

HENLEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Smetana
Vltava

Beethoven
Piano Concerto No. 5

Rachmaninov
Symphony No. 2

Photo Credit: Eric Richmond

LEON BOSCH *Conductor*
MARTIN ROSCOE *Piano*

Sunday 26th March 2023, 7.30pm
The Hexagon, Reading

Tickets: email hsoboxoffice@gmail.com or **07726 459261**

£22, £18, £14; U16s/students half price; 1 child free with paying adult (£18 and £14 tickets); Groups: 1 in 8 free.
Or via Reading Arts: 0118 960 6060 or www.whatsonreading.com/book/408202 (booking fee applies)



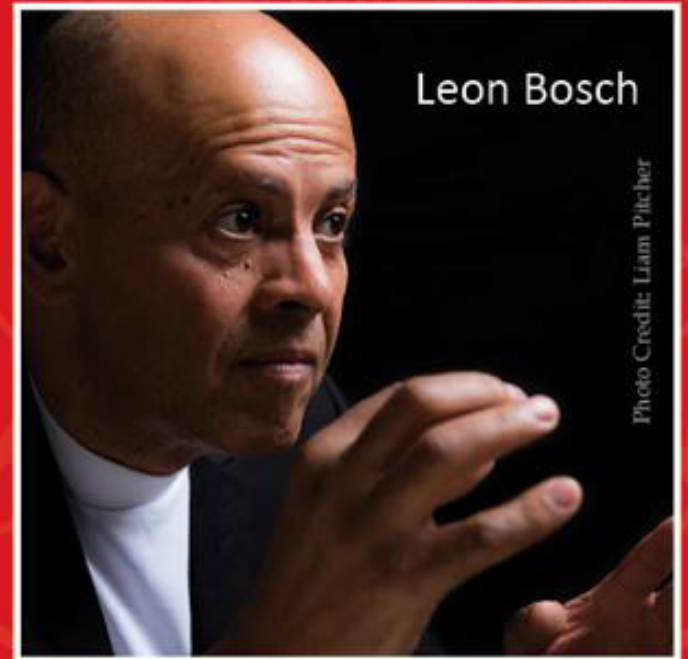
www.henleysymphonyorchestra.co.uk
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Leon Bosch took up his position as Music Director and Conductor of HSO in January this year and joins us for our 23rd Hexagon concert. Leon, who is internationally renowned as a double bass player, has developed a career as a fine conductor both in the UK and in his native South Africa. He was first encouraged to conduct by the late Sir Neville Marriner, the legendary founder of *The Academy of St Martin in the Fields*, for whom Bosch was Principal Bass for over twenty years. Leon has conducted groups in the UK and around the world, including the chamber ensemble he formed *I Musicanti*.

With an extraordinary career spanning over five decades, **Martin Roscoe** is unarguably one of the UK's best loved pianists. Renowned for his versatility at the keyboard, Martin is equally at home in concerto, recital and chamber performances. His enduring popularity and the respect in which he is universally held are built on a deeply thoughtful musicianship and his easy rapport with audiences and fellow musicians alike. Martin is Artistic Director of Ribble Valley International Piano Week and the Manchester Chamber Concerts Society, and has recently stepped down as Co-Artistic Director of the Beverley Chamber Music Festival. He is currently Professor of Piano at the Guildhall School of Music in London and has been awarded his Fellowship there.



Political unrest and nationalistic fervour are the background to our programme. **Smetana's** evocative *Vltava* (a description of the Moldau river) was written in 1874 after he aligned himself to the growing move for Czech identity. **Beethoven** began composing his *Fifth* and final 'Emperor' Concerto in 1809, while Vienna was under invasion from Napoleon's forces for the second time. Its bold melodies and heroic spirit befit its dedication to the exiled Archduke Rudolph, Beethoven's friend, patron and student. After the disastrous premiere of his First Symphony, **Rachmaninov** fell into a depression. Happily for us, his *Second Symphony*, written in Dresden where he took his family to escape the political tumult that would put Russia on the path to revolution, was premiered to great acclaim in 1908 in St Petersburg. It remains one of the composer's most popular and best-known compositions.

Come and join us!

The Hexagon is in the centre of Reading, ten minutes' walk from the station and well signed for those coming by car (postcode for Sat Nav is RG1 7TQ). Car parking is in the Broad Street Mall, 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 attendees outside the Hexagon stage door and wheelchair spaces are available in the stalls. To book one of these please contact the Hexagon on 0118 960 6060. The spacious theatre meets all current requirements for the safety of its patrons.

www.readingarts.com/thehexagon