

Ealing Youth Orchestra

World Premiere of Hannah Kendall composition marks the 60th Anniversary of one of the countries oldest youth orchestras, Ealing Youth Orchestra

The **world premiere** of a new work by internationally renowned London Proms composer **Hannah Kendall** is to be performed this summer by Ealing Youth Orchestra (EYO), the west London ensemble which first inspired her musical career.

The performance in on June 29 will mark the 60th anniversary of EYO where Wembley born **Kendall** has recently been appointed Composer-in-Residence. This is her first composition for EYO following her Proms debut in 2017 with BBC commission *The Spark Catchers* for the Chineke Orchestra



<https://hannahkendall.co.uk/>

“The wealth of enriching cultural opportunities available to me as a young person, including performing in EYO, were invaluable, and an incredibly important foundation to my career as a professional composer. I am particularly pleased to be reunited with EYO as the occasion will enable me to actively encourage young people, and wider audiences to engage with contemporary classical music in a vibrant, current, and relevant way,” said Kendall.

EYO consists of 85 young musicians between the ages of 13 to 19 from 30 schools in and around London. Rehearsals are held on Friday evening where conductor since 2006, Leon Gee (Birmingham Conservatoire, the Guildhall and Royal Welsh College Junior Departments, Oxford University Orchestra) isn’t frightened of tackling some challenging works. In recent years the EYO has performed Richard Strauss’s *An Alpine Symphony*, Gustav Mahler’s *Symphony No. 1* and the Shostakovich *Symphony No. 5*.

Many EYO alumni have gone on to enjoy successful careers as professional musicians in diverse fields, such as violinist Fenella Humphreys, winner of the BBC Music Magazine Instrumental Award 2018, and the Electric Light Orchestra’s Mike Edwards. Former members are currently studying at the Royal Academy of Music, Royal College of Music and The Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Alongside Kendall’s premier, the diamond anniversary concert in June will feature a ‘pop-up’ performance of Tchaikovsky’s 1812 Overture when former members will be invited to rejoin the orchestra. More than 200 musicians are expected to take part. It should make for an exciting evening!

“Members of the EYO experience playing challenging and wonderful music under the guidance of a professional conductor, alongside professional soloists. It’s transformational for many of them and provides lasting friendships,” said EYO Chair, Christopher Brown.

Since 1988 the highlight of the EYO year has been the summer tour when the players have performed in Poland, France, Spain, Hungary, Germany and in 2018, Belgium to the evident delight of audiences:

'A couple of days ago I had the great pleasure of hearing the concert your very special orchestra performed in the Church of St Salvador in Bruges, Belgium. I was moved to tears to hear each of the programme's pieces and experience how exquisitely they were played by enthusiastic young people and at the same time how impeccable and professionally committed they were to the whole Orchestra. I bring with me the memory of Scheherazade so beautifully interpreted.'

Graciela de la Rosa, Argentina

EYO was founded in 1958 by John Railton, an Ealing music teacher of extraordinary ability and enthusiasm. He inspired and conducted the orchestra for the next 20 years despite having lost his left arm to cancer in his thirties.

Railton's wish was to provide young musicians from local schools with the opportunity to play in an orchestra. He persuaded the headmaster of his school to give him £200 to establish a school orchestra. He promptly used the money as a down payment on thousands of pounds worth of instruments and invited young people to come along and play.

EYO has stayed true to this original vision by supporting young musicians, despite cutbacks in arts funding and music education. It is now a fully self-funding charity of which the Patron is the Royal College of Music's Research Fellow in Composition, Mark-Anthony Turnage.

The EYO 60th Anniversary Concert will be on Saturday June 29th, 7.00pm at St Barnabas Church, Pitshanger Lane, Ealing, London W5 1QG

The above named participants can be made available for interview by arrangement and copyright cleared access is possible.

For further information:

EYO Chair, Christopher Brown chair@evo.org.uk

Paul Adams, publicity pauladams2005@btinternet.com

Hannah Kendall <https://hannahkendall.co.uk/>

EYO website <https://www.evo.org.uk/>

EYO Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/EalingYouthOrchestra>

EYO Twitter https://twitter.com/evo_music

EYO Video links:

EYO performing Butterworth's A Shropshire Lad <https://vimeo.com/251723129>

EYO performing Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 4 <https://vimeo.com/251738753>

EYO performing Brahms Hungarian Dances 5 & 6 <https://vimeo.com/251619770>