

# THE ARTS

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## **LSO/ Ahronovitch Barbican**

Yuri Ahronovitch seems to have one of the longest batons and one of the warmest hearts in the business. The minute the last note has sounded he is busy applauding the orchestra, clutching the leader's hand in a seemingly infinite karate grip, refusing to let the soloist off the platform. The baton acts as a bow with which he plays his orchestra like one huge violin; even to the extent of handing the stick over for safe keeping during a pizzicato movement so that he can pluck the music out with his fingertips.

Tchaikovsky, of course, responds well to this treatment. Ahronovitch knows the nature of his string section- he has guest- conducted the London Symphony Orchestra before, both here and on tour- and they rose to the close attention he lavished on the opening of the Fourth Symphony, and to his supple, almost over- phrased slow movement song. I shall remember this performance, too, for the obvious but powerful way in which he alternately drove then drew back the Finale's merriment.