

PETER DONOHOE

with

HENLEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Ian Brown Conductor

Brahms

Piano Concerto No 1

Shostakovich

Symphony No 5

THE HEXAGON

Sunday 17 March 2019, 7.30pm

Tickets: 01235 859210 or www.henleysymphonyorchestra.co.uk/contact

£20, £17, £12; U16s/students half price; groups: 1 in 8 free; 1 child free with paying adult (£17 and £12 tickets) or via Reading Arts 0118 960 6060 or www.readingarts.com (booking fee applies)

HENLEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

HSO continues its proud record of engaging internationally acclaimed soloists by welcoming Peter Donohoe to play Brahms's mighty *Piano Concerto No 1*. Since his unprecedented success as Silver Medal winner of the 1982 International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, Peter has built an extraordinary world-wide career, encompassing a huge repertoire. He is acclaimed as one of the foremost pianists of our time for his musicianship, stylistic versatility and commanding technique.

Brahms wrote his first Piano Concerto at the age of 25 and the work is a pillar of the Romantic repertoire. From the opening ferocious drum roll the music proclaims Brahms's genius and youthful flare with its grandeur and excitement. At times the orchestra and piano seem to be engaged in some titanic struggle. The concert culminates with Shostakovich's most-played, but ambiguous, *Symphony No 5*. Written in 1937 at the time of Stalin's Great Terror, Shostakovich worked in a mood of isolation and fear after being denounced by the Union of Soviet Composers. The work was an immediate success, as the audience rose to its feet after the triumphant, joyful finale. Do we hear political protest or capitulation to the Soviet regime? What is indisputable is that the work is a masterpiece.



Henley Symphony Orchestra, under the guidance of its Music Director Ian Brown and led by David Burton, continues to go from strength to strength, attracting more than 70 players from across the Thames Valley. The orchestra promotes an annual series of four concerts, featuring internationally acclaimed artists, providing high-quality classical music-making for the enjoyment of local concertgoers. Since its formation in 1970 it has become one of the country's leading amateur orchestras. HSO has also given performances in

Henley's twin towns of Falaise and Leichlingen, and for the first time in 2017 appeared at the Bled International Music Festival.

The Hexagon is in the centre of Reading, ten minutes' walk from the station or well signed if coming by car. Sat Nav postcode is RG1 7TQ. Car parking is in the Broad Street Mall, the Oracle shopping centre or Q-Park Chatham Street car parks (<http://www.readingarts.com/hexagon/your-visit/how-find-us>) There is parking for disabled patrons outside the Hexagon stage door. Wheelchair spaces are available in the stalls, but please contact the Hexagon on 0118 960 6060 to book one of these spaces.