



Our Concert – Thursday 30 November, 7.30pm

We are delighted to welcome to Malvern the **Chiaroscuro Quartet**, to play Haydn and Beethoven quartets. Formed in 2005, with their gut strings and period bows, the quartet has a truly distinctive sound.

‘Chiaroscuro’ is a word borrowed from the art world. It refers to the artist’s treatment of light and shade in drawing and painting, in particular the effect of contrasted light and shadow. Transferred to the world of music, this might be taken to allude to the sharper contrasts of tone and timbre that instruments with gut strings can produce.

Period instrument performance is these days not so much the ‘shock to the ears - of the best kind’ it once was to The Observer critic. Nevertheless, it is still quite rare to hear quartets of this kind, compared to the much more common approach of playing on modern strings. Another critic commented that ‘Playing with gut strings is one thing; playing with such assuredness and golden musicality on them is another.’

The quartet will be joined in the second half by **Cédric Tiberghien**, piano, to perform the Brahms Quintet in F minor, Op.34. The quartet has played for the Club before, as have Alina and Cédric as a duo. So it is a particular delight to see these wonderful musicians return.



But what about the piano?

In the last Newsletter we included a feature on the Steinway Model D Concert Grand, the make and model of piano we usually hire. However, tonight’s instrument is a very different animal, chosen especially to combine with the gut strings of the quartet. It is an 1899 Bechstein, which has been purchased and restored by Peter Salisbury. It still contains the original soundboard and bridge, is slightly smaller than a Steinway and produces a different sound. We hope Peter will say a few words about it at the concert.



London’s famous Wigmore Hall was originally built by Bechstein to showcase its instruments, and hence was called The Bechstein Hall when it opened in 1901. At that time, Bechstein was Europe’s leading piano maker, and the firm had a showroom next door. With its German name, things became difficult during World War 1. The Hall closed in 1916, was sold at auction and reopened as The Wigmore Hall (it sits on Wigmore Street just behind Oxford Street) in 1917.

Discography – Chiaroscuro Quartet and Cédric Tiberghien

There is much to choose from with these artists!

The Quartet has recorded extensively, and to much acclaim, on BIS. Releases include the six Op.18 quartets. Their most recent release came out just a couple of weeks ago – more Beethoven, this time the Op.74 (*Harp*) and Op.130 quartets. This received a four-star review from The Sunday Times: ‘The warmth and earthiness of the instruments’ tone produces results that are haunting in the tenth quartet and shattering in the thirteenth’.

Alina and Cédric have made many other recordings, both solo and with various orchestras. There are too many to list here. They have also recorded together often as a duo, including all the Mozart Violin Sonatas for Hyperion, all the Beethoven Violin Sonatas (Wigmore Hall Live), sonatas by Mendelssohn, Vienne and Franck, and all Schubert’s music for violin and piano. Many of these received five-star reviews and highly regarded Gramophone Awards too, so there is plenty to explore on sites like Presto Music (based in Leamington Spa).

The Bechstein piano (see previous page) was flown over to Berlin to be used by Cédric in a much-praised 2021 recording by Harmonia Mundi of the Brahms Viola Sonatas with Antoine Tamestit.

Next Concert – Sunday 28 January at 3.00pm

Our next concert will be after Christmas and features the **Far Flung Trio** from Ireland. It should be both lively and highly entertaining, just the thing to lighten up a January afternoon. The Trio members are all consummate musicians in their own right, but also enjoy playing in this more intimate format, presenting a varied, and somewhat different, repertoire.



Katherine Hunka is the Leader of the Irish Chamber Orchestra based in Limerick, **Malachy Robinson** is its principal Double Bass and accordionist **Dermot Dunne** has pioneered his instrument in Ireland, premiering no less than 40 works written for accordion.

This concert is our ‘extra’ daytime concert and not one of the six evening series. If you are a member and have not already done so, you can buy your tickets on Thursday evening at just £15 each from the Membership Secretary at the Membership Table in the foyer of Malvern Theatres. Non-members can buy from Malvern Theatres Box Office, price £26 (plus booking fees).

But do note that it is not too late for new members to join for any three remaining Thursday evening concerts (or all four of them) at much cheaper rates. To do this, visit our website (see opposite), contact the Membership Secretary or visit the Membership Table on Thursday evening prior to the concert.

Remember too that each member of the Club may bring one youngster (under 18) free! This concert might be particularly suitable, being held in the daytime.



Club Website - <https://malvern-concert-club.co.uk/>

Club Member Catherine Banks designed the Club's website through her company, Nepeta Consulting. She assists many other local organisations, too. She continues to maintain our site at very advantageous rates, for which we are most grateful. The site has recently had an 'upgrade', and Catherine describes below what you can find when visiting it.

The Concert Club has had a website since about 2003. It has been revamped several times as technology has changed, the most recent update being made in 2023 to apply the new Club branding. It contains information about the Club, the current season and an expanding archive.

For the current season it has:

- Lists and details of all concerts for the current season and the Brodsky-Shostakovich weekend
- A link to order tickets either from Malvern Theatres' Box Office, or (for the Brodsky weekend) from the Membership Secretary
- Maps/directions for those travelling to concerts
- The current newsletter
- Joining - you can buy your membership online using a debit or credit card.

'About the Club' contains:

- Information about the Club's officers and a contact form you can use to get in touch with them
- A page of links to other music events and societies in the area, if you need more of a classical music fix.

The Archive:

- Is there to jog your memory. It contains an archive area with details of all concerts held since 2003 plus any reviews available for these.



Local Music at Malvern Theatres

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| Sunday 3 December | 3.00pm | The Opera Show. Wild Art present opera highlights with a quintet of string players and four soloists |
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| Saturday 9 December | 5.55pm | Opera from The Met (live broadcast) <i>Florencia en el Amazonas</i> – Daniel Catán (Met Premiere) |
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| Saturday 9 December | 7.30pm | A Baroque Christmas – Armonico Consort and The English Sackbut Ensemble; includes music by Monteverdi, Gabrieli, Praetorius |
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| Saturday 6 January | 7.30pm | CBSO Viennese New Year Gala; with music by Smetana, Léhar, Strauss and more. |
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| Sunday 7 January | 2.00pm | Opera from The Met (live broadcast) <i>Nabucco</i> – Verdi |
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Local Music at Malvern Theatres (continued)

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| Friday 19 January | 7.30pm | English Symphony Orchestra. April Fredrick (soprano) Music by Alberga, Dvořák, Barber, Mozart |
| Wednesday 24 January | 6.45pm | ROH broadcast. <i>Rusalka</i> – Dvořák |
| Saturday 27 January | 5.55pm | Opera from The Met (live broadcast) <i>Carmen</i> – Bizet |



Other Local Music

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| Saturday 2 December | 7.00pm | Gloucester Cathedral – Gloucester Choral Society <i>A Ceremony of Carols</i> – Britten and <i>Christmas Oratorio</i> – Chilcot Tickets from gloucesterchoral.com or from 01452 768928 |
| Saturday 2 December | 7.30pm | Worcester Baptist Church , Sansome Walk – Elgar Chorale <i>On Christmas Night</i> – a candlelit concert of Christmas music during the Victorian Fayre Tickets from elgarchorale.com and WTIC 01905726311 |
| Friday 8 December | 7.00pm | Great Malvern Priory – Eboracum Baroque performs Handel's <i>Messiah</i> by candlelight Tickets from The Priory Shop and online at https://eboracumbaroque.co.uk/event/handels-messiah-by-candlelight-17/ |
| Saturday 9 December | 7.00pm | Hereford Cathedral – Hereford Choral Society Handel's <i>Messiah</i> by candlelight Tickets from 01432 751157 |
| Wednesday 13 December | 7.30pm | The Guildhall, Worcester – Elgar Chorale The Mayor's Charity Christmas Concert Tickets from civicooffice@worcester.gov.uk , elgarchorale.com and WTIC 01905726311 |
| Saturday 16 December | 1.30pm | St Matthias Church, Malvern Link – MHDC Charity Concert Family music with The Hills Singers and Malvern Hills District Brass Band. https://www.malverntowncouncil.org/event/christmas-charity-concert/ |
| Friday 22 December | 5.00pm | Lyttelton Rooms, Lyttelton Well, Malvern – The Hills Singers present <i>Christmas Wassail</i> , an hour of festive music Tickets £10 at the door |
| Saturday 6 January | 2.30pm | Pershore Abbey – Worcester Philharmonic Orchestra, Tenor Jack Dolan. Beethoven, Fauré, Elgar, Strauss and more Tickets from ticketsource.co.uk or 01905 353013 |