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BBC Proms 2013 - Last Night of the Proms

1. BBC Proms 2013 (1:58:46) Vaughan Williams: The Lark Ascending Massenet: Chérubin – 'Je suis gris! je suis ivre!' Handel: Xerxes – 'Frondi tenere e belle ... Ombra mai fù' Rossini: La donna del lago – 'Tanti affetti in tal momento!' Verdi: Nabucco – 'Va, pensiero' (Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves) Arlen: Over the Rainbow Monti: Csárdás Traditional: Londonderry Air (Danny Boy) Rodgers: Carousel – 'You'll never walk alone' Bantock: Sea Reivers Lloyd: HMS Trinidad March UK Premiere Arne: Rule, Britannia! Elgar: Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1 in D major ('Land of Hope and Glory') Parry, orch. Elgar: Jerusalem Traditional: The National Anthem (arr. Britten)   Joyce DiDonato - mezzo-soprano Nigel Kennedy -violin BBC Symphony Chorus BBC Symphony Orchestra Marin Alsop – conductor

Marin Alsop, the first female conductor of the Last Night of the Proms, uses her platform to speak of her "shock" that there "can still be firsts for women in 2013" as she dedicates the evening to "progress". The Last Night of the Proms is traditionally an evening of celebration, music and an old-fashioned sing-along to British favourites Jerusalem and God Save the Queen.

But this year's event took on something of a higher cause, as the first female conductor in 118 years of the Last Night used the platform to discuss her "shock" at the limits still left for women. In a speech delivered to cheering audiences, Marin Alsop covered feminism, arts cuts and issued a firm rebuttal to a Russian colleague who last week suggested female conductors struggled to be taken seriously. The conductor dedicated the night "in the name of progress", saying it was moving naturally "towards more inclusion in classical music". The evening, at the Royal Albert Hall, London, had also seen a show of rainbow flags, celebrating LGBT pride, waved prominently during Joyce DiDonato's rendition of Somewhere Over the Rainbow. --- Hannah Furness, telegraph.co.uk

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