# BBC Proms 2025 promises diverse performances from classical masterpieces to late-night concerts



The BBC Proms 2025 programme promises an exciting and diverse lineup of concerts, featuring everything from classical masterpieces to innovative after-hours performances at London’s iconic Royal Albert Hall and across the UK. The season will include 84 concerts taking place not only in London but also in locations such as Gateshead, Bristol, Bradford, Belfast, and Sunderland.

One of the standout events for 2025 is an all-night "Dark Till Dawn Prom" scheduled for 8 August at the Royal Albert Hall. This special late-night concert has been devised by organist Anna Lapwood, who shared with PA Media that the inspiration came from her frequent midnight practice sessions at the Hall. “There are always people there – cleaners and security guards – a bit like A Night At The Museum,” she remarked, highlighting the unique atmosphere of the venue in the quiet hours. The concert will feature UK-based and international artists, including YouTube pianist Hayato Sumino, Russian cellist Anastasia Kobekina, and the Norwegian ensemble Barroksolistene, whose performances aim to evoke the convivial spirit of a 17th-century English tavern. Lapwood noted, “There are various moments where we're hoping to do some collaborations,” though she acknowledged the challenge involved, especially with managing the artists’ sleep schedules.

In addition to the after-hours event, the Proms will offer a wide range of highlights. Claudia Winkleman will return as host for a concert dedicated to the soundtrack of the acclaimed TV series The Traitors, described as "tense and haunting," scheduled for 26 July. Winkleman expressed anticipation for the event, saying she had requested “a cloak and an owl” to fit the concert’s atmospheric theme.

Classical repertoire highlights include Dmitri Shostakovich’s opera Lady Macbeth and a performance of Rachmaninov’s Piano Concerto No 4 by Korean pianist Yunchan Lim. Notably, Nicholas McCarthy, the world’s only professional one-handed concert pianist, will make his Proms debut on 20 July playing Maurice Ravel’s Piano Concerto for the Left Hand—originally composed for a pianist who lost his right arm during World War I.

Sir Simon Rattle is set to conduct Chineke!—Europe’s first minority Black and ethnically diverse orchestra—on 5 September. This landmark concert will feature the final work by Pulitzer Prize-winning American composer George Walker, a piece written in response to the 2015 Charleston church shooting.

The Proms will also showcase a range of international talent and genre-crossing collaborations. Grammy-winning singer Angelique Kidjo will perform as part of Bradford's City of Culture 2025 programme, presenting her African Symphony and celebrating legendary African musicians such as Miriam Makeba, Fela Kuti, and Youssou N’Dour. Other notable appearances include sopranos Aigul Akhmetshina and Emily D'Angelo (making their Proms debuts), violinist Randall Goosby, sitar virtuoso Anoushka Shankar, and Pakistani-American singer Arroj Aftab.

Further musical events include a tribute to the Shipping Forecast at Belfast’s Ulster Hall on 8 August, featuring Radio 4 announcers and a new commissioned work by Poet Laureate Simon Armitage. The National Youth Orchestra will present a programme themed around "The Planets and Star Wars" on 9 August, while the London Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Edward Gardner in his 24th Proms appearance, will perform aquatic-themed works like Debussy’s La Mer on 10 August.

The Proms season will culminate in the famous Last Night concert on 13 September, conducted by Hong Kong-born Elim Chan, who takes over this prestigious role. This year marks the first season under new Proms director Hannah Donat, who emphasised the festival’s welcoming and informal atmosphere. “I think of the Proms as the classical music equivalent of Wimbledon,” Donat told the BBC, adding, “Everyone likes to go to a Prom, even if they're not going to concerts for the rest of the season.”

Among other remarkable performances, Finnish conductor Klaus Mäkelä will lead the Dutch Concertgebouw Orchestra in Mahler’s Fifth Symphony on 23 August. And legendary composer Joe Hisaishi will make his Proms debut on 14 August, conducting the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in a performance of his symphony The End of the World, inspired by the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Tickets for the 2025 BBC Proms will go on sale at 9am on 17 May. On-the-day "Promming" tickets are priced at £8 including fees, with seated tickets starting from £10 plus fees. The Proms season continues to offer a broad variety of programmes that honour classical traditions while embracing contemporary and cross-cultural expressions in music.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.royalalberthall.com/tickets/proms/bbc-proms-2025> - Corroborates the schedule and venue details of the BBC Proms 2025, including events held at the Royal Albert Hall.
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0018gyk> - Although the specific link is not provided here, the BBC website typically features updates on the Proms season, including notable concerts and performers. The text suggests checking such resources for details like Anna Lapwood's Dark Till Dawn Prom.
3. <https://www.culturevulture.net/index.php?/archives/637-George-Walker.html> - Provides information about George Walker, whose final work will be featured by Chineke under Sir Simon Rattle during the Proms. Walker was a Pulitzer Prize-winning composer known for his civil rights activism.
4. <https://www.music.lsu.edu/people-faculty/anastasia-kobekina> - Anastasia Kobekina is a Russian cellist, and her inclusion in the Proms lineup is notable. This link would provide biographical information about her, although it might not directly mention the Proms.
5. <https://www.barroksolistene.no/en/ensemble/> - Features the Norwegian ensemble Barroksolistene, which will perform at the Proms, highlighting their unique style and past performances.
6. <https://www.simonarmitage.com/poet-laureate-works/> - Although not directly mentioning the Proms, this link by Simon Armitage highlights his role as Poet Laureate and his commissioned works, including the piece for the Shipping Forecast tribute.
7. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c0m9gllw4dzo> - Please view link - unable to able to access data