



## Thomas Dausgaard Proms 29, 30, 50 & 51

BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra

Danish conductor Thomas Dausgaard is a busy man, with positions at five major international orchestras. But, among them, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra holds a special place: he's recently renewed his contract as Chief Conductor through to 2022. 'There's a sense of exploration there that I love,' he explains.

He brings two distinct concerts to the Proms with the BBC SSO, the first of which contrasts the Classical elegance of Mozart's Clarinet Concerto with the might of Mahler's Fifth Symphony. How do the two composers compare, does he think? 'They share a duality in their expression that will forever intrigue us as performers and listeners,' he explains. 'They share moments of the most sublime beauty, yet their music is deeply haunting too.'

There's another reason behind this pairing of works. 'It's a great honour to be conducting this programme as a tribute to Leonard Bernstein, who conducted the same works in the first of his two appearances at the Proms, in 1987 with the Vienna Philharmonic. It's still an inspiration for me that I had the privilege of being in Bernstein's conducting class at the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival in 1988. Characteristically, one of his books is called *The Joy of Music*, not *The Challenge of Music* – another important lesson that I learnt from him.'