

Welcome back!

The Chairman and Committee are delighted to welcome you back for the second half of the Club's 2024-25 season, and send you all best wishes for 2025.



Our January Concert - Sunday 19 January, 3.00pm



Our January concert commences at 3.00pm in The Forum. It features the renowned **Pavel Haas Quartet**, who, after a sold-out performance at Carnegie Hall New York in December, open their 2025 season here in Malvern with music from their homelands. As the Sunday Times commented: 'In their native repertoire they are well-nigh incomparable'. They will go on to play at Wigmore Hall and Cheltenham, followed by concerts in Germany and Austria. They will then cross the Atlantic in March for a major tour of the USA and Canada.

The Pavel Haas last visited the Club in October 2019, playing music by Čekovská, Schulhoff, Janáček, and the second of Smetana's only two quartets. So in this concert they will complete that set for us by playing Smetana's first quartet.

They have recorded some ten issues for Supraphon over the years. Each has been lauded to the skies, many winning the most prestigious international awards. Their recording of Smetana's Quartet No.1, *From My Life*, is on SU4172-2. It was given Gramophone Magazine's Chamber Award in 2015 - in other words, it was judged to be the best of all chamber recordings released that year. The citation reads: 'This is extraordinarily bold playing - and they truly capture the sense that Smetana is writing symphonic quartet music.'



Next Concert - Sunday 23 February, 3.00pm

This concert will also start at 3.00pm in The Forum. Its title is *Sounds and Sweet Airs - Shakespeare in Song - a prologue, five acts and an epilogue*. It features our President, **Roderick Williams (baritone)**, **Carolyn Sampson (soprano)**, and **Joseph Middleton (piano)**. Roderick Williams last sang for us in 2022, accompanied by Susie Allen. Before that, he had performed the three great Schubert song cycles for us over a three-year period, accompanied by Ian Burnside.



Carolyn Sampson and Joseph Middleton were here together in the spring of 2015, an appropriate season as it marked Carolyn's first solo recording *Fleurs*, to be found on the BIS label. They received rave reviews for that disc.

This concert will include works by many famous composers and will be a real treat for lovers of song and top-notch singers.



Malvern Theatres - Redevelopment

In November, the District Council granted planning permission for major improvements to Malvern Theatres. These include changes to The Forum to make it more user friendly, particularly for people with mobility issues, including better wheelchair positions. There will be extensive new dressing rooms to the rear, and a new 240-seat auditorium on the park side.

Essential improvements to the Priory Park entrance will feature better spaced stairs, additional handrails, upgraded lighting and a new lift, making accessibility from the park much easier.

Fred Moroni, Executive Director at MT said: 'We are thrilled that MHDC has chosen to progress this ambitious project; it will transform Malvern Theatres into a nationally significant centre of excellence for the arts. We look forward to welcoming even more people for workshops and classes, as well as hosting community theatre in the new purpose-built auditorium.'

Designed by architects Burrell Foley Fischer, work is due to start in the summer of 2025. This means that our concerts next season will again have to be held on Sundays and will be in the Festival Theatre.

Burrell Foley Fischer have been involved in many superb theatre projects here and abroad, as is apparent from their website. Of interest locally, they have designed a new Worcester Arts Centre, using the 1920s Scala Cinema in Angel Street, and the Grade II listed Corn Exchange next door, to form a new 200 seat main theatre and auditorium. Work is starting on the cinema, with the Corn Exchange to be converted later to provide additional food and beverage facilities.

Education Outreach Wednesday 11 February



The Annual Workshop and Concert (sponsored by the Club) is on **Wednesday 11 February**. **Michael Bochmann and Pro Anima** will be working with students from local schools during the morning. There will be a free concert at **Christ Church, Avenue Road, Malvern at 1.30pm**. It will include pieces which the students will have been rehearsing. We are very grateful to Severn Arts for organising this event for us.



Michael Bochmann and Pro Anima have a particular focus on continuing to involve children in the excitement of a live professional concert.

Please do come to what will be a very enjoyable concert, and to support our young musicians.

Other Music - Malvern Theatres

- Friday 7.30pm Armonico Consort and Baroque Players, director Christopher Monks
24 January
Supersize Polyphony 2 - choral music on a colossal scale
- Friday 7.00pm BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, conductor Andrew Manze
7 February
Haydn - Windsor Castle Overture
Haydn - Symphony No.104 (*London*)
Elgar - Violin Concerto, soloist Anthony Marwood
- Sunday 7.00pm Ukrainian Opera and Ballet Theatre, Kyiv
16 February
Puccini - *Madama Butterfly*



Other Music - Elsewhere

- Sunday 3.00pm **Huntingdon Hall, Worcester** - Worcester Concert Club
26 January
Musical and Amicable Society
Two Mozart Quintets
Tickets from www.worcserenade.co.uk or 01905 611427
- Sunday 3.30pm **Angel Centre, Worcester** - Worcestershire Early Music
2 February
Sounds Historical - 600 Years: Hildegard to Haydn
Tickets at the door or from www.eventbrite.co.uk
- Thursday 7.30pm **Pittville Pump Room, Cheltenham**
13 February
Rosetti Ensemble
Piano Quartets from Bax, Vaughan Williams, Schubert
Tickets from Cheltenham Music Society
01242 528764 or www.cheltenhamtownhall.org
- Sunday 3.00pm **Elmslie House, Avenue Road, Malvern**
16 February
John Barker - baritone
Helen Cawthorne - piano
Schubert - *Die Schöne Müllerin*
Tickets from www.elmsliehouse.co.uk or www.eventbrite.co.uk