



BERLIOZ IN CONCERT WITH DAVID NICE

10 Thursdays on Zoom, 2.30-4.30pm, starting 18 April 2024

Postponed for a term while the film *Maestro* cued a revelatory 10 Thursdays in the company of Leonard Bernstein, and following courses on Mahler, Russian, Czech, Hungarian, British, Finnish and Norwegian music, the French strand begins with the first great orchestrator among composers (we'll make a nod to Rameau too). Berlioz wrote a marvellous autobiography about his colourful life. The romanticism may come across as turbulent, launched most fully with the *Symphonie fantastique*, but there is method in seeming madness.

The proper place for the great stage works is on the Monday *Opera in Depth* course, but there's plenty of drama in concert masterpieces like *Roméo et Juliette* and *La Damnation de Faust*, as well as vocal magic in *La mort de Cléopâtre* and *Les nuits d'été*. We'll be examining Berlioz's orchestral/vocal achievement in the round with excerpts from a wide range of recorded performances on CD, DVD and YouTube. If you can't attend any or all of the classes, videos will be available. As usual, we expect special guests (TBC). Visiting conductors over previous terms have included Nicholas Collon, Paavo Järvi, Vladimir Jurowski, Catherine Larsen-Maguire (an engaging newcomer destined for great things), Andrew Litton, Antonio Pappano, Vasily Petrenko, Kristiina Poska and Robin Ticciati. Here is a recommendation from another leading musical figure.

David's classes are an ideal way to dig deeper into the world of classical music and his insights memorably broaden and enrich our enjoyment and understanding. David never lets his knowledge get in the way of his passion, nor his passion get in the way of his knowledge. He shows that great music never disconnects the heart and the mind and his searing honesty cuts to the chase about what music is about and why we need it. Conductor **Mark Wigglesworth**, a regular visitor to both the symphonic and opera courses.

Fee: £150 for the whole term of ten two-hour classes on Zoom

Email: david.nice@usa.net ASAP to confirm a place