



## WALES MILLENNIUM CENTRE PRESENTS:

### MARIINSKY/GERGIEV - WAGNER & MAHLER

BRAND NEW CHILDREN'S CHOIR TO PERFORM WITH RENOWNED RUSSIAN COMPANY

**Wagner: *Parsifal* Saturday 31 March 4pm**

**Mahler: *Symphony No 8* Sunday 1 April 4pm**

The world-renowned Mariinsky Theatre returns to Wales Millennium Centre for two days of dramatic music-making next spring. Bringing two monumental works to the Donald Gordon Stage, Valery Gergiev will conduct the Mariinsky Orchestra, Chorus and Soloists in concert performances of two works: Richard Wagner's opera 'Parsifal' and Gustav Mahler's 'Symphony No 8'.

Two additional choirs will join the Mariinsky Theatre to add their voices to the intense choral demands of Mahler's 'Symphony No 8', also known as the 'Symphony of a Thousand':

- A brand 60-strong new choir, formed especially for the occasion by 'Only Men Aloud' Musical Director, Tim Rhys Evans, will make its singing debut. The Centre and Tim Rhys Evans auditioned across Wales this autumn for boys and girls aged between nine and 13.
- Members of the BBC National Chorus of Wales will also add their musical muscle to the performance.

The visit to Wales is part of a five-year international strategic partnership between the Centre and the Mariinsky Theatre, established in January 2009. The aim of the partnership is to collaborate on creating artistic projects and bring regular performances by the Mariinsky Orchestra and Ballet to the Centre. There is also a commitment by the Mariinsky Theatre to give workshops for the public, allowing them to get closer to the work that we present here.

Valery Gergiev commented: "I am very happy to be working with the children's chorus. I hope this will be an event they will always remember and that it will influence their lives. They will, I hope, hear certain sounds and a mysterious sonority around them that will be an important discovery for them."

Mark Taylor, Chief Executive, Wales Millennium Centre said: 'The new children's choir will give youngsters across the country an opportunity to be part of something very special. Having the Mariinsky perform live on stage with the choral boost provided by the voices of the BBC National Chorus of Wales and Only Kids Aloud will be an unprecedented experience for audiences to the Centre, and is a highlight of our 2012 spring season offering.'

For further information and to book tickets contact the Ticket Office on 029 2063 6464.

## EDITORS NOTES

- The Mariinsky Ballet [formerly the Kirov Ballet] was the first ballet company to perform here, in 2005 (two of their soloists also performed during the Royal Gala that opened the Centre). The opera company first performed here in 2006 with the UK premiere of The Ring Cycle. They also gave three concert performances as part of our 5th birthday celebrations with Bryn Terfel as guest soloist.
- Mariinsky UK Tour is supported by BP.
- Wales Millennium Centre is an iconic arts venue and a cultural destination for performers and audiences in Wales and beyond. The Centre is a registered charity and provides a creative home to eight of Wales's leading arts and cultural organisations.
- For further information about Wales Millennium Centre please visit: [www.wmc.org.uk](http://www.wmc.org.uk). The Centre's news releases can be found at: [www.wmc.org.uk/press](http://www.wmc.org.uk/press)

For further press information:

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