

LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS

📅 JANUARY 25, 2020

🕒 7:30 P.M.

📍 GRAND THEATRE

Kingston Choral Society
Ian Juby Chorus Master
Evan Mitchell Conductor

PROGRAM

Pomp & Circumstance No. 4	ELGAR (1857-1934)
O Canada	LAVALLÉE (1842-1891) ARR. WAGLER
Song of the Universal	GJEILO (1978-)
A Hampshire Suite	HOLST (1874-1934) ARR. JACOB
Ahead By A Century	DOWNIE (1964-2017) ARR. MITCHELL
Overture to The Boatswain's Mate	SMYTH (1858-1944)

INTERMISSION

Overture to H.M.S. Pinafore	SULLIVAN (1842-1900)
Enigma Variations <i>Nimrod</i>	ELGAR
Fantasia on British Sea Songs	WOOD (1869-1944)
Jerusalem	PARRY (1848-1918)
God Save the Queen	BRITTEN (1913-1976)

TODAY'S MUSIC

with Evan Mitchell

I had my first experience with the Last Night of the Proms format 15 years ago while I was being introduced to the professional orchestral schedule. As a member of the National Academy Orchestra's summer festival, I was deeply immersed in Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms and the like. All of a sudden came this concert with primarily English repertoire that I'd never heard. The audience was packed to the rafters, waving flags, singing along, crying mock tears, and bouncing in time to *Jack's the Lad*.

Naturally I was on board with all the fun, but what I really came to adore was the music. *Pomp and Circumstance* might be cliché, but that's because it's so magnificent you can't help but demand it be performed. Similarly, there's no secret to the enduring popularity of Sullivan's greatest works. The tunes practically sing themselves and become firmly entrenched in your brain for days to come. And while goofy audience traditions abound throughout the *Fantasia on British Sea Songs*, it's a remarkable piece of music. I dare you to find a more heartfelt, perfectly scored setting of *Tom Bowling* or *Spanish Ladies*. The introduction and eventual crescendo of the *Hornpipe* are magnificent. For all the bravado of Wood's setting of *The Saucy Arethusa* and *See the Conquering Hero Comes*, he looks inward for *Home, Sweet Home* and *Anchor's Weighed*.

I'm a huge fan of Wood and his historic Promenade concerts, and tonight we pay tribute with all the classics, a celebration of Canadiana, and a few additions that you'll adore. Ethel Smyth's Overture to the *Boatswain's Mate* is an absolute treasure, based around her iconic *March of the Women*, a song that became the official anthem of the UK's suffragette movement. Ola Gjeilo (a favourite composer of the Kingston Choral Society) brings us a beautiful offering in the spirit of the Proms with his *Song of the Universal*. And once again we are proud to bring the original full length version of Sir Henry Wood's *Fantasia on British Sea Songs*, from the opening naval horn calls through to the Sir Malcolm Sargent expansion into *Rule, Britannia!* I hope you enjoy this concert. It's going to be a boatload of fun!