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Festivals, Fireworks and Fantasias: how our orchestras are lighting up the music scene this summer

A great summer of music from Great British Orchestras as classical music gets the iTunes treatment

British Orchestras are reaching more people than ever before – in more places than before – with audiences young and old drawn from every walk of life – and this summer is set to be no exception.

With Britain's orchestras playing at **festivals** – the Philharmonia at Henley, Exeter, Cheltenham Fishguard and Three Choirs festivals, the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra at the Summer Sessions Festival in Greenwich and the Sixteen, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra and Scottish Chamber Orchestra at the Edinburgh Festival – hosting **Fireworks Proms** (Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, the Hallé and Manchester Camerata) and leading the line up in this year's **BBC Proms**, their music is set to reach thousands of people nationwide.

New statistics from the Association of British Orchestras (ABO), due to be released in September, will reveal that British orchestras are reaching more than **3.4 million people a year** across the UK, with **305,000 children** in England alone experiencing a live concert performance during their time at school.

And millions more are set to be able to enjoy orchestral music free in their own homes as the ABO, which represents 65 of Britain's professional orchestras – from chamber ensembles to symphony orchestras - is teaming up with iTunes and the Sunday Times to offer free classical music downloads to readers from **11-24 July***.

The free tracks include pieces from Handel and Holst to Mozart and Mahler, played by top orchestras including the Hallé, Philharmonia, London Symphony Orchestra, Manchester Camerata and London Mozart Players.

Mark Pemberton, Director of the ABO, said:

“More and more people are able to access live classical music concerts – with orchestras large and small playing a range of venues outside the traditional concert hall; whether that’s village halls, schools or community centres – or open air venues and festivals.

“By partnering with iTunes, and making some of the most popular classical pieces freely available, we’re hoping to make classical music as popular online as it is offline; bringing classical music to more people and encouraging them to explore music they might not be familiar with.”

Other features of the orchestras’ summer programmes include:

- **Sinfonia Viva** –An audience of tens of thousands is expected for Britain's biggest free classical concert of its kind in the gorgeous Darley Park, Derby on 5th September
- **The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment’s** (OAE) highly acclaimed Night Shift will take place on Friday 13th August in the atmospheric surroundings of the world’s oldest surviving music hall – Wilton’s Music Hall. Audience members are invited to take drinks into the hall, chat, clap and interact with the performers
- Orchestras are also playing at operas this summer, with the **London Philharmonic Orchestra** and the **OAE** at Glyndebourne Festival Opera and **City of London Sinfonia** at Holland Park

Ends.

For more information and interviews with the Association of British Orchestras, contact:

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* Half of the free downloads will be available from Sunday 11 July for one week, the other half from Sunday 18th July for one week.

The full track list for the Sunday Times, ABO and iTunes offer is:

* N.b. track listing correct at time of issue but subject to change

Royal Philharmonic	(1) Holst Planets: Jupiter (own label)
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Orchestra	(2) Holst Planets: Neptune (own label)
London Philharmonic Orchestra	(1) Tchaikovsky Symphony 6: 3 rd Mvt Allegro molto vivace (own label) (2) Brahms Symphony 1: 2 nd Mvt Andante sostenuto (own label)
The Sixteen	(1) Handel Messiah: Hallelujah Chorus (own label) (2) Handel Samson: Overture (Track 1) (own label)
Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment	(1) Bach Brandenburg No. 4: Mvt 3 (EMI) (2) Haydn Paris Sym No. 86: Mvt 4 (EMI)
Royal Scottish National Orchestra	(1) Wagner, Lohengrin: Act III Prelude (Chandos) (2) Glazunov Symph 3: 2nd Mvt (Warner)
Philharmonia	(1) Elgar Enigma Variations: Nimrod (own label) (2) Dvorak Symph 8: Mvt 1 (own label)
Manchester Camerata	(1) Beethoven Symph 5: 1st mvt (own label) (2) Beethoven Symph 1: 1st Mvt (own label)
London Mozart Players	(1) Mozart Eine kleine Nachtmusik: 1st mvt (EMI) (2) Salieri Cudla Gra Kan Overture (Chandos)
London Symphony Orchestra	(1) Mahler Symph 2: Mvt 2 (own label) (2) Mozart Requiem: No 7. Sequence - Lacrimosa (own label)
Monteverdi Choir and Orch.	(1) Brahms Sym 2: Finale (own label) (2) Bach Cantata BWV34 1st mvt (own label)
City of London Sinfonia	(1) Bizet Symphony in C Mvt 3 (EMI) (2) Elgar Elegy (EMI)
Gabrieli Consort	(1) Mozart C Minor Mass: Sanctus (UMG) (2) Haydn Creation: The Heavens are Telling (UMG)
Hallé	(1) Wagner Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg: Act III Prelude (own label)

	(2) Elgar: Symphony 1: Mvt 2 Allero molto (own label)
Academy of Ancient Music	(1) Vivaldi Four Seasons: Summer (UMG) (2) Vivaldi Concerto for 2 Violins and 2 Cellos: Mvt 3 (UMG)
Northern Sinfonia	(1) Brahms Violin Concerto: Mvt 2 (own label) (2) Schumann Symphony 4: Mvt 3 (Own Label)