

MALVERN CONCERT CLUB

FOUNDED 1903 BY SIR EDWARD ELGAR OM

SEPTEMBER 2023 – APRIL 2024

121st Season of
Outstanding Chamber Music

JUNE 2024

Brodsky Quartet
Complete Shostakovich Cycle

At Malvern Theatres

2023-24 MAIN SEASON AT A GLANCE

<i>Thursday 21 September 7.30pm</i>	Quatuor Van Kuijk & Sean Shibe
<i>Thursday 26 October 7.30pm</i>	Siqian Li
<i>Thursday 30 November 7.30pm</i>	Chiaroscuro Quartet & Cédric Tiberghien
<i>Sunday 28 January 3.00pm</i>	Far Flung Trio
<i>Thursday 22 February 7.30pm</i>	Amatis Piano Trio
<i>Thursday 21 March 7.30pm</i>	Tom Poster & Elena Urioste
<i>Thursday 11 April 7.30pm</i>	Dudok Quartet Amsterdam
<i>Friday 26 April 10.30am</i>	Coffee & Cake Concert Louise Thompson

BRODSKY QUARTET

COMPLETE SHOSTAKOVICH STRING QUARTET CYCLE



<i>Friday 7 June 7.30pm</i>	Quartets 1, 2 & 3
<i>Saturday 8 June 3.00pm</i>	Quartets 6, 4 & 5
<i>Saturday 8 June 7.30pm</i>	Quartets 7, 8 & 9
<i>Sunday 9 June 11.30am</i>	Quartets 11, 12, 13 & 14
<i>Sunday 9 June 3.00pm</i>	Quartets 10 & 15

The Brodsky Quartet Shostakovich cycle is separate from all the membership subscription options, although members will enjoy significantly reduced ticket prices. Please see **page 15** for details.

The Coffee & Cake Concert is not included in the subscription options. Please see **page 11** for ticket information.

Latest information on each concert is at
malvern-concert-club.co.uk

Welcome to the 121st consecutive season of outstanding chamber music at **Malvern Concert Club**. Neither wars nor pandemics have prevented us from promoting concerts every year since the club was founded by Elgar in 1903.

Although we are indeed a club, we are in no way exclusive, and anyone can join. And as all concerts are open to the public, anyone can attend concerts without joining.

You have the option of joining the Club or buying tickets for each recital from Malvern Theatres box office.

Joining the Club for a series of 6 (or optionally 7) concerts offers significant savings. **Moreover, ticket prices have not increased compared with 2022-23.**

As part of a full 2023-24 season membership the cost of each concert equates to just **£15**. Single tickets from Malvern Theatres will still cost **£23** plus their levies.

Besides their very high quality, offering the chance to hear both established international artists and exciting young musicians and ensembles making names for themselves, our concerts offer members exceptional value for money. A subscription for the season provides these benefits:

- One free ticket to each concert for an under-18
- The freedom to transfer your ticket to someone else
- The opportunity to participate in Club affairs

We invite you to subscribe for a series of 6 Thursday evening concerts for just **£90** – equivalent to only **£15** per recital.

Alternatively, choose the full 7 concert main season (excluding the Coffee & Cake Concert) at **£105**.

For new members, options are also available to choose a reduced series of 3, 4 or 5 evening concerts, with or without the January concert. Details are on **page 19**.

To apply for membership please use the form on **page 19**.

Non-member tickets are available from Malvern Theatres box office at **malvern-theatres.co.uk** or **01684 892277**.

The seating at all concerts is unreserved.



Thursday 21 September 2023 7.30pm

Quatuor Van Kuijk with Sean Shibe guitar

Nicolas Van Kuijk violin

Emmanuel François viola

Sylvain Favre-Bulle violin

Anthony Kondo cello

Vierne String Quartet in D minor, Op.12

Bocherini Guitar Quintet in D, G448, *Fandango*

Adès *Habanero* (solo guitar)

De Falla *Homenaje 'Pour le Tombeau de Claude Debussy'* (solo guitar)

Poulenc Sarabande for Solo Guitar (1960)

Castelnuovo-Tedesco Guitar Quintet, Op.143

Quatuor Van Kuijk's international accolades include First, Best Beethoven, and Best Haydn Prizes at the 2015 Wigmore Hall International String Quartet competition, as well as becoming laureates of the Aix-en-Provence Festival Academy. They were BBC New Generation Artists 2015-17, as well as ECHO Rising Stars for the 2017-18 season. The ensemble is an established international presence and has been invited to perform at many leading concert halls and festivals. 2022 marked their tenth anniversary, with a number of special projects centring around Mendelssohn's string quartet cycle.

Quatuor Van Kuijk was resident at ProQuartet, Paris, where they studied with members of the Alban Berg, Artemis, and Hagen quartets. The Quartet is supported by Pirastro and SPEDIDAM and is grateful to Mécénat Musical Société Générale for their sponsorship.

The innovative approach to his instrument of Sean Shibe, one of the most versatile guitarists performing today, has enhanced his reputation for having 'one of the most discriminating ears in the business' (Gramophone). He was the first guitarist ever to be selected for BBC Radio 3's New Generation Artists scheme and receive the RPS Award for Young Artists. A great admirer of the past masters, Shibe is equally committed to new music. Alongside his own transcriptions of Bach's lute suites and 17th century Scottish lute manuscripts, he continues to explore, experiment, and expand the repertoire for his instrument with recent works by Daniel Kidane, David Fennessy, Shiva Feshareki, David Lang, Julia Wolfe and Freya Waley-Cohen. New commissions include works by Thomas Adès, Helen Grime and a new collaboration with Cassandra Miller and Dunedin Consort.



Thursday 26 October 2023 7.30pm

Siqian Li piano

Mozart Nine Variations on a Minuet by Duport in D, K.573

Scriabin Sonata-Fantasy No.2, Op.19

Wanghua Chu *Jasmine Flower Fantasia*

Ravel *La valse* (arr. Korsantia)

Liszt Sonata in B minor, S.178

Featured as a rising star in BBC Music Magazine, Chinese pianist Siqian Li brings elegance, dynamism and exceptional musical quality to her performances. Commended for her 'virtuosity and talent' (Annecy Classic Festival), her 'huge emotional range and effortless pianistic control' (Paul Lewis CBE), and her 'graceful and touching' approach (Emanuel Ax), Siqian has appeared in concerts and recitals around the world. She has performed at international venues including the Bridgewater Hall, Beijing Forbidden City Concert Hall, Tokyo Ginza Yamaha Concert Hall, Cairo's Arabic Music Institute and Boston's Jordan Hall, and in more unusual settings, with recitals at London's 1901 Arts Club, the ever-charming Fidelio Cafe and Luke Jerram's breathtaking GAIA The Earth Exhibition.

Consistently active on the festival circuit, Siqian has also given recitals at Annecy Classic Festival, Festival d'Auvers-sur-Oise, Dinard Festival International de Musique, Lancaster Music Festival, Shanghai International Music Festival, and BNP Paribas Rising Star Piano Festival. The level of depth Siqian brings to her musical exploration, coupled with her shining pianism, has led to her winning numerous awards, including first prizes in the Chappell Medal Piano Competition 2020, the Imola International Piano Competition, Yamaha China Piano Competition Conservatoire, and the Grand Prix at the Krainev International Piano Competition, amongst others. Siqian was also a semi-finalist of the Leeds International Piano Competition in 2018. In 2022, Siqian performed live on BBC Radio 3's *In Tune* and appeared on BBC Radio London's *The Scene*.

Having studied Music at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing with Professor Huiqiao Bao, Siqian became the first pianist to be awarded the *Best of the Best - Top and Innovative Talent* diploma and scholarship from China's Ministry of Culture. She then obtained a Master of Music Degree and a Graduate Diploma at the New England Conservatory in Boston in the class of professor Alexander Korsantia, before receiving an Artist Diploma at the Royal College of Music in 2020 under the tutelage of Professor Norma Fisher.



Thursday 30 November 2023 7.30pm

Chiaroscuro Quartet with Cédric Tiberghien piano

Alina Ibragimova violin

Emilie Hörnlund viola

Pablo Hernán Benedí violin

Claire Thirion cello

Haydn String Quartet in D minor, Op.9 No.4

Beethoven String Quartet in E minor, Op.59 No.2

Brahms Piano Quintet in F minor, Op.34

Dubbed by Gramophone ‘a trailblazer for the authentic performance of high classical chamber music’, this international ensemble performs music of the classical and early romantic periods on gut strings and with historical bows. The Chiaroscuro Quartet’s unique sound – described in The Observer as ‘a shock to the ears of the best kind’ – has been highly acclaimed.

Recent engagements have included their debuts at Vienna Konzerthaus, Philharmonie Warsaw and Carnegie Hall and a return to Japan. Other highlights have been visits to the Edinburgh Festival, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Auditorio Nacional de Música Madrid, Auditorium du Louvre Paris, Gulbenkian Foundation Lisbon, Boulez Saal Berlin and Beethoven Haus Bonn. In the 2022-23 season they continued their residency at Turner Sims Concert Hall, and returned to Wigmore Hall, Berlin and North America.

Cédric Tiberghien is a French pianist with a truly international career. He has been particularly applauded for his versatility, as demonstrated by his wide-ranging repertoire, interesting programming, an openness to innovative concert formats, and dynamic chamber music partnerships.

Concerto appearances in the 2022-23 season have included his debut with the Sao Paulo State Symphony Orchestra and return visits to NSO Washington and Sydney Symphony Orchestra. He also performed Messiaen’s *Turangalila* Symphony with both the Berliner Philharmoniker and Orchestre National de France.

Cédric’s most recent recording includes the Ravel Concertos with Les Siècles which has attracted superlative critical acclaim, including the accolade of ‘Editor’s Choice’ in Gramophone Magazine. This CD was released by Harmonia Mundi, for whom Cédric is currently recording the complete Beethoven Variations. Cédric is a dedicated chamber musician whose regular partners include violinist Alina Ibragimova, violist Antoine Tamestit and baritone Stéphane Degout.



Sunday 28 January 2024 3.00pm

Far Flung Trio

Katherine Hunka violin

Dermot Dunne accordion

Malachy Robinson double bass



Offenbach Overture from *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Biber Sonata Representativa in A

Gershwin A selection of popular tunes

Sarasate *Carmen* Fantasy Op.25

Verdi *The Force of Destiny* Overture

Paganini 24th Caprice (arr. Auer)

Brahms Hungarian Dance No.5 (arr. Yashkevitch)

Trad. Irish *The Coolin* (arr. Trimble)

Trad. Klezmer *Hava Naguila*

Far Flung delight audiences with a mix of virtuosity and playfulness, tradition and innovation. In January 2020 they released an album *Live at the Large Room*, available on Spotify and YouTube.

Katherine Hunka was made a fellow of the Royal Academy of Music in London. She went on to become the leader of the Irish Chamber Orchestra and has held this position since 2002. She regularly directs from the leader's chair and in 2020 directed a solo album of Schubert and Piazzolla which received five stars in the BBC Music Magazine. Katherine is the artistic director of the Killaloe Chamber Music Festival and a member of the Solas Quartet.

Dermot Dunne has pioneered his instrument in Ireland and has premiered 40 works written for the accordion. He is a regular at Irish and international concert halls and festivals. Performance highlights include the BBC Last Night of the Proms from Belfast Opera House, and chamber music with violinist Pekka Kuusisto and cellist Natalie Klein. He has been a regular soloist with the Irish Chamber Orchestra and accompanied them on their tour to China and Singapore.

Malachy Robinson is a prize-winning graduate of London's Guildhall School and holds a Masters degree in Historical Musicology from the University of London. He is principal double bass with the Irish Chamber Orchestra. Malachy is active as a composer of music and singer of songs, and as a player of banjo and viola da gamba. He is a faculty member at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, specialising in historical performance.



Thursday 22 February 2024 7.30pm

Amatis Piano Trio

Lea Hausmann violin

Sam Shepherd cello

Mengjie Han piano

Schubert Piano Trio No.1 in B flat, D.898

Tarrodi *Moorlands* (2018)

Mendelssohn Piano Trio No.2 in C minor, Op.66

The Amatis Trio was founded in Amsterdam in 2014 and is now based in Salzburg, Austria. German violinist Lea Hausmann, British cellist Samuel Shepherd and Dutch pianist Mengjie Han are celebrated for their energy, insight, creativity, communication and passion. The trio is regarded as one of the leading ensembles of its generation.

The trio has performed in 43 countries across five continents and has won many major international competitions and awards. They are former BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artists and were selected as ECHO Rising Stars (European Concert Hall Organisation) by Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Köln Philharmonie, Festspielhaus Baden-Baden and Dortmund Konzerthaus. The trio has been awarded some of the most prestigious music prizes from around the world, including the Kersjesprijs of the Netherlands and the Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship award.

In addition to performances at many of the world's leading festivals including the BBC Proms, Verbier Festival, Switzerland and the Edinburgh International Festival, the trio are regularly invited as soloists in triple concerto repertoire, appearing with orchestras such as the Royal Philharmonic, BBC NOW and Frankfurt Museums Orchestra. They are currently Artists in Residence at Cambridge University and appointees of the Irene R Miller Piano Trio Residency at the University of Toronto, Canada.

Their strong commitment to contemporary music led the trio to form the 'Dutch Piano Trio Composition Prize', aimed at encouraging young composers to expand the piano trio repertoire. Since its inception they have commissioned and premiered 15 contemporary pieces, most recently *Moorlands*, a work by Swedish composer Andrea Tarrodi.



Thursday 21 March 2024 7.30pm

Tom Poster piano

Elena Urioste violin

Mendelssohn Violin Sonata in F (1838)

Mélanie Bonis Violin Sonata in F sharp minor, Op.112

Amy Beach Romance, Op.23

Grieg Violin Sonata No.1 in F, Op.8

Tom Poster is a musician whose skills and passions extend well beyond the conventional role of the concert pianist. He has been described as ‘a marvel, [who] can play anything in any style’ (*The Herald*), and as having ‘a beautiful tone that you can sink into like a pile of cushions’ (*BBC Music*). Tom is founder and artistic director of Kaleidoscope Chamber Collective, appointed Associate Ensemble at Wigmore Hall in 2020. During the 2020 lockdown, his #UriPosteJukebox series with Elena Urioste reached audiences across the world and won the duo the Royal Philharmonic Society’s Inspiration Award and a BBC Music Magazine Award.

Tom has performed over forty concertos from Mozart to Ligeti with orchestras including Aurora, BBC Philharmonic, Hallé, Philharmonia, Royal Philharmonic and Scottish Chamber. His compositions and arrangements have been commissioned and performed by Alison Balsom, Matthew Rose, Yo-Yo Ma and Kathryn Stott.

Elena Urioste is a musician, yogi, writer, and entrepreneur, and is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music and the Juilliard School. As a violinist, Elena has given acclaimed performances as soloist with major orchestras throughout the USA and worldwide, including in Britain the London Philharmonic, Hallé, Philharmonia, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, BBC Symphony, BBC Philharmonic, BBC Scottish Symphony and BBC NOW.

Elena is a former BBC New Generation Artist and made her BBC Proms debut in 2022 with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. She is the founder and Artistic Director of Chamber Music by the Sea, an annual festival on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. She has been a featured artist at many festivals, and appears regularly in recital with Tom Poster. Elena is also co-director of Kaleidoscope Chamber Collective.



Thursday 11 April 2024 7.30pm

Dudok Quartet Amsterdam

Judith van Driel violin

Marie-Louise de Jong viola

Marleen Wester violin

David Faber cello

Mozart String Quartet No.23 in F, K.590

Joey Roukens *What Remains*

Tchaikovsky String Quartet No.3 in E flat minor, Op.30

The Dudok Quartet Amsterdam is forging a reputation as one of the most creative and versatile quartets of its generation. With its ethos of 'sharing the heart of music', the Quartet believes that chamber music is an act of friendship to be shared directly with audiences and it is committed to crafting unique and eclectic programmes that engage listeners in new and imaginative ways.

The Quartet has performed at many of the major European venues and festivals including the Vienna Konzerthaus, Wigmore Hall, Beethovenhaus Bonn, De Bijloke, Barcelona Auditori, De Doelen, Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, BBC Proms, Heidelberg String Quartet Festival, West Cork Chamber Music Festival and the Amsterdam String Quartet Biennale, as well as appearing regularly at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw and Amsterdam Muziekgebouw.

Highlights of the 2022-23 season include return visits to major venues including Wigmore Hall, the Muziekgebouw and De Doelen. Dutch tours include performances in Tilburg, Hilversum and Maastricht as well as at the November Music Festival, whilst UK performances take them to cities including Cambridge, Norwich and Portsmouth. Elsewhere, the Quartet gave debut performances in Sweden and Malaysia.

The Dudok Quartet's most recent recording of the complete Brahms Quartets for Rubicon Classics (performed on gut strings) was released in 2021 and attracted wonderful reviews across the board, with *The Telegraph* describing the recording as a 'marvel, revealing the intricate detail of these pieces with lovely clarity' and *The Strad* awarding it the accolade *The Strad Recommends*. Future recording plans for Rubicon include works by Bacewicz, Shostakovich and Reich as well as the complete Tchaikovsky quartets.



Friday 26 April 2024 10.30am Coffee & Cake Concert

Louise Thompson harp



Marcel Grandjany Rhapsody

Pierick Houdy Sonata for Harp

Ekaterina Walter-Kühne Fantasy on a Theme from *Eugene Onegin*

Bedřich Smetana *The Moldau* (arr. Trnecek)

Esther Swift *Time Spinner*

Henriette Renié *Légende*

Winner of the Harp Finals at the 2003 Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales, and finalist in the 2005 London International Harp Competition, Louise Thomson has gone on to forge a prestigious and varied solo career. A versatile and experienced musician, she has played in concert halls around the UK including the Royal Albert Hall, Cardiff's St David's Hall and the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester. Louise has been invited to perform live on BBC Radio 3, and made her television debut performing live on BBC1 for the Heaven and Earth show with soprano Katherine Jenkins.

In addition to her solo work, Louise recently launched a new collaboration with young vocal ensemble the Corvus Consort, featuring music for upper voices and harp. Together they have enjoyed performances for Church Stretton Festival and Sounds Sublime Festival at King's Place, curated by The Sixteen, and they look forward to upcoming engagements including the Whiddon Autumn Festival in Devon.

In 2022 Louise was selected to perform at the World Harp Congress in collaboration with presenter Polly Ives. Polly and Louise frequently present in schools and theatres together as part of Concerteenies, an award-winning producer of musical events and activities for young children and their adults in Sheffield and beyond.

Louise also takes great pride in her harp teaching and has built up a highly vibrant harp community around the North of England. She teaches harp at Chetham's School of Music, Withington Girls' School and The Manchester Grammar School. Louise is the harp tutor at Huddersfield University and a visiting tutor at both the Royal Northern College of Music and its Junior Department.

Tickets will cost £16 and members will receive an email or letter from the Membership Secretary in early 2024 inviting them to apply.



Friday 7 June - Sunday 9 June 2024

Brodsky Quartet

Krysia Osostowicz violin
Paul Cassidy viola

Ian Belton violin
Jacqueline Thomas cello

Dmitri Shostakovich String Quartet Cycle

Since forming in 1972, the Brodsky Quartet have performed over 3,500 concerts on the major stages of the world and released more than 70 recordings. Having recently celebrated their 50th anniversary, the Brodsky Quartet continue to enjoy a busy international performing schedule, extensively touring the major festivals and venues throughout Australasia, North and South America, Asia and Europe as well as in the UK, where the quartet is based. Their prominent presence on the international chamber music scene, as well as in a range of educational affiliations, has been ensured by their never-ending energy and craftsmanship, attracting numerous awards and accolades worldwide.

The Brodsky Quartet have always had a busy recording career and currently enjoy an exclusive and fruitful relationship with Chandos Records. Releases on the label include a live recording of the complete Shostakovich cycle as well as quartets and quintets by Brahms, Elgar, Janacek, Debussy and more, with a stellar line-up of fellow musicians. Their set of the Late String Quartets of Beethoven was released in 2020 to great critical acclaim and one of their most recent releases, *Homage to Bach*, comprises the phenomenal premiere recordings of Bach's three Solo Violin Sonatas arranged by Paul Cassidy. The Quartet marked their 50th anniversary with three diverse releases: the hugely celebrated Schubert Quintet with cellist Laura van der Heijden - performed for Malvern Concert Club in September 2022 - Rocking Horse Road with long-term collaborator Jacqui Dankworth, and Golden Oldies, a compendium of encores arranged by the Quartet in celebration of this milestone.

The quartet took their name from the great Russian violinist Adolf Brodsky, the dedicatee of Tchaikovsky's violin concerto and a passionate chamber musician who performed at the first ever MCC concert in 1903. Krysia Osostowicz plays a violin made by Francesco Gofriller, 1720; Ian Belton's violin is by Giovanni Paolo Maggini, c.1615. Paul Cassidy plays on La Delfina viola, c.1720, courtesy of Sra. Delfina Entrecanales, and Jacqueline Thomas's cello is by Thomas Perry of Dublin, 1785.

Shostakovich has become synonymous with the Brodsky Quartet name: their 2012 London performance of the complete string quartet cycle resulted in their taking the prestigious title 'Artistic Associate' at London's Kings Place – a residency which lasted ten years, culminating in a triumphant repeat cycle of the 15 works over two days. It therefore seems fitting that the legacy of their inimitable 50 years as a quartet has been to offer complete Shostakovich cycles around the world, allowing the full immersive experience to be accessible to all in the coming seasons.

Malvern Concert Club is proud and delighted in equal measure to have been invited by the Brodsky Quartet to host this Shostakovich cycle. Each concert will be introduced from the stage by members of the quartet.

Friday 7 June 7.30 pm **Quartets 1, 2 & 3**

The intimacy of bringing a child into the world inspired Shostakovich to turn to that most intimate of all musical forces, the string quartet. Rather like a child, his first quartet is small scale - full of innocence and wonder, becoming more and more spirited, fun-filled and daring.



His second quartet could not be more different. It is a colossal tour de force. The celebratory first movement is followed by one of the most captivating slow movements ever; a wondrous fusion of baroque and jazz. A whirlwind scherzo gives way to a magnificent set of variations which build in speed to a huge life affirming ending.

In the third quartet, we find Shostakovich in unmistakable voice. This extraordinary work takes us on an emotional roller coaster ride from happy-go-lucky, through war and death, to a place where, if you've survived, your brow-beaten, exhausted mind tries to make sense of it all.

Saturday 8 June 3.00pm **Quartets 6, 4 & 5**

The sixth quartet finds the composer in a very settled mood. Supposedly written as a little birthday present to himself, it trots along seemingly without a care in the world. Its almost incessant serenity is most uncharacteristic and surprising, an endless conveyor belt of effortless melody.

Quartet No.4 is a glorious and loving gift to the Jewish people who, like himself, were so harshly treated by the regime. It abounds with their folk songs and musical gestures, a most heartfelt and touching affair.

No.5 is a symphony for string quartet. Its origins lie in an ill-fated affair Shostakovich had with a fellow composer, Galina Ustvolskaya. It is rumoured that he proposed marriage to her on more than one occasion and when the relationship ended, he poured out his emotions into this piece. Its three majestic movements unfold seamlessly, plumbing the depths and surfing the highs as we travel musically from the vast open spaces of Russia, to Hawaii briefly, and eventually to heaven itself.

Saturday 8 June 7.30pm **Quartets 7, 8 & 9**

And so we arrive at the heart of the Cycle, a staging post, if you like, on the most personal journey in all of music. No.7, written in memory of his first wife Nina, is the shortest of the set. Almost Webernesque in its succinctness, it nevertheless carries poignancy, its four short movements expressing sadness, humour and anger in equal measure.



No.8, written as his own epitaph, is surely the most intimate and self-revealing work ever composed by anyone. Using his very own four note musical motif, he pours out his heart and soul onto the page, masterfully mapping out his life's journey.

No.9 is a magnificent five movement declaration of love for his new wife, Irina. Bursting with melody, its boundless energy is intoxicating, reaching fever-pitch in the incomparable final bars which never fail to have me jumping up and down whilst trying to execute them.

Sunday 9 June 11.30am **Quartets 11, 12, 13 & 14**

The untimely death of Vasili Shirinsky, the 2nd violin of the Beethoven Quartet, led Shostakovich to write four quartets dedicated to the four members of that group who had worked with him so closely.

No.11, written in memory of Vasili is a short, almost reverential tribute in which the characteristics of this gentleman are plain to see: they are never exaggerated, always understated and somehow loving.

Quartet No.12, written for the 1st violin Dmitri Tsiganov, is arguably the most formidable of the fifteen. The gently undulating first movement acts like a prelude to the unleashing of seemingly infinite power in the titanic second movement. Reflective adagios try to take over the scene but the irresistible energy of the main movement always wins out as the music gallops towards an ultimately optimistic ending.

The infamously brooding and personal timbre of the viola leads our composer to a particularly dark and lonely place in No.13. Though it often shows signs of a loving character, this is a troubled soul who cannot escape the walls of his tortured mind. Even the quirky central 'jazz' section is confused and goes by in a bit of a blur. This poor unfortunate being inevitably ends up alone, screaming with pent up frustration in a perfect musical depiction of that celebrated Munch painting.

In No.14, Shostakovich seems to do the exact opposite by presenting the cello with a series of roles not necessarily typical of that instrument. The first and last movements are frivolous and enigmatic, our protagonist inhabiting a daydream world. It is in the middle movement that real life comes to call, but even here, in the glorious love duet with the first violin, the cello most unusually takes the upper line, creating a particularly heart-breaking effect. Equally, even here, the music is heavily tinged with nostalgia.

Sunday 9 June 3.00pm

Quartets 10 & 15

Perhaps it's because of where it lies in the cycle, between Nina, Dmitri and Irina and the four members of the Beethoven Quartet, but No.10 always strikes me as a little oasis. Whilst its outer movements remain eerily subdued, drained of hope and with little to prove, they do nonetheless serve to highlight two of the most striking movements in the whole set. The *furioso* second, with its 347 bars of unrelenting venom, is arguably the most bitter of his tirades. This is followed by a particularly beautiful *passacaglia* whose form is a bit of a Shostakovich trademark. Rather in the way that so many of Beethoven's great slow movements are in fact sets of variations, so the *passacaglia* form allows Dmitri to lay out a bass line and repeat it as often as necessary, adding more and more beauty around it. Like Bach before them, these two giants were formidable improvisers.



And so we come to No.15. and frankly, what to say? This is the most intimate and profound commentary on the eternal question of life and death - what's it all about? The music is stripped back to its bare bones, perpetually alone. Only for one brief moment of its heavenly length do the four players collectively exist. The work is full of emotion, beauty, love, tragedy, humour – it's all there, but expressed existentially by a mind which appears to be straddling that nebulous line between reality and the unknown. It was Shostakovich's genius which allowed him to capture these images for us mere mortals to reflect upon.

Notes © Paul Cassidy

Ticket Prices

Malvern Concert Club Members

£20 per concert, or **£80** for all 5 concerts

Public Sales from Malvern Theatres box office

£25 per concert, or **£100** for all 5 concerts (plus 12% booking fee for non-members of Malvern Theatres' schemes).

Book online at malvern-theatres.co.uk or call **01684 892277**.
(5 concert packages can only be booked by phone).

MCC Members - How to Apply for Tickets

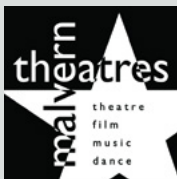
Existing members - please see the 'invitation to renew' email or letter which you will receive from the Membership Secretary in spring 2023.

New members - please see the New Members' Application Form on **page 19** of this brochure.

Where Our Concerts Are Held

Malvern Theatres, Grange Road, Malvern WR14 3HB

All concerts except the Coffee & Cake Concert



The Theatres

From its origin in 1885, Malvern Theatres has undergone many changes, and is now a modern, attractive and dynamic centre for the performing arts. The Forum Theatre is the main auditorium for musical performance; its flexible space and largely tiered seating offer excellent acoustics, visibility and comfort. As configured in normal circumstances, the Forum accommodates around 600.

For opening hours, and availability of refreshments etc, please refer to Malvern Theatres. See **page 3** for contact details.

Access

Malvern Theatres is wheelchair accessible, and wheelchair spaces with companion seats are available in prime locations. Accessible toilets are located near the stalls bar on the lower ground floor. Please contact the Malvern Theatres box office on 01684 892277 regarding specific access requirements, so that they can assist and advise accordingly.

Elmslie House, 8 Avenue Road, Malvern WR14 3AG

Friday 26 April 2024 at 10.30 for 11.15am Coffee & Cake Concert

Elmslie House was built as 'Falston' in 1862 by the architect E W Elmslie for his own family use. In later life the building was a school, and had associations with Elgar and Troyte Griffith. It now hosts classes, art exhibitions and concerts, including what will be the fifth of the Club's successful Coffee & Cake Concerts, this time a performance by Louise Thompson (harp). Seating (all unreserved) is limited to 80. The ticket price includes refreshments before the concert, kindly provided by Anna Taylor, the owner of Elmslie House. Please bear in mind that this is a family home and therefore not open at all times.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Car Parking Short-stay car parks in Grange Road (almost next to the Theatres), the Council House (Avenue Road) and Edith Walk; long-stay car parks in Priory Road (pedestrian access to the Theatres through Priory Park) and Victoria Road. Charges apply. There is also free on-street parking in some nearby roads.

Trains Great Malvern Station for West Midlands Railway and Great Western Railway trains.

Information correct as at April 2023. Please check before travelling.



Malvern Concert Club wishes to thank:

- The management, staff and volunteers of Malvern Theatres for their invaluable support
- Advertisers in our concert programmes
- The Club members who assist with various tasks at concerts and behind the scenes

Malvern Concert Club *as at April 2023*

President Roderick Williams OBE

Vice Presidents Joseph Brand, Linda Jennings, Martin Knott, Michael Messenger OBE

Chairman John Gregory

Secretary Roger Usher

Treasurer Simon Payton

Membership Secretary Bryan Ratcliff

Publicity Officer Simon Allen

Committee Members Janet Hay, Linda McKinley, Richard Price, Hilary Winter

Steinway Model D concert grand piano (Hamburg, 2003) supplied by Hereford Cider Museum Trust, administered by Holy Trinity Church, Hereford.
Piano tuning by Philip Kennedy Professional Piano Services, Hereford.

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Artists and programmes are subject to change at short notice for reasons beyond the control of the Club.

Malvern Concert Club is a Registered Charity, No. 506329.



How to apply for Membership

NB To qualify as a NEW member you cannot have been a member in any of the past three seasons (118, 119 or 120).

ONLINE

Existing and new members can apply and pay for membership online at malvern-concert-club.co.uk

BY APPLICATION FORM

EXISTING MEMBERS

You will automatically receive information by email or post. There is no need to complete the form in this brochure.

NEW MEMBERS

Complete the application form opposite, detach and post to:
Membership Secretary, Malvern Concert Club, Granary House, Upton Road, Callow End, Worcester WR2 4TE

Please pay according to the payment method you select here:

- **Direct Bank Transfer:** the Membership Secretary will email you with payment instructions
- **Cheque:** enclose with the form your cheque payable to Malvern Concert Club

Membership Enquiries: Bryan Ratcliff, **07970 569293** or membership@malvern-concert-club.co.uk

Membership subscriptions are only available direct from the Club, not from Malvern Theatres Box Office.

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) Membership can be single or dual. Dual memberships are available to any two people, not necessarily living at the same address. The Club will use the address on the application form for communication purposes.
- 2) If you purchase the six-concert series, or part of it, and subsequently wish also to purchase the Sunday concert, you can do so for an additional £15 per member up to 31 December 2023. Thereafter, tickets for the Sunday concert can be purchased only from the Malvern Theatres box office at their advertised price.
- 3) Tickets purchased from the MT box office will be priced at £23 plus applicable MT levies.
- 4) Tickets for the Coffee & Cake Concert on 26 April 2024 will be offered for sale nearer the concert date and will be available only through the Membership Secretary.
- 5) As a registered charity, Malvern Concert Club can reclaim tax on donations from current UK tax payers, thereby increasing the value of your donation by 25p for every £1 you donate. To allow us to do this please tick and sign the declaration on page 19.

DATA PROTECTION (GDPR)

By submitting an application for membership of Malvern Concert Club ('the Club'), you consent to the information which you provide in the application form and any other information obtained or provided as part of the application process and during the course of your membership of the Club being used solely for the purpose of processing your application (including payment processing) and dealing with you as a member of the Club. This includes communicating with you about Club activities and events and the fulfilment of any purchases. The data you provide will not be shared with any third party for marketing or commercial purposes. To comply with the requirements of the Charity Commission the information you provide may be retained for a period of time as part of the Club's financial records, even if your membership of the Club has ceased. Your consent extends to meet this requirement.

Malvern Concert Club 121st Season 2023-24

NEW MEMBERS' APPLICATION FORM

Name/s

Address

.....

..... Postcode

Phone (home or mobile)

Email

	Six evening concerts	Include Sunday concert
FULL SEASON	£90	£105

Optional part-season membership below is for **NEW members only**.

ANY 5 EVENING CONCERTS	£80	£95
ANY 4 EVENING CONCERTS	£70	£85
ANY 3 EVENING CONCERTS	£60	£75

Please circle below the evening concerts to form your part-season package

21 Sept Van Kuijk	26 Oct Siqian Li	30 Nov Chiaroscuro	22 Feb Amatis	21 Mar Poster/Urioste	11 Apr Dudok
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Please circle Shostakovich concerts at £20 per person, if not taking complete package

Fri 7 Jun 7.30pm	Sat 8 Jun 3.00pm	Sat 8 Jun 7.30pm	Sun 9 Jun 11.30am	Sun 9 Jun 3.00pm
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SEASON MEMBERSHIP AT:	NO. (1 OR 2)	TOTAL COST
A: Six concerts at £90 per person		
B: Seven concerts at £105 per person		
C: Part-season membership as indicated above		
D: Complete Shostakovich cycle at £80 per person		
E: Part Shostakovich cycle as indicated above		
I wish to make an OPTIONAL DONATION (thank you) of		
TOTAL		£

PAYMENT METHOD

☐ Direct Bank Transfer ☐ Cheque

☐ I wish to Gift Aid my donation shown above and any donations made in the future by me to Malvern Concert Club. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in a tax year when I make a donation, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature.....

Date / /

Please notify the Membership Secretary if in future you wish to cancel this declaration.



MALVERN CONCERT CLUB

FOUNDED 1903 BY SIR EDWARD ELGAR OM

malvern-concert-club.co.uk