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SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL
ORCHESTRA

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Final Symphony

FEATURING MUSIC FROM
FINAL FANTASY® VI, VII AND X

Fri 8 Nov 2024 7.30pm
Usher Hall, Edinburgh
Sat 9 Nov 7.30pm
Glasgow Royal Concert Hall

SQUARE ENIX®

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Final Symphony

FEATURING MUSIC FROM
FINAL FANTASY® VI, VII AND X

Following sell-out performances and rave reviews around the world, *Final Symphony*, the award-winning concert experience of stunning orchestral suites based on the music from video games FINAL FANTASY VI, VII and X, comes to Scotland for the very first time – performed by the RSNO, Scotland's National Orchestra.

NOBUO UEMATSU Opening Fanfare

NOBUO UEMATSU FINAL FANTASY VI: Symphonic Poem

(Born with the Gift of Magic)

(Terra's Theme | Kefka | Esper World | Battle etc.)

NOBUO UEMATSU and **MASASHI HAMAUZU**

FINAL FANTASY X: Piano Concerto

(Besaid | Hum of the Fayth | Thunder Plains | Assault, etc.)

(Terra's Theme | Kefka | Esper World | Battle etc.)

I. Zanarkand II. Inori III. Kessen

INTERVAL

NOBUO UEMATSU FINAL FANTASY VII: Symphony in Three Movements

(Main Theme of FINAL FANTASY VII | J-E-N-O-V-A | Tifa's Theme |

The Great Warrior, etc.)

I. Nibelheim Incident II. Words Drowned by Fireworks

III. The Planet's Crisis

Andreas Hanson Conductor

Mischa Cheung Piano

Royal Scottish National Orchestra

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If viewing these notes at the concert, please do so considerately and not during performances.

Please silence all mobile telephones and alerts, and refrain from taking photographs, without flash, until the end of each piece.

Final Symphony

In May 2013, *Final Symphony* was premiered in Germany by the Wuppertal Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Eckehard Stier. In the same month, the UK premiere of *Final Symphony* took place with the London Symphony Orchestra, marking the orchestra's first-ever performance of music from video games. Subsequent concerts have been performed in Japan, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, the Netherlands, the USA, New Zealand, China, Austria, Australia and Poland.

2015 saw the global, digital launch of the *Final Symphony* album, hitting the number one spot on the iTunes Classical Charts in more than ten countries and entering the Classical Album top five of both the Billboard Charts and the Official UK Charts. It was recorded by the London Symphony Orchestra at Abbey Road Studios.

The exclusive arrangements for *Final Symphony* are by Jonne Valtonen, Roger Wanamo and Masashi Hamauzu.

Nobuo Uematsu COMPOSER



Nobuo Uematsu has composed music for numerous blockbuster video game titles, including the hugely popular FINAL FANTASY franchise. The theme song from FINAL FANTASY VIII, *Eyes On Me*, written and produced by Uematsu for Hong Kong pop star Faye Wong, broke records by

selling over 400,000 copies worldwide and was awarded Song of the Year (Western Music) at the 14th Annual Japan Gold Disc Awards in 1999.

Uematsu was named an Innovator in *Time* magazine's Time 100: The Next Wave – Music, and was also chosen for *Newsweek* magazine's 100 Japanese People the World Respects. Most recently, Uematsu has been working on a new live project named *contIKI Show*, which includes not only his solo work *Modulation – FINAL FANTASY Arrangement Album*, but also his band performing vocal songs from the FINAL FANTASY series as well as readings accompanied by musical performances, titled *The Story of Blik-O*.

This year saw the premiere of *Merregon: Heart of Ice*, Uematsu's first orchestral concert work that conveys the beauty of orchestral sound to a family audience.

Mischa Cheung PIANO



Mischa Cheung studied with Professor Konstantin Scherbakov at Zurich University of the Arts. He appears on concert stages and at festivals across the world. He is a member of the Gershwin Piano Quartet, a highly praised ensemble which performs spectacular arrangements on four pianos and released the album *Transatlantiques* on Sony Classical in 2018.

Mischa gives solo and chamber music recitals and regularly performs as a soloist at the Symphonic Game Concerts directed by Merregnon Studios. This concert series has taken him on tour to Japan with the London Symphony Orchestra and he has also appeared with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Beethoven Orchestra Bonn, Netherlands Philharmonic

Orchestra and City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. In 2023 he played the solo part on the recording of the album *Final Symphony II* with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra.

Mischa has also worked with the renowned choreographer Alexandra Bachzetsis, composing and playing the music of trans-disciplinary works commissioned by the Museum of Modern Art New York and the Art Institute of Chicago. In 2019 his recording of the Piano Concerto by Friedrich Gulda was released on Solo Musica to critical acclaim.

Mischa was a member of the ECHO Award-winning ensemble Spark from 2011 to 2015, taking part in extensive concert tours and numerous radio and TV broadcasts, and CD productions including recordings for Deutsche Grammophon and Berlin Classics.

Mischa teaches at Zurich University of the Arts, and after being assistant to Professor Scherbakov is now a lecturer in piano and improvisation.

Royal Scottish National Orchestra

Formed in 1891, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO) plays an integral part in Scotland's musical life, with regular concerts in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Perth and Inverness. The Orchestra's artistic team is led by Danish conductor Thomas Søndergård, who was appointed Music Director in 2018.

The RSNO is supported by the Scottish Government and is one of Scotland's five National Performing Companies. The Orchestra appears regularly at the

Edinburgh International Festival and the BBC Proms, and has made recent tours to the USA, China and Europe.

The RSNO believes music can enrich lives, and aims to inspire, educate and entertain people throughout Scotland and beyond with its performances, recordings and engagement programmes. Supporting schools, families, young professionals and wider communities, the RSNO delivers high-quality initiatives for all ages and abilities, reaching over 68,000 people in 2023.

Andreas Hanson CONDUCTOR



Swedish conductor Andreas Hanson is Programme Director of the Malmö Symphony Orchestra. He is a frequent guest of all the major Swedish orchestras and appears as a guest conductor in Europe. As a recording artist, he has

recorded nearly 20 records for BIS, Serpent and Chandos.

With a strong passion for contemporary music, Andreas has premiered more than 100 contemporary works. After decades as the chief conductor of national wind ensembles, Andreas has also built an extensive repertoire of Nordic musical treasures and symphonic wind music.

Andreas is also involved in the development of the next generation of artists and conductors. He has been associate professor in conducting at Stockholm's Royal Academy of Music, and is currently working on a national programme for conductors. He studied conducting at the RAM in Stockholm, with Sir Andrew Davis in London and with Carlo Maria Giulini in Milan.

On Stage

FIRST VIOLIN

Lena Zeliszewska
ASSOCIATE LEADER
Patrick Curlett
Cheryl Crockett
Caroline Parry
Ursula Heidecker Allen
Elizabeth Bamping
Lorna Rough
Susannah Lowdon
Alan Manson
Liam Lynch
Veronica Marziano
Alison McIntyre
Helena Rose

SECOND VIOLIN

Jacqueline Speirs
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL
Marion Wilson
Paul Medd
Harriet Hunter
Anne Bünemann
Sophie Lang
Robin Wilson
Kirstin Drew
Colin McKee
Seona Glen
Shulah Oliver
Nicola Bates

VIOLA

Tom Dunn
PRINCIPAL
Felix Tanner
Lisa Rourke
Nicola McWhirter
Claire Dunn
Katherine Wren
Maria Trittinger
Francesca Hunt
Beth Woodford
Elaine Koene

CELLO

Betsy Taylor
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL
Yuuki Bouterey-Ishido
Rachael Lee
Sarah Digger
Niamh Molloy
Gunda Baranuaskaitė
Sonia Cromarty
Susan Dance

DOUBLE BASS

Nikita Naumov
GUEST PRINCIPAL
Michael Rae
Moray Jones
Alexandre Cruz dos Santos
Olaya Garcia Alvarez
Kirsty Matheson

FLUTE

Katherine Bryan
PRINCIPAL
Marie Sato
Janet Richardson
PRINCIPAL PICCOLO

OBOE

Adrian Wilson
PRINCIPAL
Peter Dykes
Fraser MacAulay

CLARINET

Timothy Orpen
PRINCIPAL
Robert Digney
Duncan Swindells
PRINCIPAL BASS CLARINET

BASSOON

David Hubbard
PRINCIPAL
Liz Mason
Emma Simpson

HORN

Andrew McLean
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL
Alison Murray
Martin Murphy
David McClenaghan
Neil Mitchell

TRUMPET

Christopher Hart
PRINCIPAL
Robert Baxter
Andrew Connell-Smith
Leo Brychta

TROMBONE

Huw Evans
GUEST PRINCIPAL
Symone Hutchison
Alastair Sinclair
PRINCIPAL BASS TROMBONE

TUBA

John Whitener
PRINCIPAL

TIMPANI

Simon Archer
GUEST PRINCIPAL

PERCUSSION

John Poulter
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL
Alasdair Kelly
Stuart Semple

HARP

Pippa Tunnell

PIANO / CELESTE

Lynda Cochrane

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Music is ingrained in everything we do at Cirrus Logic, from our culture to our innovative technology. We are delighted to contribute to the arts and give back to the Scottish community by supporting the RSNO, a beloved cultural institution that exudes musical excellence in every performance.



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