



# The Proms

Festival of the Week



The BBC Proms began in August 1895 and continues to the present.



The BBC Proms lasts for eight-weeks during the summer.

There are daily orchestral, mostly classical music, concerts and other events held every year, usually in the Royal Albert Hall in central London.

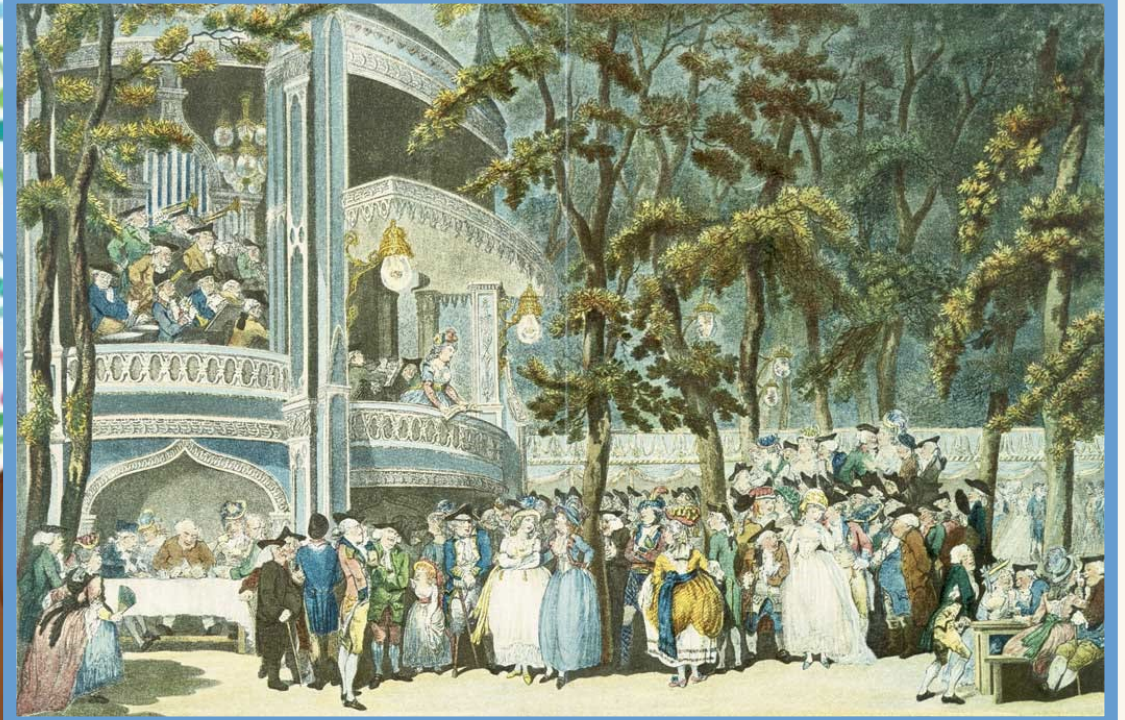
There can be around 75 concerts in a season.





The name Prom comes from Promenade Concerts, outdoor concerts which were usually held in London's Victorian pleasure gardens.

People would walk around – promenade – while listening to the music.





Victorian seaside resorts often have a promenade - a wide walkway at the edge of the sea, where people would stroll to 'take the air'.



This is a photo of Llandudno Promenade in 1850 and the same view today.



Sir Henry Wood was the first conductor of these indoor concerts which originally took place at The Queen's Hall. He became well-known as the person who devised the concert schedule and for many years the festival was called The Sir Henry Wood Promenade Concerts.

There is a statue of Sir Henry in the Royal Academy of Music which is brought to the Royal Albert Hall every year for the duration of the Proms.



Sir Henry Wood wanted everyone to have the opportunity to hear wonderful music and get to know the works of Beethoven, Bach etc.

Remember in 1895 there was no television or internet, very little radio or recording systems, so there would be hardly any opportunities for people to hear music apart from concerts.

For every concert, you can queue up on the day and pay £6 to stand in the Arena or right up at the very top of the hall. The people who do this are called Promenaders.





Some Promenaders go to several concerts and so they get to know each other well. Ever year they make a collection for charity at each concert. They chose a different charity each time but some money always goes to a Musicians Charity to look after people who are injured, ill or old. By the end of eight weeks it's usually a large amount.



Sir Henry Wood also wanted to promote new composers and every year there are many performances of new pieces by composers living today.

There is also a variety of musical styles, there's a Jazz Prom, a Musicals Prom, Family Proms (especially for children), Blue Peter Proms, and themed Proms for example, Dr Who Proms, a prom based on War Horse, using puppets from the stage show or a Horrible Histories Prom.

Orchestras and soloists from all over the world come to perform there. Other people have included, Paloma Faith, The Petshop Boys, Stormzy and even Bollywood or West End Musical Stars.





Most people have heard about the concert which takes place on the Last Night Of The Proms. It is on the television every year and consists of Patriotic British Music. The audience dress up and wave flags and there is a party atmosphere.





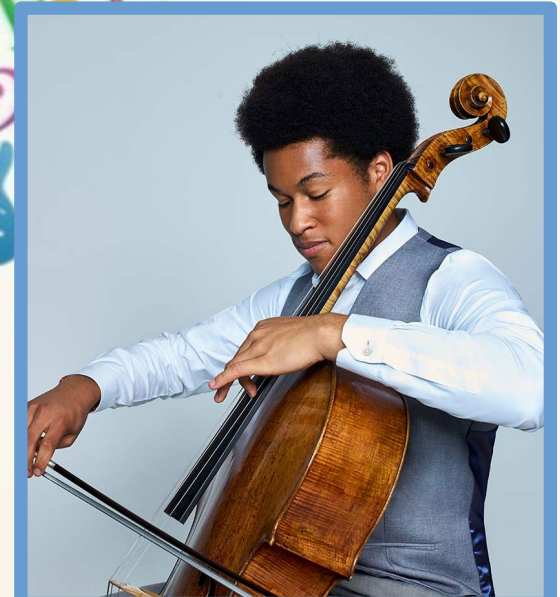
The Last Night of the Proms is this coming Saturday and it will be on television (BBC1) from 9.00.

Some of the people performing will be :

The conductor –  
Dalia Stasevska.  
Born in Kyiv,  
Ukraine

The soprano –  
Lise Davidsen  
from Norway.

The cellist – Sheku  
Kanneh-Mason  
from Nottingham,  
England.



There is also a series of Proms in the Park, in different parts of the country, where you can go along with a picnic and listen to the music.

During The Last Night concert, the BBC usually try and link up with these concerts so everyone can sing **Land of Hope and Glory** together.

Can you remember who composed that?

Sir Edward Elgar



There is a Last Night Prom in the Park from each of the four countries in the UK.  
Do you know which flag belongs to which country?

