

CLASSICAL

## Zukerman's tribute to war heroes

By JESSICA DUCHEN

After the outbreak of the first World War, some 30,000 Canadian troops came to the UK and underwent military training on Salisbury Plain. Now a Canadian orchestra is following in their footsteps. Ottawa's National Arts Centre Orchestra (NAC) plays the cathedral next week, part of a tour in which they celebrate the links between the two countries. They will also fit in a concert at the Royal Festival Hall with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) combining for Beethoven's Symphony No 9 and the "Ode to Joy".

At the helm is Pinchas Zukerman, 66, one of today's most celebrated violinists and a dab hand, too, with the conductor's baton. He is also the RPO's principal guest conductor. He was a child prodigy in his native Israel, where the influential violinist Isaac Stern spotted him and encouraged him to study in New York. He rose to stardom during the 1960s-70s. During his 15 years at the NAC – this is his final season – Zukerman has shaken up the orchestra, expanding it to more than 60 players and implementing a programme of education and outreach work.

"When you are lucky enough to have the kind of education I had and the kind of exposure to the great figures of music, then if you're capable of it, you have to give back what you received," he says.

*Pinchas Zukerman and the NAC Orchestra perform with the RPO at the Royal Festival Hall, London (southbankcentre.co.uk) on Monday and at Salisbury Cathedral (salisburycathedral.org.uk) on Wednesday*



Picture this:  
Debbie Harry by  
Chris Stein

VISUAL ARTS

## Blondie with a touch of Brassai

By PETER YEUNG

During the 1970s and 1980s, Chris Stein, co-founder and former lead guitarist of new wave trailblazers Blondie, frequented the hot spots of New York City cheek-by-jowl with cardinal figures such as David Bowie, Iggy Pop, Andy Warhol, The Ramones, and of course, his flaxen-haired bandmate and lover Debbie Harry.

As a photography graduate from Manhattan's School of Visual Arts and frontrunner of the downtown New York music scene, Stein was able to chronicle this burgeoning cultural scene from his unique position within it.

Following the release of his photobook *Chris Stein/Negative: Me, Blondie, and the Advent of Punk*, an exhibition of Stein's photographs will go on show at London's Somerset House next month. It marks the 40th anniversary of Blondie's formation, and will present a series of well-known and previously unpublished

photographs – including of early live performances and private moments on tour – that Stein has personally selected from his extensive archive. They provide a snapshot of a New York moment, offering hitherto unseen context of what was a mysterious and formative period.

Blondie may have gone on to sell more than 40 million albums worldwide, but to begin with, the band occupied a gritty Bowery loft in New York's Lower East Side. Stein would use their kitchen as a makeshift darkroom to develop his Brassai-informed street photography, which documents everything from nights at the infamous music club CBGB, to Andy Warhol's Factory, and early-hours pool parties at the Beverly Hills Hotel. Even seasoned miscreant Bill Murray was captured on a drinking tour.

But the most enduring images taken by Stein are of Blondie's sultry and extraordinarily photogenic frontwoman, Debbie Harry. An unerring presence, these intimate shots, such as Harry in a majestic zebra-print dress and chunky bone necklace, crouching in front of a similarly patterned background, undoubtedly informed contemporary fashion.

*Chris Stein/Negative: Me, Blondie, and the Advent of Punk, Somerset House, London WC2 (somersethouse.org.uk) 5 November to 25 January*

CULTURAL LIFE

## Marc Quinn Artist



VISUAL ARTS

I went to Late Turner: Painting Set Free at Tate Britain. I am finding Turner's work very inspiring for a new series of paintings I am making called Toxic Sublime, which in a way are about the impossibility of an unmediated sublime in the world of global warming, like Turners in the world we live in. My pictures are perhaps more like Turner might have painted had he sniffed glue, lived in a skip and only had a postcard to work from.

FILM

Recently, after working all day, I came home and sat with my son Sky, eight, and watched *21 Jump Street*, which I thoroughly enjoyed. Really looking forward to watching *22 Jump Street* – that's the sequel.

THEATRE

I thought Gillian Anderson's Blanche DuBois in *A Streetcar Named Desire* at the Young Vic was the best performance in the theatre that I have seen in a long time, and Benedict Andrews' staging of the play – on a revolving set – was one of the most imaginative.

TELEVISION

I recently watched a documentary on BBC4 about Walter Sickert. I really didn't appreciate how important an artist he was, a precursor to both Bacon and Freud and also Andy Warhol. Not the provincial English painter I had assumed. I also love the HBO series *Girls* and think that Lena Dunham is a bit of a genius.

*The documentary 'Marc Quinn – Making Waves' will be on general release next year*

Interview by Charlotte Cripps

THE LUVVIES

BY BIRCH

