

CLOSE CONNECTIONS

A sustainable collaboration with three international top orchestras

Under the title Close Connections Concertgebouw season 23/24 brings a brand new collaboration between Concertgebouw Brugge and three leading international orchestras: London Philharmonic Orchestra, Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, and Gürzenich Orchester Köln. This special partnership aims to stand as best practice for sustainable international work in classical music.

With Close Connections, the Concertgebouw is opting for sustainability in all facets. Three international symphonic ensembles come to Bruges from Belgium's neighbouring countries by bus or train. In addition, the five-year collaboration ensures a deeper artistic connection, with joint creation commissions and multi-day residencies. The programmes presented in Bruges by the orchestras occasionally go beyond the traditional repertoire usually performed on tour.

'Close connections stands for 360° sustainability: ecological benefits are coupled with artistic gain. In the first season, for example, London Philharmonic Orchestra and the Concertgebouw are investing in a joint composition commission to Tania Leon, and new visuals by Wayne McGregor.'

- Jeroen Vanacker, artistic director Concertgebouw Brugge.

Three top orchestras with a diverse profile

Gürzenich Orchester Köln

With almost 200 years of history, Gürzenich Orchester Köln has been an established name for centuries. They premiered Mahler's Third and Fifth Symphonies under the composer's direction. Famous works by Strauss and Brahms were also first heard in Cologne. As the permanent orchestra at Oper Köln, there is a strong focus on opera. Furthermore, with François-Xavier Roth, the orchestra has a principal conductor with great experience in historical performance practice.

Rotterdams Philharmonisch Orkest

The Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra celebrated its centenary in 2018. The orchestra stands out for the intense energy of its concerts, its acclaimed recordings and its innovative audience approach. For years, they have been adept at attracting world-class young conductors, focusing mainly on the repertoire of the 19th and 20th centuries. Following Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Lahav Shani has led this orchestra since 2017.

London Philharmonic Orchestra

The London Philharmonic Orchestra has a fascinating history, from an international career in which it was the first Western orchestra to perform in China, to recording the film score for The Lord of the Rings. Ranging from principal conductors such as Kurt Masur and Georg Solti to current British principal Edward Gardner, the sense of adventure is never far away. This shows right away in this first residential season in which old and new, and live and virtual meet.

Concertgebouw Brugge as an ecological enterprise

With a long tradition of ecological initiatives, Concertgebouw Brugge wants to be a pioneer in socially responsible entrepreneurship. Therefore, it commits itself to an ecological policy in which it wholeheartedly involves staff, the public, customers and partners. The most recent action is the crowdfunding for the Concertgebouw Forest, which, as a new step in the policy of eco-conscious entrepreneurship, reduces the footprint of the organisation and cuts CO2 emissions in Flanders by 12 tonnes a year.



Programme Close Connections

Sa 25.11.23 Rotterdams Philharmonisch Orkest & Daniel Müller-Schott / Dvořák

Sa 13.01.24 Gürzenich Orchester Köln / Bruckner. Achtste symfonie

Sa 09.03.24 London Philharmonic Orchestra & Wayne McGregor / Ravel, Szymanowski & León

Sun 10.03.24 London Philharmonic Orchestra / Elgar, Price & Rachmaninov