



Ryedale  
Festival

WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019  
7.30PM / YORK MINSTER

Wagner

# Parsifal

**Sir Mark Elder** (conductor)  
Hallé Orchestra and Choir

**Nicky Spence** (Parsifal)  
**Iain Paterson** (Amfortas)  
**Gabor Bretz** (Gurnemanz)

# Wagner – Prelude to Act 1 and Act 3 of *Parsifal*

**F**OR HIS FINAL masterpiece, Wagner turned towards the sacred realm, aiming to compose a work in which ‘the most sublime mysteries of the Christian faith are openly presented on stage’. It re-tells the ancient story of Parsifal, a ‘holy fool’ made wise through pity and redeemed by a simple act of compassion. Act III is the spiritual heart and emotional climax of the work, as Parsifal fulfils his journey towards understanding. It includes the magnificent Good Friday Music which celebrates the day on which the world is renewed – a moving paean to the beauty of nature and the eternal renewal of springtime. ‘The hero’s path to compassion and understanding can be a metaphor’ says Pope Francis, ‘to better understand how human beings understand themselves today.’

Sir Mark Elder and the Hallé are renowned for their performances of this work. Their 2013



Proms performance was described by *The Guardian* as ‘a constant wonder’ and by *The Spectator* as ‘miraculous’,

while for *The Daily Telegraph* he and the orchestra found the ‘spiritual halo’ and ‘all the essential pain and anguish’ of the work. Heard in York Minster during Holy Week, with singers from York University augmenting the Hallé forces, this will surely be an unforgettable performance.

*‘Elder’s single-minded patience creates a powerful and quietly hypnotic sense of weary sadness...controlling everything with the surest of touches right up until a deeply moving account of the final bars’ – Gramophone*

Tickets can be purchased online ([www.ryedalefestival.com](http://www.ryedalefestival.com)), by post, or by calling the Box Office (01751 475777).

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Middle back, centre nave (reserved)	£40.00		
Back, centre nave (reserved)	£30.00		
Front, side aisles (unreserved)	£40.00		
Middle, side aisles (unreserved)	£30.00		
Back, side aisles (unreserved)	£20.00		
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<b>Total</b>			

*N.B. There are no reductions in ticket prices for Members/Friends for this event*

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