

WHERE ARE THE BRITS?

Does the Russian invasion point to a lack of British talent? No, we say.



TOP BRIT: Daniel Harding is big in Europe

SIR MARK ELDER IS SOMETHING of a rarity. Of the ten chief conductors of England's major symphony orchestras, only Sir Mark, music director of the Hallé, is himself an Englishman. In fact, make that the only Brit in charge of a major British orchestra – until, that is, Donald Runnicles begins at the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra later this month. 'The implication that there aren't British conductors who are good enough to hold down the main jobs is a bit disturbing,' Sir Mark told *BBC Music* in an interview last year. 'But perhaps it's true?'

Or is it? As Sir Andrew Davis points out on p34, Britain doesn't necessarily have a paucity of young conducting talent – it's simply that they're not in high-profile British orchestral positions. Look beyond the orchestral desks in the UK and you'll see how English National Opera's music director **EDWARD GARDNER**, 35 (below), has been breathing new life into the company and that **ROBIN TICCIATI**, 26, has been wowing audiences as music director of Glyndebourne on Tour – the latter also soon starts as principal conductor of the acclaimed Scottish Chamber Orchestra. Abroad, meanwhile, **SIR SIMON RATTLE** – at 54, still a relative youngster in conductor terms – holds arguably the most prestigious post



of all as principal conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic, while **DANIEL HARDING**, 34, and **JONATHAN NOTT**, 47, have won great acclaim at the helm of the Mahler Chamber and Bamberg Symphony orchestras.

Now add **THOMAS ADÈS**, 38, and **RYAN WIGGLESWORTH**, 30 – both making their names as composers but equally at home on the rostrum – plus the likes of **MARTYN BRABBINS**, 48, Opera North's **RICHARD FARNES**, 45, and the entrepreneurial **SCOTT ELLAWAY**, 26. There are plenty more. The Brits are there; you just have to know where to look.