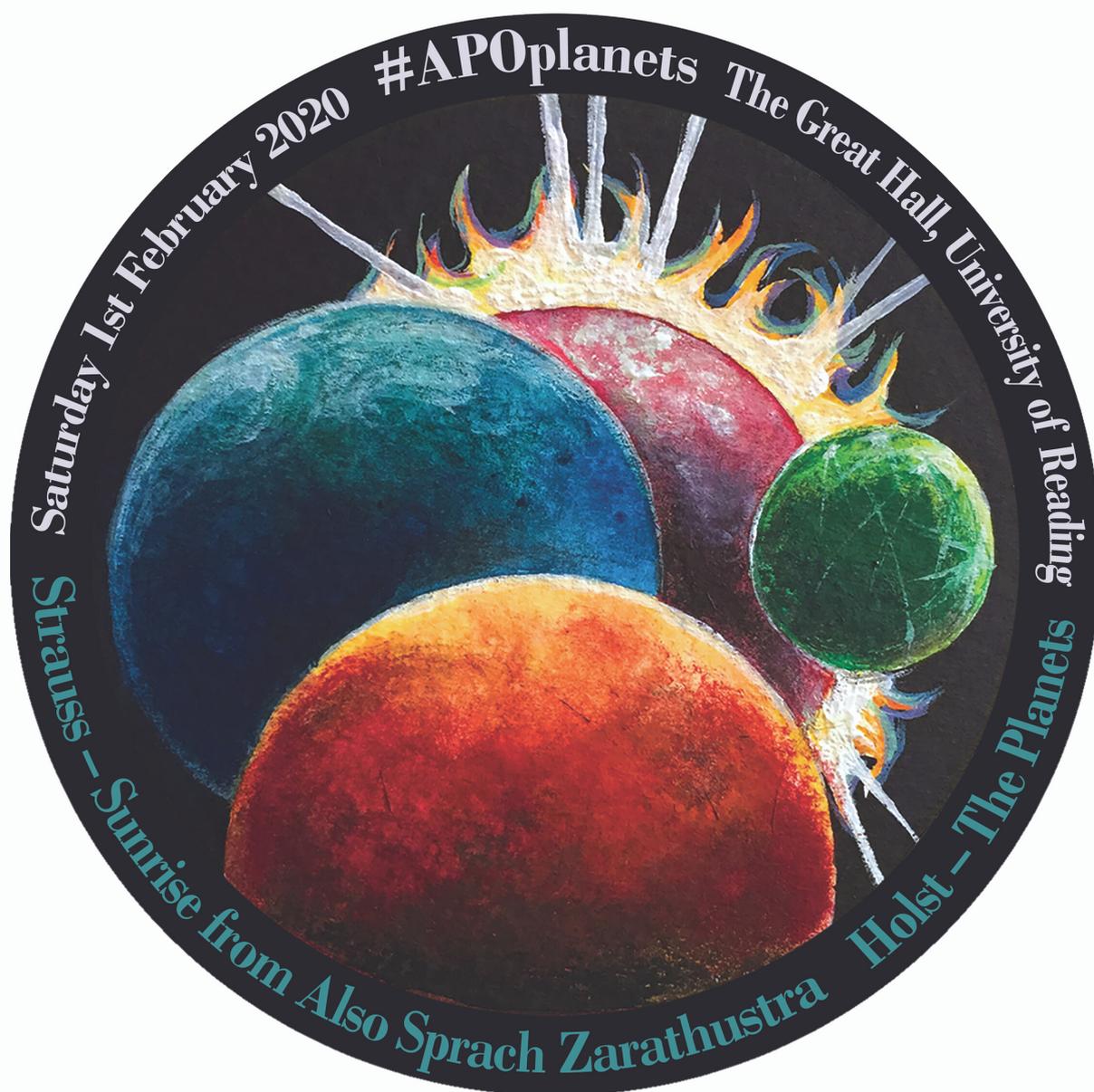


A Visual Guide for

ALDWORTH PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA'S PLANETS

1ST FEB 2PM 4.30PM. THE GREAT HALL, READING



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What is in this guide?



Thank you for booking a ticket to our relaxed performance of APO Planets.

This guide is designed to help you prepare for the show and includes details of the concert, descriptions and pictures of the venue, and information on accessibility adjustments we have put in place for the concert.

This guide has been created by What Box, on behalf of Aldworth Philharmonic Orchestra. APO have produced this relaxed performance with funding provided by Arts Council England. With this funding APO want to ensure as many people as possible can experience the joy of live orchestral music.

What Box is an Autistic led social enterprise based in Reading, who provide advice, accessibility tools and project management to organisations creating work for autistic audiences.



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What to expect at the concert?



The performance is 60 minutes long, no interval.

The concert includes poetry inspired by the music

The musical pieces are:

**The Sunrise from Also sprach Zarathustra by
Richard Strauss**

The Planets by Gustav Holst

Poetry inspired by the music will be read before each movement, by Becci Fearnley. A BSL translator will sign the poems as they are performed. This poetry will be included in the programme.

The performance begins with the conductor, Andrew, introducing himself, the poet and the orchestra. He will give a brief talk about the music, order of the concert and remind the audience what to expect in a relaxed show. The orchestra will then take a few moments to tune. Poet Becci will read her first poem, the music will begin.

The performance will continue with this structure until the final piece, Neptune. During Neptune a choir will perform with the orchestra, they will not be performing on stage due to space constraints, please be prepared for these voices to come from behind the stage.



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What to expect at the concert?



This is what you are likely to see during the show.



This is the view from the orchestra.

This is how busy we expect the room to be on the day.



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What to expect at the concert?



The music is emotive and particularly for those who experience emotions intensely, it would likely elicit a wide range of emotional reactions; excitement, fear, surprise.

We recommend you listen to the recordings of the show before attending.

The music performed will range from very quiet to very loud and there are moments within the music of sudden loud noise.

The first two pieces, are dramatic and are the darkest in tone. Ear Plugs will be available on the day and I recommend beginning with these in your ears through these first two pieces.

Traditionally audiences do not clap after each piece of music or poetry, however some people may clap. At the end of the performance, the orchestra and other performers will take multiple bows. Some audience members during the bows may clap, cheer or stand up. This is a show of appreciation and is common in theatre and musical performances.

After the performance, some musicians will come to speak with audience members interested to learn more about the music and their instruments. After 10 minutes they will leave to prepare for the next show.



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What is the Venue like?



The concert is in The Great Hall on the London Road campus of the University of Reading.

There will be a basic lighting set up in The Great Hall, with lights remaining on throughout the performance. There will be no special or visual effects.

There is a mix of seating within the space. Chairs at ground level towards the stage and fold down seats on raked seating at the back of the hall. This ensures all audience members have the same great view. If you or someone you are attending with are likely to want to move around during the performance, we recommend you sit nearer to the stage on ground level. This will give you easy access to the chill-out room, and space to stim.

You are welcome to stand, move around and make noise in the concert hall. While you are welcome to move around, please do not touch or climb onto the stage. This is for your safety and the performers' safety.

There are toilets next to the hall. You must go outside to access these toilets. There is one disabled toilet.

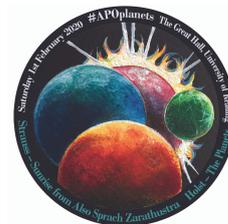
There is a chill-out space, this is in a room next to the concert hall. You will still hear the concert while in this room. The space offers a quieter environment, with minimal sensory stimuli, to take a break from the concert.



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What is the Venue like?



The floor level seating consists of these blue chairs.



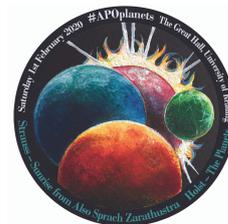
This is an example of raked seating, that will be at the back of the space.



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How to get there?



We hope as many attendees as possible will arrive on foot or by bike.

For those arriving via train The Great Hall is a 17 minute walk from the station through the town centre.

Alternatively you can take the 21 claret bus heading towards Lower Earley from the Blagrove St/EK stop, getting off at the Kendrick Student Village stop. You will then have a 4 minute walk to The Great Hall.

For those arriving by car, please park in the White Gates car park, located off of Crown Plaza RG1 5AQ. This may appear as West Cloister Car Park on some SatNav brands.

Accessibility & Adjustments

When you make your booking, you will be asked for information on any access requirements you have. This will allow us to prepare the venue appropriately.

A BSL interpreter will be available for the concert to translate the poetry and what Andrew the conductor says. They will be available after the performance to translate conversations with musicians and evaluators.

The seating layout has been designed to accommodate wheelchair seats, and to ensure those in a wheelchair can still sit amongst the group.



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How to get there?

This is the campus map



2 disabled parking bays



The Great Hall



Public transport stop



Toilets



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Accessibility & Adjustments



There will be a chill-out space available before during and after the concert, next to The Great Hall, accessible from The Great Hall foyer. This is to give you a space to decompress if you experience sensory overload or anxiety. This will be pointed out to you as you arrive. The space has plain white walls and furniture will be removed or covered. Due to its closeness to the performance area, you will still be able to hear the music. I recommend bringing ear defenders or noise cancelling headphones.

The Venue will be open 45 minutes before the show, to allow you to look around and get used to your surroundings. We have an open door policy, meaning you may leave and enter the space as much as you would like. Members of the orchestra will be available to chat about the show at this point.

During the performance we will have a sign showing how long we have left throughout the performance. This will be updated every ten minutes. This helps you countdown how long you will be in the space.

We encourage you to bring stim toys, ear defenders and any other items that help you enjoy the performance.



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Accessibility & Adjustments



One of the many types of stim toys you may want to bring along.



You are welcome to bring ear defenders. The music is very loud, performers will not be upset by this.



The chill-out space for the evening. The furniture will be moved to allow for a clear space.



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Who to look out for?



This is Andrew, the conductor. He will be dressed smartly in a black suit.

The musicians will be dressed smartly in black and will likely be carrying their instrument.



Stewards will be dressed casually, in black or dark colours. They will have a t-shirt or a badge with these logos on.

**If you have any further questions please contact:
Steph@aldworthphilharmonic.org.uk**



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