

Our April Concert - Sunday 27 April, 7.30pm



Our concert this month commences at 7.30pm in the Festival Theatre.

We are not only relieved, but delighted, to have secured at short notice **Ensemble 360** to perform for us. They replace the Sitkovetsky Trio, who have withdrawn after an error in the scheduling of their tour.

Ensemble 360 were founded in 2005 and are based at the Sheffield Theatre's Playhouse. They are a mixed group of five string players, five winds and a piano, the line up dependent on the repertoire being played. In this concert, we welcome

Benjamin Nabarro	violin
Gary Pomeroy	viola
Gemma Rosefield	cello
Tim Horton	piano

They will be playing Haydn's Piano Trio No.43 in C Hob XV:27, Beethoven's *Ghost* Piano Trio No.5 in D, Op.70 No.1 (as originally programmed) and Dvořák's Piano Quartet in E flat, Op.87.

Given the possible artistic permutations, Ensemble 360's recordings have been suitably eclectic. For example, their well-received 2024 recording, with soprano Claire Booth, of works inspired by the Pierrot character, includes not just Schoenberg's *Pierrot lunaire*, but works by eight other composers (ONYX4246). They have also recorded works by Beethoven, Poulenc and Howard Skempton - the last including our President Roderick Williams singing *Man and Bat*, and tonight's pianist, Tim Horton, playing Skempton's Piano Concerto (FHR090).

Our February Concert - Sunday 23 February

There was a pleasingly large audience to hear Roderick Williams, Carolyn Sampson and Joseph Middleton perform their carefully designed programme of settings of texts by Shakespeare, to huge applause. There were 412 people present - our largest audience since Covid, and indeed before that. No fewer than 167 were not Club members: we hope a good many will be inspired to join us for next season.

Some of us heard Carolyn again at Symphony Hall just three days later; she was the soprano in Haydn's *Creation* with the CBSO - and she sang even more radiantly!

Education Outreach



The final event for this season was on 21 March. Toscana Strings and their resident ballerina came to two Malvern schools - Grove Primary School and St Matthias Primary School.

They gave two performances at each school for Key Stage 1 students and Key Stage 2 students. The schools chose the performances: *Monkey Puzzle*, *The Wind in the Willows*, *Ferdinand the Bull* and *The Hare and the Tortoise*.

The children were very engaged and really enjoyed all of it. The teachers were so grateful, saying that it was an experience the children wouldn't otherwise have. I was privileged to be allowed to be at both schools - and I was captivated by the performances and by the children's responses.

Linda McKinley

Save the Date!

Don't forget the Club's **AGM**, which this year will be held at **6.30pm on 16 July at Elmslie House, Avenue Road, Malvern**. As usual, there will be complimentary nibbles and drinks. Alison Hunka and Richard Knight will play gems for violin/viola and piano.



You all know that the Club is run by a small Committee elected by you, the members. We are always on the lookout for new people to join the Committee. Wide musical knowledge is by no means essential, as there are many other tasks to be carried out, where no particular experience is required.

If you are at all interested in helping in any capacity, or would like to recommend someone, please do contact

Secretary Alison Hunka - 07763 464305

or

Chairman Richard Price - 01432 890415.

Membership for Season 2025 - 2026

It is now possible to renew your membership or join via the Club website:

www.malvern-concert-club.co.uk



A Last Note

It was in 2011 that Peter Thomas, Club Secretary at the time, asked me if I would write a short note for each concert programme drawing upon the Club's by then extensive archive which had provided the material for *Elgar's Legacy*, the centennial history of the Club published some eight years earlier. The archive as such did not exist when I joined the Club in 1985, though a few items had been passed down through successive secretaries, including the minute books from 1930 and a more-or-less complete run of programmes beginning in the 1950s. However, in 1990 from a mixture of personal and professional interest I had started to assemble items from a variety of sources, including copies of material in local diaries, the Troyte Griffith Archive in Manchester, the Elgar Birthplace at Broadheath and local (and occasionally regional) newspapers. In total, it now provides a rich vein to be tapped. Thus, a series of short articles sounded like a nice idea since, as well as reminding people of the extraordinary richness of the Club's history, it enabled greater focus and rather more detail on specific performances than had been possible within the book. The outcome was that we agreed to try the idea for that 2011-12 season and now, after fourteen seasons, it is safe to assume that Peter's instinct was right and that 'Notes from the Archive' has come to be regarded as a valued part of the programme.

The first contribution, which appeared in the programme on 15 September 2011, was little more than a brief 'skittering' over earlier performances of the music being played that evening, but as time progressed the articles have become rather more wide-ranging and, I hope, more interesting. The starting point for each piece, after having considered the programme for the evening, has been my personal file of performances (date, location, performers and music played), compiled over three decades and providing a detailed record of over 600 recitals; this is then 'fleshed out' by drawing upon material from the programmes themselves, the Club's minutes, correspondence and (above all) the press without which the notes would be far less interesting. We are fortunate in that during the early years the local newspapers (two of them!) gave extensive coverage to the Club's activities, and if some of the attitudes and the phraseology now seem hopelessly outdated, that does add some welcome variety to the narrative, and I hope that members have enjoyed these occasional diversions.

I have found my long involvement with the Club, both as Chairman (twice) and Archivist immensely satisfying, and this series of 'Notes from the Archive' particularly enjoyable to prepare, but after careful consideration I have concluded, somewhat reluctantly, that if the feature is to continue it needs a new voice.

In conclusion, I should like to express my gratitude to those with whom I have worked most closely on these articles, initially to Peter Thomas of course, and subsequently to those responsible for seeing the programmes through the press, Sarah Musgrave and latterly Simon Allen, for ensuring accuracy and consistency of presentation. Above all, though, my thanks are due to you, the members, for the way in which you have welcomed (or possibly just tolerated) these periodic excavations.

Michael Messenger



Other Music - Malvern Theatres

Saturday 9 May	7.00pm	BBC Philharmonic, conductor Nicholas Carter Wagner: <i>Flying Dutchman</i> Overture, Clara Schumann: Piano Concerto (Clare Hammond), Beethoven: 6 th Symphony
Wednesday 14 May	5.00pm	Royal Opera Wagner: <i>Die Walküre</i> (broadcast)
Friday 16 May and Saturday 17 May	7.00pm	Nigel Kennedy with the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra Vivaldi: <i>The Four Seasons</i> - The Real Deal
Saturday 17 May	6.00pm	Met - Live in HD Richard Strauss: <i>Salome</i>
Thursday 22 May	7.30pm	Chris Ingham Trio The Jazz of Dudley Moore
Saturday 7 June and Sunday 8 June		Elgar International Festival of Brass Septura, The Cory Band, Black Dyke Band, Fodens Band
Friday 20 June	7.30pm	Anton Lesser, Lucia Bonbright and Orchestra of The Swan <i>A Beautiful Thread</i> - Thomas Hardy in Words and Music
Tuesday 8 July	8.00pm	Armonico Consort Rachmaninov: <i>Vespers</i> (by candlelight)



Other Music - Elsewhere

Wednesday 7 May - Sunday 11 May		Hellensmusic Festival 2025 - features a wide range of music by Bach, Mozart, Haydn, Tchaikovsky, Franck and Beethoven. Details from https://hellensmusic.com/festival/programme/
Saturday 10 May	7.00pm	Gloucester Cathedral - Gloucester Choral Society, conductor Adrian Partington Parry - Songs of Farewell, Rheinberger Mass, Bach Motets Tickets from https://gloucesterchoral.com/concerts-and-events/parry-farewell/
Friday 16 May - Sunday 18 May		The Carducci Festival - Carducci Quartet and Friends Highnam Details from www.carducciquartet.com
Saturday 24 May - Sunday 1 June		Elgar Festival 2025 Details from https://elgarfestival.org/
Saturday 31 May	7.30pm	English Symphony Orchestra with Elgar Festival Chorus and Gareth Brynmor John. Gala concert featuring Elgar's 2 nd Symphony, Ireland's <i>These Things Shall Be</i> and orchestral premiere of <i>Out of the Shadows</i> by Ian Venables.