



PRESS RELEASE
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Scottish Chamber Orchestra Principal Conductor Maxim Emelyanychev extends contract until 2025

Scottish Chamber Orchestra (SCO) is extremely pleased to announce that Principal Conductor **Maxim Emelyanychev**'s contract has been extended until 2025.

Emelyanychev was appointed in May 2018 after stepping in at short notice for a concert in March of that year: the performance garnered enthusiastic praise from both the audience and Orchestra and led to him securing his new role. The repertoire, Schubert's *Symphony No. 9 C major 'The Great'* – performed in that concert - was released on Linn Records this month as his first recording with the ensemble.

Emelyanychev conducted his inaugural concerts as Principal Conductor with the Orchestra last week in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen, with a programme featuring the UK premiere of French composer Philippe Hersant's *Five Pieces for Orchestra* as well as Prokofiev's *Violin Concerto No. 2* with Carolin Widmann and Mozart's *Symphony No. 41 'Jupiter.'*

Gavin Reid, Chief Executive of Scottish Chamber Orchestra says: *'Maxim has had such a wonderful reception from the Orchestra and audiences alike in the past few months that we are delighted he has extended his contract until 2025. With the release of the Schubert CD to his first official concerts, we have only just begun to discover what he and our musicians can achieve together.'*

Maxim Emelyanychev says: *'Conducting the SCO is always like performing with family. When you have an orchestra of musicians as fine as these, who wouldn't want to play with them as much as possible? The music is always central for us and I'm excited to continue sharing it with audiences in Scotland and across the world.'*

Emelyanychev and the SCO return to Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen later in the Season, with the conductor directing from the harpsichord, in a programme of French and German baroque music by Bach, Telemann, Rameau and Lully (16 –18 January 2020). They perform an all-Beethoven programme in Perth, Edinburgh and Glasgow, exploring *Symphony No. 6 'Pastoral'* and *Symphony No. 7* (4 - 6 March 2020).

The **SCO Chorus** and Chorus Director **Gregory Batsleer** join Emelyanychev and the SCO for Vivaldi's *Gloria* in Edinburgh and Glasgow, with Emelyanychev again directing from the harpsichord (26 and 27 March 2020). The soloists are sopranos **Anna Dennis** and **Mhairi Lawson** and countertenor **James Hall**.

Two days later, Emelyanychev and a selection of SCO Soloists perform an afternoon of chamber music at The Queen's Hall, Edinburgh, with him directing from the harpsichord and piano (29 March 2020).

Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 20 in D minor* is the centrepiece of the programme Emelyanychev brings to Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen in which he is also the soloist. He also conducts Debussy's *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune* and Louise Farrenc's *Symphony No. 3 in G minor* (20 April, 1 and 2 May 2020).

Alongside his concerts with the SCO, Emelyanychev made two opera house conducting debuts in 2019. At **Glyndebourne**, he conducted Robert Carsen's production of Handel's *Rinaldo* with **Jakub Józef Orliński** in the title role, before conducting Handel's *Agrippina* at the **Royal Opera House** with a cast led by **Joyce DiDonato**.

Full SCO listings available here: www.sco.org.uk/

For further information, review tickets and images please contact:

Rebecca Driver Media Relations

Tel: 0203 691 7034

Email: maddie@rdmr.co.uk | ruth@rdmr.co.uk

Web: www.rdmr.co.uk

Notes to Editors

About Maxim Emelyanychev

Maxim Emelyanychev (31) is an outstanding representative of the younger generation of Russian conductors. Born in 1988 to a family of musicians, he studied conducting and piano in Nizhny Novgorod and then with Gennady Rozhdestvensky in Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory.

His prizes include a Gramophone Award 2017, together with Joyce DiDonato and Il Pomo d'Oro, for their album *In War & Peace* (Warner/Erato), and the Golden Mask theatre prize as harpsichordist in a production of *Le nozze di Figaro* in Perm, conducted by Teodor Currentzis and recorded by Sony Classical.

Since his conducting debut at 12, he has worked with many Russian and international Orchestras. He is Principal Conductor of the Zürich-based Il Pomo d'Oro Orchestra and Principal Conductor of Nizhny-Novgorod Youth Symphony Orchestra. He has worked with artists including Riccardo Minasi, Max Emanuel Cenčić, Xavier Sabata, Julia Lezhneva, Sophie Karthäuser, Franco Fagioli, Dmitry Sinkovsky, Marie-Nicole Lemieux, Alexei Lubimov, Teodor Currentzis, Patrizia Ciofi, Katia and Marielle Labèque, and Joyce DiDonato.

In 2019/20, alongside taking up his position of Principal Conductor of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, he conducts the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment in two of the major international opera institutions: The Glyndebourne Festival (Handel *Rinaldo*, with Jakub Orliński in the title role and the Royal Opera House (Handel *Agrippina*, with Joyce DiDonato in the title role).

He returns to the Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana, to the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, to the Toulouse Orchestre National and to the Belgian National Orchestra. Other engagements include the Berliner Konzerhausorchester, the Iceland Symphony Orchestra, the Latvian Symphony Orchestra, the Real Orquesta Filarmonica de Gran Canaria and the Seattle Symphony.

The following season sees him conduct the Geneva Grand Theatre in Mozart *Clemenza di Tito* and the Toulouse Théâtre du Capitole in Mozart *Nozze di Figaro*. He will also make his debut with the Münchner Philharmoniker, the Atlanta Symphony and the Frankfurt Hessischer Rundfunk.

He follows in the footsteps of just **five previous Principal Conductors** in the Orchestra's 44 year history; Roderick Brydon (1974-1983), Jukka-Pekka Saraste (1987-1991), Ivor Bolton (1994-1996), Joseph Swensen (1996-2005) and Robin Ticciati (2009-2018).

About Scottish Chamber Orchestra

The internationally celebrated Scottish Chamber Orchestra is one of Scotland's National Performing Companies.

Formed in 1974 and core funded by the Scottish Government, the SCO aims to provide as many opportunities as possible for people to hear great music by touring the length and breadth of Scotland, appearing regularly at major national and international festivals including the Edinburgh International Festival, BBC Proms, and by touring internationally as proud ambassadors for Scottish cultural excellence.

Making a significant contribution to Scottish life beyond the concert platform, the Orchestra works in schools, universities, colleges, hospitals, care homes, places of work and community centres through its extensive Creative Learning programme.

The SCO has long-standing associations with many eminent guest conductors including Conductor Emeritus Joseph Swensen, Principal Guest Conductor Emmanuel Krivine, François Leleux, Pekka Kuusisto, Richard Egarr, Andrew Manze and John Storgårds.

The Orchestra also enjoys close relationships with many leading composers and has commissioned almost 200 new works, including pieces by the late Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Sir James MacMillan, Martin Suckling, Einojuhani Rautavaara, Mark-Anthony Turnage, Nico Muhly and Associate Composer Anna Clyne.

An exciting new chapter for the SCO began in September 2019 with the start of dynamic young conductor Maxim Emelyanychev's tenure as the Orchestra's Principal Conductor. This was a position previously held by Robin Ticciati from 2009-2018. Ticciati and the SCO made a series of outstanding recordings (Linn Records) of works by Haydn, Schumann, Berlioz, Strauss and Wagner. Their last recording – the complete Brahms Symphonies - has been internationally acclaimed.

The SCO and Emelyanychev released their first album together (Linn Records) in November 2019. The repertoire - Schubert's Symphony No. 9 in C major 'The Great' – is the first concert Emelyanychev performed with the Orchestra in March 2018.