

Exclusive U3A Ticket Offer

We are pleased to be able to offer tickets for the Northern Sinfonia on Friday 12 October at the special rate of just £10, including the best seats in the house (normally £32) to U3A members. To book, just call the Box Office on **0115 989 5555** and quote '**£10 Offer**'.

Northern Sinfonia Friday 12 October, 7.30pm Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham

John Wilson conductor

Cordelia Williams piano

Coates Dancing Nights – concert valse

Gershwin Lullaby for Strings

Ravel [Piano Concerto in G*](#)

Vaughan Williams [Symphony No. 5*](#)

*To hear full recordings of the Ravel concerto and Vaughan Williams symphony, just follow the links above.

Nottingham Classics – opportunities for U3A groups

Nottingham Classics is the Royal Concert Hall's international concert series. One of the most successful of its kind in the UK, each year it brings a line up of great orchestras and world-renowned classical soloists to perform in one of the best acoustics in Europe. For full details of all Nottingham Classics concerts visit www.trch.co.uk/nottinghamclassics.

As part of our ongoing commitment to building audiences for live classical music, we'd like to offer U3A groups across the East Midlands the opportunity to experience these concerts. Orchestral concerts are not only fantastic musical occasions but excellent social outings, and so our long term aim is to build a network of concert-going groups that make regular visits to the Royal Concert Hall. For U3A groups we would be able to offer big discounts on ticket prices and subsidies towards coach hire for large parties as well as exclusive opportunities to meet musicians, attend open rehearsals and hear talks about the music and performers.

We are looking to pilot some U3A group booking schemes in areas of the East Midlands later this season, with orchestras ranging from the Hallé, the BBC Philharmonic, the Czech Philharmonic and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Details of these will be available soon, but as a taster we would like to offer U3A members **a special ticket deal** on the **Northern Sinfonia** concert on **Friday 12 October**.

This concert brings together one of the hottest conductors working today with a rising star pianist and an elite orchestra, in a rich programme of music from the first half of the twentieth century.

Central to the programme is Maurice Ravel, who exerted a powerful influence over many composers of his time, even Nottingham's own Eric Coates – the 'King of Light Music'. Coates's Dancing Nights, which begins this concert, even directly quotes Ravel's famous La Valse. Others influenced by Ravel including George Gershwin, who even requested lessons from Ravel, only to be told, 'Why be a second rate Ravel when you can be a first rate Gershwin?'

Ravel, in fact, felt he had a lot to learn from Gershwin and American Jazz more generally, and there are echoes of both in his Piano Concerto in G with its intoxicating harmonies, darting rhythms and memorable tunes. Our soloist for this twentieth century masterpiece is the wonderful Cordelia Williams, winner of the Piano final of BBC Young Musicians in 2006 and one of the most exciting talents of her generation.

Another composer who owed a large debt to Ravel was Ralph Vaughan Williams who, as a young man, studied with Ravel between 1907 and 1908. His 5th symphony – the final work in this concert – was written between 1938 and 1943 and offers a serene vision of peace against the clouds of the Second World War.

John Wilson, a world-leading conductor of British music with impressive jazz credentials, is the ideal maestro in this varied and rewarding programme.

Neil Bennison

Music Programme Manager

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