



## Karina Canellakis • Prom 12

conductor (Proms debut: 2017)

‘Beethoven’s *Coriolan* overture starts the programme off with a punch in the face!’ American conductor Karina Canellakis can’t wait to explore the contrasts and sheer drama of her Prom with the BBC Symphony Orchestra – beginning with Beethoven’s forceful opener. ‘I love it – that intensity, the struggle between right and wrong, major and minor.’ She sees connections, too, between Beethoven and Shostakovich, whose First Cello Concerto continues the programme. ‘The idea of defiance and rebelliousness, of shaking the fist at the oppressor, is something they have in common – I find their music goes very well together. Our soloist is Alisa Weilerstein, who’s not only a colleague but also a friend – I feel a deep musical connection with her.’

Those musical connections continue in the new work of the evening, by award-winning California-born composer and Andrew Norman. ‘I know him personally, and I’m a huge supporter and fan. I think to have those three composers – Beethoven, Shostakovich and Norman – and then to be able to plunge into the luxurious bath of Rachmaninov’s *Symphonic Dances* is so refreshing. It’s a fiendishly difficult piece for all concerned, but I decided on it because I was thinking about the virtuosity of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, their almost debonair attitude towards such virtuosic music. They’re not fazed by anything!’