

28th August

Festival Music review: BBC SSO, Usher Hall

Keith Bruce [@keithjbruce](#)

Arts Editor

Festival Music

BBC SSO

Usher Hall

Keith Bruce

four stars

THERE are innumerable ways in which the **Edinburgh** International Festival might have programmed a "70th Anniversary Celebration Concert", but this was as good as any. By definition a mixed bag, the ever-adaptable BBC Scottish and insatiably musically-curious conductor Martyn Brabbins were the ideal team for that task. Staffa, Ned Bigham's audio-visual collaboration with film artist Gerry Fox has little in common with the Three Interludes from *The Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District* by Dmitri Shostakovich, but both made sense in this context. More impressively, the SSO played the latter between the similarly contrasting *Edinburgh Overture* of Arthur Bliss and the rather better known *Fantasia on a Theme* by Thomas Tallis of Vaughan Williams.