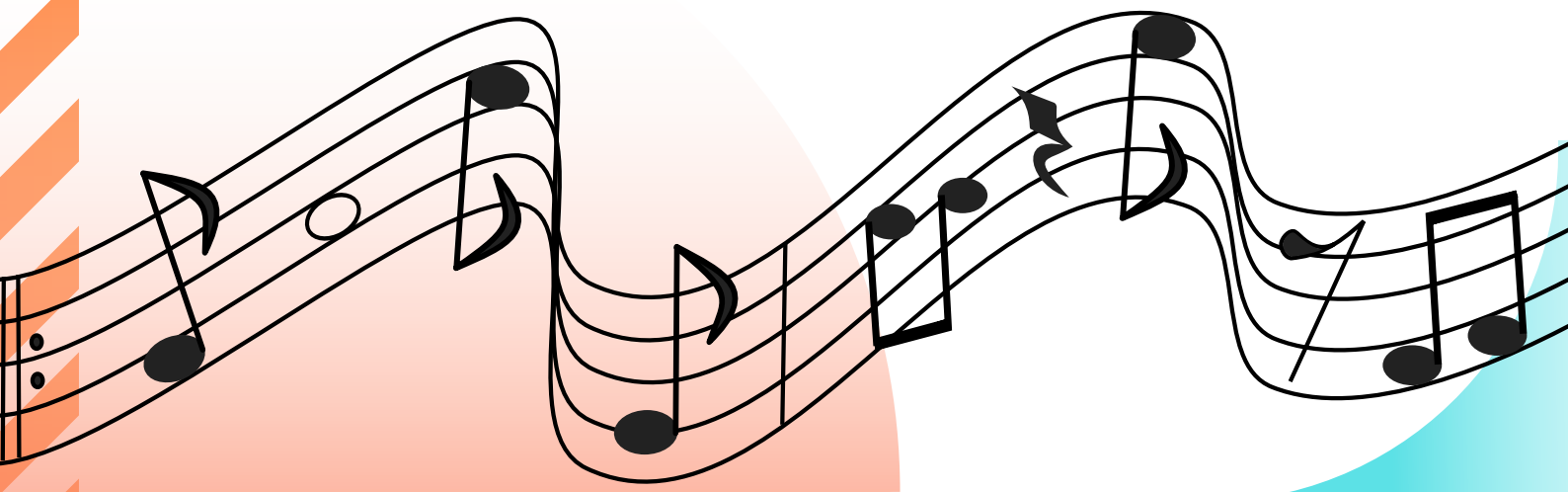
Concertmaster

ISABELLA PATRICK

A NOTE ABOUT TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE!

WE WOULD REQUEST THAT ALL AUDIENCE MEMBERS TURN OFF MOBILE PHONES AND OTHER DEVICES THAT COULD DISTURB TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE.

PLEASE NOTE THAT AUDIENCE MEMBERS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO TAKE PHOTOS OR VIDEOS.



ROMEO AND JULIET OVERTURE

PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY (1840 - 1893)

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840–1893) based his *Romeo and Juliet* “fantasy-overture” on Shakespeare’s famous tragedy. He composed the work in 1869 at the encouragement of his friend Mily Balakirev, revising it twice before completing the final version in 1880. First performed in Moscow in 1870, it has since become one of his most enduring orchestral works.

Rather than narrating the play in detail, Tchaikovsky captures its emotional essence: the bitter feud between the Montagues and Capulets and the rapturous, ill-fated love of the title characters. The music moves from a solemn, hymn-like opening into fiery, turbulent conflict, before unveiling one of his most celebrated melodies – the radiant love theme, tender and yearning, then soaring with passion.

As the work reaches its climax, conflict and tragedy overwhelm, and the love theme returns in a poignant farewell. The overture closes in sombre chords, a musical reflection of Shakespeare’s timeless story of beauty cut short.



TITAN MARCH (PREMIERE)

SHRAVAN SRIRAM (B.2008)

'Titan March' is Shravan Sriram's new orchestral premiere. The march evokes the vivid image of a Titan: a fearless God-like figure originating in Greek mythology. Balancing lush orchestration with a contemporary cinematic style, Shravan's musical episode exemplifies the divine nature of such a being, and the immense power at its disposal.

Opening with a relentless rhythmic pulse in the percussion and lower brass, 'Titan March' hurtles forward with unstoppable momentum, underpinning the motivic skirmishes that define the Titan's mighty stature. The bold main theme – originally sparked in a quirky baroque-jazz fusion – is reborn here with patriotic brass fanfares and unduly driven strings. In contrast, the violins and flutes introduce a subtly more celestial second theme, hinting at the Titan's mysterious grandeur.

These ideas clash in a cut-throat contest until the main theme surreptitiously resurfaces, proving instrumental in its unification with the second theme in a triumphant reassuring climax.

Rather than painting the Titan in a single colour, Shravan illuminates its complex spirit – reminding us that true power, like music, refuses to be confined to one perspective alone. One needs to view it in all possible angles simultaneously to understand its whole entity.



SYMPHONIC DANCES

SERGEI RACHMANINOFF (1873 - 1943)

Rachmaninoff composed the Symphonic Dances, Op. 45, in 1940, his final completed work. Written in the United States after he had left Russia permanently, the piece reflects a lifetime's musical journey, blending nostalgia for his homeland with a modern, rhythmic vitality. It was dedicated to the Philadelphia Orchestra and its conductor Eugene Ormandy, who gave the premiere in January 1941. The Symphonic Dances is notable for its striking orchestration, imaginative use of instrumental colour, and a balance between brooding lyricism and driving energy.



SYMPHONIC DANCES

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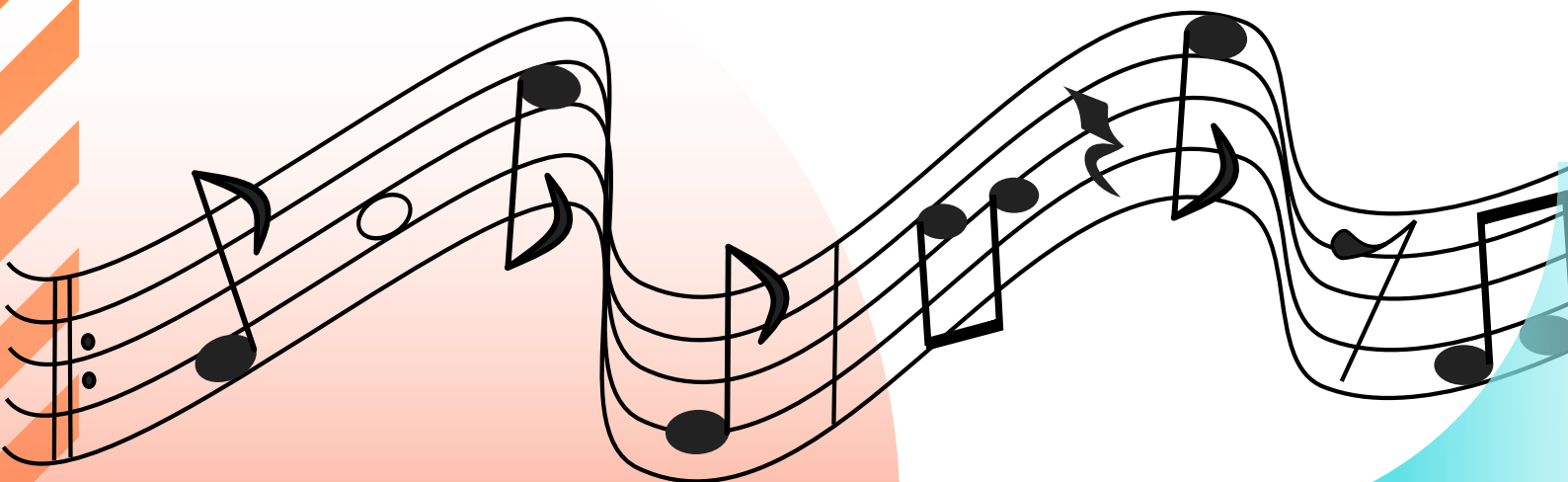
The work is in three movements, each contrasting in mood and character.

I. Non allegro opens with a bold, rhythmic motif in the winds and brass, punctuated by sharp percussion. This music alternates between energetic, almost march-like passages and lush, sweeping melodies, a hallmark of Rachmaninoff's late style. The movement also contains a nostalgic alto saxophone solo, an unusual and striking orchestral colour.

II. Andante con moto (Tempo di valse) is a dark, dreamlike waltz. Its off-kilter rhythms and shadowy harmonies give the dance a spectral quality, as though seen through a haze. Rachmaninoff weaves together shifting instrumental textures, creating an atmosphere that is elegant yet tinged with unease.

III. Lento assai – Allegro vivace begins with an ominous introduction before launching into a driving, rhythmically insistent finale. Here Rachmaninoff incorporates the medieval chant *Dies Irae*, a recurring motif throughout his works, set against radiant, almost triumphant orchestral writing. The movement closes with a resounding, decisive chord, bringing the Symphonic Dances to an exhilarating conclusion.

Rachmaninoff's orchestration makes full use of the modern symphony orchestra, from shimmering strings and biting brass to delicate woodwind solos and rich percussion. The Symphonic Dances stands as both a summation of his musical voice and a work of striking individuality, at once rooted in Russian Romanticism and alive with 20th-century rhythmic and harmonic invention.



ABOUT THE CONDUCTOR

ATHARV GUPTA (B.2008)

Atharv is a young conductor, composer, trombonist, and pianist. His musical journey began at age 5 with Redbridge's Young Music Makers programme but it was during the lockdown at age 10 that he discovered a deep passion for classical music.

In 2021, Atharv joined Essex Music Services, playing with several ensembles, including the Essex Youth Orchestra, where he plays Bass Trombone. He also attends Trinity Laban School of Music's junior department, studying Conducting and Composition with Darren Bloom and Trombone with Andrew Connington.

A significant milestone came in 2023, when Atharv won the BBC Young Composer Award, leading to a yearlong mentorship programme and the premiere of his prize commission by the BBC Concert Orchestra at the BBC Proms. Recently, he was also named an ORA Singers Young Composer for 2024, culminating in the premiere of a choral work he wrote at Worcester Cathedral.

In 2023, Atharv made his conducting debut in a masterclass with Robin Browning, after which he became the assistant conductor of the Essex Young Person's Orchestra, working under the guidance of Matthew Andrews. Atharv will begin as the EYO assistant conductor this winter. Outside of music, Atharv enjoys debating, quizzing, and playing table tennis with the Chelmsford Table Tennis Club. He also has a keen interest in physics.



ABOUT THE CONCERTMASTER

ISABELLA PATRICK (B.2008)

Isabella started learning the violin at the age of 7, and is currently under the tutelage of Dominic Moore, with whom she is also learning the viola. She also learns piano with Christopher Weston, and organ with Jonathan Turner (Isabella has performed as both solo organist and accompanist).

As well as being a multi-instrumentalist, Isabella also has a passion for choral music, composing for New Hall School choirs and Waltham Singers. Most recently, Isabella had a piece premiered with the Essex String Octet. She participates in the music at Brentwood Cathedral. Isabella is also learning choral conducting and, one day, hopes to direct a top choir.

Isabella plays in various ensembles and orchestras, leading both the Essex Youth Orchestra and the New Hall School Symphony Orchestra. Earlier this year, Isabella competed in the final of the Pro Corda National Chamber Music Competition with the New Hall Piano Quartet.

Alongside music, Isabella enjoys playing tennis and running. As a keen linguist, Isabella is studying French, Latin and Ancient Greek.



THE TITAN SINFONIA

Violin I

Isabella Patrick
Cyrus Ho
Herbie Wares
Anja Newman
Elio Aliaj
Joshua Lam

Violin II

Annabelle Gray
Thomas O'Hagan
Amogh Somayaji
Harrison Eric Lees
Nathan Johnson
Max Pietrzak

Viola

Charlie Newman
Katie Cheung
Ellen Heppell
David Swaby-Thomas
Shravan Sriram

Piano

Jaden Mok

Cello

David Ball
Jonathan Best
Jacob Gooding
Jasmine Townson
Daniel Tidey

Flute

Sofia Gkatsou
Yeray Berrio Peña
Olta Luli

Oboe

Edward King
Harry Wilson

Clarinet

Rebecca Boland Ross
Rhiannon O'Hagan
Tom Winter

Bassoon

Sophie Kelly
Rose Clarke-Williams

French Horn

Ewan Cacace
Darcie Vernon
Matthew Gray
Felix Bowden

Trumpet

Oliver Toms
Isaac Thomas
Svetoslav Gluhchev

Trombone

Saffi Frazer-Brown
Megan Huan
Chloe Simpson

Tuba

Adi Grant

Percussion

Xander Haile
Vincent Lilley
Isobel Mackie



GET IN TOUCH!



The Titan Sinfonia is a non-profit youth orchestra that offers two courses each year.

If you enjoyed tonight's performance, we'd love for you to spread the word to your family and friends! Stay tuned for details about our upcoming winter course and concert—announcements will be made on our Instagram page, @titansinfonia.

Follow us to keep up with our musical journey!

[Go To Our Instagram Page Here](#)

