



1915



1926



1964



1974



1999



2000



2004



2008



2009



2010



2012

The University Concert series

has given Leeds a varied and exciting programme of recitalists – from legendary performers to up-and-coming young artists. Here are just some of those who have graced our concert halls – from 1915 to the present day.

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From the first public concert in 1726 music has been an important factor in the cultural life of the City of Leeds, a tradition upheld and enhanced by the University.

Soon after his appointment as Vice Chancellor in 1911 Sir Michael Sadler instigated a series of concerts promoted by the University and open to “all members of the University and other persons to whom this programme is sent. Any member of the University wishing to bring a friend to the Recital is invited to do so”.

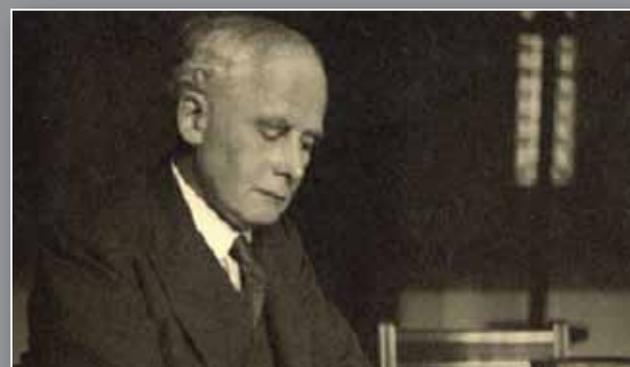
Recitals took place on and off campus: not only in the University Great Hall and Emmanuel Church but also the Albert Hall, a large auditorium designed by the noted Victorian architect Cuthbert Brodrick (1821-1905) and now the ‘central arena’ of the Leeds City Museum.

Lunchtime recitals became a regular feature of University life, generating interest amongst staff, students and the public. The appointment of a ‘Lecturer in Music’ in 1929 and the institution of the BMus degree in 1946 added

further impetus to concert life on campus. The University hosted concerts by many noted performers with some adventurous contemporary music performances; the purchase of a harpsichord in 1938 led the way in ‘historically informed performance practice’.

By the 50s University outposts were also providing concerts, with a popular series at Bretton Hall (Wakefield).

In 1961 the University’s concerts profile was enhanced by the University’s association with Leeds International Piano Competition founded by Dame Fanny Waterman DBE (DMus FRCM) and Marion Thorpe (C.B.E).



Sir Michael Sadler (1861 - 1943)



The early days of Early Music - Brian Richardson playing the Lute in a performance at Breton Hall in the mid 50's. (Photo: Douglas Cooke)



The Albert Hall - suitably dressed for the opening ceremony in 1868 © Leeds Museums and Galleries

The New Concert Hall

By the late 1960s it was becoming obvious that the University needed a new concert hall. The University had recently purchased the Cavendish Road Presbyterian Church and after a short period as the Cavendish Reading Rooms (an extension to the Brotherton Library) a generous grant from the Clothworkers’ Company in 1974 enabled the conversion of the church to a concert hall.

The hall was officially opened in 1976 and named the Clothworkers Centenary Concert Hall to acknowledge both the Clothworkers’ Company and the centenary of the founding of the Yorkshire College of Science (later, on the grant of its charter, to become the University of Leeds).

A regular series of concerts and recitals followed. The University Centenary in 2004 provided the opportunity for further refurbishment of the concert hall thanks to further generous support from the Clothworkers’ Company. On 25th June 2004 Murray Perahia gave the inaugural recital on the new Steinway piano - a gift of Marjorie & Arnold Ziff.

The University is proud of its contribution to the last 100 years of the cultural life of the city and the region - and looks forward to the next 100 years!

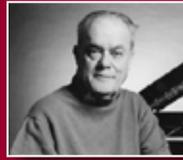
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100 YEARS OF MUSIC AT LEEDS

1912 - 2012

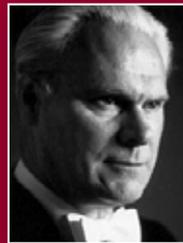
Honorary Graduates



Donald Hunt



Andy Kershaw



David Lloyd-Jones



Michael Nyman



Murray Perahia



Jacqueline du Pré



George Solti

Honorary Graduates



Lady Barbirolli
(Evelyn Rothwell) (MA)



Nadia Boulanger



Julian Bream



Aaron Copland



Clifford Curzon



Peter Racine Fricker



Bernard Haitink



Imogen Clare Holst

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